

Comparative study

Kafr Takharim | April 2020

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■ Study objectives:

- The main objective is to prepare a comparative study for the town of Kafr Takharim to show the change taking place in the town in the population, education, health, and economic sectors, and the living conditions of Households before 2011 and currently. And provide baseline data to obtain a full understanding of the current needs, the living situation of the IDPs and the host community in Kafr Takharim, and to develop an evidence-based strategy and implementation plan to improve the situation of the vulnerable people and provide their needs.
- The report will show the following points:
 - The approximate number of populations in Kafr Takharim.
 - The obstacles and needs to improve the economic, education, health, and infrastructure sectors.

■ Methodology:

- The study report was prepared by the MEAL Unit in Alsham Humanitarian Foundation.
- The survey was designed by the MEAL Unit, the tool had been designed on Kobo tool box to facilitate the data collection.
- The survey was shared with the field observers to check and try the survey, and explain its questions before starting the data collection.
- The observer verified the questions and made sure that they are clear and understandable.
- The observer called the data resources to determine time for the interviews.
- The specialists were interviewed to obtain data related to each sector.
- The data collection started on 8/4/2020 and continued for 3 working days. The data was collected by tow field observers.
- The collected data were cleaned and analyzed by using Excel, it continued for 3 working days.
- A narrative report was prepared after finishing analyzing data.

■ Sample:

Kafr Takharim has been chosen as a target area for the preparation of the study, because of its large number of IDPs. The head of the Local Council, Mukhtar, schools principals, medical centers managers, civil engineer and local council officials for the agricultural, educational, health and services as an official data resources, because they are trusted and reliable sources of information, they are informed of the developments that took place in the town, as they are the official body that has the most accurate statistics and data used in preparing the study.

18 individuals of data resources were interviewed face to face in their offices.

General Information				
# data providers	males	17	females	1
	Local council members/ statistic- agriculture - services -education - health/			10
	Mukhtar			2
	School's principal			2
	Medical center manager			3
	engineer			1

■ Town's history and geography:

Kafr Takharim is located in the northwest of Syrian Arab Republic (Latitude: 36.116497 , Longitude: 36.51543), Kafr Takharim administratively follows Harim and it is 12 KMs away from it, and away from Idleb governorate about 30 KMs. Surrounded by a number of mountains and plateaus from the west Al-duailah mountain, from the east Al-summaq mountain, and from the north are the hills and the junction of the two mountains. Telteta is the highest peak in the mountains surrounding Kafr Takharim, it is 910 meters above the sea level. The total area of Kafr Takharim (6815) hectares is mostly cultivated with olive trees.

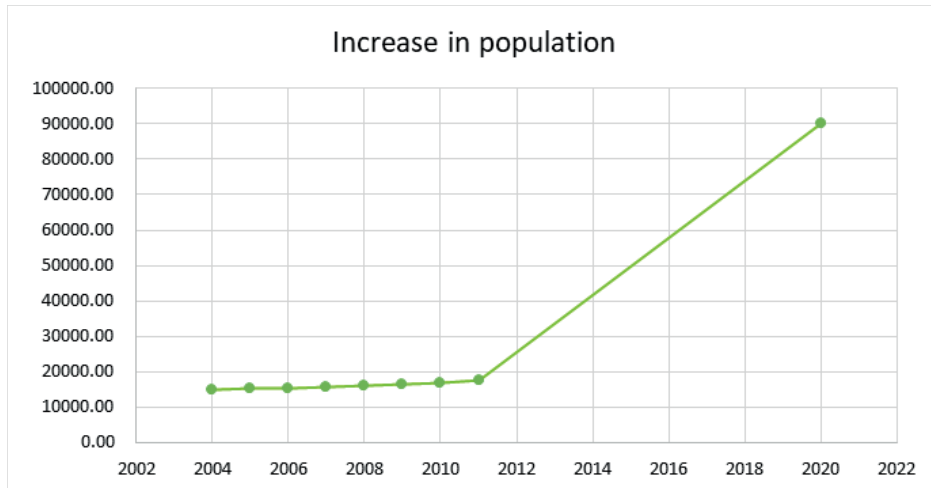
Historically Kafr Takharim has lived in most of the countries that ruled the levant, starting from the Romanian state then Umayyad and Abbasid Arab states, then the Ottoman Empire, the town contains many relics dating back to the Roman, Islamic and Ottoman eras, one of these relics is the Great or the huge Mosque which was built by the Umayyad state during the reign of Caliph Omar Bin Abdul Aziz. Kafr Takharim is one of Syrian towns that has not ceased life since it's foundation by the Romans. In the modern era Kafr Takharim advanced the towns of Idleb led by the northern revolution against against the French Forces for Damascus led by Ibrahim Hanano.

