

By the war of 1967 wage labour and clerical employment as well as migration contributed to the marginalization of farming land in Natufa. The war itself compelled many families, already dependent on remittances from abroad for their livelihood, to join their male breadwinners and re-settle permanently outside the village. Thus, while Ras el-Tin barely maintained its head count (934 in 1961, 950 in 1967), Natufa lost 942 residents during the same period -- almost one-third of its population (Village Data Bank, BZU). That loss did not affect the village adversely, however, Natufa today has the features of a wealthy suburb of Ramallah, with pockets of poor dwellings confined to hidden segments of the town (the Saqayef area, and the "old village").

While Ras el-Tin continues to be administered by the two appointed Mukhtars, Natufa was elevated during the Jordanian regime to a township, with a municipal council elected by popular (until recently, male) vote once every four years. The village boasts one high school (serving five local villages), two girls' intermediate schools, one junior college, a clinic, a bus service, two olive presses, a pharmaceutical plant employing 20 workers, a flour mill, and a telephone exchange. In addition, Natufa has an active women's society and two youth clubs.

Natufa has a long history of political involvement in the Palestinian nationalist movement. In the thirties, several leaders of the anti-British rebellion, including Abdul-Kader al-Husseini, used the village as temporary headquarters for their militias. In the fifties and sixties, during Jordanian rule of the West Bank, village intellectuals were active in the Ba'ath party, the Communist party, and the Movement of Arab Nationalists. A local clan head became foreign minister in the Jordanian government in the early sixties, and two top leaders of the PLO since the early seventies come from the village. Nationalist and resistance activity