


LEBANON: Aarsal Influx Inter-Agency Update

22 November 2013




Aarsal

 **35,000**
Resident
Population of Aarsal

 **19,500**
Registered Refugees
As of 15 October 2013

 **18,126**
Refugees registered with
the local municipality
since 15 November 2013

 **72,626**
Total population in
Aarsal

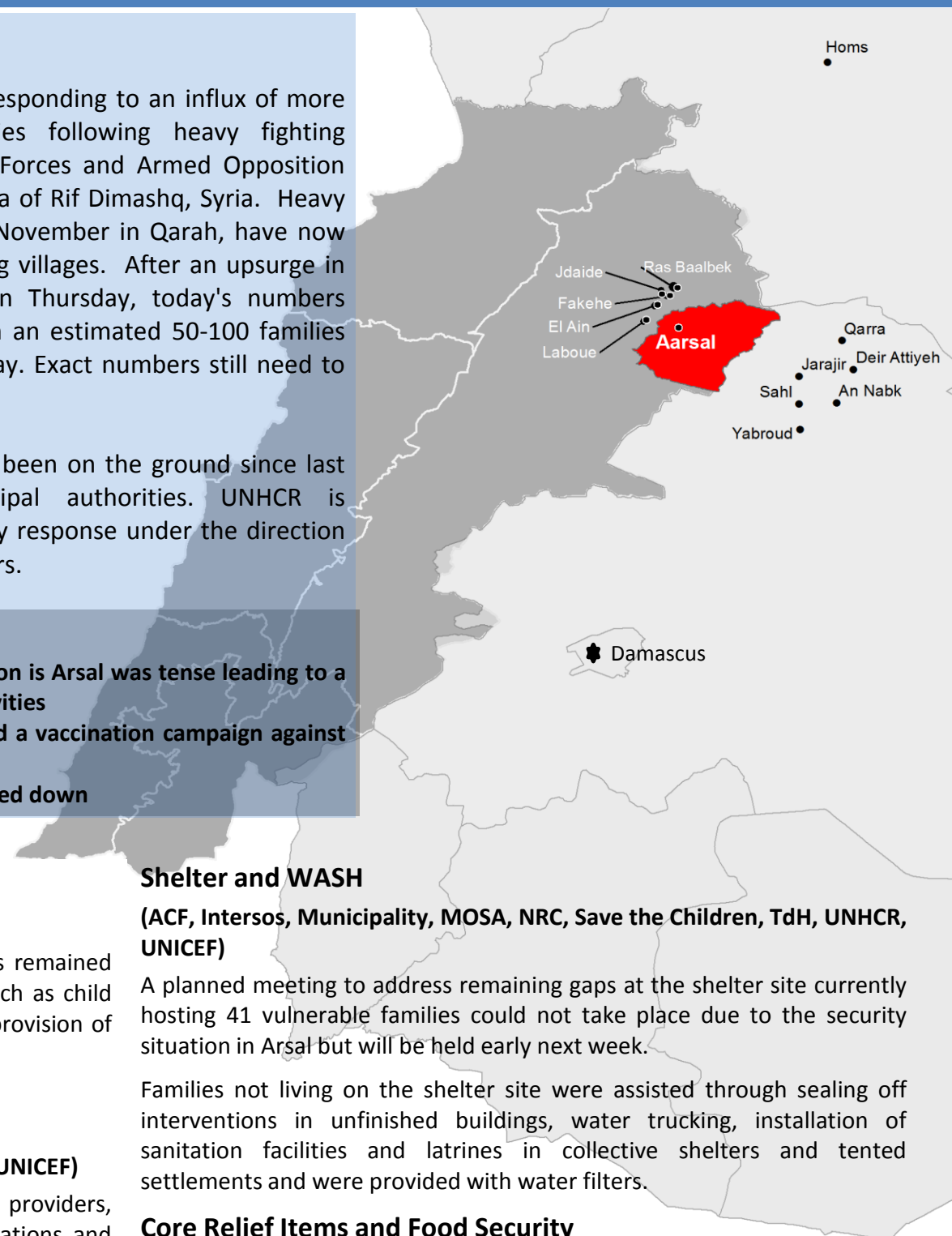
CONTEXT

Humanitarian partners are responding to an influx of more than 3,000 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. After an upsurge in numbers of new arrivals on Thursday, today's numbers remained relatively low with an estimated 50-100 families having arrived since yesterday. Exact numbers still need to be confirmed.

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- Today, the security situation in Aarsal was tense leading to a suspension of several activities
- Six outreach teams started a vaccination campaign against Polio and Measles
- The new arrivals rate slowed down



The shelter site in Aarsal. 2013-11-21, © UNHCR

RESPONSE

Protection

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

Registration was suspended today as the numbers of new arrivals remained low. Partners focused on addressing pressing protection needs such as child protection, including identification of separated children and the provision of counselling and emotional support.

Public Health

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

Given stretched capacities and limited stocks of local health care providers, partners are supporting Primary Health Care Centers with medications and other equipment in addition to providing health care services through mobile medical units.

Today, six outreach teams started a vaccination campaign against Measles and Polio which will continue in the coming days. Three additional mobile teams reached out to persons with specific needs.

Shelter and WASH

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

A planned meeting to address remaining gaps at the shelter site currently hosting 41 vulnerable families could not take place due to the security situation in Aarsal but will be held early next week.

Families not living on the shelter site were assisted through sealing off interventions in unfinished buildings, water trucking, installation of sanitation facilities and latrines in collective shelters and tented settlements and were provided with water filters.

Core Relief Items and Food Security

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

Today, 257 families who were registered with the municipality yesterday received core relief items such as blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets and hygiene kits as well as food parcels.

To ensure that all those in need receive assistance, partners are conducting household assessments and mobile distributions of clothes and dignity kits in private houses and informal tented settlements.

Challenges

The tense security situation led to a temporary disruption of some assistance activities. Partners will assess the situation and reschedule activities as soon as possible.

Efforts to identify shelter solutions continue as many refugees are still accommodated in unsuitable dwellings. Lack of privacy and showers in collective shelters remains an issue. Partners are negotiating possible solutions with landlords.

Next Steps

A shelter assessment is planned which will help identifying potential shelter solutions, such as unfinished buildings which can be converted into collective shelters.

An assessment of the nutritional status of the refugee population is planned to start on Monday to ensure potential cases of malnutrition are addressed promptly.

Partners continue to review their contingency stocks.

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