



This monthly 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 number of NGOs with funding shortfalls is growing. This raises justifiable concerns of actors needing to scale down or even close their projects.

In February, Government of Jordan's vaccine registration platform has been modified to enable the use of the UNHCR unique registration ID number for asylum seekers and refugees to register for the vaccine. Inter-Agency partners are grateful to the Government of Jordan for this exemplary inclusive approach.

As one of the first countries where refugees have been included in the national vaccination campaign, Jordan opened its first vaccination center in Za'atari Camp on 15 February, which was globally, the first of its kind. During this month, 248 elderly persons were vaccinated, of which 66% have taken their second dose. By the end of February, a total of 1,801 refugees had registered on the vaccine platform which corresponds to 80.14 % of the 60 years and older and 39.9% of 50 to 59 years old refugees in Za'atari Camp.

The decision to open a vaccination centre in Azraq Camp has yet to be finalized and depends on the age groups and number of individuals registering to obtain the vaccine. In Azraq, 975 camp residents registered for the vaccine on the MoH platform. 30 have received vaccination appointments, of which 15 withdrew and did not take up their appointment, 8 received both doses and 7 are scheduled to receive the second dose in March. The relatively low numbers in Azraq are owed to the fact that predominantly younger age groups registered for the vaccine, which have not yet been called.

In EJC, 128 residents registered for the vaccine. 57 have received appointments of which 20 did not take up their appointment, 23 have taken the first dose and 14 had received both doses. 71 refugees are still awaiting their vaccination appointments.

On 28 February in Za'atari Camp, the mobile registration commenced for refugees with mobility impairments, including a 110-year-old refugee woman who got vaccinated at her home. Mobile vaccination at home is also scheduled to take off in Azraq Camp next month.

In Za'atari, the number of active Corona cases as of 28 February amounts to 25. In total, there have been 1,355 confirmed cases, of which 1,319 have recovered and were discharged. During this month, the number of confirmed cases has relatively decreased. Out of the 25 active cases, most were asymptomatic and only 4 cases developed symptoms and were admitted to MoH Hospitals. The number of hospitalizations has significantly decreased from January, where 39 cases were admitted. In total, Za'atari counted 11 COVID related fatalities, of which two were reported in the month of February. 5,266 PCR tests have been conducted in Za'atari this month, resulting in an accumulative total of 24,424 tests as of 28 February.

Azraq camp counted 14 active Corona cases on 28 February. In total, there have been 621 confirmed cases of which 605 have completed their treatment or quarantine. In total, Azraq counted 2 corona related deaths. During the reporting month, 7,444 PCR tests were conducted resulting in a total of 28,946 tests conducted by end February.

In Emirates Jordanian Camp (EJC), the number of active Corona cases as of 28 February amounts to 03. In total, there have been 351 confirmed cases, of which 344 completed their isolation or were discharged. Fatalities related to COVID-19 amounted to 4 by end February. A total of 4,364 PCR tests have been conducted.



HEALTH

Activities

- As of 04 March, around 431,998 people of all nationalities have registered for the vaccine on the MOH platform. A total of 43,441 have completed the two doses of vaccine -- 0.77% of the total population. More than 91% of the registered people are Jordanian; Iraqi and Syrian were the highest registered nationalities among non-Jordanian. Amman has the highest registration number followed by Irbid. Currently no disaggregated data is available on refugees, but MOH, WHO and UNHCR are working on providing for such data.
- UNHCR's partner Caritas joined the COVID-19 vaccination campaign. Caritas shared posts on social media, posters, and videos on its TV screens inside the clinics to increase the awareness of refugees on the importance of vaccine.
- MOH and UNHCR discussed with Pfizer the COVID-19 vaccination support to refugees and how refugees are being included in the national vaccination plan. The secretary general of epidemic affairs and communicable diseases introduced the inclusive policies and informed about the 75 vaccination centres, of which four are already operating in refugee camps (one in Za'atari and three in Palestinians camps). Pfizer expressed interest to donate vaccines for refugees. MOH and UNHCR reassured that Jordan had a very good and inclusive vaccination plan accommodating the whole population, including refugees.
- In Mafraq, Caritas delivered three months of Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) medications to 388 patients, despite some challenges with reaching these refugees. The distribution is still on-going to reach the planned 455 patients. Islamic Relief Jordan (IRJ) provided 596 primary health care consultations through mobile clinics for both Syrians and vulnerable Jordanians.