■ Population:

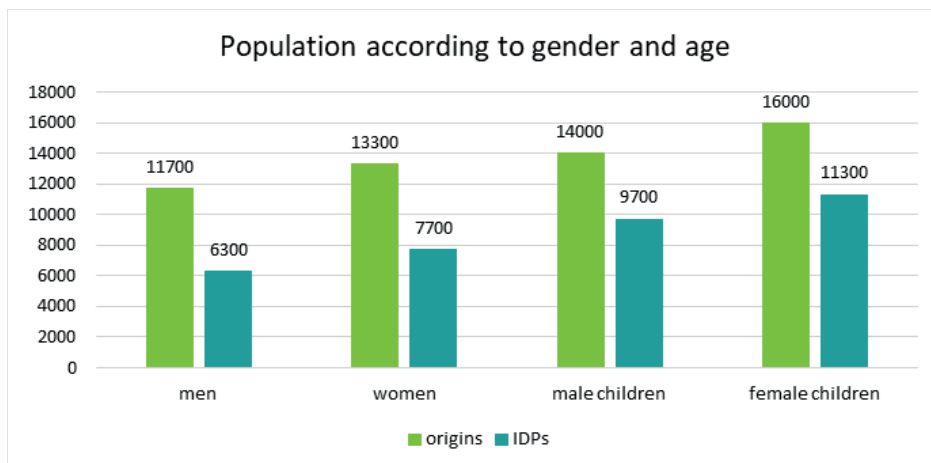
In 2004 the population of the district reached 14772 people, according to the population of Syria issued by the central bureau of statistics. And according to the annual population growth rate in Syria (2.4%) and by calculating the natural increase of the population of Kafr Takharim, it is expected that the population reached approximately 18000 people in 2011.

In 2020, at the beginning of the second quarter , the population of Kafr Takharim reached approximately 90000 people, 55000 of them are indigenous and all are of Arab descent, 25000 IDPs in the village, the town has received 10000 IDPs during the past 4 months most of them displaced from the villages and towns of the southern countryside of Idleb.

The following charts show the population according to the age and gender:



- By reading the chart above, we notice the increase in the population of the town because of the influx of IDPs due to its security stability due to its proximity to the Turkish border and its distance from the fighting lines.



- By reading the chart above, we notice that 56.7% of population are children under 17 years old, and 43.3% are men and women more than 18 years old.
- About the population according to the number of families currently, the total approximate number of Households in Kafr Takharim about 18000, 11 000 of them are from the population of Kafr Takharim, and about 7000 HHs are IDPs.
- The number of families headed by women about 4000 HHs, and there is about 100 HHs headed by children under 18 years old.

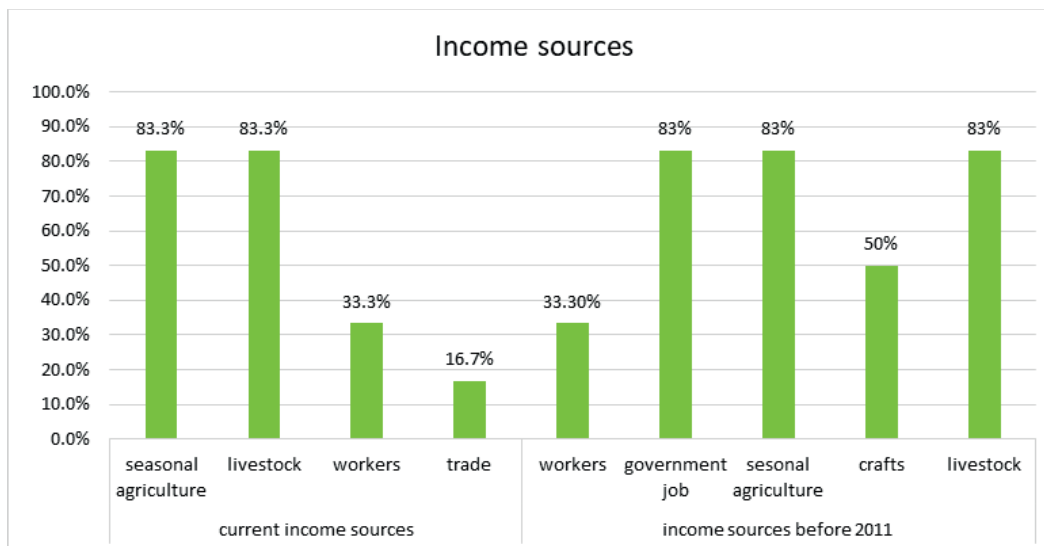
■ Income and living situation:

