

TALLOUSSA VILLAGE PROFILE

1. LOCATION AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Talloussa is a village located in the Caza' of Marjaayoun in the Southern Governorate of Lebanon (one of the eight governorates). It is around 110 kilometres away from Beirut and 24 kilometres from the centre of the Caza'. Talloussa is characterized by a moderate climate. Its elevation is around 650 meters above sea level with an average annual rainfall of 600-700 mm.

Talloussa is bordered by Bani Hayyan to the north, Kabrikha to the west, Markaba to the east, and Majdel Silm to the South.

The village is distinguished by its red soil suitable for the cultivation of citrus plants. The highlands of Talloussa are covered with rocks, while the low lands of the village are dense with forests.

2. POPULATION

The total population of Talloussa is around 3017. The village inhabitants witnessed internal displacement, by which around 2117 villagers were displaced to other parts of the country such as Southern Suburbs of Beirut, Nabatieh and Sarafand. Additionally, a number of the village inhabitants around 500 migrated to countries such as Germany, Australia, Africa, Gulf States, Switzerland and Brazil (See Table 1).

Table 1: Distribution of Population

Population	Number	In Percent
Residents	400	13.3
Displaced	2117	70.2
Migrants	500	16.5
Total	3017	100.0

There are 400 inhabitants in winter in the village, while the number rises to around 1100 people during the summer. The number of registered voters is around 1588 voters as estimated during the summer 2010 elections.

2.1 Age Groups

The distribution of the population by age groups in Talloussa is as follows: 47.4 % are less than 21 years, 48.1 % percent are between 21 - 65 years, and 4.5 % are 65 years and older (See Table 2).

Table 2: Distribution of Population by Age Groups

Age Group	Number	In Percent
Under 21	1429	47.4
Between 21-65	1453	48.1
Above 65	135	4.5
Total	3017	100.0

2.2 Labour Force

Labour force participation in Talloussa is 25 % of the total resident population of the village.

Many of the young in the village are engaged in free professions and crafts, which absorb 70 per cent of the labour force, as compared to 15 per cent in agriculture. As for the working women they participate in agricultural work of the village, especially in the cultivation of tobacco.

Unemployment in Talloussa is around 5 %.

3. ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

3.1 AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Cultivated land represents 40 per cent of the village's total area, and 80 per cent of total arable land (See table 3).

Table 3: Land use

Land use	Area (in dunums)
Outlying area of the village	5000
Area of arable land	2500
cultivated area	2000
Areas of non-arable land	2500

Table 4 shows the different types of irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Talloussa. The most common cultivated product within this area is olives. Also, there are about 6 greenhouses planted with different types of vegetables.

Table 4: Agricultural Products

Products	Cultivated areas
Olives	1500 dunums
Grains	100 dunums
Tobacco	120 dunums
Greenhouses of vegetables	6 tents
Thyme	5 dunums

Both agricultural and agro-industrial produce in Talloussa is very limited and is usually consumed locally level. The different types of Agro- productions are as follows:

- Olive Oil
- Tobacco - Cheese and dairy products
- Eggs
- Grains
- Burghul

The village also has a cooperative, the Cooperative Agricultural Association

There are, however, problems facing the agricultural sector in Talloussa such as:

- High costs of drugs used for the cultivation of crops inside greenhouses.
- Limited spaces suitable for cultivation
- High cost of transportation of water to irrigated cultivated land

3.2 LIVESTOCK

Residents in Talloussa also rely on breeding livestock such as cows, goats, chickens, and bees (See Table 5).

Table 5: Livestock in Talloussa

Cows	Beehives	Chicken farms	Goats
10 milking cows	120	2 farms for egg production	150 goats

Meat is not produced in Talloussa and is imported for consumption from slaughterhouses in the region surrounding the village.

3.3 CRAFTS AND TRADE SECTORS

There are several craft and trade activities in Talloussa, mainly in painting, aluminium, carpeting, and concrete carpeting (see Table 6).

Table 6: Crafts and Trades

Profession	Number of Workers or institutions
Concrete Carpenter	3 people
Industrial Smith	2 people
Painters	1 people
Construction	10 people
Plumbing	3 people
Tiling	5 people
Bakers	1 people
Tile Factory	1 factory

The crafts face problems such as:

- Power outages
- Lack of equipment and tools, such as cranes, tile washers, advanced scissors.

4. EDUCATION

100 % of school children had primary education.

The only public school in Talloussa is closed despite the fact that the school building accommodates more than 600 students. As such, students attend schools in the villages of Tayba and Houwla.

5. HEALTH STATUS

Talloussa health facilities are limited, as there is no governmental or private health centre. However, there is one health clinic in the village that is used by the emergency forces of Nepal to provide medical services once every week to the population.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Talloussa relies on the water project in Tayba for irrigation purposes and supply of drinking water. Further, other environmental problems in this area result from the lack of wastewater management and the absence of a public sewage network, as well as improper solid waste management and the lack of a sanitary landfill. Solid wastes are usually collected in one place next to the village.

7. RELATIONSHIPS WITH NEARBY VILLAGES AND IMMIGRANTS

Residents of Talloussa go to nearby villages to shop on a daily basis, specifically the town of Majdel Silm. As for the immigrants of the village, their role consists of support to construction projects.

8. INSTITUTIONS AND SERVICES

Talloussa is governed by a municipal council which was founded in 2004, and is currently administrated by 12 members elected by the locals of the area. The council is assisted by seven committees composed of locals from the village. There are also 2 contracted employees working in the municipality. The municipal council owns a permanent headquarters.

Talloussa has a number of local institutions dealing with social matters in the village:

- Talloussa's Charity Association
- Agricultural Cooperative Association