

= Ten Hamadi =

Ten Hamadi (Arabic : تن همام) or Tenhemad is a village and rural commune in southern Mauritania , in the Aïoun El Atrouss department of the Hodh El Gharbi region . In 2000 , the commune had a population of 2 @, @ 264 , of which 155 lived in the village of Ten Hamadi itself , approximately 17 kilometres (11 mi) southwest of the main town and departmental capital of Aïoun El Atrouss . The population estimate in 2007 was 3 @, @ 686 , spread over 16 villages .

The northern part of the commune is hilly but relatively favorable to agriculture , while the southern part is flat and characterized by sand dunes . Situated at the southern boundary of the Sahara @-@ Sahel region of southern Mauritania , the climate is generally hot and dry .

Most of the population live in poverty , occupied in farming or raising livestock . Some have moved to the cities to seek a higher standard of living , returning to help during the peak periods of agricultural activity . Infrastructure is underdeveloped ; there is no electricity supply , most water comes from traditional wells , and the rudimentary school system provides only elementary education in poorly equipped establishments .

= = History = =

Settlement of the commune began with the establishment of the village of El Emn in 1960 , followed by the main village of Ten Hamadi in 1962 . El Bakhakh was established in 1972 , and is one of the fastest @-@ growing settlements in the commune . Its population more than doubled between 2000 and 2007 , from 111 to an estimated 230 , making it more populous than the main village of Ten Hamadi . Egueni Ehl Ahmed Zein , established in 1980 , on the other hand , has declined in population by more than 75 percent , with a population of 1 @, @ 252 in 2000 to an estimated 284 in 2007 . In 2007 , nearby Aïoun El Atrouss was one of the stops on the 2007 Dakar Rally .

= = Geography and climate = =

Ten Hamadi is situated at the southern boundary of the Sahara @-@ Sahel region of southern Mauritania . By air it is located approximately 17 kilometres (11 mi) southwest of the departmental capital of Aïoun El Atrouss , and the main village of Ten Hamadi is accessed via a dirt trail leading south off National Route 3 , which connects it to this town and to the town of Tintane to the west . The commune is bordered to the north by the village and rural commune of Doueirara , to the north @-@ east by the town and urban commune of Aïoun El Atrouss , to the east by the village and rural commune of Beneamane , to the south by the village and rural commune of Hassi Ehel Bechna Ahmed , and to the west by the village and rural commune of Hassi Abdallah .

The northern part of the commune is hilly but relatively favorable to agriculture , while the southern part is flat and characterized by sand dunes . Sixteen caves are found within the area . The earth is mainly composed of stony rocks , sandy loam soils , and clay loam soils in the beds of wadis in the area . The soils in the hills have pockets of alluvium and sandy loam suitable for crop development , particularly on the hillsides and at the foot of the hills . Clay loam soils are found in the bowls and beds of wadis , which although suitable for farming are susceptible to gully and water erosion during the rainy season . The aquifers of shallow wells with depths varying from 25 ? 50 metres (82 ? 164 ft) , yielding little more than 2 cubic metres / hour (71 cu ft) , vary widely in availability . Deeper aquifers offer larger quantities of water , but its quality is generally brackish . The wadis are generally dry , usually only inundated after rainfall .

Vegetation is typical of the Sahara @-@ Sahel region , and is mainly desert with thorny steppe land . Soil erosion is a problem , as many previously wooded areas have disappeared as the locals use wood for fuel , and inadequate farming practices have sometimes resulted in soil exhaustion .

Ten Hamadi has three main climatic seasons . The wet season from July to October has temperatures of the order of 30 ? 40 ° C (85 ? 105 ° F) and irregular rainfall . The dry and cold season in November to February has temperatures that can fall below 20 ° C (68 ° F) during the night . During the hot and dry season from March to June temperatures reach 40 ? 45 ° C (105 ?

115 ° F) during the day .

= = Villages = =

In 2007 , there were 16 villages in the commune according to the Mauritanian government , with a total estimated population of 3 @, @ 686 .

= = Demography and religion = =

In 2000 , the commune had a population of 2 @, @ 264 people , with 155 people in the village of Ten Hamadi itself . In 2007 , the commune had 3 @, @ 686 inhabitants in about 791 households . The population is generally young , and more than 53 percent are female . Most people belong to the Tenwajiw tribe , although small numbers belong to the Oulad Nasser , Smalil and Leglal tribes . Most live in the north and east of the commune owing to greater availability of water and land that can be used for crops or grazing . More than half the population live below the poverty line . There is seasonal migration from the commune to the cities of Aïoun and Nouakchott in the dry season , then back to the commune in the winter season , when many people return to help their families with tilling and planting . Like the rest of Mauritania , Islam is the primary religion , which according to the Central Intelligence Agency has a 100 percent following in the country .

= = Economy = =

The economy is mostly based on agriculture and raising livestock , with some commerce and artisan activity . There are some dams and ditches to support irrigation , but they are in a poor condition . In 2007 , there were 361 farmers , most of whom relied on irrigation to some extent , nine grain banks and one grain mill . There were 311 sedentary stock owners , 115 semi @-@ migratory and 65 practicing large @-@ scale migration , mostly to Mali . An estimate of herd sizes gave 10 @, @ 340 goats , 8 @, @ 870 cattle , 1 @, @ 361 camels , 652 donkeys and a few horses and sheep . There were 63 full @-@ time retailers and 143 people practicing trade to some extent . There were 45 full @-@ time artisans and 65 part @-@ time craftspeople . Activities included masonry , transport by cart , butchering , bakery and woodworking .

= = Education = =

In 2001 , the commune had eight primary schools with 19 teachers for 595 children . There were 20 mahadras , or traditional schools , in 11 locations . Only four had a library or document repository . There were 11 writing rooms of varying quality , and one small vocational training centre . By 2007 , the commune had 11 primary schools with 689 students (45 percent of whom were girls) and 28 teachers , but no secondary school . Only three schools had desks . All had latrines , but not all had drinking water or facilities for preparing meals for the children . The quality of education was mixed .

= = Public services = =

Until fairly recently , Ten Hamadi had no mains power supply , no radio communication , and no fixed telephone lines , but most areas now have mobile coverage from at least one of the three local operators : Mauritel , MATTEL and Chinguitel . Fewer than a third of families have a latrine . In 2001 , there was one health centre in the village of Ten Hamadi , built of cement with a corrugated roof and with six rooms . A pharmacy was operated on a cost @-@ recovery basis . By 2007 , there were two health posts in the commune , each staffed by one nurse , but there were no midwives . The health posts had no running water , electricity or latrines , and were not equipped with radio or ambulances , although the post at Ten Hamadi village did have a refrigerator and a pharmacy .

The commune has six wells with pumps supplying 221 connections , 15 modern wells and 61 traditional wells . The water tends to become salty towards the end of the dry season . The main

village of the commune relies on two traditional wells . The " Route de l'Espoir " (Road of Hope) crosses the commune , providing good access to several villages . The commune has several permanent tracks , but some villages are difficult to access , particularly in winter . About 20 percent of the dwellings are concrete ; the others are shacks or , in a few cases , tents .