

# LEBANON: Arsal Influx Inter-agency Update

25 February 2014




## Arsal

 **35,000**  
Resident  
Population of Arsal

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

 **13,440**  
Persons arrived  
between 9-25Feb

 **86,440**  
Total population in  
Arsal

## CONTEXT

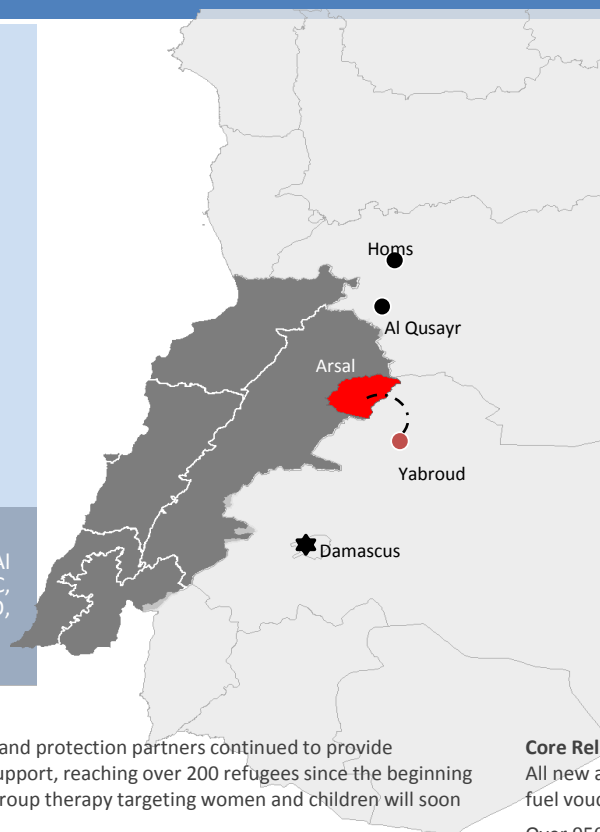
Some 13,440 Syrian refugees arrived in Arsal since violence erupted in the Qalamoun region of Syria on 9 February. The majority originates from Yabroud, Flita, Al Sahel and Ras al Maara.

Despite sporadic fighting still being reported in and around Yabroud, the pace of the refugee influx significantly decreased, with only 640 new arrivals identified in Arsal between 20 and 25 February.

The recent arrivals bring the total refugee population in Arsal to more than 51,440, exceeding the number of resident Lebanese.

### Partners

MoSA, Arsal Municipality, ACF, AMEL, BEYOND, Dar Al Fatwa, DRC, GVC, HI, ICRC, IMC, Intersos, IOM, IOCC, IRC, local NGOs, MSF, NRC, SCI, TDH, UNHCR, UHDO, URDA, UNICEF, WFP



New arrivals in Arsal queue to be pre-registered and receive assistance ©L.Abou Khaled/UNHCR

## RESPONSE

### Protection

Approximately 13 per cent of the total number of Syrian refugees recently arrived in Arsal settled beyond the Lebanese Army checkpoint.

Humanitarian agencies are particularly concerned about the reported presence of weapons in many Informal Tented Settlements (ITS) and are working with local authorities on modalities to preserve the civilian character of these settlements.

Partners operating the child-friendly space at the registration centre detected and provided assistance to 360 children in need of special care, including five unaccompanied minors. Some 15 families were reunified.

### Public Health

Vaccination activities reached all sites where new arrivals settled. Mobile clinics and local hospitals continue to provide assistance to the new comers. In the past five days, 632 refugees - most children - received specific medical treatment. Cases of leishmaniasis and hepatitis A have been detected and treated.

Mental health and protection partners continued to provide psychosocial support, reaching over 200 refugees since the beginning of the influx. Group therapy targeting women and children will soon start.

Health partners also began door-to-door visits to screen children between six months and five years for malnutrition.

### Shelter and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

A shelter assessment revealed that there are currently 36 ITS and 11 collective shelters hosting refugees in Arsal. Seven out of the 36 ITS are located beyond the Army checkpoint. Partners identified 150 unfinished buildings that could potentially host new arrivals, after interventions to improve the living conditions, in particular with respect to WASH, take place.

Water-trucking to private accommodations hosting new arrivals is ongoing. Refugees are also benefitting from the set-up of additional water tanks and latrines.

### Core Relief Items and Food

All new arrivals received hygiene kits, mattresses, blankets, stoves, fuel vouchers, kitchen sets, and baby kits and food.

Over 950 children below the age of 14 residing in ITS within and outside the checkpoint received winter cloths. Partners distributed blankets to 972 and 360 additional stoves to new arrivals.

### Challenges

Insecurity continues to be a main challenge for the delivery of assistance to refugees. On Saturday 22, new arrivals' identification activities had to be suspended due to security incidents. Concerns regarding fraud in identification documents presented by the new comers are being addressed.

### Next Steps

Due to the decreasing number of new arrivals, one final round of identification and delivery of assistance within and outside the checkpoint will take place in the coming days. Thereafter partners and local authorities will refer new arrivals to regular re-registration arrangements.

### For more information:

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