



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

Ministry of Education (MOE) supported by UNESCO organized on 17 June the Policy, Planning and Coordination Committee (PPCC) within the Education Strategic Plan (ESP) partnership and coordination structure of the education sector. School reopening was one of the central topics with MoE providing an update and discussing challenges and support needs, document requirements and tuition fees for non-Syrian refugees, and that efforts to reopen schools should be guided by a risk and evidence-based approach to keep as many schools open as possible in case of a third wave.

MoE provided a grace period for all Syrians with expired Ministry of Interior (MOI) cards to enroll in school.

Sectors are preparing for another wave of Corona. The Contingency and Response Plan which had been comprehensively reviewed in the context of readiness for the second wave based on lessons learnt and by then latest developments was last updated in January and predominantly remains valid to date at the activity level. The scenarios are currently being reviewed and aligned with scenarios set out by Government of Jordan and WHO.

Following a successful pilot exercise, the Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF) population survey was launched on 30 June 2021 for refugees residing out of camps. For the first time, the VAF will expand this year to include also non-Syrian refugee families as well as Syrian families residing in camps. The VAF, a multi-sector assessment was developed in close coordination with all sectors. Through a partnership with the UNHCR/WB Joint Data Centre and the World Bank, a new VAF welfare indicator is being developed, which can serve as targeting criteria. The VAF will include approximately 8,500 household out of camps and 1,500 household residing inside the Camps. Data collection for the out-of-camp population will last until end August, and for Camp, will be implemented during the first half of September. Preliminary results and a summary report are expected in late 2021, with the final report expected in early 2022. This year the VAF will also look at how the corona pandemic contributed to changes in vulnerability and compare to results from 2019. It has also a section on Corona in relation to knowledge, attitudes and practices e.g., perceptions about vaccine uptake.

II. Sector Update



HEALTH

Activities

- A significant decrease of confirmed COVID-19 cases was observed in Camps. In Za'atari, a total of 18 confirmed cases were reported in June compared to 89 confirmed cases in May. In Azraq, 20 cases were reported in June compared to 43 cases reported in May.
- To maintain the essential capacity for treatment of COVID-19 cases in Za'atari Camp, after MSF had to discontinue its COVID-19 Treatment Center in May, International Medical Corps (IMC) in collaboration with UNHCR started practical arrangements and, as necessary, equipment replacement and refurbishment, to reopen the COVID-19 Treatment Centre by the agreed timeline of mid-July. Meanwhile, the facility is on standby and stands ready to activate service delivery in case of a significant increase in COVID-19 occurrence in the Camp. Currently, the very few COVID-19 cases in need of admission are referred to the designated MoH hospitals outside the Camp.
- Despite the very low incidence of COVID-19 cases also throughout June, Azraq Camp COVID-19 Treatment

Centre operated by International Medical Corps (IMC) will continue its services and admit cases in need of treatment according to defined admission criteria.

- COVID-19 vaccine administration continued in collaboration with MoH in Za'atari and Azraq Camps. As of July 11, a total of 15,334 individuals have received the first dose and 10,998 have received the second dose in Za'atari Camp, while in Azraq a total of 5,314 individuals have received the first and 3,962 the two doses.
- The Emirati campaign to vaccinate Syrian refugees in Camps, which was launched in May and rolled out in close collaboration with Jordanian MoH and UNHCR, was successfully concluded once all those having registered and meeting MoH criteria had received the two doses.
- In response to COVID-19 and to ensure provision of comprehensive SRH services, UNFPA procured PPEs to its partners worth over USD 150,000. 99% of healthcare providers in all UNFPA supported sites received their COVID-19 vaccination.
- UNFPA concluded its three months support to SRH services in Za'atari at IRC main clinic. As the lead SRH agency, it ensured continuation of essential SRH services by bridging the clinic's funding gap.



