



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 Contingency and Response Plan for the Sectoral Refugee Response is currently being reviewed and updated in view of the COVID-19 pandemic's evolution. The Plan will resonate with the Government's national preparedness and response plan and its overarching assumptions and scenarios and aligned to any existing Plans by relevant Ministries. It includes both the various sectors' response at the camp level as well as the out-of-camp, rural and urban locations.

II. Sector Update



HEALTH

Key Activities:

- In Azraq Camp, Phase 02 of corona treatment centre construction is in progress, with targeted capacity of 50 beds and is foreseen to be completed mid-September. Since 24 August, IMC collects random PCR swabs at the visitors-gate from returnees and at the main entry-gate from staff working in the camp. Considering the activation of civil defence order 11, UNHCR provided PPEs to UNHCR implementing partners through IMC.
- In Za'atari, the MSF treatment centre is ready. MSF prepositioned the needed medications and medical consumables in the centre and their warehouse in Mafraq. The centre will be standby for inpatient - admission for moderate – severe cases of COVID-19 in the camp. In Za'atari surveillance at camp gate also continues, with 971 PCR test samples taken in August. IMC conducted 79 selective tests for high risk groups from 24 Aug-3 September. So far, there are no confirmed cases in Za'atari.
- The blood donation campaign in Za'atari was successfully conducted on 30 August in coordination with the Za'atari health working group, camp management, Ministry of Health MOH/ National blood bank and Health Appeal society targeted staff working in the camp where more than 50 units were donated. This campaign will impact positively on the blood supply mechanism to the camp.
- Caritas, UNHCR's implementing partner in urban settings, is providing stable non-communicable disease patients with their 3 months stock of medications. This is part of their business continuity plan post lock-down. This is the second round of medications dispensed and expected to be completed mid-September.

Key challenges:

- The sudden closure of the Moroccan Field Hospital (MFH) in Za'atari on 30 August was elevated to UNHCR's and SRAD's Senior Management for advocacy. A gap analysis was undertaken to develop a road map for the immediate (partial) mitigation of the MFH activities prioritizing lifesaving and emergency cases. An ad hoc meeting was conducted with Health Working Group to explore eventual participation by partners in the mitigation activities.



BASIC NEEDS

Key Activities:

- Eight basic needs partners have booked 1,870 cases during the reporting period to be assisted shortly; over 41,000 unique cases have been assisted at least one month since the onset of the crisis. Details are available on the [COVID-19 Emergency Cash Coordination Dashboard](#).

Key challenges:

- The majority of families have been assisted only for one month, and there is need for continued assistance to be provided to these vulnerable households as the crisis and resulting socioeconomic impact continues.



FOOD SECURITY

Key Activities:

- As part of the COVID-19 response, WFP has included additional 5,164 households (14,406 individuals). WFP is seeking from different organizations referrals in order to include new cases for the COVID-19 expansion of WFP's caseload.
- Results from WFP's mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) have indicated that there is a deterioration in household food security for refugees from April to July where small and female-headed households are more likely to be food insecure. Households frequently acquire livelihood-coping strategies, 46% of households adopt crisis coping strategies compromising future productivity and ability to cope with shocks, 29% of households adopt potentially irreversible emergency coping strategies and only 4% of households do not adopt coping strategies at all.



PROTECTION

Key Activities:

- The Durable Solutions Project (DSP) brought together its three PWG member organizations (Danish Refugee Council DRC, International Rescue Committee- IRC, Norwegian Refugee Council -NRC) in order to contribute to collective learning on livelihoods in Jordan by taking stock of challenges and successes of livelihoods interventions in Jordan until February 2020, before the COVID-19 outbreak. While the lessons learned presented in this paper are drawn from these organization's programmatic learning and DSP's research, they are intended to spark a wider reflection and strategic dialogue among the Government of Jordan (GoJ), international donors, private sector entities, UN agencies and the wider NGO collective on how livelihoods-focused policies and programs can better support resilience and self-reliance for Syrian refugees and host communities.
- SGBV WG has finalized the gap analysis for 2020-2021, with the participation of 51 persons representing 28 organizations covering different governorates in the country (Amman and the south, Mafraq, Irbid, Azraq camp and Za'atari camp). The document presents the differences between the actual state and the minimum standards for SGBV in emergencies and provides recommendations to fill those gaps on the various levels. The gap analysis is also complemented by the information provided by the GBV IMS annual report and trend analysis released during COVID 19 pandemic. More information can be found [here](#).
- In Za'atari, increased SGBV staff is again present in the camp; furthermore Women's empowerment activities have now also restarted (complying with public health measures) to supplement case management and the well-received Legal Protection and Documentation services are functioning with the possibility of access to needed appointments/sessions outside the camp;
- The Za'atari PWG conducted a review of successes and challenges during the full lockdown and gradual reopening. These lessons learned are informing current activities (e.g. safe referrals trainings for non-SGBV staff, child protection identification and referral trainings for volunteers) to be in a better position in case of a repeated lockdown.