1. Living situation:

- Until the beginning of 2011 the majority of population (more than 75%) was in good economic conditions (they had an income more than 200\$ per month), for less than 25% of the towns HHs were living in difficult economic conditions (they had an income of less than 200\$ per month).
- As for family income, the percentage of families who had fixed income monthly ranged between 25-50% of the town's total families before 2011.
- As for the present time with the beginning of 2020, the percentage of HHs with fixed income monthly has reached less than 25%.
- About the ability of the town's families to meet their basic needs of shelter, food, health and education the percentage of those who are able to meet their basic needs reached 50-75% of families before 2011. Nowadays the percentage of families who can meet their basic needs decreased to less than 25% of the percentage of families. The percentage of families unable to meet their basic needs and depend on humanitarian aid as a main source to cover their needs more than 75% of the town's population.

2. Income sources:

- The sources of income of the population in Kafr Takharim before 2011 were working in seasonal agriculture as a main source, due to the geographical nature of the town as well as animal husbandry (livestock), in addition to working in official government jobs and daily employment in some daily trades and professions.
- Currently majority of population are still working in seasonal agriculture as a main source, due to the geographical nature of the town as well as animal husbandry (livestock), in addition to working in official government jobs and daily employment in some daily trades and professions and working in trade.



- By comparing the sources of income, we notice that working in government jobs stopped after 2011, while trade has become one of the main sources of income for the population currently, that is due to the increase in population.

3. The most important coping mechanisms in population without income sources:

- Send the children to work.
- Depend on humanitarian aid.
- Borrowing money (debt).
- Eliminate the non-essential needs.
- Move or travel to areas provide jobs.

4. Crafts:

- Before 2011 the population practiced many trades and professions, such as construction work, blacksmith, carpentry, clay, aluminium, soap manufacturing, sewing, car maintenance, agriculture and electronics.
- Nowadays in addition to the professions and trades mentioned above, people have started practicing new trades such as working on installing and maintaining solar panels.

5. Shops:



- By comparing in the chart above, we notice the increase in the number of shops in the town, which almost tripled, due to the increase in population.

6. The most important obstacles to provide job opportunities:

- Increase in population in the town.
- No stability due to the war and security situation.
- Migration of entrepreneur abroad.
- The absence of huge projects to accommodate the huge increase in the population of the town.
- Lack of raw materials.
- High prices of raw materials.

7. The most important needs to improve the work and market:

- Supporting poor families with livestock projects.
- Create or establish development projects.
- Recovering loans (microfinance).
- Conducting trainings to empower the youth and build their capacities.
- Support the agricultural projects.

■ Agriculture sector:

In 2004 the population of the district reached 14772 people, according to the population of Syria issued by the central bureau of statistics. And according to the annual population growth rate in Syria (2.4%) and by calculating the natural increase of the population of Kafr Takharim, it is expected that the population reached approximately 18000 people in 2011.

1. The most important obstacles and difficulties to improve the agriculture:

- High prices of fuel for irrigation.
- The cost of transportation.
- High prices of fertilizers and pesticides.
- Security reasons.
- Wrong amount of used fertilizers.
- Wrong time for spraying the pesticides.
- Low price of olive oil, as the cost of production does not match the selling price.
- There are no oil analysis laboratories.
- Lack of irrigation.

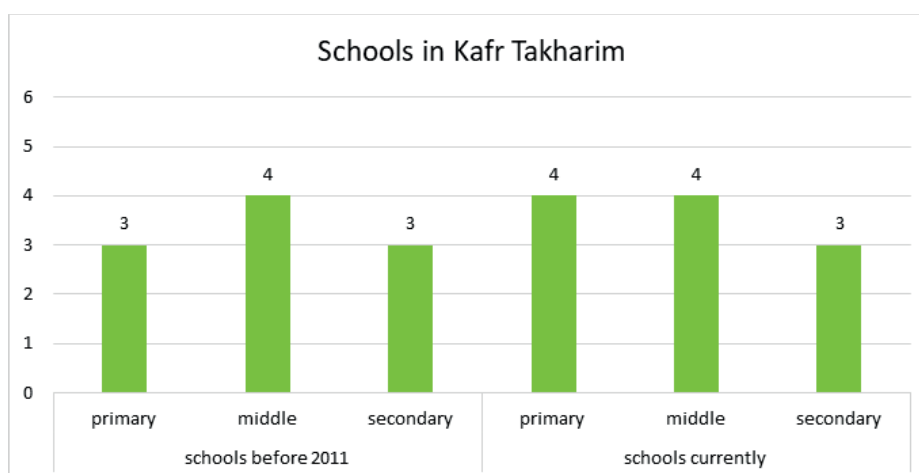
2. The most important needs or requirements to improve the agriculture in Kafr Takharim:

- Provide the cost of irrigation.
- Provide the cost of harvest.
- Provide transportation cost.
- Distribution of fertilizers.
- Provide agricultural awareness to farmers.
- Provide pesticides.
- Construction of laboratories for a soil analysis.

