



This update aims to provide information on progress towards implementation of the objectives of the Jordan Contingency & Response Plan in response to COVID-19. It is available through UNHCR's Operational Portal at [COVID-19 Response Page](#)

I. General Update

The Jordan Response Plan 2020-2022 has been endorsed and officially launched by the Government on 22 July in a virtual platform meeting convened by the Prime Minister and attended and participated by line ministries, donors, UN agencies, and other key partners. MoPIC has presented the summary of the plan, including information on its structure, key priorities, budget requirements, as well as a document linking the JRP with the COVID-19 crisis, which has been designed as an annex putting the JRP in the context of COVID-19 and outlining additional needs in response to address the vulnerabilities exacerbated by the pandemic and its socio-economic impact.

Since the lifting of movement restrictions and curfews by the Government as of 6 June, partners continue to operate and deliver assistance on the ground with limited number of staff ensuring the implementation of preventive measures, such as social distancing and the usage of the PPEs.

PCR tests are being conducted on a weekly basis in the camps, and there are no positive cases to date in the camps.

30% of staff as well as 30% of activities are now again operational in the camps in line with the lifting of restrictions.

II. Sector Update



HEALTH

Key Activities

- All Caritas clinics are operational now including the mobile medical team in the south (Karak, Tafela & Maan). The clinics receive patients through an appointment system. High numbers of patients in Amman Caritas clinics amount to 52-68 per day. Irbid, Mafraq and Zarqa see an average of 10-15 patients on a daily basis.
- Zarqa health directorate focal point visited inpatient treatment center COVID-19 in Azraq camp jointly with UNHCR team. Outcome of the visit were MOH and UNHCR agreed on the expansion of the center to 50 bed capacity.
- MOH have started random testing of 1000 samples to be collected in Azraq camp for 3 days.
- MSF has completed the construction of the inpatient COVID treatment center in Zaatari camp. MSF recruited the minimum medical team needed and most of the medical materials are in place. Essential medicines have been brought by MSF to the inpatient center.
- WHO welcomes the initial clinical trial results from UK that show dexamethasone, a corticosteroid medication, can be life-saving for severe COVID-19 cases. The treatment has shown to reduce mortality by about one third cases of COVID-19, and for patients requiring only oxygen, mortality was cut by about one fifth, according to the preliminary findings.
- MOH amended the official letter on non-Syrian as per UNHCR's recommendation. Non-Syrians can therefore present a valid UNHCR certificate only when accessing public hospitals and MOH health centers.



BASIC NEEDS

Key Activities

- As of June 28th, 16,488 families have been assisted at least for one month under COVID 19 emergency response. Of these, 758 families have been assisted for 2 months, and 68 families have been assisted for 3 months.

- Collateral repair project has assisted 204 families during the reporting period with food assistance.
- UNHCR regular basic needs assistance was delivered to 33,000 in June with almost 99% of the families having withdrawn the assistance by the end of the period. 701 cases under basic needs monthly assistance were paid assistance using mobile wallets.

Key Challenges

- Funding to meet the needs for the unassisted families identified under the COVID response with at least 1-month assistance remains a critical gap.



FOOD SECURITY

Key Activities

- WFP are expanding the GFA caseload to respond to the needs of COVID-19, an additional 40,000 beneficiaries will receive either partial or full assistance starting in July.
- This week, a request for proposals will be launched for the provision of digital and financial literacy to WFP beneficiaries. The activity will pay particular attention to the needs of women and girls.
- The food assistance reload for July started on 28 June. The reload for communities will be complete by Wednesday this week, while the reload in camps is staggered over a longer period to respect the need to avoid crowding at the camps shops.
- This month community registered refugees may withdraw cash from the ATMs of 4 additional banks, beyond Jordan Ahli Bank; expanding the number of ATMs from 93 to 589, a significant improvement in localizing access to food assistance.
- UNHCR with WFP are working to verifying and update the status of camp registered refugee households. It is anticipated that a number of households currently camp registered will require to be re-registered in the community, and that humanitarian assistance provided will be refocused so that vulnerable households are assisted where they are resident.
- Work on the Joint Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment has re-commenced post the onset of COVID-19.



