

# LEBANON: Arsal Influx Inter-Agency Update

19 November 2013



## Arsal



35,000

Resident  
Population of Arsal

+



19,500

Registered Refugees  
As of 15 October 2013

+



13,200

Refugees registered with  
the local municipality  
since 15 November 2013



67,700

Total population in  
Arsal

## CONTEXT

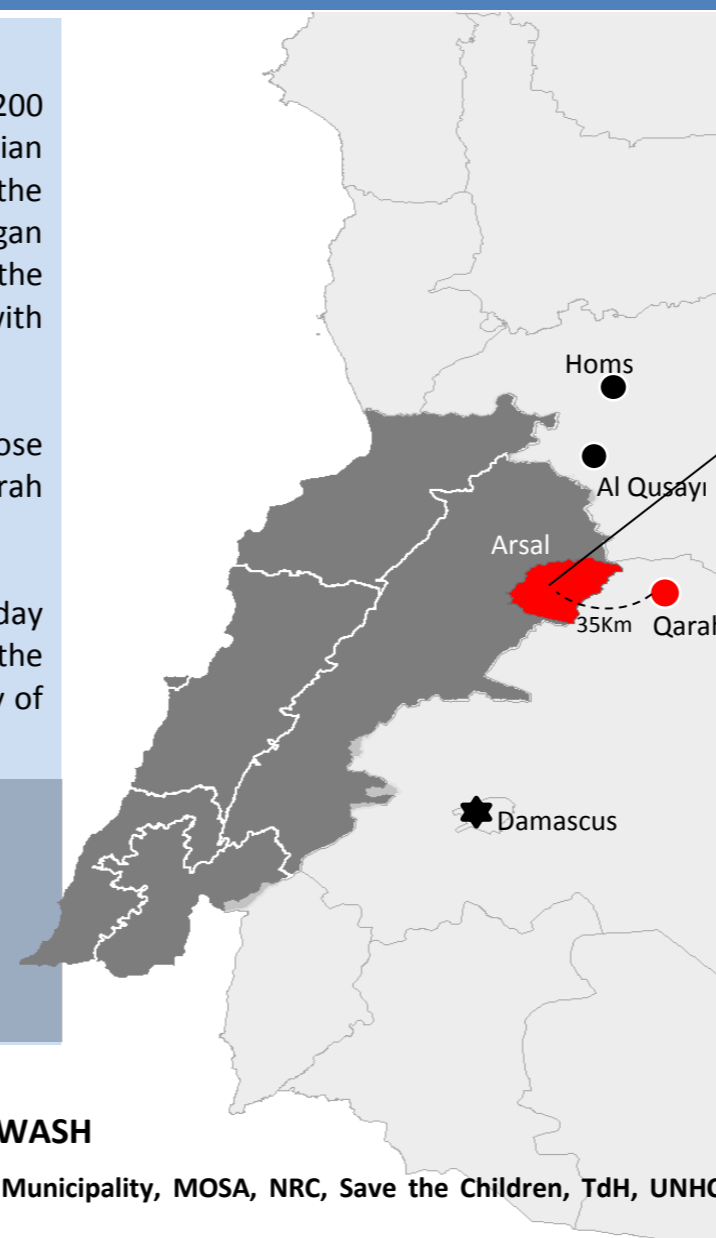
Humanitarian partners are responding to an influx of 2,200 refugee families following heavy fighting between the Syrian Armed Forces and Armed Opposition Groups in the Qalamoun area of Rif Dimashq, Syria. Heavy clashes began on 15 November and are ongoing. Most civilians fleeing the fighting have come from Qarah, close to the border with Arsal, Lebanon.

Preliminary assessments indicate that some 80% of those fleeing are from Homs, and had been displaced to Qarah earlier this year.

Humanitarian partners have been on the ground since Friday to support municipal authorities. UNHCR is coordinating the inter-agency response under the direction of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Between 30 and 50 families arrived this morning
- First 21 tents put up in formal tented settlement
- Improved water and sanitation conditions



Aid workers assist recently arrived Syrian refugees from Qarah at the Norwegian Refugee Council's Community Center in Arsal, 2013-11-17, © UNHCR

## RESPONSE

### Protection

(Amel, Al Jamaa Al Islamiya, Arsal Municipality, DAF, DRC, TdH, IRC, Jousoour Al Nour, Jarrah Scouts, Local Community, MOSA, NRC, Popular REscue, Prince of Qatar Aid, Rural Dev. Assoc, TdH, UNHCR, UNICEF)

2,200 Syrian families have been registered with local municipalities for emergency assistance since last Friday. 1,000 of these families were registered today thanks to increased registration capacity provided by partners.

Partners are focusing on addressing the needs of vulnerable individuals and separated families are being reunited. Over 120 local community volunteers have been mobilized to assist in the response effort, and private individuals are providing assistance, including accommodation, transportation services to the registration centre, food, blankets, clothes and core relief items.

### Public Health

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

Partners have deployed 3 mobile medical units to address urgent health needs. Immunizations and nutrition screenings for new arrivals are underway. Pregnant women and war-wounded refugees are also receiving immediate assistance.

A health task force has been established co-chaired by MOSA and UNHCR.

### Shelter and WASH

(ACF, Intersos, Municipality, MOSA, NRC, Save the Children, TdH, UNHCR, UNICEF)

Refugees continue to be hosted in various locations. Dar al Fatwah has provided a temporary site in Arsal for a formal tented settlement that can accommodate 50 families. Partners put up 21 tents today; vulnerable families are expected to move in tomorrow. Partners are working to ensure sufficient water and sanitation facilities in most locations. Water trucking to collective centres, increased desludging of latrines, and capacity for waste management are underway.

### Core Relief Items and Food

(Al Jamaa Al Islamiya, DAF, DRC, GVC, IRC, KSA Relief, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP)

Partners have started distributing core relief items to alleviate the immediate needs of refugees. Some 900 families have been assisted to date with food parcels, blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets and hygiene kits. Women and children are being assisted with baby kits and dignity kits. Winter clothes have been distributed to children. Stocks are in place to respond to further new arrivals. A food security assessment was conducted: sufficient capacity in stores and bakeries exist to cater for the current needs.

### Challenges

Identifying and providing shelter for the large number of new arrivals and ensuring their access to water and sanitation continue to present a key challenge. As refugees are scattered in various locations in and around Arsal, including in unfinished buildings, assessing their shelter and other needs remains difficult. Capacity of health facilities is limited, particularly for pregnant women.

The security situation is being closely monitored for any potential repercussions on the delivery of assistance.

### Next Steps

Following reports of the potential for an escalation of violence in villages surrounding Qarah, partners are working on scaling up contingency in preparations in all sectors in case of a new influx of arrivals.

Partners will continue to streamline referrals of the most vulnerable individuals to ensure maximum coverage.

In order to ensure the continued generosity of the host community, partners will give attention to support the affected Lebanese population.

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