WASH

Key Activities:

- In preparation of a Government-imposed restriction of movement on 28 August and 4 September, UNICEF activated its business continuity plan for Za'atari Camp, ensuring that critical staff and supplies were prepositioned in case of any emergency during lockdown.

- In Azraq, KAP and Za’atari refugee camps, UNICEF has increased water supply in response to the record heatwave in Jordan over the past week. Where borehole supply was unable to keep up with demand, emergency water trucks have been mobilized. UNICEF has been supplying over 60 liters per person per day, as well as supporting institutions in the camps.
- In Za’atari Camp, a blanket distribution of soap bars started and will be completed by next week. Three bars of soap are being distributed per person, targeting 76,200 individuals (B: 21,870; G: 20,726; M: 16,535; W: 17,069).
- In Rukban, hygiene promotion activities are ongoing. Information being disseminated by volunteers deals with water collection, transportation and storing, as well as best hygiene practices for hygiene and handwashing.
- A solid waste management campaign was completed in Rukban by Better World, covering all the districts in the settlement, and transferring all solid waste to a landfill to be buried.
- Future Pioneers completed a distribution of hand sanitizers, face masks, gloves and plastic bags in 48 ITS sites located in Amman, Mafraq, Irbid, Karak and Ma’an to 6,823 beneficiaries (B: 1,569; G: 1,433; M: 2,047; W: 1,774). In addition to the distribution, Future Pioneers also conducted a cleaning campaign in all 48 sites, focusing on the cleanliness of the environment and contribute to limiting the spread of diseases.
- Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) continued cooperation with ACF, ACTED, FP, LWF and OXFAM, with approved messaging being disseminated through over 230 WhatsApp groups to 6,040 individuals (1,213 females) to camp populations and host communities. Due to an ongoing heatwave over the past few weeks, messaging focused on water conservation and information regarding COVID-19 awareness and prevention also continued to be disseminated.
- To prepare for re-opening of schools, UNICEF donated 500,000 soap bars and 14,000 hand sanitizers to the Ministry of Education, which have been distributed to schools across Jordan. Additionally, UNICEF has supported the MOE with emergency maintenance of tap stands and hand washing stations at 43 schools across Jordan over the last month.
- UNICEF conducted Interpersonal Communication for Immunization (IPC) trainings for the directors of schools in Badia’a AlShmalya in Mafraq preparing for the reopening of schools in Za’atari Camp. A total of 30 school’s directors (14 female and 16 male) attended; 20 school directors in Azraq Camp; Edugovjo and UNICEF provided ‘training of trainers’ to all 42 Education Directorates targeting the schools’ health officers, providing them with skills needed to prevent and control COVID-19 infection.



EDUCATION

Key Activities:

- Schools opened across the country on 1 September, though some are delayed due to the ongoing heatwave, as well as aligning with the safe school health protocols developed by MOE, in coordination with UNICEF’s support. School principals have been implementing safe school health protocols and monitoring suggests that these protocols are generally being followed, with additional hygiene materials available, mask wearing and guidance on the behavior of students within school compounds.
- All Jordanian contracted teachers in the refugee camps were tested for COVID-19 by MOH and all tests were found negative. Due to these tests and the heatwave, the reopening of camp schools was delayed. Schools in Za’atari camp opened on 7 September, whereas those in Azraq and EJC camps were postponed until further notice. Across the country, the first day of KG2 was initially announced as Sunday 6 September but delayed due to the recent heatwave.
- Various organizations, such as Jesuit Refugee Service, CARE, Noor Al Hussein Foundation, IRC, Un Ponte Per, Blumont, Save the Children, The Jordanian Hashmite Fund, NRC, WVI, Questscope, Finn Church Aid, and Terre de Hommes Italy, continue providing support to children through distance learning and soft skills. This has been accomplished through various means including the use of WhatsApp, Zoom, and other platforms. Over 11,600 girls and boys were reached across camps (Azraq and Za’atari) and host communities (Amman, Mafraq, Irbid, Zarqa).

