

Inter-agency update on the situation in

Arsal and surrounding areas



LEBANON

8 August 2014



35,000

Resident
Population of Arsal



42,000

Registered Refugees



5,000

Awaiting
registration

Background

After days of intense clashes between armed groups and the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), no major confrontations have been reported since 7 August. Local sources reported intermittent gunfire in town and clashes in the outskirts. The current situation does not allow for a general resumption of humanitarian operations.

The road between Laboue and Arsal was opened temporarily on Friday morning for the first time since the clashes had started, allowing some families to come back into town or leave.

Humanitarian situation and response

Protection

Within Arsal, many refugees are reported to have sought shelter in sites such as schools, garages, basements and collective, as well as private houses. Some refugees are attempting to return to their sites of previous residence.

As of Thursday evening, 1,072 households – 90% Syrian and 10% Lebanese – had been displaced from Arsal to 24 municipalities throughout the Bekaa. Partners have been assessing their needs and providing assistance. By Friday, the number of displaced had gone down to 846, following the return of some families to Arsal. Many more families assessed indicated their intention to return rapidly.

On 7 August, a convoy, reportedly organized by a nun, of some 1,500 Syrian refugees heading from Arsal towards Syria was not able to cross the border at Masnaa. 350 refugees from that group reattempted to cross on Friday, but were once again denied entry into Syria. Partners present at the border have been able to provide ad-hoc assistance.

Shelter

According to available information, six collective shelters and 14 informal settlements have been affected by the recent round of violence.

WASH

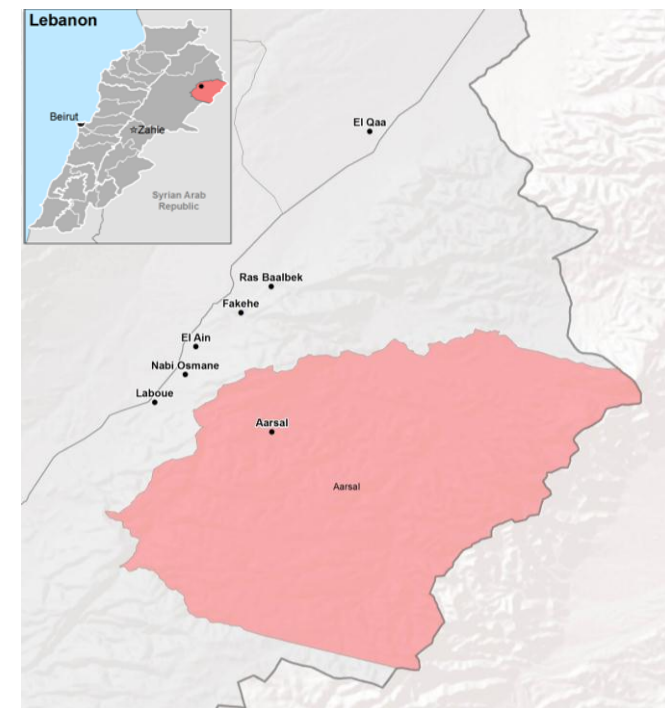
100,000 litres of water have now been distributed to Lebanese and Syrians in Arsal. The movement of numerous families from informal settlements to more secure buildings inside town, which are connected to the sewage system, alleviated sanitation. However, given the volatility of the situation, systematic water trucking and desludging services in remote and dispersed populations is currently not possible.

Health

Over 40 medical cases were transported out of Arsal and received medical treatment in adjacent towns on Thursday. On the same day, health partners began conducting health assessment activities in locations where Lebanese and Syrian families have been displaced. By noon, field hospitals in Arsal reported a cumulative total of 587 weapon-wounded cases and 60 fatalities since 2 August.

Food and non-food items

Stores in Arsal are reported to have reopened since 7 August, allowing people to obtain food and other items. Local organisations and refugee committees are assisting refugees who lost their registration documents and cash cards and share their names with the UN so that their files can be replaced. Some agencies have been able to provide ad-hoc food assistance. By Thursday evening, at least 575 displaced households in various locations had received core relief items, such as blankets and mattresses.



The local NGO Ghirath Al Khair distributed relief items to Lebanese and Syrian displaced in Al Marj@UNHCR

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