PROTECTION

- PWG Task Force is emphasizing on the importance of working closely with the government. TF members are the government (MoSD), 2 UN agencies, 2 International NGOs and 2 Local NGOs. Main goal is to discuss the coordination between government and partners, discuss recommendations from this meeting and take an action, plan and highlight protection priorities. The proposed involvement of the research centres in the TF will help planning for a mid-term and long-term prevention, response and transformation in protection sector. MoSD is welcoming the idea of having a TF to work together on a road map not only for COVID-19 but also other protection related issues.
- ToRs to strengthening the SGFPN have been finalized. The proposed ToRs will increase the focal points participation, expertise and accountability to gender in the humanitarian response.
- GBV SWG estimates that during the first 3 months of lockdown in 38% of targeted areas GBV services have been interrupted while 62% GBV services were maintained or expanded in response to COVID-19. The services include case management, individual PSS and group PSS and CMR in line with reporting requirements of the [Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID 19](#).
- As by now in urban areas, GBV organizations resumed in person GBV case management along with online support and smaller group activities based on the capacity and the space of the rooms and taking into consideration maintaining social distances. In Zaatari EJC and Azraq camp only in person case management is resumed whilst awareness and other group activities remain online only;
- At the occasion of the International Day for the elimination of Sexual Violence in conflict and in collaboration with the Jordan Youth Peace and Security 2250 National Coalition, UNFPA Jordan organized an interactive [online session](#) to mobilize young people and representatives of youth organizations and networks on how sexual violence impacts the lives of young people and their community, COVID 19 related risks and discuss with practitioners and experts what works to put an end to it;
- Issuance and dissemination of GBV IMS 2019 annual report in Arabic language available [here](#).

- CP IMS TF had a discussion with its members regarding Save the Children and TDH exit plan and handover of CP cases under their case management. The projects which were funded by ECO and suspended due to COVID-19. The taskforce continued the discussions during follow up meetings and agreed on the split of the CP cases and the handover to IMC and NHF.

Key Challenges

- Majority of case management organizations observed that although in person services resumed and more survivors are seeking help the rate of case disclosure is still low compared to prior to COVID-19;
- Lack of clarity regarding governmental shelters capacity to host SGBV survivors during COVID-19.



Key Activities

- UNICEF continues the provision of safe water to all 128,000 refugees residing in Azraq, Zaatari, and KAP camps as well as the northeastern border ensuring the supply's quality and quantities meet the minimum drinking water standards and requirements in collaboration with camps' management and relevant ministries.
- A shipment of 80,000 soap bars, 500 hygiene kits and 1,000 hand sanitizers has been delivered to Zaatari camp. The blanket distribution of cleaning kits and one soap per person will commence on the 28 JUN with support from LWF and NRC.
- A distribution of hand sanitizers by UNICEF started in KAP Camp, to date, 115 hand sanitizers have been distributed to 115 families (570 individuals). The remaining 8 families will be reached on 28 JUN, thereby completing the blanked distribution in KAP camp.
- Throughout the past two weeks, WASH block (in Azraq) and vehicle disinfection in Azraq, KAP and Zaatari continued, with over 3,200 having been disinfected ensuring a safe and clean environment for all 113,000 refugees in the three camps
- RCCE continued in cooperation with ACF, ACTED, FP, LWF and OXFAM, with approved messaging being disseminated through over 207 WhatsApp groups to 5,538 individuals to camp populations and host communities, of which at least were 2,346 individuals were female. The messaging provided by UNICEF focused on key messages regarding COVID-19 and WASH, including but not limited to how to maintain psychological and mental health during the quarantine, including information regarding education schedules for the relevant populations.
- In the past two weeks, FP have continued distributing critical IPC supplies into ITS residents in Mafraq, Irbid, Amman and Karak governorates, including hand sanitizer, face masks and gloves. Over the course of the distribution, FP was able to reach 6,562 individuals. About 1% (64 individuals) of the total beneficiaries were persons with disabilities.
- Additionally, ICMC distributed 546 COVID-19 hygiene supplies, self-care kits, menstrual hygiene items and incontinence pads to 546 individuals in both Irbid and Mafraq governorates.



Key Activities

- One aspect of the Jordan Education During Emergency Plan (EDEP) involves reviewing the existing Education Strategic Plan (ESP) 2018-2022 to consider how priorities have been or will be affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The objectives of the desk review are to: identify components, sub-components and activities that are likely to be impacted by Covid-19 in terms of achievement levels; identify activities of particular relevance for Covid-19 response and recovery measures, highlighting linkages between EDEP and ESP; and inform the revision of the ESP annual workplans for the up-coming school year to better respond to the Covid-19 crisis and impact, mitigate risks and strengthen preparedness capacities. In this context and as the first step of the review, UNESCO is supporting the MOE in conducting a rapid situation analysis focusing on how has Covid-19 already affected activities under the ESP domains; what are the priorities for this domain in the final two years of the ESP in light of how Covid-19 has already changed the system and how it is likely to continue to change the system; and what changes are needed by ESP domain.
- Several UN and INGOs including UNICEF, NRC, WVI, Care, IRC, Questscope, Un Ponte Per, and Blumont, continue on providing distant learning support as part of COVID-19 response, reaching 6,345 individuals. Distant learning modalities are being implemented in various governorates including Amman, Zarqa, Mafraq, Irbid, as well as Azraq and Zaatari camps.

