

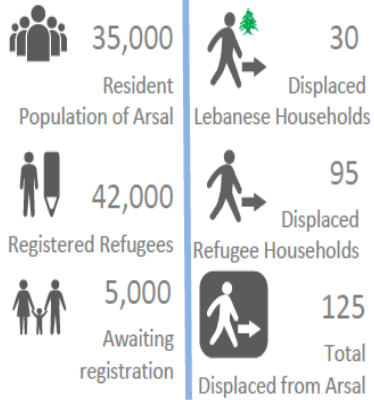
Inter-agency update on the situation in

Arsal and surrounding areas



LEBANON

21 August 2014



Background

A second joint UN and SSCL (NGOs security) security assessment took place in Arsal on Thursday, 21 August. The Municipality and Lebanese security apparatus confirmed that the situation remains highly volatile. In addition to concerns regarding the presence of armed elements, they indicated that community tensions remain high and clearly articulated that a full resumption of humanitarian operations is still currently not advisable. The team was advised that bringing in visible truckloads of NFIs and food kits would most likely increase inter-communal tensions. A third assessment will be conducted in a week's time. Meanwhile, the vast majority of refugees continue to benefit from WFP e-cards, distributions of food and cash assistance from Syrian organisations as well as having access to WASH and medical interventions. Once the compensation plan for Arsalis, whose properties were damaged by the recent clashes, will have been initiated, some of the tensions will, it is hoped, dissipate. In the meantime the advice from the Municipality was to work through local NGOs.

Humanitarian situation and response

Food/NFIS

The Municipality advised that the Syrian committees had recently conducted a cash distribution to over 1,400 families of \$150 amounting to \$210,000. In the meantime, data shows that vulnerable refugees have been able to access food through the use of WFP e-cards, between the period from 5th and 19th of August, \$764,000 was redeemed in WFP contracted shops in Arsal and that almost 69% of the e-cards were used.

Shelter

Solutions are in process for close to 100 families who are facing eviction from two temporary shelters. To date the Syrian committees have found alternatives for over 50% of occupants and negotiated an extension until 1st of September. DAF has also provided 100,000 LP to those who are living therein. General rehabilitation of damaged shelters in informal settlements, and especially in residential areas, the Municipality advised was currently not advisable due to the requirements to bring in shelter materials. However, URDA has managed to work on some of the rehabilitation of their sites, albeit on a small scale basis.

Health/Medical

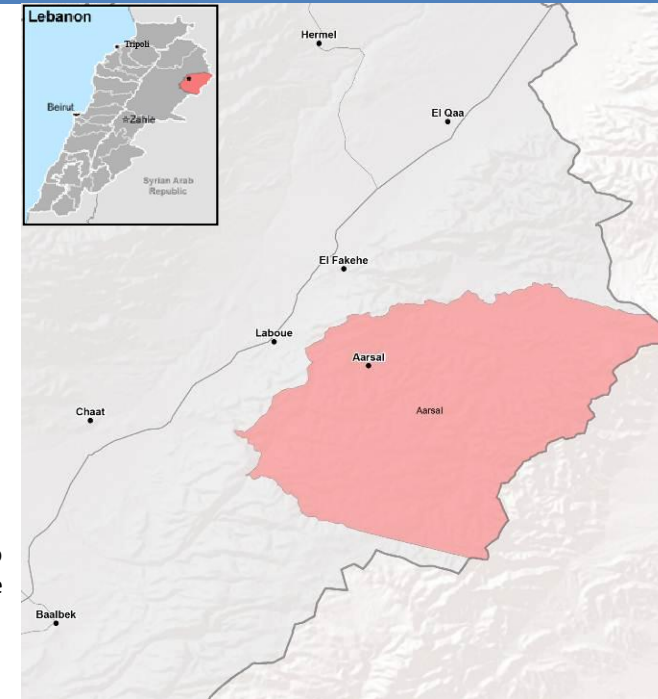
The gynecological clinic at Rafic Hariri Primary Healthcare Centre is operating, complemented by a fixed mobile medical unit that is operating next to it. In addition Beyond's 3 MMUs, Amel's PHC, EMT PHC (IMC supported) and the Field Hospital PHC are operating in Arsal.

WASH

Water trucking and de-sludging continues largely unhindered. Until now, 954 m³ of water has been trucked to support both Lebanese and Syrian communities.

Rehabilitation

It is reported that upcoming rehabilitation efforts by national actors will focus on medical and educational facilities, on direct cash disbursements to those impacted by the clashes, and on water-related infrastructure. According to Municipal Authorities, Arsal remains in desperate need of a sewage network, a solid waste recycling plan, solid waste collection trucks, road rehabilitation, and public lighting.



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