BASIC NEEDS

Activities

- Since the beginning of the COVID-19 emergency response, 56,814 families received emergency assistance. Some of these were not included in the initial eligible beneficiary list but were assisted due to protection or other serious concerns. 82% (73% Syrian and 9% Non-Syrians) of families have been assisted for 3 months or more, 8% (Syrian 7% and Non-Syrians 1%) have been assisted for a period of 2 months and 10% (8% Syrians and 2% Non-Syrians) once only. (More details in [COVID-19 dashboard](#).)
- In February 2021, TDHQ and ICMC provided winterization assistance to 171 Syrian families and 27 Syrian families. (See [winterization dashboard](#) for further details.)
- The Poverty Alleviation Coalition introduced its Graduation Approach to the Basic Needs Working Group hereby enhancing synergies among the Livelihoods and Basic Needs sector. The session introduced the four foundational pillars of the model social protection, livelihoods promotion, financial inclusion, and social empowerment and how this is being implemented in Jordan. It explained how consumption support would complement existing social protection services such as those being provided by UNHCR and NAF. The assistance amount is determined through the minimum expenditure basket (MEB).

Challenges

- Additional funding requirements remain a challenge. COVID-19 emergency assistance to support eligible refugee households for an additional 3 months remains a gap.
- Only 50% of eligible cases have been assisted with winterization assistance. Additional funding is needed to fill this gap, especially considering the economic conditions in Jordan due to COVID-19 linked economic slowdown.



FOOD SECURITY

Activities

- In February, WFP delivered monthly cash assistance to 505,164 individuals in host communities and camps. As part of the targeted COVID-19 emergency response, WFP has included an additional 20,393 individuals for food assistance (cash modality) since August 2020.

- WFP continues to provide in-kind food assistance to households under quarantine in Azraq and Za'atari Camps due to COVID-19, as well as refugees under self-isolation in their own shelters.
- Helpdesks in the communities were re-opened in February in all governorates receiving positive feedback from the beneficiaries.

Challenges

- Funding challenges remain, and there is high priority on advocacy for funding to support the food security refugee response and to develop re-targeting models and prioritization plans for unconditional assistance.
- There is a need to establish vulnerability/capability profiling and make linkages with job profiling for sectors open to refugees, to work on developing a sustainable solutions agenda.



PROTECTION

Activities

- UNHCR continued remote processing and refugee data updates. During February 2021, UNHCR conducted remote registration renewal interviews with 24,775 refugees and distributed Asylum Seekers Certificates (ASCs) to 25,017 individuals/6,246 families. To ensure effective access to valid documentation, UNHCR has delivered 11 ASCs through the Protection Mobile Team to refugees residing in remote areas who cannot access the Registration Center due to vulnerabilities.
- A campaign was launched encouraging refugees to update and validate their phone numbers through a system implemented in UNHCR's Helpline to facilitate update of mobile number. In the month of February, UNHCR has updated 6,928 of mobile numbers of refugees.
- During the HDPG this month, PWG co-chairs presented the Social Protection Strategy, highlighting the role partners in supporting MoSD through the various coordination modalities. This presentation also advocated with donors, other sectors and key stakeholders to include protection as a key priority for emergency response. There was a call for supporting MoSD's plan for moving to the medium- and long-term objectives of the COVID-19 response regarding economic empowerment and employment resulting from the pandemic. The PWG also demonstrated support for MoSD's care program targeting orphans and children and social cohesion programs between refugees and host communities, among other programs.
- The PWG partners reviewed its' strategy and workplan during the monthly meeting and prioritized strengthening protection monitoring and analysis, supporting inter-agency assessments and exploring options to establish inter-agency protection monitoring information management system. Additionally, the PWG will develop task force on community mobilization & participatory approaches and hold capacity building actions on disability inclusion, protection of LGBTI refugees and safe referrals.
- The GBV WG has finalized the GBV strategy of 2020-2022, developed in line with the Jordan Response Plan (JRP) and guided by gaps identified through a participatory approach by WG members. Moreover, the strategy is aligned to national strategy documents and government efforts as the national SOPs for and the Essential Service Package sectorial work plans with line Ministries responsible for the multisectoral response to GBV. More information can be found [here](#).
- For the occasion of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence Campaign, the GBV SWG organized an online technical workshop for practitioners in Jordan on developing safe and innovative ways for GBV survivors to seek help amid and beyond COVID-19 in Jordan. The recommendation and outcomes of this webinar were included in the ["Guidance Note on GBV Service Provision during COVID-19 in Jordan and a forward look to safe resume of services"](#). The [released report](#) summarizes the joint efforts of GBV SWG at the national and sub-national levels to mark this occasion, social media campaigns, challenges and lessons learnt.
- Ministry of Social Development announced plans to expand the 'Oasis Model' in partnership with UN Women to engage the international community in a dialogue on the needs of vulnerable women and their economic empowerment, including in the context of the COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. The Model was first implemented by UN Women in Za'atari Camp and is now operational in four camp settings and 13 host communities. The centres provide integrated services and promote an enabling environment for economic and social empowerment through protection, cash-for-work programming, access to education and skills development, civic leadership and participation, and engagement of men and boys. In 2020, the 'Oasis' centres

directly reached 13,151 women and girls with cash assistance, access to protection services, distance learning and awareness-raising activities, including about the COVID-19 epidemic and preventive measures.