- UNHCR’s Kolibri Platform was accessed by 1,023 learners remotely through virtual classes. They include 510 learners from Zaatari camp (by Blumont), 109 from Azraq camp (by CARE) and 404 learners from urban areas (by JOHUD). 424 male learners and 599 female learners accessed the platform remotely.
- UNICEF is in the process of procuring fabric masks for 190,000 children from G1 to G12 in camps, informal tented settlements and double-shift schools (both morning and afternoon shifts). Further guidance on use of masks will be shared by MOE to clarify that masks only need to be used when moving around in school and not in classrooms, where social distance is implemented.
- As part of the Safely Back to School, Helpline has been operational by 30 volunteers who have made over 9,000 phone calls in host communities. These calls were targeted based on the result of a UNICEF-supported Rapid Pro (similar to sms) sent to 100,000 vulnerable children based on MOE data on those who did not sit in final assessments. The total number of children reached through phone calls and door to door stands at 22,537 as of h September. Of these, 12% (2,684 children) are found out of school. The reasons for being out of school include rejection from school registration due to documentation, disability of the child, no space for school, amongst others.
- The Vocational Training Corporation and the Ministry of Youth signed on 2 September a cooperation agreement aimed at rehabilitating and equipping the training workshops to reach the largest segment of youth. The agreement was signed by the Minister of Labor / Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Foundation, Nidal Al-Batayneh, and Minister of Youth Dr. Faris Braizat. According to the agreement, the Foundation will rehabilitate the workshops selected for training in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and provide the necessary equipment. Trainers and supervisors will be made available to implement the training, contribute to attracting trainees, approve the training programmes according to the regulations followed by the Vocational Training Corporation, as well as issue training certificates for successful trainees. A transportation allowance will be provided for trainees.
- UNHCR advocated with some universities for fee reduction to self-sponsored refugee students who would like to study at Jordanian universities at subsidized fees (equivalent to the Jordanians’ fees in parallel programmes). These universities are: Al Al Bayt University, Al-Tafila Technical University, Al-Ahliyya Amman University, and the Hashemite University.
- The Higher Education Council announced the return of faculty members in official Jordanian universities on 20 September, the return of students and start of classes on 27 September. For private universities, the academic year will begin on 18 October. The council decided that teaching method should be hybrid: a combination of regular face-to-face, electronic/remote and blended education.



LIVELIHOODS

Key Activities:

- MOL is currently working on the framework to support the new flexible work permits.
- The most recent figures for work permits issued in 2020 continue to show low uptake for females, indicating a need for continued advocacy to remove obstacles to their participation.

	Total permits Jan 2020 - Aug 24 2020
Male	21,849 - 93.94%
Female	1,409 – 6.06%
Total	23,258

**Source= MOPIC. Work permit figures include all Syrian nationals – refugee and non- refugee*

- The most recent sector working group meeting hosted 2 presentations. One was by UN Women focusing on COVID-19 and Women’s Economic Empowerment - Policy Recommendations for Strengthening Jordan’s Recovery, which can be found [here](#). The second was from WFP on integrated context analyses, which may offer insight into seasonal livelihood planning.



SHELTER

- Shelter partners have resumed their program in urban areas including physical rehabilitation of houses and cash for rent, as restriction of movement has now been lifted.
- UNHCR, in coordination with NRC, will increase its emergency response by repairing 1,900 shelters in Za'atari. Shelter activities remain critical as self-isolation and quarantine at home became an essential measure in the context of the pandemic. The construction work will support ongoing government efforts to address the risk of COVID-19 through shelter enhancements in camps as well as the amendment of the COVID-19 Treatment Centre in Azraq camp. Amongst the beneficiaries are 800 vulnerable families and refugees with underlying health issues at higher risk of transmission and complications due to COVID-19.
- UNHCR with its partner NRC has constructed a transit site to help transit refugees returning to Za'atari camp for which the capacity has been expanded to 250 individuals.
- Due to the heatwave, electricity provision increased to 16 hours in August; recently, it was decided to increase electricity provision for 1 week by 1 hour, reaching 17 hours in total.

III. Contacts and links

For more information, please contact:

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