

LEBANON: Arsal Influx Inter-agency Update

18 February 2014



Arsal

35,000
Resident
Population of Arsal

38,000
Refugees identified
As of 20 December 2013

>10,000
Persons arrived
between 9-17 Feb

>83,000
Total population in
Arsal

CONTEXT

Over 10,000 Syrians have arrived in Arsal since 9 February.

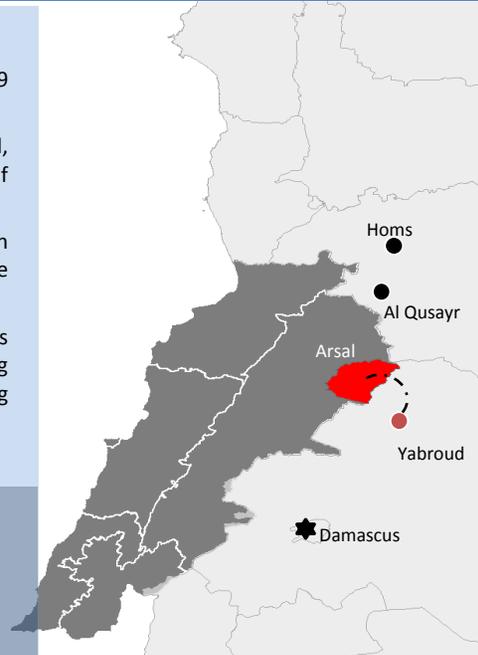
The new arrivals are coming from the towns of Sahel, Jreijeer, Flita and Yabrud in the Qalamoun region of Syria, where shelling and bombardments are ongoing.

The recent arrivals bring the total refugee population in Arsal to more than 48,000, which now exceeds the resident Lebanese.

Refugees reported the presence of armed elements beyond the Lebanese army checkpoint, exacerbating security conditions in border areas where an increasing number of families have recently settled.

Partners

MoSA, Arsal Municipality, ACF, Al Jamaa Al Islamiya, AMEL, BEYOND, Dar Al Fatwa, DRC, GVC, HI, ICRC, IMC, Intersos, IRC, local NGOs, MDM, MSF, NRC, SCI, TDH, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP



New arrivals in Arsal queue for pre-registration and distribution of assistance
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RESPONSE

Protection

One of the chief protection concerns is that a growing number of refugees are setting up tents in areas beyond the Lebanese army checkpoints. These are areas where Lebanese law enforcement agencies cannot ensure the security of refugees nor humanitarian workers.

UN agencies are working with the Government to try and identify alternative sites as well as with local partners to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches those in insecure areas.

At the same time, coordination systems continue to be in place to ensure that the services provided are clear and these are communicated appropriately to refugees.

Children are among the current arrivals, four so far arriving unaccompanied. Means to immediately assist them and try and trace their families are in place.

Public Health

Agencies are supporting primary health clinics and a maternity/pediatric health centre. Five mobile health units are also responding to health needs. Over 280 persons with medical needs have been assisted in the last two weeks. Many include infants, as well as

children affected by lice, scabies and leishmaniasis.

Additionally, 120 persons have been provided with mental health services.

Shelter and WASH

The key challenge is shelter. In the absence of a formal site identified and secured by the Government, several independent agencies are setting up their own sites. UN and its partners are concerned as some sites lack minimum standards to assure protection and good health, and are working to help provide advice and support to ensure safer living conditions.

Over 50 families received materials to ensure their accommodation is safe and secure against the elements.

Partners continue to work to identify available space for collective shelters and secure informal sites within Arsal.

The Ministry of Social Affairs provided 50 tents to accommodate new arrivals settling outside the checkpoints.

Core Relief Items and Food Security

Refugee families have received core relief items (hygiene kits, mattresses, blankets, stoves, fuel vouchers, kitchen sets, and baby kits) and food. Food stocks have been replenished to

up to 27,300 people.

Next Steps

Mobile medical units will start a polio and measles vaccination campaign targeting new arrivals in the coming days.

UN and its partner agencies continue to work with the authorities to meet immediate needs and contingency planning.

Outreach to partners outside the coordination structure is underway to best ensure a consolidated response and minimum standards for the security and safety of refugees and their hosts are met.

Plans to establish a child-friendly space in the registration site in Arsal are underway.

Needs assessments are ongoing.

Over 200 shelter kits and 2,150 tarpaulins will be distributed in ITS in the coming days.

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