**Jordan’s Protection and Response Measures for Persons with Disabilities**

Since Coronavirus spread in Jordan in mid-March, and in the midst of lockdown and the enactment of the Jordanian defence law, the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (HCD) has put forth and developed a series of response and protection measures, targeting people with disabilities in Jordan, with specific interventions for each disability/impairment group. These measures are:

1. **Developing awareness-raising material** (videos, guides, and instructions) on protection/response measures in relation to COVID-19, including the daily press briefings. This material is posted on the various social media platforms:

Links to HCD social media platforms and the MOH Coronavirus website/portal:

Website: [www.hcd.gov.jo](http://www.hcd.gov.jo/?fbclid=IwAR3d61mgQ3S7JVUBrNq5bikzsZcwLtA3mk91lOB2QefZ1Hd0FS7IZR3w4jU)

[Facebook:www.Facebook.com/HCDJordan](https://www.facebook.com/HCDJordan/?__tn__=%2CdK-R-R&eid=ARD-oxGqWO36sXt1zE7RHhOmQ8CK7l9BC3OfAPObfqsioXxEsYm4LAX-Jf5cl49ic8YvLzf-WN_HWG5P&fref=mentions)  
[YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGvu3VIqvXNZuHTm3dcAnuw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGvu3VIqvXNZuHTm3dcAnuw?fbclid=IwAR3MHMP60fWsp1BZjNRcgqYNFIrliL8WCegGyJauW5fnX7cN7kbxpPKWhZE)  
[Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/hcd2008](https://www.instagram.com/hcd2008?fbclid=IwAR0wIo9KseCh-rXTkc0Tz5AsGLAmNh7ETW8-lCdxl4xi7cznN0cZMUWVK4U)

The MOH COVID-19 information portal [https://corona.moh.gov.jo/ar](https://corona.moh.gov.jo/ar?fbclid=IwAR0RPDCQT4qRSkQ1EEY7OPXeVPDzu_WY9d9f0Z-aIPHd3XwnFGBVpeVto2I).

1. With the Ministry of Health and the Infectious Diseases Committee**, developing guiding principles for communicating and dealing with people with disabilities who are suspected of having/infected with COVID-19.** These are a series of standards or practical steps for each type of disability and its severity, starting with a home-visit for testing purposes, to transporting the patient to hospital via ambulance; to ensuring that the hospital room is accessible and safe, and the measures needed to ensure that her/his personal assistant is protected from the virus… ending with ensuring that the home-based isolation measures are properly and adequately communicated to the person after she/he is discharged from hospital.
2. Set up a  **number of audio-visual hotlines accessible to people with hearing disabilities**:
   1. The emergency hotline for those with hearing impairments (114) via which Public Security Directorate officers in Jordan's Centre for Control and Command are trained to respond in Sign Language, thanks to training conducted by our organisation.
   2. With the help of Sign Book, and Orange Telecommunications Company, HCD is able to provide the following hotlines (operating at the designated time slots below) for people with hearing disabilities, via IMO:
      1. From 8 am - 4 pm on the below numbers:

0775923853

0775923844

0770011516

* + 1. From 4 pm - 12 am on the below numbers:

0775923854

0779427954

0770011516

* + 1. From 12 am - 8 am on the below number:

0779426781

1. For all other requests except those that are medical in nature people with other disabilities can call into this number: 0799625706.

1. Providing university students who are deaf and in need of SLI with interpreters, as required.
2. Providing internet bundles for students in need.
3. Co-ordinating with the Civil Defence Department to assist those in need of emergency health interventions/hospital care.
4. Providing hearing aid batteries and other essentials.
5. Providing medications and other essentials to those who are not medically ensured, directly to their homes.
6. Providing food packages to people with disabilities in their homes directly via the Jordanian Hashemite Charitable Organisation.
7. Monitoring and dealing with cases of violence and abuse with the Family Protection Department.
8. Providing students with visual disabilities with screen-readers and other devices that enable them to learn and engage in e-learning, as need be.
9. **The Medical Services Initiative "Shiddah wa Bitzoul" "شدة وبتزول" launched by HCD and a number of medical-based entities including the Physicians Syndicate, the Jordanian Charitable Physician Organisation and the Spinal Cord Injury Society.**

Through this initiative, people with disabilities and their families can call the hotline 0795142541 to request either of the following:

* Providing advice by phone.
* Providing medications
* Changing/assessing injuries.
* Providing maintenance services to assistive devices and prostheses.

1. **The YouTube Platform for Assisting People with Intellectual Disabilities "HCD Resources for People with Intellectual Disabilities"** available at: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYll5M72iVaNZb5syF0cmVg](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fchannel%2FUCYll5M72iVaNZb5syF0cmVg%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR0jIPfAyouL8Qjq_CF7B0dQZfBrnUy5RcKDPM3cif6LtSwcPM0f_0jePvY&h=AT20Nl2MQeG_kCjkBPVDr6b7O7Q-AjU1CXG11Nhk19LMfxhB8xPuIaxfZHHiPlzX5MPCU6iizF0f_EpMqKm06yxwBJUBupaVqltD7ZhhBoOnxar1JQXsIw63u0MGnt5oF0AIur0wka2HddT6XlI8klDINQ7g90Pt6KQnKe_pB_pUIFAZqidNDPBbUzxqfidILtS8xCt38KJI7AtLOyQf42t_LRUr6PfQ0ucVc71ElhUNMkLfHQdU-JgEaocTDsV9WCtSDSipcp6UWPyXLshrPIokLtYIjEkTph2QAifP8ljtzXxMSfG0b-XOB8gR5mCx0UwT7fBUdqGvubCr3IakINf-6weGoifmbLceOvqkRr3YEOG61UpZIY_E7dXcDwnV4cr__oGa_lNDolPuxy1q44bpXI4SzMNkinPBZlGm21N8KiSp4k4dJNZLbmk0ggpSOtwiPYmmKM4xfYVEV08iBJM70GoSM_Me0LMJ8-mPdtO6mO7T3kxWHLXFbuS1M3gjwg2opcLv-vDR4ViMtnncDyt_bYAhkgE4svb3D_EcMXzgewx7rCkaFb6cZHmW3xIAj1rZdLrw6Cz-H5zYQyE85nh3-CWYLV9r79A5KlEgPVBrCAFBaSmX2WNmy9g5srgAkbkZ)

This is both an information and awareness-raising portal to assist those with intellectual disabilities and their families with practical information and know-how.

1. **The Habayebna Platform,**available at**:**  <https://www.habaybna.net/hcd/>

a platform targeting families of those with intellectual disabilities, offering them advice on do's/don't's as well as much needed psychosocial support and help, including in educational, behavioural and psychosocial needs and issues. It is founded by a mother of two boys with autism. Parents/families can log on to the platform and after filling out the online questionnaire, they are connected to an expert to deal with their query.

1. **The YouTube channel/platform ‘HCD Education for the Deaf’ available at:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeKZ0MyUbQzX-E-HNgrXEgg>

A platform that runs courses for students who are deaf studying for the final year (Tawjihi, National Exam) exams. The channel is also continuously updated to include all years/grades.

***Measures still under development:***

HCD is currently developing platforms for those who are blind.

HCD has also recently drafted a set of principles/practical measures to be adopted by the relevant entities relating to situations whereby if and when people with intellectual disabilities are God-forbid suspected of having/affected by COVID-19, what must/must not be done.

HCD is devising mechanisms to ensure those people with disabilities who are not currently actively working whether temporarily or on a more permanent basis; or who are not included in the social security schemes or those not receiving any kind of in-kind monetary support, are supported after careful consideration/assessment on a case by case basis.