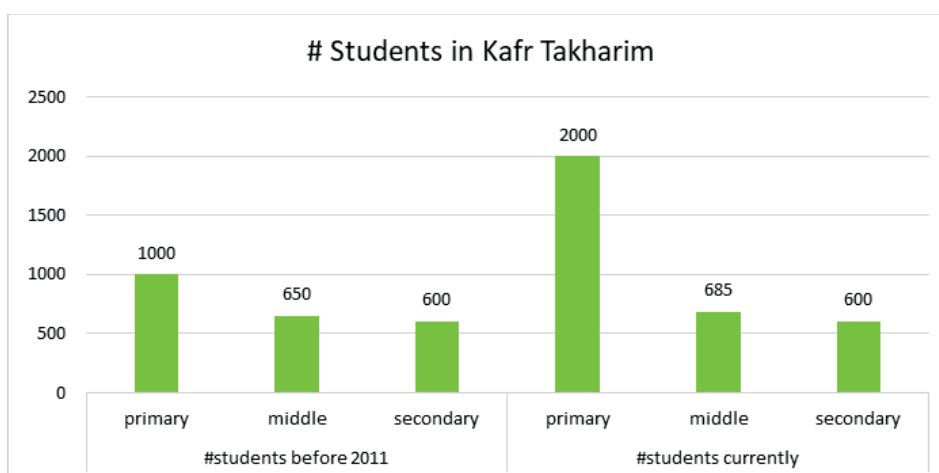
■ Education:

1. Number of students and schools:

- By comparing the number of schools with their levels (primary, elementary, secondary) before 2011 and currently, we notice that there is no development in the number of schools, despite of the increase in population and the need of educational facilities.



- The number of primary school students increased from 1000 students before 2011 to 2000 currently without building new schools to accommodate this increase.
- There is no change in the number of students in the middle and secondary schools, that mean the children leave and drop out of the school in these levels.



2. Educational status:

- Comparing the educational level in Kafr Takharim before 2011 and currently, we notice a decline in the level of the educational process, which reflected negatively on the level of educational achievement of students at all levels.
- Reasons for the decline in the educational level:
 - The number of specialized teachers does not cover the educational needs in the schools.
 - Hire secondary school teachers.
 - Weak experience of teachers in teaching students in from distance.
 - There is no official body that works to rehabilitate and train teachers to develop their skills.
 - Lack of teaching aids and tools in schools.
 - Shortage of books.
 - The bad psychological state of students.
 - Increasing the number of students in the classroom.
 - Security instability and increase the number of IDPs.

3. Reasons for student's dropping out:

- Parents ignorance of the importance of education.
- The level of education has decreased and the current staff have little experience.
- Displacement and instability.
- Missing a primary care provider for children.
- Unemployment of the breadwinner, that led children to leave the school and work to fulfill the basic needs for the family.
- Poverty, so children will leave the school to work and help their families.
- The far or long distance between schools and the houses which forces the parents to prevent their children from schools.
- Difficulty in getting familiar with the displaced students and the students from the host community.
- Bullying cases between the students.
- Lack of equipment and tools in the schools for students with special needs.

4. Requirements to develop the education:

- Providing regular monthly salaries for staff in the schools.
- Capacity building for the staff and trainings to improve their skills.
- Provide books and educational tools.
- Provide schools with solar panels to provide electrical energy.
- Rehabilitation of school's furniture and facilities, and equipping schools to accommodate students with special needs.
- Provide free transportation for students with special needs.
- Provide stationery for schools.
- Provide tools for teaching from distance.
- Carry out psychological support activities for students.
- Distribute clothes and stationery to students.
- Provide heating materials for the classrooms in winter.

■ Health sector:

1. Medical centers:

- Before 2011 there was one medical center in Kafr Takharim that provides primary care services for the town, nowadays as a result of the increase in population and the increase in casualties as a result of the military actions, a surgical hospital has been built that provides surgical services, hospital to give birth for women and newborns, in addition to a field hospital.
- All medical centers in the town were bombed by the Syrian warplanes, which led to partial destruction in the buildings, however, as a result of necessary need for these centers, they have been restored, rehabilitated and became into service again.