BASIC NEEDS

Activities

- Since the beginning of the COVID-19 emergency response, 68,152 cases have been assisted under the COVID-19 emergency cash assistance scheme. 72% of the assisted population (70% Syrian and 86% Non-Syrian) have been provided with assistance for three months or more, while 13% (14% Syrians and 5% Non-Syrians) benefitted from this support two months and 14% (15% Syrian and 9% Non-Syrians) one month.
- In June 2021, 290 cases were booked by Care International to be assisted under the COVID-19 emergency cash assistance scheme, of which 233 cases already got assisted, and 57 cases are still to be assisted.
- Currently 59,834 families are eligible for COVID-19 emergency assistance. Of these 52,326 are Syrians and 7,508 have nationalities other than Syrian.

Challenges

- Though the demand for assistance continues to rise, funding is shrinking, and, if received, is rather ad-hoc. This leads to planning challenges and budgeting problems to provide cash to eligible families. Challenges



FOOD SECURITY

Activities

- In June, WFP has been delivering its monthly cash assistance to 525,139 individuals in camps and host communities. This included assistance to families targeted because of COVID-19 socio-economic impact benefitting 40,082 individuals.
- In Azraq and Za'atari Camps, WFP continued to provide in-kind food assistance to COVID-19 affected households under quarantine and refugees under self-isolation in their own shelters. Due to the significant decline of such cases, the need for this type of assistance decreased.
- To ensure that assistance in host communities focuses on the most vulnerable, WFP developed a new targeting model for Syrian refugees based on recent vulnerability studies. At the same time, WFP faces severe funding shortfalls and therefore will have to enact its prioritization plan as of July by cutting 21,000 beneficiaries from its monthly cash programme. On 1 June, text messages were sent to all assistance recipients' families to inform about their specific status of assistance July onwards. In parallel, WFP and its partners rolled out an appeal mechanism through an online platform as well as hotlines and helpdesks. All appeals will be reviewed, and beneficiaries individually informed about the results by text message. The need for implementing the re-targeting and prioritization was also discussed in three joint sessions by WFP and UNHCR with refugee community leaders in North, Central and South Jordan.
- Preparation for food distribution activities leading up to Eid al-Adha began in June and will continue throughout July.
- Tkiyet Um Ali, a Jordanian organization was endorsed as new co-chair of the Food Security Working Group.

- The National Food Security Strategy has been endorsed by the higher steering committee for food security on 30 May. The strategy presents a comprehensive overview of food security in Jordan and defines four strategic objectives based on a multi-sectoral analysis. The strategy was developed under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture in partnership with WFP and FAO and supported by a large number of Government institutions, UN agencies, national and international NGOs, and representatives of the private sector. Four working groups have been created to develop the strategy action plan with even wider participation of relevant stakeholders. The action plan will be completed towards the end of July and should be then validated by the higher steering committee for official endorsement by the Government towards end of August. The four strategic objectives focus on: Ensuring availability of food at the national, household and individual levels; Improving access to food; Optimizing the utilization and stability of food and Enhancing food security governance at the national level.

Challenges:

- Unpredictability of funding remains a challenge for WFP, while advocacy activities to mobilize support are ongoing. Current cuts had the potential to create a negative effect on the community recalling the impacts of the cuts of 2014.
- Identifying alternatives to unconditional cash-based food assistance remains a key priority for the Sector.



