

LEBANON: Arsal Influx Inter-agency Update

20 February 2014



Arsal

 **35,000**
Resident
Population of Arsal

 **38,000**
Refugees identified
As of 20 December 2013

 **12,800**
Persons arrived
between 9-20 Feb

 **85,800**
Total population in
Arsal

CONTEXT

Some 12,800 Syrian refugees arrived in Arsal since violence erupted in the Qalamoun region of Syria on 9 February.

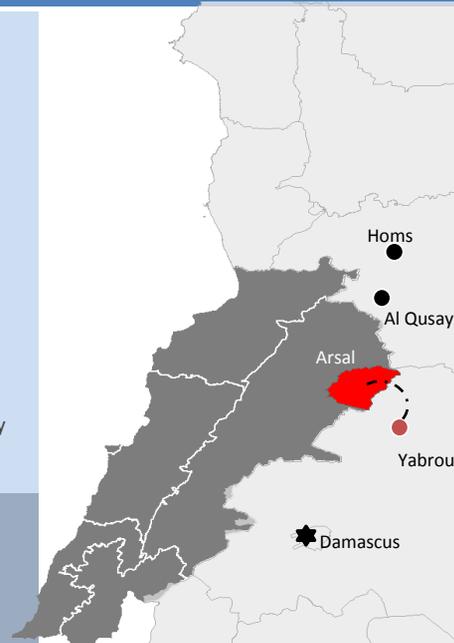
The influx continues and 2,800 new arrivals mainly from Yabroud, Flita and Al Sahel in Qalamoun were identified in the past three days alone.

The recent arrivals bring the total refugee population in Arsal to more than 50,800, exceeding the number of resident Lebanese. More refugees are expected to arrive in the coming days.

The majority of the new arrivals are women and children. The average family size is three persons indicating that many families split during the flight to Arsal.

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, UHDO, UNICEF, WFP



Humanitarian partners distribute core relief items to the new arrivals in Arsal
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RESPONSE

Protection

Approximately 11 per cent of the new arrivals have settled beyond the Lebanese Army checkpoint, along the border areas, where security cannot be guaranteed by Lebanese law enforcement agencies.

Humanitarian partners have scaled-up outreach activities to provide information and counseling to all new arrivals, presently scattered in over 32 Informal Tented Settlements (ITS), collective shelters and public spaces such as mosques, halls and, sometimes, trucks.

A child-friendly space has been established at the site where new arrivals are being pre-registered. Four families who were separated during the flight were re-united.

Public Health

Polio and measles vaccination campaigns reached 520 and 480 children respectively, including those children in settlements beyond the checkpoint. Primary health clinics and maternal/pediatric centres remain operational, and mobile medical units continue to reach out to the population scattered throughout Arsal.

The number of refugees being provided with mental health services continues to grow, reaching 170 cases so far.

Shelter and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

New arrivals settled in 32 ITS have been supported with water, latrines, water tanks, jerry-cans, and baby kits. WASH facilities are established each day to cope with the growing number of families settling in these sites. Refugees living in private accommodations and collective shelters also received clean water trucked by partners.

Tents, plastic sheeting and other shelter material are being provided to newly arrived families settling in 26 ITS. Distribution of sealing-off kits, which includes ply wood, plastic sheeting and tools, will reach 380 families living in rented accommodations by next week.

Core Relief Items and Food Security

Refugees have received hygiene kits, mattresses, blankets, stoves, fuel vouchers, kitchen sets, and baby kits and food. A preparedness stock containing food parcels for more than 130,000 people and core relief items sufficient to respond to an influx of up to 200,000 people has been established.

Challenges

There is an urgent need for improvement of waste management to avoid potential hazardous consequences to the health of the refugees and resident Lebanese.

Provision of water and sanitation facilities in areas hosting refugees beyond the checkpoint remains a challenge, despite the latest efforts by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) to establish latrines and distribute water supplies to ITS in that area.

Next Steps

Partners will distribute winter clothes to 300 particularly vulnerable new arrivals, including children, in the coming days. Approximately 50 refugees with disabilities have been identified and will be provided with special assistance.

Water filters will be distributed later this week to ensure availability of clean water and prevent the outbreak of water-borne diseases.

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