



This ISWG monthly update is a coordination tool that aims to improve communication between sectors and provide information on progress towards implementation of the objectives of the Jordan Contingency & Response Plan in response to COVID-19. It is available through the Inter-Agency Operational Portal at [COVID-19 Response Page](#)

I. General Updates

- In August, Jordan ranked 70th globally for its COVID-19 vaccination rates as over 52% of the Jordanian population is fully vaccinated, or a total of 5,400,800 people.
- A number of GoJ measures, included in Defence Order No.32, which is aimed to regulate the work of employees who have not received the COVID vaccine in the public and private sectors, came into full force on 5 August. The measures included public sector employees and drivers of public transport vehicles, as well as work and residence permits.

II. Sector's Updates



HEALTH

- MoH, MDA group and UNHCR have developed a policy manual to enhance knowledge of health care providers on eligibility and provision of health services to refugees at the public facilities. The policy manual is funded through the Jordan Health Fund for Refugees.
- MoH granted approval to the selected entity 'Headway' to conduct the Health Access and Utilization Survey (HAUS). The exercise will begin in September through UNHCR Kobo database.

Reproductive Health (RH):

- In Azraq refugee camp, IRC continued provision of essential integrated sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services through RH clinics. Number of SRH consultations amounted 1,907 SRH including 866 family planning services, 693 antenatal contacts and 139 postnatal contacts, and 83 cases were referred to the camp hospital for delivery and postnatal care.
- In Za'atari refugee camp, 10,426 SRH services were provided including 635 family planning services; through coordinated efforts of IMC, SCJ and JHAS confirmed COVID-positive cases received SRH services in isolation. Number of safe deliveries amounted 151
- In August, procurement of WHO approved personal protection equipment (PPE) for partners was completed in Za'atari and Azraq refugee camps and in host communities.



BASIC NEEDS

- Increase in tenure of assistance: Due to the continuous impact of the COVID-19 on the refugees' livelihoods, the COVID-19 Response Task Force (CRTF) have agreed to raise the maximum number of COVID-19 payments up to six months of payment and to prioritize the population that has not received COVID-19 assistance in 2021.
- In August, UNHCR received funds of USD 10 million (7 million JODs) for COVID-19 emergency assistance. This enabled UNHCR to provide assistance to 39,591 families of which 5,719 are non-Syrians and 33,872 are Syrians.
- Assistance statistics: Since the beginning of the COVID-19 emergency response, 72,607 cases have been assisted under the COVID-19 emergency cash assistance scheme. 86% of the assisted population (85% Syrian and 87% Non-Syrian) have been provided with assistance for three months or more, 8% (8% Syrian and 6% Non-Syrians)

for two months and 6% (6% Syrian and 7% Non-Syrians) for one month. Thus far, less than 1% of the population have received six months of COVID-19 assistance.

- Partners Assistance Update: In August 2021, no partners have booked nor assisted any case for COVID-19 emergency response.
- Current Eligible Population Figures: as of August, 63,650 cases have been admitted eligible for COVID-19 assistance, of which 8,506 cases are non-Syrians and 55,144 cases are Syrians.
- Challenges: though the demand for assistance continues to rise, funding has reduced and if received is ad-hoc. This leads to challenges in planning and budgeting by the eligible families.



FOOD SECURITY

- WFP has been delivering its monthly cash assistance to 471,726 individuals in camps and host communities.
- Due to ongoing severe funding challenges, WFP announced on 31 August that the assistance to the priority group 3 (110,000 individuals) will be suspended starting October 2021. The GoJ and key stakeholders including donors have been informed accordingly. The tailored SMS has been sent to all beneficiaries, while the hotline of WFP and partners has been receiving the increased number of inquiries. WFP continues its advocacy with donors to secure funding for the coming months.
- National Food Security Strategy for Jordan: WFP and FAO are taking lead in development of the Food Security Strategy. The Strategy has been discussed with key stakeholders, and a comprehensive action plan is being established.
 - The National Food Security Strategy Action Plan has been developed in consultation with a wide audience of government institutions, UN agencies including UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, UNIDO and representatives of USAID, EU and the Dutch Embassy.
 - The Strategy and its action plan provide an acceleration framework for relevant sectoral plans aiming eventually to improve food security status in terms of availability, access, utilization, and stability. A national governance structure will also be put forward in the action plan, which focuses mainly on strategy management, reporting, M&E, and funding.
 - The action plan will also propose approaches to transform the national food systems into more efficient ones.



PROTECTION

- The Protection Working Group have been intensively working to bridge the gaps in services and to ensure equal access to key services for Syrian and non-Syrian refugees in Jordan. Through the One Refugee and the Leaving No-one Behind approaches, partners are aiming to enhance support to non-Syrians, particularly to the most vulnerable and those facing significant protection risks. Legal partners are taking efforts to ensure that non-Syrians maintain their status and thus may access at least the informal labour market and reduce their protection risks.
- Partners' presence increased in the South, where more than 100,000 non-Syrians are residing in the governorates of Karak, Maan, Tafila, Aqaba. Organizations are providing direct services, such as counselling, case management, medical assistance, women empowerment, child protection, GBV services, and legal aid.