- UN Women [published a case study](#) of its pilot on the use of blockchain technology to transfer salaries to women enrolled in 'Oasis' cash-for-work programmes in Za'atari and Azraq Camps, which started in June 2019. The pilot is a collaboration with the WFP under the Building Blocks initiative to expand refugees' choices in how they access and spend their cash assistance. The Project for Cash Transfers in Camps reached 467 women, and in June 2020, was expanded to all four camp-based 'Oasis' in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- MHPSS continued to be provided in both camps as the level of depression and anxiety is the highest among other MH disorders. Online MHPSS support services are provided for COVID-positive cases, and referrals were made as needed to the existing services in the camp. In urban settings, services are provided at MoH and among MHPSS centers and clinics as reflected in the mhps.net mapping.
- The Disability and Age Task Force (DATF) held the monthly meeting, where members endorsed the TOR and the Disability and Age Focal Points TOR. The focal points will be appointed to the sector working groups to mainstream disability and age inclusion into the refugee response. Additionally, HelpAge International presented a health needs assessment targeting 1,718 older Syrian refugees and Jordanians. Using the [Washington Group Questions](#), this assessment showed that the disability prevalence among the surveyed population was 98%.
- In Azraq Camp, the Disability Services Meeting conducted their first meeting of the year and drafted a TOR for the task force at Azraq Camp. The Azraq team is also conducting an assessment to identify challenges and gaps of the response regarding persons with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Activities

- During February, the camps experienced harsh winter storms and the jetting machine and desludging truck were on standby in Za'atari camp in response to wastewater backflow and flooded manholes complaints. 78 calls were received and UNICEF, NRC, UNHCR and OXFAM responded immediately. In KAP, UNICEF provided a dewatering truck to dewater the floods in the camp; the UNICEF team reopened the rain manhole that was blocked due to the stormwater flooding.
- WASH hotline operated 24 hours for four days (16-19 Feb). No major complaint was received on winterization responses. Standby arrangements of contractors, IBVs, staff and equipment have been made in response to the storm in all three camps (Za'atari, Azraq, and KAP).
- In Za'atari Camp, UNICEF and partners distributed 177 cleaning kits and 132 hygiene kits to families in Self-isolation, and 63 cleaning kits and 66 hygiene kits to families in the transit area. Also, 452 hygiene and cleaning kits were distributed to families with ten members or more.
- In KAP, UNICEF and partners distributed 125 jerrycans - one jerrycan for family size less than eight individuals, and two jerrycans for family size eight or more. 123 families benefited from cleaning kits distribution.
- In Azraq Camp, UNICEF and partners distributed 16 cleaning kits, 14 hygiene kits, 18 jerrycans, and 14 hygiene bottles to families in isolation and self-isolation.



- A phased reopening of schools began on February 7 with KG2, Grade 1 and 12 returning to school, followed by Grade 2 and 3. However, with the increasing COVID-19 cases in the Kingdom, returning of the remaining grades has been suspended and will depend on the epidemiological situation. With the extension of Defence Order 19, all schools can continue online learning until the second semester. Meanwhile, the Minister of Education confirmed that hybrid of distance and face-to-face learning will remain in place for the levels who already have started face to face learning.
- MOE led the second Policy and Planning Coordination Committee (PPCC) meeting with members of the Education Development Partner Group (EDPG) and Education Sector Working Group (ESWG) co-chairs. The meeting focused on progress in implementing the school reopening protocols, the revised 'Education During Emergency Plan', and the Education Strategic Plan mid-term review, annual report and statistical yearbook.