PROTECTION

- The GBV SWG developed a guidance note on COVID-19 vaccination and implications for GBV prevention and response. Launched on World Refugee Day, it aims at ensuring equitable and safe access to COVID-19 vaccination for everyone, with a specific focus on vulnerable groups. It sheds light on gender barriers and GBV risks in Jordan and provides recommendations for GBV practitioners, health service providers and the Government. The document offers key messages related to GBV services, the Amaali application, as well as on PSEA and gender equality. The guidance note is available in English and Arabic and can be found [here](#).
- The second phase of the coaching program for GBVIMS Task Force members has been rolled out with the objective to enhance standards of case management services for GBV survivors. The programme includes sessions on: Safety Planning and First Response for Suicidality, Remote Case Management Supervision, Staff Care Strategies and Initiatives, Male Victims of Gender Based Violence, LGBTI Considerations and ToT to being able to replicate the program at the organization level.
- PSEA Network partners finalized the Protection Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) risk assessment tool which was developed by the Co-Chairs of the Jordan PSEA Network. The tool brings together assessments conducted by UN, INGOs and NNGOs including from other operations and Inter-Agency Standing Committee Minimum Operating Standards for PSEA implementation issued in 2021 and can be used to guide organizations operating in Jordan to meet minimum standards of PSEA requirements.
- MHPSS partners identified high number of cases of anxiety and depression among refugees triggered by different underlying causes, of which the impact of COVID-19 and poor economic situation are prevalent.
- MHPSS are successfully contributing to the development and finalization of the National Mental Health and Substance Use Action Plan (2022-2026) led by WHO. The Plan focuses on four main domains (Governance, Health Care, Promotion and Prevention and Surveillance, Monitoring and Research) and aims to improve quality of the mental health care at the country level.
- In June, the Disability and Age Task Force (DATF) organized two training sessions on Disability Inclusion in English and Arabic for 36 participants, including the Disability and Age Inclusion sector focal points, Sector Gender Focal Points Network members, DATF members and relevant stakeholders from different organizations.
- On the occasion of World Refugee Day (WRD), UNHCR, UN Women and the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), in collaboration with the Sector Gender Focal Point Network (SGFPN) and the Disability and Age Task Force (DATF) conducted a joint webinar for refugees of all genders, ages and abilities, focusing on the power of inclusion in education, health and sports. Key Government actors, civil society organizations, refugees, members of the host community and organizations working on gender and inclusion shared their perspectives, experiences and solutions.
- In June, the Cash-for-Protection Taskforce in collaboration with the Cash for Learning Partnership (CaLP) conducted its first training on Protection and CVA Monitoring for the CfP Taskforce members.

- In line with offering durable solutions to refugees, since the start of 2021 UNHCR has facilitated virtual selection missions for resettlement countries which enabled states to assess 825 refugees for resettlement. The numbers of refugees travelling to resettlement countries has increased, with over 1,000 departures during the first half of 2021, compared with some 700 throughout 2020.
- Since 1 January 2021, UNHCR processed registration of 184,965 individuals and issued documents to 271,882 refugees. On 16 June, UNHCR Registration Centres in Amman, Irbid and Mafraq partially reopened for rapid in-person document renewal processing.



- UNICEF continued supplying all 122,789 refugees in three camps (Za’atari, Azraq and King Abdullah Park) with an uninterrupted supply of clean water with increased consumption particularly during the heatwave at the end of June.
- While UNICEF maintained in Za’atari daily supply of about 4,500 m3 of clean and safe water, external water trucking is continuously needed due to increasing temperatures. Three internal boreholes are covering about 3300 m3 of water per day with the rest being supplied by external water trucking.
- In June the support to the transit area through provision of cleaning kits, hygiene kits and hand sanitizers was maintained in Za’atari although the number of beneficiaries reduced to 24. The same sanitation and hygiene items support was also provided to 22 self-isolated households, including 69 children.
- Azraq refugees also benefitted from these hygiene and sanitation items as well as 29 jerry cans, which were distributed to 84 of the most vulnerable refugees. In addition, 650 hygiene kits were distributed to “Lead Mothers group”, women who are engaged in sensitization and awareness campaigns in relation to WASH and hygiene for UNICEF.
- In King Abdullah Park (KAP), a camp-wide distribution took place providing 1,599 soap bars and 119 cleaning kits, reaching 533 beneficiaries, including 297 children. UNICEF is providing WASH services to the camp as needed.