2. The most important medical specialties required in the town:

- Primary care services: ophthalmic, cardiac, internal, chest, neurology, pediatric, gynecology, dental and ENT.
- Surgical specialties: vascular surgery, neurosurgery and plastic surgery.
- Physical therapy centers.
- Malnutrition screening and follow up centers.

3. The most important needs of health sector:

- Providing all kinds of medicines.
- Providing hospitals with incubators for newborn babies.
- Providing hospitals with MRI unit.
- Providing the hospitals with the axial unit.
- Activating intensive care rooms in hospitals.
- Providing hospitals resuscitation and ventilator equipment.
- Increase the health staff.
- Providing hospitals with medical devices and equipment, and increase the number of beds.
- Providing hospitals with Corona Virus analysis equipment and preventive measures (PCR).
- Providing hospitals with sterilizers and sanitizers.

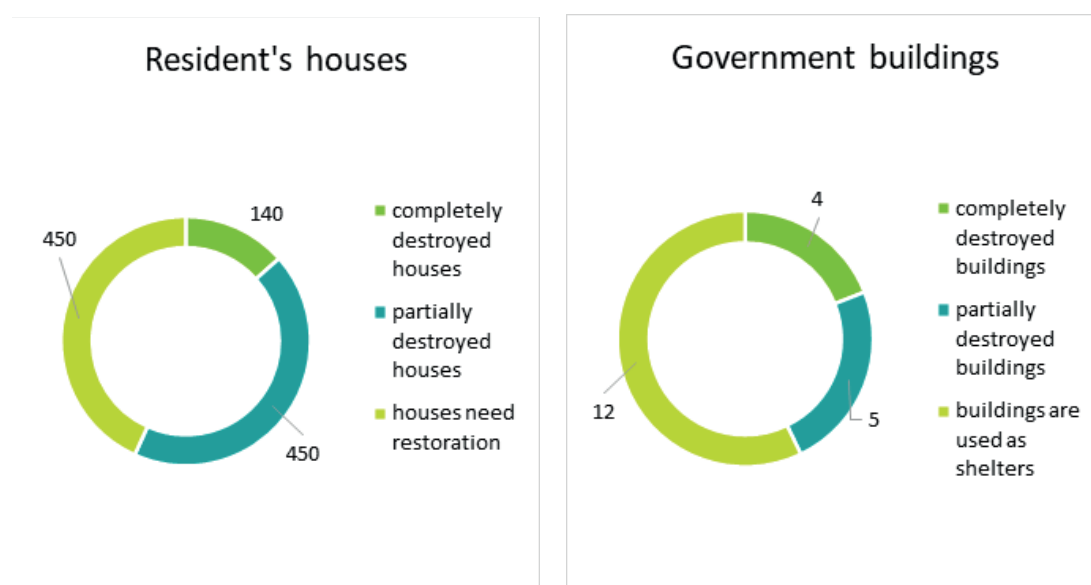
■ Infrastructure, roads and buildings:

1. Roads, electricity, water and sewage network:

- Until 2011 the roads condition was good inside the town, and if there were sites in need of restoration and rehabilitation, the technical offices in the municipality were working to restore and repair them.
- Currently, with no official bodies funding the road restoration projects, the town's roads are very bad.
- The main electricity network is still intact, but the electricity network has been disconnected for about 7 years.
- Residents are securing electricity for houses depend on the monthly subscription of private generators and alternative solar energy.
- The water network is still good due to restoration processes.
- The sewage network in the town is still in service with the destruction of some parts as a result of bombing from the Syrian forces, and currently parts of the network are being repaired.

2. Government buildings and resident's houses:

- The number of government buildings before 2011 in Kafr Takharim reached 30 buildings, most of these buildings are still used, some of them are completely destroyed, some of them are partially destroyed, and some are used currently as a shelter for IDPs.
- About the number of resident's houses, they reached 7250 houses, and they have almost doubled, to 16000 houses currently.
- The houses were bombed by the Syrian forces, some of them were completely destroyed, and some were partially destroyed.



3. Most important shelter's needs:

- Repairing the doors and windows, providing furniture for the shelters.
- Carrying out shelter's works in clay and tiles.
- Carry out sanitary installations in the shelter.
- Install solar panels for camp lighting and lighting shelters.
- Construction of toilets and bathrooms in the camps.
- Extension of a sanitation network in the camps.
- Paving the roads connected to the camps.
- Distribution of hygiene kits for IDPs in the camps and shelters.
- Waste disposal.



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