- UNESCO/IIEP supported MOE to prepare a draft of the COVID-19 data mapping report, which aims to inform discussions of the MOE Technical Working Groups during the mid-term review to capture the impacts of COVID-19 on education and provide a preliminary overview of existing information on the impacts of the pandemic, and remaining data gaps regarding coordination of upcoming research.
- GIZ and UNESCO are providing technical assistance to MOE in their efforts towards aligning with the National Strategy for Inclusive Education. With a focus on system strengthening, an assessment was launched this month to determine capacity needs at the institutional level related to inclusive education and gather best practices that could improve disability inclusion, and diversity in education mainstreaming. It will also support in establishing a capacity development strategy. Interviews have been conducted with the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In the coming months, interviews with ten central Directorates and pilot schools in three field directorates will also be conducted. A comprehensive questionnaire has been developed and will be shared in early March.
- A perception survey by Learning Bridges (LB) was organized and conducted in coordination with the directorates of education and public schools in the Kingdom in late Q4 2020. The objective was to analyse how many students, teachers and schools were engaging in LB activities. Based on the results, 36% of students (293,794; 77% female) in grade 4-9 engaged in more than 50% of the LB activities, and 15,758 teachers had completed the LB training course and received certificates. The results also indicated that almost 70% of 3,220 public schools had reported an implementation of more than half of the LB activities.
- UNICEF partners, Questscope, MECL and Relief International conducted a survey with 2,255 parents (465 female) of NFE students to understand their perceptions of the blended learning approach. Results indicate that 51% of students prefer face to face learning, whilst 49% prefer either online learning or a blended learning approach.
- UNICEF continues the distribution of learning materials for children in camps to ensure continuity of learning access. In February, 128 families received family activity packs in Za'atari and Azraq Camps. (<https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com>.)
- In February, UNICEF, with the support of Syrian Assistant Teachers (SATs), put in place an Attendance Monitoring System in Camp schools that are open for KG2, grades from 1-3 and 12. The system is expected to help recording students' attendance and enable classes to remain open by improving the accuracy of COVID-19 contact tracing and identifying primary contacts.
- UNHCR provided transportation service to 200 non-Syrian refugee students (grades 8-12) from host communities to facilitate their access to school.
- A total of 1,499 students (1,285 students-64% female-in urban settings and 214 students -61% female- in Za'atari and Azraq Camps) accessed Kolibri, UNHCR's digital offline learning platform.
- UNHCR supported the dissemination of various scholarship opportunities available to refugees, including one-year sponsorship for the Student Refugee Programme (SRP) for candidates to resettle in Canada, an in-country scholarship with support from EDU-SYRIA, and a Vocational Training Diploma scholarship programme at Luminus Technical University College, supported by the EU Trust Fund "Madad".



LIVELIHOODS

- The LWG attended an awareness session with the Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship (MoDEE) on the Youth, Technology and Jobs (YTJ) project, where LWG members met with the Project Director to discuss the GrowJo (GiG) Grants program's objective, submission, and eligibility criteria.
- The LWG monthly meeting included a review of the Monthly Progress Report on work permits for Syrian refugees covering the year 2020. Members of the Poverty Alleviation Coalition presented the Graduation out of Poverty approach and expressed their willingness to provide information and consultation on the Approach. Other identified partners working on Graduation are creating a 'closed' taskforce aiming for knowledge sharing and better coordination. The Resilient Youth, Socially and Economically (RYSE) presented the findings of Labor Market assessment completed by iMMAP. UNHCR made a refresher on the Service Advisor platform and encouraged partners to utilize it. Lastly, building on the successful experience in creating taskforces under the LWG for better coordination under particular activities, it has been agreed to reboot the Home-Based Businesses taskforce.
- Norwegian Refugee Council has been assigned as the new LWG's co-chair. Following Expressions of Interests, qualifying organizations had an opportunity to present their submissions, suitability, and capacity to the LWG members. The newly selected co-chair collected the highest number of votes.

- The Comprehensive Instructions for the Conditions and Procedures for the formalization of Non-Jordanian Workers of Syrian Nationality in the labour market were recently published in the Official Gazette.
- The crippled uptake of work permits during COVID-19 reflects the limited job opportunities available, affirming the urgent need to collaborate with stakeholders to create more job opportunities to absorb the demands of job seekers. Also, the need to take the recent flexible work permits model to the implementation level and thus enabling Syrian refugees to work as ‘freelancers’ in open occupations/sectors.



SHELTER

Activities

- As part of the Camps’s COVID-19 response to reduce overcrowding at household level, UNHCR and NRC fabricated 101 3X6 shelters to be distributed to families on the waiting list for caravans. 66 out of 200 caravans have been distributed to large families (6 members or more) living in one caravan.
- As part of the Winterization response in Za’atari Camp, five shelter repairs were completed during the month to improve the condition of shelters and to prevent roof and floor from leaking water inside the caravans.
- In Azraq Camp, shelter repair and maintenance are ongoing through the Quick Fix Team for both vacant and allocated shelters. The target of fixing shelters is based on need; 52 shelters have been fixed during February 2021.
- UNHCR and NRC have been completed the construction of 25 market shops in Azraq Camp village 5 and completed the cleaning of culverts and trenches at blocked/concerned areas in the camp.

III. Contacts and links

For more information, please contact:

- Susanne Butscher, Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator: butscher@unhcr.org +962(0)79 110 9745
- Jordan Refugee Response portal page at <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/working-group/251?sv=4&geo=36>