Child Protection

- Together with NCFAs as the chair of the newly set Child Labour taskforce, the CP sub-working group has contributed to the coordinated efforts to address the issue of child labour and engage more actors into the work.
- Through series of meetings with participation of NCFAs and CP SWG co-chairs MoL continued to work on the update of the National Strategy to combat child labour.
- To ensure complementarity of the partners' projects to the national initiatives the CP SWG has conducted coordination meetings with the JHF recipients.

Gender Based Violence

- In August, the GBV IMS taskforce released 2021 mid-year analysis of the data provided by the case management organizations. Reportedly, GBV incidents increased by almost 51% in comparison with the same period of 2020. The deteriorated economic situation, lack of livelihoods and income generating opportunities and loss of jobs have been indicated as factors that contributed to exposure to GBV. More analysis can be found in the infographic report available [here](#).
- Within the framework of GBV Case Management Coaching Initiative led by UNHCR and UNFPA that aims at enhancement of case management services for GBV survivors among PSS actors-members of the GBV IMS taskforce, a half day in-person coaching session on staff care strategies and self-care was delivered for 30 case managers and their supervisors. The objectives of the workshop have been to raise awareness on the signs and impact of stress, fatigue and burnout that GBV workers may face, as well to discuss and explore current sources of stress and coping strategies.



- In August, UNICEF continued the provision of WASH services to all 122,789 refugees in three refugee camps (Za'atari, Azraq and King Abdullah Park).
- In Za'atari camp, while no camp-wide distribution took place in the month of August, targeted distributions of 9 hygiene kits, 9 cleaning kits and 9 hand sanitizers reached 9 individuals in the transit area. Moreover, 17 cleaning kits, 28 hygiene kits and 17 hand sanitizers were distributed to 17 self-isolated families, benefitting 80 Za'atari residents. By means of external water trucking covering about a third of the supply, UNICEF maintained an aggregate water supply of clean and safe water of around 4,600 m3.
- In Azraq camp, 45 cleaning kits, 32 hand sanitizers, 32 hygiene kits and 58 jerry cans were distributed among 186 beneficiaries, including 112 children, to reach the most vulnerable. Furthermore, UNICEF's partners in the camp continued disseminating messages in relation to COVID-19, among others, through all the Lead Mothers (LM), WASH Community Representatives as well as Youth Representatives. In addition, on 9 August, a hoses removal campaign was re-activated at block and plot-level.
- In KAP, a camp-wide distribution of 220 cleaning kits took place to have reached 522 beneficiaries, including 292 children.



- Between July 4 and August 26, a total of 2,479 students (49 % female; 52 % Syrian) participated in a summer camp, as part of Relief International's (RI) Remedial Education Assistance for Children and Tawjihi students (REACT) programme. The remedial education sessions were conducted online, focusing on Arabic, English, Mathematics and Science, as well as recreational activities for students.
- As part of Jesuit Refugee Service's (JRS) non-formal education (NFE) programming, 116 students (62% female, 84% Syrian) were provided with remedial classes covering Arabic, English, Mathematics, Science, Computer and Recreational Activities.
- Caritas Jordan provided online learning support services for 60 refugees (67% female) Tawjihi students, including Syrians and other nationalities outside the refugee camps. In addition, students were supported with learning materials, internet bundles and food packages.
- As a result of intensive outreach efforts Middle East Children Institute (MECI) supported 974 learners (53% female) to attend 49 Extra-Curricular Activities (ECA) sessions, integrated within learning sessions and 104 out-of-school children (61% female) to newly enrol in the NFE dropout programme. In addition, MECI distributed printed booklets and worksheets to 239 students (49% female), tablets to 7 students (100% male), and continued to provide students with 10 GB of internet monthly.

