



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

COVID-19 Vaccination Centers in Za'atari and Azraq Camps

Refugees are receiving their COVID-19 vaccination at the Camps' Vaccination Centers in Azraq and Za'atari, both previously approved by MOH and the Crises Management Team. In Azraq Camp, the Center was activated on 15 March 2021, while in Za'atari the Vaccination Center already started its services on 15 February. Prior to the centers' activation, refugees had to commute to receive their vaccination in Mafraq and Zarqa, respectively.

COVID-19 cases

In March, 6,393 PCR swabs/tests were collected in Zaatari Camp out of which 320 new cases tested positive, which brings the total of PCR tests in Za'atari to 30,817. As of 31 March, 1,675 COVID-19 cases were confirmed, of which 1,539 cases have completed their quarantine and treatment. In total, Za'atari counted 16 COVID related deaths, of which five were reported in March. The number of active COVID-19 cases by the end of march amounts to 120 in Za'atari.

In Azraq Camp the number of active Corona cases as of 31 March amounts to 150. In total, there have been 893 confirmed cases, of which 736 completed their isolation or were discharged. Fatalities related to COVID-19 amounted to 7 by the end of March. A total of 36,783 PCR tests were collected in Azraq Camp, out of which 7,837 during March resulting in 263 new COVID-19 cases.

Emirates Jordanian Camp (EJC) camp counted 19 active Corona cases as of 31 March. In total, there have been 378 confirmed cases of which 354 have completed their isolation or treatment. In total, EJC counted five corona related deaths. During the reporting month, 184 PCR tests were taken resulting in a total of 4,548 tests conducted by end March.

In King Abdullah Park (KAP) **363** PCR swabs/tests were collected in March out of which 24 new cases tested positive. As of 31 March, KAP had **54** active positive COVID-19 cases.

COVID-19 Vaccination

In Za'atari, as of 31st of March, 4,267 refugee individuals have registered in the MOH Platform to take the vaccine, of which 2,708 have received their appointments. In total, 1,822 individuals have taken the COVID-19 vaccine, out of which 568 have received already two doses.

By the end of March in Azraq 1,507 refugees have registered for the vaccine; By 31 March 791 had gotten appointments. A total of 230 individuals got vaccinated, out of whom 198 got the first dose and 32 the two doses; 561, the majority not having taken the vaccine upon their appointment were out of camp, while a small number were hesitant to pursue with the vaccination. 716 individuals are still pending appointments for vaccination mostly because their young age groups have not yet been called.

In EJC, 182 individuals have registered in the MOH platform as of end March, of which 111 got appointments. 88 have been vaccinated while 21 changed their mind. Hence, 71 are pending appointments for the vaccination.

As of 31st of March, in KAP 62 refugees have registered for vaccination. In total, 24 individuals have taken the 1st dose of the vaccine, none have gotten the second dose by end March.

II. Sector Update



HEALTH

Activities

- On 24 March Jordan recorded with 104 deaths, for the first time over 100 deaths a day, a trend which continued until the end of March. The same day, a record of 9,130 new COVID-19 cases was recorded, the highest since the start of the pandemic, bringing the total number of cases since the beginning of the crisis to 562,857. MOH informed on the occupancy rate in ICUs across the different hospitals in the three regions: 72% in the North, 31% in the South and 76% in Central region. According to MoH, the situation in Amman was very critical with an occupancy rate of 85% of ICU beds in public and 100% in private hospitals. The Ministry decided to move some patients from Amman to Irbid hospitals to ease the pressure. It is foreseen that in few weeks, the number of new COVID -19 infected cases may start to decrease, but hospitalization remained critical as there was a delay between the peak of identified cases and the peak in hospitalization and death rates.
- A total of 361 vulnerable urban refugees benefitted from UNHCR cash for essential health services in March as per the following criteria: 222 (69%) Emergency life-saving cases and 138 (31%) Reproductive Health services (Normal Vaginal Delivery, Caesarean Section, High-Risk pregnancy, complicated deliveries, and Neonatal Care).
- UNHCR provided a presentation on the health access to refugees in the Jordan Health Development Partners Form's meeting during March, which highlighted the operational challenges and the long-term strategic direction to the audience including donors.