- In light to the crisis sensitive planning and within the global framework of the school reopening (developed by UNICEF, UNESCO, World Bank and WFP), the UN agencies have discussed with the MOE Safely Back to School campaign. UNICEF has developed the concept note on the national campaign to clarify the roles of different agencies to play in a cross-sectorial manner, whilst discussing with the MOE possible scenarios of classroom formation and social distancing in school settings. UNESCO also supports school preparedness in the framework of the overall support to contingency planning and risk management at central, field directorate and school levels; as well as teachers efforts, for instance through guiding tools on measures to support teachers and education staff when schools reopen, during and after the COVID-19 crisis.
- 689 (290 F; 399 M) of the approximately 1,000 students enrolled in the non-formal education Catch-Up programme pre COVID sat for year-end assessments the week of June 14th. Recognizing the digital gap and difficulties many children have faced in accessing learning support during COVID-19, UNICEF worked with the MOE to ensure that even those without access to an internet connected device were still able to participate. The assessment will be used to support evaluation of students' preparedness to re-enter formal education or the appropriate next stage of Catch-Up programming. The recommended pathway for each child back to formal education will be known by end of this month. Outreach is being planned for the three hundred children that have not continued to learn as a result of school closures.
- A total of 767 learners accessed Kolibri platform remotely through the virtual classes; 450 learners from Zaatari Camp (By our education partner: Blumont), 106 from Azraq Camp (By our education partner: CARE) and 211 learners from the Urban (By our education partner: JOHUD). 380 total male learners, and 387 total female learners accessed the platform remotely.
- UNESCO is implementing the project "Provision of TVET for Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanian youth" funded by the Government of the Republic of Korea and in partnership with Luminus Technical university College. 206 students have benefited from the project in 2020. In light of the COVID-19, UNESCO has re-designed some activities to adapt to emerging needs. For instance, instead of on-the-job training, a training course of five weeks on digital skills started in June through e-learning, in order to equip students with needed competences and practical skills for different work environments.



LIVELIHOODS

Key Activities

- The sector had an overview on the economic sectors opening plan, and the procedural matrix to reopen most sectors and activities in Jordan and allow movement. According to this matrix; employers are responsible to set business practices that adhere to the mandatory workplace safety standards and sector-specific protocols for their industry. Employees are responsible to abide by employer practices that adhere to the mandatory safety standards and sector specific protocols.
- UNFPA was invited to the last sectoral meeting to present the 'COVID-19: Working with and for young people' guidance under the Compact For Young People in Humanitarian Action. UNFPA proposed a series of actions to ensure that COVID-19 preparedness, response plans and actions, are youth-inclusive and youth-focused – with and for young people
- The Cabinet made starting a Home Based Business easier by announcing a decision on June 3rd 2020 to waive the HBB licensing fees for the first three years. This new regulation does not change registration and licensing processes, it is meant to ease financial burdens.
- The World Bank's two years financing of \$100 million is packaged to increase access to jobs and create better work conditions for Jordanians and Syrian refugees. This package is an additional financing to the 2016 "Economic Opportunities for Jordanians and Syrian Refugees" project and will continue to use the same financing instrument (Programme for Result: disburse against results). This will expand the scope of the project activities, while absorbing the recent COVID-19 implications. The project includes components as social protection of workers, digital financial inclusion, promotion of women's economic empowerment and addressing social norms, home based businesses, and childcare provision. The project also tackles the protection of informal workers affected by COVID-19 and job losses. It also builds on the Jordan financial inclusion strategy by promoting e-wallets. This goes in parallel with existing government efforts to support the economy and all unprivileged people in the country. The project includes measures to enhance working conditions in agriculture, agricultural value chains, and export competitiveness
- A WhatsApp group for JRP partners is created to share social media posts, blogs, and other material.
- The cumulative number of work permits issued for Syrians as of 31 March 2020 is 190,212 of which 44.32% are in the construction sector and 28.8% in the agriculture sector.

Key Challenges

- Work permits are being issued for Cash for Work projects, and renewals of expired work permits also are resumed. New issuance for work permits in private sector and “free-lance” work permits is not yet resumed. MoL expressed their willingness to provide needed information to partners
- According to the government economic sectors opening plan, and the procedural matrix; training is still not an allowed activity, partners training activities would continue virtually.



SHELTER

- Work at the quarantine area is ongoing at Zaatari camp.
- The shelter repair project is resuming in Zaatari camp after three months delay due to COVID-19. The project will focus on most vulnerable cases in the camp with shelter maintenance needs.
- Through a private donation by Helping hands 100 caravans will be received in the camp starting June 28

III. Contacts and links

For more information, please contact:

- Susanne Butscher, Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator: butscher@unhcr.org +962(0)79 110 9745
- Changki Byun, Inter-Agency Coordination Officer: byunc@unhcr.org +962(0)79 003 9469
- [COVID-19 Refugee Response Portal](#)
- [Needs Assessment Registry Portal](#)
- [3RP COVID-19 Response](#)
- [2020-2021 3RP Regional Strategic Overview](#)