

LEBANON: Aarsal Influx Inter-Agency Update

03 December 2013



Arsal

 **35,000**
Resident
Population of Aarsal

 **20,653**
Registered Refugees
As of 02 December 2013

 **20,000***
Refugees registered with
the local municipality
since 15 November 2013

 **75,653**
Total population in
Arsal

CONTEXT

Humanitarian partners are responding to an influx of more than 3,850 refugee families following heavy fighting between the Syrian Armed Forces and Armed Opposition Groups in the Qalamoun area of Rif Dimashq, Syria. Heavy clashes which began on 15 November in Qarah, have now spread to many neighbouring villages.

The majority of refugees have found shelter in Aarsal, with others now accommodated in the neighbouring villages of El Ain, Fakehe, Chaat and Ras Baalbek.

Humanitarian partners have been on the ground since the beginning of the influx. UNHCR is coordinating the inter-agency response under the direction of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Partners conducted mobile registration to ensure that vulnerable refugees are able to access protection and assistance
- Some 800 families have received shelter kits to improve conditions with the onset of winter

RESPONSE

Protection

(DRC, TdH, IRC, MOSA, NRC, TdH, UNHCR, UNICEF)

The general situation remained stable with 30 - 50 families arriving each day. Registration with the local municipality resumed today to ensure that newcomers have access to assistance. Some 230 families were registered and protection experts were on site to identify persons with specific needs directly, speeding up referrals to assistance. In addition, mobile teams visited several shelter locations over the weekend to reach vulnerable unregistered refugees based on information gathered as part of the multi-sectoral assessment. Registration with the municipality will be organized periodically in line with new arrival trends.

Public Health

(AMEL, Beyond, HI, ICRC, IMC, MDM, MOSA, MSF, MOPH, SHRO, UNHCR, UNICEF)

An additional mobile clinic became operational on Monday to increase health coverage for persons who have difficulty reaching local health centres.

Partners are working to expand health response capacity through the introduction of extended working hours, additional staffing and provision of medicines.

The number of identified Leishmaniasis cases has reached 100. All cases have been reported to the Ministry of Public Health.

*Figures for the total number of individuals that have arrived in Aarsal are being revised in line with updated information on family size.

Core Relief Items and Food Security

(Amel, Al Jamaa Al Islamiya, Aarsal Municipality, DAF, DRC, GVC, IOM, IRC, Jousour Al Nour, KSA Relief, Prince of Qatar Aid, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP)

Almost 90% of families have now been reached through distributions of food and essential items for sleeping, cooking, personal hygiene and keeping warm. Distribution will be conducted tomorrow to reach those who have just been registered.

Shelter and WASH

(ACF, Dar el Fatwa, Intersos, IOM, Municipality, MOSA, NRC, Save the Children, TdH, UNHCR, UNICEF)

With the onset of heavy rain and cold weather the need for winterized shelter is becoming more urgent. So far, some 800 shelter kits have been distributed. A further 2,000 are available and will be distributed according to needs. Partners are continuing regular programmes to seal off private houses hosting refugees.

The water from the borehole that will supply the temporary shelter site has been tested and is considered adequate. Partners continue to monitor water quality closely and have distributed water filters to some 420 households. Water trucking, hygiene promotion and sanitation services such as constructing showers and latrines, desludging and solid waste collection continued in the past days. Over 230 latrines/ toilets have been installed to date, providing basic facilities for over 3,000 persons.