BASIC NEEDS

Activities

- Since the beginning of the COVID-19 emergency response, 63,610 cases have been assisted under the COVID-19 emergency cash assistance scheme. 74% of the total assisted population (75% Syrian and 68% Non-Syrian) has been provided with assistance for 3 months or more, 8% (8% Syrian and 15% Non-Syrians) for two months and 17% (17% Syrian and 18% Non-Syrians) for one month. 11,734 families are still eligible for two more months of COVID-19 assistance.
- In March, Care and Oxfam booked 477 cases to be assisted with COVID-19 assistance and UNHCR has assisted 7,523 cases with COVID-19 assistance. You can find more details in the [COVID-19 dashboard](#).
- 1,037 cases (1,017 Syrians and 18 Non-Syrians) have been booked to receive winter assistance in March. You can find more details in the [Winterization dashboard](#).

Challenges

- As the economic conditions continue to decline, additional COVID-19 emergency assistance remains a challenge
- Winter assistance has only reached 50% of the population identified as in need, and additional funding to cover expenses incurred during winter for this population remains a challenge



FOOD SECURITY

Activities

- WFP delivered monthly cash assistance to 118,540 cases, (512,524 individuals) in camps and host communities. This included assistance to cases targeted as a result of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 (40,129 individuals). WFP continues to provide in-kind food assistance to households under quarantine in Azraq and Za'atari Camps due to COVID-19, and also supports refugees under self-isolation in their own shelters.

- Preparations for prioritization and re-targeting for unconditional assistance have been finalised. WFP will continue to assist all cases throughout April and May.
- The Food Security Working Group meeting was held on March 30th. The food assistance mapping table was introduced to develop an overview of food /cash activities of all actors for 2021. Partners engaged in food assistance are encouraged to join the food security sector working group.



PROTECTION

Activities

- The PSEA Network provided training and coaching sessions to 70 members. A similar training was provided to PWG members in March 2021. The PSEA training will mainstream PSEA awareness-raising in all sectors in both English and Arabic language using UNHCR training package of “Say No to Misconduct”.
- The GBV WG celebrated the International Women’s Day under the theme “Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world”. A virtual panel discussion with six women leaders from Jordan was organized to shed light on their experiences and achievements towards combating the COVID-19 pandemic induced challenges, with a specific focus on their role in combating gender-based violence which increased during the pandemic. 25 organizations arranged for 72 activities and events; 25 activities were conducted online and 47 in person across the country in urban areas (Irbid, Mafraq, Amman, Zarqa, Ma’an and Aqaba) and in the three camps Zaatari, Azraq and EJC.
- The GBV WG has finalized its sector workplan for 2021 in light of the GBV WG strategy and aligned to the Jordan Response Plan (JRP) 2020-2022, which aims at guiding the work of the GBV WG in the following areas: supporting service delivery, informing strategic decision making, building national capacity and preparedness, supporting advocacy and funding opportunities and increasing cross-sectoral collaboration to mitigate the risk of GBV.
- While the final results of the monitoring of Oasis GBV services are not yet available, according to the baseline 77% of women think that they play a significant role in making decisions that impact their households, while 10% disagreed, and 13% felt neutral about it. Three weeks into the Oasis rotation, 67% of women already responded that being part of the UN Women Oasis had positively affected their ability to make decisions, while 22% agreed to some extent, and 12% disagreed.
- Mental Health Services are continuously provided at clinics in both Za’atari and Azraq camps. Za’atari witnessed a stable trend in the Mental Health consultation rate and returned to the usual rate comparing to 2020. In contrast, Azraq has a 22% increase in consultations in the past three months compared to 2020. The most frequent reported MH cases were anxiety and moderate to severe emotional depression symptoms. PSS programs are mainly provided online; some agencies are mixing the online support with face to face support. Urban refugees (Syrian and Non-Syrian) can access MH services free of charge by showing a valid Asylum Seeker Certificate and Ministry of Interior (MOI) card.



WASH

Activities

- UNICEF continues providing all 112,855 refugees in three camps Za’atari, Azraq and King Abdullah Park with an uninterrupted supply of clean water.
- In Za’atari Camp, a camp-wide distribution of WASH supplies was launched on 28th March. In total, 150,000 soap bars and 17,000 cleaning kits are distributed among camp residents over a 10-day period. Four WASH units in the transit area were rehabilitated and connected to the water and wastewater networks. During this month, the transit area was supplied with 135 hygiene kits and 123 cleaning kits, distributed to 56 men, 57 women and 144 children. In addition, 342 hygiene kits and 189 cleaning kits were provided to 1,044 beneficiaries in self-isolation (22% Men, 22% Women, 29% Boys, 27% Girls). Lastly, UNICEF started connecting schools in the camp to the water network with 3 pilot projects being implemented.
- In Azraq Camp, 178 jerry cans, 48 cleaning kits, 134 hygiene kits, 38 soap bars and 134 hand sanitizers were distributed among 528 beneficiaries this month. UNICEF conducted a cleaning kit distribution targeting lead

mothers between 29-30 March, distributing 748 cleaning kits in 2 days. Early April, soap bars distribution is planned, along with distributions from UNHCR and ACF.

