

Development Anthropology A Primary Survey, Summer 1993 - Part I

1. Introduction

This report's objective is to outline the scope of the second stage of Phase I of the Development Anthropology component in the Jordan Badia Research and Development Programme; the fieldwork, methodology employed, findings, and way forward. Fieldwork conducted was in co-operation with Jordanian counterparts as part of a continuing joint-programme between Jordanian and British researchers under the auspices of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (Jordan) and the Royal Geographical Society (UK).

1.1. Objective/Timeframe

Following the successful completion of the baseline survey piloted in November of 1992 and conducted in January and February of this year by a Jordanian and British team of demographers and social scientists, stage two required an expansion of the information gathered to gain an understanding of inhabitants' views of what development of this area means to them and the role, if any, they expect to play in this process.

A two-month period was decided on to undertake the initial overview of the villages with a view to identifying a village or villages to reside in as the first of a series of in-depth case studies on local life examining issues key to the sustained development of the area: relationships between people and service providers; land tenure and access to resources; examining current settlement practices and migratory patterns; changing modes of production; reception toward technological innovation; division of labour - examining the role of women and children in the household economy, and the contributions women make to the decision-making process; and the impact of change on social relations at the household level. Field visits began on 21 July 1993 and were concluded on 10 September 1993.

The objectives set were largely those drawn from the preliminary proposal submitted by Dr. Seteny Shami of Yarmuk University and arising from meetings with Dr. Roderic Dutton, Centre for Overseas Research and Development (CORD), Durham University, and with Dr. AbdurRahman al-Fataftah, Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), Jordan.

1.2. Project Area

The area defined by the project lies between latitudinal lines 31° 30' and 32° 45' N and longitudinal lines 38° 30' and 38° 10' E with a total area of 11,210 Km².

For the purposes of the tribal survey of the Development Anthropology component it was necessary to delimit the area studied to that of the thirty four (34) villages within the total project area. Along the Mafraq/Baghdad road this includes the villages of Safawi towards the eastern project area border, and the village of Rahbat Rakad on the western border, as well as the villages bordering Syria reached from the Bashriya road.