- The Higher Education Council has announced details on the return to campus and teaching modalities for the summer 2020/2021 semester. All bachelor and diploma studies will be conducted electronically, while courses that require laboratories, workshops, or physical appearance will be taught on campus, with observing health safety measures. Medicine and dentistry students (4th, 5th and 6th year) will return to campus for their studies. All postgraduate courses (higher diploma, MA and PhD) will take place on campus in-person, while thesis discussions may be undertaken remotely or on campus.
- In its meeting on 17 June, the Policy, Planning and Coordination Committee (PPCC) MoE also updated on the progress of the ESP supported by UNESCO-IIEP and outlined steps for further partners’ involvement. In this regard, the Mid-Term Review Technical Working Groups according to the six ESP domains presented their work in assessing progress, the impact of COVID-19, the effectiveness and relevance of programmes and policies implemented through a plenary session with the PPCC members on 30 June.
- MoE positively debates that non-Syrian refugee children may be exempted from presenting residence permit or work permit of their parents, a requirement having made enrolment often difficult, but refugees must present their UNHCR certificate to prove their refugee status. Non-refugee children of any nationality are no longer required to present any documentation, but textbook and enrolment fees must be paid.
- In June, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) provided trainings on the Safe and Inclusive Schools Programme for 95 MoE personnel (13% female) to teachers, principals, counselors and Syrian assistant teachers. NRC also provided 499 students (55% female) with remote Learning Support Services through Zoom and WhatsApp.
- In coordination with the MoE, Islamic Relief Jordan provided teacher training and hygiene awareness sessions to 57 teachers (18% female) and 849 students (11% female) in three schools in Mafraq governorate.
- Middle East Children’s Institute (MECI) continued to support adolescents and youth in host communities to access quality, inclusive Formal and Non-Formal Education (NFE). In June, MECI supported 128 adolescents and youth (49% female) with access to the certified NFE Drop-Out programme in host communities.

- On 9 June, Relief International, Plan International and War Child have conducted a via-Zoom Round Table Discussion on the findings of the joint national level assessment on “Distance Learning Experiences During COVID-19 in Jordan”.
- In June, with support from UNICEF, Relief International successfully enrolled 91 new students (33% female) in the certified NFE Drop-Out programme. 63 students (38% female) successfully completed Cycle 3 of the programme and are graduating from the Drop-Out programme.
- In May – June, UNICEF and Syrian Assistant Teachers supported registration of 3,018 KG2 aged children (50% female) in Za’atari (64%), Azraq (31%) and EJC (5%) Camps.
- On 23 May – 24 June, UNICEF led trainings on school leadership and development of school improvement plans. 51 Principals (53% female; 63% from Za’atari, 37% from Azraq) and 47 Supervisors (17% female; 60% from Za’atar, 40 % from Azraq) were offered knowledge and skills in formulating clear performance indicators, developing school improvement plans, enhancing middle leadership in school with focus on vulnerable students and self-evaluating the developed plans.
- In June, UNICEF held a two-day training for 37 Inclusive Education supervisors (30% female) to support the capacity building of MoE staff at the Directorate level. These efforts contribute to increasing the capacity of the education system to provide quality education for all children, irrespective of nationality.
- UNICEF, with Education Development Trust (EDT), organized the Learning Bridges Sustainability Workshop to present the accomplishments of academic year 2020/2021 and to plan for the upcoming school year. A total of 69 participants (65% female) including the Learning Bridges Champions, activity writers and MoE staffs, attended the workshop. During the workshop, UNICEF and EDT presented the outcomes from the study and survey, reviewed activities of the first semester and discussed the ways to improve monitoring of implementation of the Learning Bridges programme.
- In June, 1,206 learners (48% female; 86% Syrian) have accessed their accounts remotely on the UNHCR-supported Kolibri digital learning platform through UNHCR implementing partners JOHUD, Blumont, and Care. Ten Connected Learning Hubs in urban areas and in refugee camps have reopened with 50% capacity, enabling refugee and Jordanian learners who have little or no Internet to access the Kolibri platform.
- UNHCR supported 300 Non-Syrian refugee students (55% female) with education programmes, of whom, 63 students (59% female) registered for homework support classes and took the placement tests for Arabic and Mathematics at the JOHUD centre in Al-Hashmi (Queen Zain Institute), following the prescribed COVID-19 health safety measures.
- Noor Al Hussein Foundation, with support from UNHCR, opened Virtual Reality (VR) Labs for Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) scholarship students to provide them with an immersive learning experience. In June, ten students (70% female) were trained on the use of the VR Lab.
- UNESCO, with support from the Government of the Republic of Korea and through its partnership with Luminus Technical University College, assisted 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. By 27 June, 194 students (54% female; 43% Syrian) have been selected and enrolled in TVET programmes.
- Education activities and the afterschool programme continue remotely. In June, 125 children (52% female) were engaged in UN Women’s Oasis centres in Za’atari and Azraq refugee Camps.
- In June, representatives of authorities including municipalities, local newspapers, the Ministry of Social Development and the Employment Fund at the directorate level were engaged by the Arab Women Organization (AWO), a partner of UN Women, in discussions on strengthening the concept of partnership. The meetings also emphasized importance of the Second Chance Education (SCE) project in enhancing the role of women at the educational and economic levels by building scientific and practical skills through Kolibri platform and other educational channels. As a result, AWO successfully contacted several civil organizations that will benefit from the second phase of the Second Educational Opportunity Programme, and the partnership between women and the local authorities was enhanced through the newly opened communication channels. Noticeably, the Eradah Foundation suggested to conduct feasibility studies of the projects proposed by SCE beneficiaries thus contributing to strengthen partnerships between organizations.
- In June, Relief International (RI) has been actively engaged in various awareness raising activities at schools, such as producing three animated videos about bullying and cyberbullying, development of a Behavioural Change Program Manual for reducing bullying, delivery of online sessions to 633 Syrian refugee students on
- Bullying and Cyberbullying, training of 506 MoE teachers, school counsellors and educational personnel from four Governates (Amman, Irbid, Mafraq, and Zarqa) on Cyberbullying.