- In KAP, UNICEF is providing WASH services. 186 hygiene kits were provided to 545 beneficiaries (22% Men, 22% Women and 56% Children) and 12 cleaning kits, 8 activity kits and 18 hygiene kits were distributed among families in self-isolation.
- On 2 March, partners celebrated World Water Day in the Camps. This year, the theme of the WWD is “Valuing Water”. All partners spread the message of water conservation, proper use of water network, water reuse and proper handwashing, a message still important in times of the global pandemic. In total, 1,805 individuals in Za’atari and KAP Camps were reached via WhatsApp messages. 667 people from both camps participated in virtual sessions dedicated to the WWD. Moreover, 1,328 men and 1,173 women in Za’atari were engaged in photo talks. Finally, content was shared with adults and children from Azraq through WCR, Lead Mothers and Makani Centre WhatsApp groups (55% Male and 45% female).
- UNICEF’s distributed JOD 12,325 to 410 individuals living in ITS across the Irbid and Madaba regions. Cash for WASH is intended to be used on supplies and other equipment that would hinder further spread of the COVID-19 virus.



EDUCATION

Activities

- Amid a surge in COVID-19 cases in Jordan, the Ministry of Education (MOE) announced a suspension of all forms of in-person education from 10 March until further notice. However, on 28 March, the MOE and the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (HCD) confirmed the resumption of in-person education in schools and centers for deaf and blind students.
- A Policy and Planning Coordination Committee (PPCC) meeting was held on 4 March under the leadership of MOE to launch the revised Education during Emergency Plan (EDEP). The revised EDEP aims to ensure the provision of sustainable, interactive and responsive distance learning environments for students, to support students and educational staff to adapt and adopt new enabling technologies, to support the advancement of current distance and blended learning programmes during emergency and non-emergency times and the engagement of community to support distance learning.
- On 29 March, the PPCC Advisory Group, consisting of MOE Senior Officials, Education Sector Working Group (ESWG) co-chairs UNICEF, WVI and NRC, Education Development Partners Group (EDPG) co-chairs Canada and Germany and PPCC Technical Advisor (UNESCO) met with the new Minister of Education. The key points discussed include the support to the Education Strategic Plan (ESP) Mid-Term Review, the importance of research/data driven planning and monitoring, the priority to align with Jordan’s national priorities as per the ESP and improve financial planning, advocacy for inclusive education and access to quality education for the most vulnerable, as well as support to the MOE’s Gender Equality Action Plan. School closures and access to distance learning and the importance of mitigating the impact of learning loss was also discussed.
- Learning Bridges activity videos are available on the [Darsak platform](#) since 23 March, allowing children to access resources for free. In March, more than 614,000 views of the Learning Bridges student resources for second semester were counted. Guidance materials for teachers were viewed nearly 88,000 times.
- UNESCO/IIEP continued to provide technical support to MOE for the ESP Mid-Term Review process. In March, the MOE finalized the compilation of existing quantitative education data per ESP domain.
- NRC continued to support children’s learning. Psychosocial support was provided to 408 children (66 children from Za’atari Camp and 342 children from Azraq Camp; 42% female) through the Better Learning Programme. NRC also provided learning support services to 451 students (137 students from Za’atari Camp and 314 from Azraq Camp; 57% female). In addition, NRC trained 118 teachers (55 teachers from Za’atari Camp and 63 teachers from Azraq Camp; 36% female) on teaching and learning mechanisms to build their skills related to distance learning.
- UNICEF continues the distribution of learning materials for children in refugee camps to ensure continuity of learning. In March, 296 families received family activity packs in Za’atari and Azraq Camps. UNICEF also supported three NFE implementing partners – Mercy Corps, MECI and Questscope – to provide ToT trainings to NFE facilitators, Liaison Officers and partners in the South, Middle and North regions of Jordan. Thus far, trainings focused on Inclusive Education and Instructional System Design have been completed. UNICEF also supported the Queen Rania Teacher Academy (QRTA) to provide training on early grade literacy to Syrian

Assistant Teachers (SATs), Jordanian teachers, supervisors and principals. Throughout February and March, 614 (320 from Za’atari and 294 from Azraq; 70% female) school personnel benefitted from training.

