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Information bulletin

Lebanon: Complex Emergency

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Glide n° CE-2014-000105-LBN	Date of issue: August 8, 2014
Date of disaster August 2, 2014	Point of contact: Shail SHRESTHA
Operation start date: August 2, 2014	Number of people affected: 80,000 people
Host National Society: Lebanese Red Cross Society (LRC)	
N° of National Societies currently involved in the operation: LRC	
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation: German RC & ICRC	

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time.

The situation

Armed clashes erupted in Arsal, North Lebanon, on the afternoon of August 2, 2014 between Lebanese Army and Armed Grouped. Around 80,000 Lebanese people and Syrian refugees were trapped between the armed clashes in Arsal Town and its surrounding areas. People are afraid to leave their houses because of the shelling, or being targeted while fleeing, as it happened to several people in the previous days, hence very few civilians managed to flee from Arsal town.. The Humanitarian needs are high since the access to these villages is very difficult. People lack food, water and medical assistance remains restricted and humanitarian activities are mostly suspended

Moreover, since the roads are blocked and the security is worsening by the hour, transport of severe medical cases outside the towns is very limited.

Lebanese Red Cross is the only humanitarian actor currently having access to the area, and are working under critical situation, as one ambulance was hit by stray bullets.

According to the UNHCR interagency update of 7 August, over 800 families have been identified as displaced from Arsal and currently hosted in private houses, schools and collective shelters in various locations in the Bekaa. A large group is said to have moved towards Ras Baalbek through the hillside.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In response to the escalation, the Lebanese Red Cross immediately placed seven EMS Stations and around 100 Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) in the Bekaa region were on high alert. Supporting teams from Beirut and Mount Lebanon were put on standby.

The Lebanese Red Cross started immediately transporting wounded and deceased people. The situation has rapidly escalated which lead the LRC to establish an advanced temporary station in Labweh. 50 EMTs and ten ambulances were placed in the temporary station. Four Ambulances were placed in an advanced safe zone to



Lebanese Red Cross volunteers evacuate wounded people from Arsal area on August 4, 2014. Credit: Lebanese Red Cross

transport casualties to the hospitals. A temporary dispatch unit was also established in Labweh to coordinate the exit and entry of all Ambulances from and to Aarsal.

On 7 August, LRC managed to send into Aarsal 20 ambulances. An assessment team from ICRC and LRC have been sent to assess on the situation.

The German RC has pledged to support the on-going operation. IFRC is also working closely with LRC and maintaining close contact with other partners to provide support. Today, LRC invited partners to brief on the situation and will also look forward for support.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.