Challenges

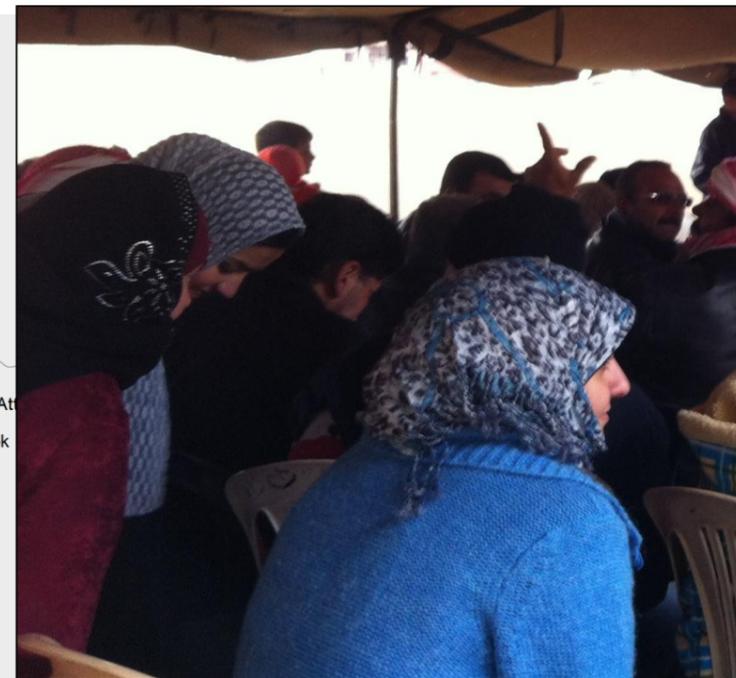
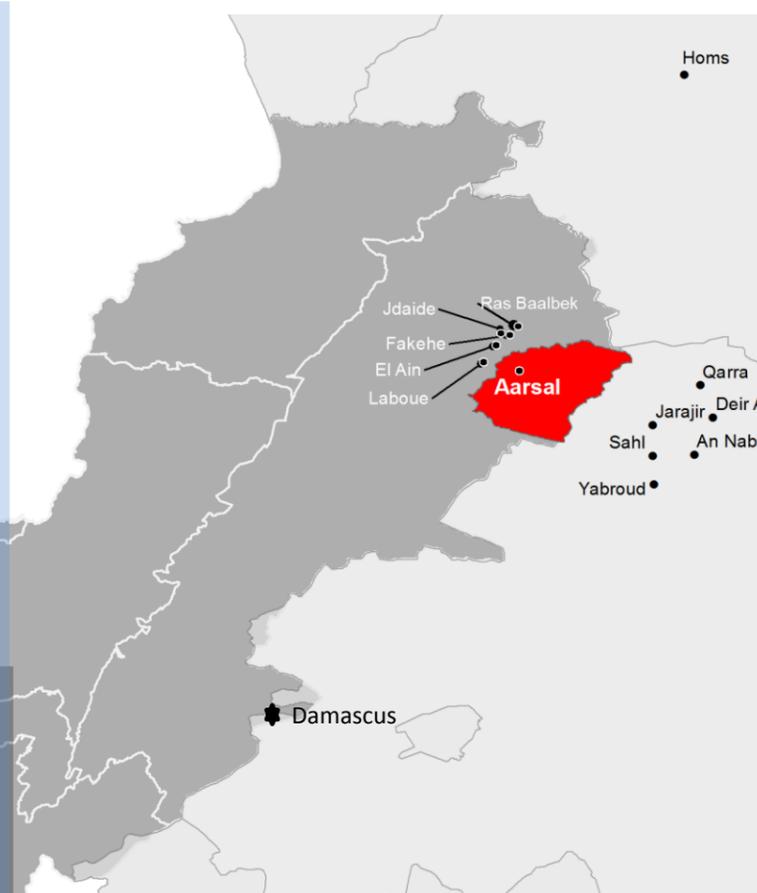
The lack of shelter options continues to be a critical challenge. Partners have identified families who need priority attention and will review available options in nearby locations including Baalbek and Hermel as possible solutions. Continued advocacy is needed to establish additional temporary shelter sites in the vicinity of Aarsal.

Protection partners are facing difficulties providing follow-up support to refugees with specific needs due to incomplete contact information and onward movement to other locations in Lebanon.

Next steps

Partners are working jointly to encourage unregistered refugees to present themselves for registration. Protection information and counseling on available assistance will be scaled up during registration to reduce the need for household visits.

The protection working group is also working to reinforce partner capacity in key areas of response including camp management and SGBV.



Registration with the municipality is being conducted regularly to ensure that new arrivals can access assistance Aarsal 2013-11-29 © UNHCR