- UNESCO and Luminus Technical University College (LTUC) with support from the Government of the Republic of Korea supports Syrian refugee and vulnerable Jordanian youth with scholarships to access BTEC-level^[1] Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes, as well as on-the-job training opportunities to facilitate access to the labour market. In March, pre-screening and orientation for prospective students was completed, with 180 students selected (90 Syrian refugees and 90 disadvantaged Jordanian youth, 50% female).
- UNHCR and the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD), continues to support non-Syrian refugee students. In March, 86 students (47% female) received second semester books and 39 non-Syrian Tawjihi students (41% female) were supported with payments for school fees as well as payments for Tawjihi examination fees. UNICEF supported more than 620 students in camps to register for Tawjihi exams, in coordination with the Directorate of Education (DOE). UNICEF also provided a photographer to support exam registration for students in Azraq Camp.
- A total of 2,389 refugee and Jordanian students (54% female) accessed UNHCR’s Kolibri platform in March – 40% from urban areas and 60% from Azraq (52%) and Za’atari (8%) Camps. In March, 55 MOE teachers (49% female) who had received training on the platform started applying their skills to encourage students to access and benefit from Kolibri in four MOE schools where Kolibri is embedded in the schools’ learning system.
- In March, 23 students (39% female) from the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) scholarship programme received virtual academic, psychosocial and motivation counseling sessions. One female DAFI student participated in Dubai’s International Women’s Day virtual meeting and one male student participated in the Brussels V Conference “Supporting the future of Syria and the region”.
- The Technical and Vocational Skills Development Commission (TVSDC) approved the establishment of the nine sector skills councils headed by the private sector to determine TVET providers and the trainings and skills needed for each profession. TVSDC also conducted theoretical trainings remotely through authorized TVET centres.



LIVELIHOODS

- As a result of the Program for Results Economic Opportunities for Jordanians and Syrian Refugees, the Ministry of Labor (MoL) issued an instruction in December 2020 enabling the issuance of Flexible Work Permits for Syrians in all sectors (issued in the Official Gazette 5687, page 4828), which extends the flexible work permit scheme from agriculture and construction to all economic activities. Work permits should be issued: (a) without restriction of working for a specific employer; (b) free of charge; and (c) allowing the permit holder to work in any occupation open to foreign workers in one ISIC Section (i.e. sector). Starting in July 2021, flexible work permits should be issued within one of the ISCO major groups of occupations and across all sectors. MoL also updated the decision related to “closed occupations” by indicating occupations open to foreign workers per sector (available on MoL’s website [here](#)). It also extended the period of free work permits for Syrians.
- The Monthly Progress Report on work permits for Syrian refugees indicates that 8,077 work permits were obtained by Syrian refugees in 2021 (95% Men, 5% Women)

	Male	Female	Total
Jan 1- Mar 11 2021	7,652	425	8,077
Cumulative since 2016	212,343	11,490	223,833
Total	219,995	11,915	

- The two business models Montijoon and Sharqi Shop run by entrepreneurs presented their projects and recommendations on implementing home-based businesses and SMES to the LWG. The LWG is re-creating the Home-Based Businesses Taskforce. Partners implementing HBB projects with registration and licensing

^[1] BTEC: are specialist work-related qualifications. They combine practical learning with subject and theory content. There are over 2,000 BTEC qualifications across 16 sectors – they are available from entry level through to professional qualifications at level 7 (equivalent to postgraduate study).

components are encouraged to join this task force. During the LWG meeting, WFP explained that due to lack of funding, WFP would not be able to maintain the provision of assistance to beneficiaries. LH partners are encouraged to support families dropping off WFP's lists with any LH interventions.



Activities

- In Za'atari Camp, the COVID-19 response to reduce overcrowding at household level continued. UNHCR and NRC are targeting families with 6+ individuals living in one caravan to receive an additional shelter according to SPHERE standards. By the end of March 200 caravan (3X6) have been distributed to the most vulnerable families on the waiting list for shelter.
- In addition, concrete paths for rub halls were built to improve accessibility during rain in Transit Area, D8. Two offices were added to the site for MSF staff who will be supporting the transit site in assessing patients and 21 additional TVs were provided by UNICEF to the site to support children education while patients staying at the site.
- In Za'atari, as part of the Winterization response, 13 shelter were repaired in March, which prevents leaking from roof and floor and water inside the caravan. Two repairs were in response to fire incidents.
- In Azraq Camp, partners installed two RHU at IMC COVID Medical Center. As part of the COVID response, all maintenance at public area /quarantine, water tanks, shelter maintenance, and wash units has been completed. Partners are also working on upgrading the drainage system.
- During the reporting month, distribution of 61 cleaning kits and 342 hygiene kits for the families in isolation and 135 hygiene kits and 123 cleaning kits for families in the transit area was completed in Azraq.

III. Contacts and links

For more information, please contact:

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