- Between 26 July and 14 August, in coordination with formal schools in camps Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) implemented remedial activities, benefitting 499 students (55% female). Additionally, from 29 August NRC started implementing learning support in NRC’s learning centre.
- Within the Safe and Inclusive Schools Programme, NRC continued to provide online trainings for 95 MoE personnel (13% female) including teachers, school principals, school counsellors and Syrian Assistant Teachers.
- In August, a total of 1,514 learners (60% female; 48% Syrian) accessed UNHCR’s supported digital learning platform Kolibri.
- The Ministry of Higher Education announced a new system which obliges higher education institutions to integrate e-learning ‘distance’ and ‘blended’ components in the academic programmes and subject plans.
- The call for application for the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) scholarship closed on 23 August, with 2,160 applications received. Five days of interviews took place commencing on 29 August for 201 candidates (61% female; 84% Syrian).
- With UNHCR support, a total of 114 non-Syrian refugee students (46% female; 60 % Iraqi) received Learning Support Services in August.
- In August, UNHCR supported dissemination of announcements on tertiary education opportunities for refugee students, which included the third country Chevening in the United Kingdom, and in-country Professional Courses funded by the Jesuit Worldwide Learning.
- UNESCO, with support from the Government of the Republic of Korea and through its partnership with Luminus Technical University College (LTUC), continues its support to Syrian refugee and vulnerable Jordanian youth with scholarships to access BTEC-level II Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes in three training disciplines (Business, Information Technology, and Creative Media Production), as well as on-the-job training opportunities. In August, 55 students (45% female; 35% Syrian) of the Creative Media Production discipline finished their first trimester and started their second trimester. In addition, 138 students (57% female; 51% Syrian) from Business and IT disciplines continued their first trimester and are due to complete it in September.
- UNESCO/IIEP continues to provide technical support to the Ministry of Education (MoE) in their Education Strategic Plan (ESP) Mid-Term Review (MTR) process. In August, the MTR drafting committee finalized the first MTR draft report based on work of MoE Technical Working Groups and the indicators committee.
- To ensure learning continuity UNICEF continues distribution of learning materials for children in refugee camps. In August, 26 families received family activity packs across Za’atari and Azraq refugee camps.
- In August, UNICEF, and partners (Mercy Corps, Relief International and Questscope) supported a cascade training for 1,251 NFE facilitators and teachers (615 on Instructional Design and 636 on Inclusive Education). In addition, UNICEF and partners led the delivery of NFE outreach training for 145 community mobilizers.
- Aiming to ensure implementation of the School Reopening Protocols, UNICEF supported facilitation of the MoE’s Catch Up Programme in all 54 schools and 11 KGs in camps, as well distribution of stationery and textbooks. In addition, from mid-August, UNICEF supported transportation of approximately 1,830 children from Informal Tented Settlements (ITs) to attend the programme.



LIVELIHOODS

- Issuance of work permits for Syrians continued, having reached around 253 thousand, of which 91.3% for male and 8.7% for female. It is noticeable, that the annual uptake of work permits by 15 September 2021 (43,108 WP) has increased in comparison with the same period of previous years (30,151 WP by September 2020 and 30,389 WP by September 2019). The update on issuance of work permits can be found at the Livelihoods page of the data portal here: [link](#).

	Male	Female	Total
Jan 1 – August 31 2021	33,987	3,221	37,208
Cumulative since 2016	238,702	14,184	252,886

- The Social Security registration became a prerequisite for issuance of flexible work permits. The nature of the required social security payments for the applicants and holders of flexible work permits is being clarified to be further incorporated in the awareness raising campaign.
- Through the continuous working group communication in August, the Livelihoods sector received updates of the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions on the flexible work permits and of the Graduation Approach Coordination and Advocacy taskforce survey by the RYSE Consortium, discussed status of issuance of work permits and plan to conduct sector services mapping.
- The representative of MoITS (Ministry of Industry Trade and Supply) / Economy Policy Directorate participated in the discussion of the Home-Based Businesses (HBB) taskforce on formalization of HBBs. Noticeably, number of HBBs is increasing, amounting 700 – 800 HBBs owned by Syrian refugees and Jordanians registered annually since 2019. In August, Blumont facilitated registration of 12 HBBs were registered and licensing of 15 HBBs. The table below represents the formalization progress in 2021:

Nationality	Registered	Licensed	Licenses Renewed
Jordanian	29	18	14
Syrian	11	4	4
Total	40	22	18

- Importantly, no major complications have been observed in implementation of the GoJ Defence Order No 32 since its launch on 18 July to regulate access to work in the public and private sectors regarding availability of COVID-19 vaccination certificate or valid negative PCR test.



- In August, maintenance of quarantine area, construction, cleaning and provision of material and tools including the coordination of the new IMC emergency room construction continued in camps.
- Rodents and pest control intervention has been carried out in camps, with an introduction of public complaint mechanism into the response.
- Galvanized efforts to expand PoCs access to clean cooking in camps and host communities (provision of improved cooking fuels) is currently being explored through Pyrolysis and Biocoke pilot projects with the University of Jordan. The MoU for acquisition of the pilot initiative is currently being finalized.
- In initial discussion for an MoU on the potentials for research collaboration with School of Architecture of the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid related to developing research on urban design of planned refugee camps managed by UNHCR in the Mediterranean area, Jordan being selected as case study
- In coordination with GIZ and Jordan Water Authority, facilitated the exploration related to sustainable management of natural resources - Waste to (positive) Energy Sludge Management in both Za’atari and Azraq; an EU/GIZ co-finance project

III. Contacts and links

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- Jordan Refugee Response portal page at <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/working-group/251?sv=4&geo=36>