- In the camp, RI has coordinated with IFH to deliver awareness raising sessions and psychological support to the Drop-Out students and to empower girls through the ART activities. RI has started with remote activities on child protection, anti-bullying, and prevention of internet dangers to Drop-Out and Remedial students participating in the Summer Clubs.



LIVELIHOODS

- The progress report on work permits for Syrian refugees indicates that 23,346 work permits were obtained by Syrian refugees in the period of January - June 2021 (95% Men, 5% Women):

	Male	Female	Total
Jan 1 – June 30 2021	21,206	2,140	23,346
Cumulative since 2016	225,921	13,103	239,024
Total	247,127	15,243	262,370

- In June, while holders of work permits were not given opportunity to leave Camps yet, the employment centres in refugee Camps were open, and refugees could apply for issuance of work permits or renewal of the expired ones.
- In response to the MoL request, UNHCR has prepared a virtual awareness campaign in Za’atari and Azraq Camps, hosted by the General Federation of Jordan Trade Union GFJTU and the support of with ILO camp employment centres focal points who would provide information about the flexible work permits.
- In June, the Livelihoods Working Group organized a Fail Fair event having a short-term goal to draw immediate lessons from the available experience and guide those engaged in similar efforts. The medium-term goal was to foster an open dialogue among partners on identification and response to challenges and to establishment of culture of transparency, learning, and collaboration. Design of more impactful programming for beneficiaries has been set as a long-term objective of the event. The Fail Fair covered topics related to partnering with private sector for employing youth, working with local partners to gain microfinance, the long-term impact of home-based business support and market connections, the challenges of targeting and the need to adapt community outreach, and matching TVET skills with private sector.
- The first meeting of the Home-Based Businesses (HBB) Taskforce aimed to strengthen ties between main stakeholders and to compile official documents needed to resume the discussion on HBBs. The Taskforce is surveying information on the HBB support provided by different partners.



SHELTER

- A new and dedicated gender focal point was introduced to the sector. This role sits within the sector lead agency to support all sector partners in gender themes.
- In June, the sector welcomed with Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development ARDD Organization a new partner into the forum.
- The sector co-chair function became temporary vacant as the incumbent agency transitions their team. In the interim, the role shall be covered by the sector lead, whilst an adhoc co-chair shall be selected by all partners in a strategic advisory capacity.
- The sector decided to put a much increased attention and effort on environmental and climate friendly approaches and shelter related practices with the recent particular challenge of extreme heat only being one of the triggers.

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>