



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

- Institute of Family Health (IFH) at the Sweileh Centre published health articles with broad potential reach and coverage on about 35 - 40 electronic newspapers which hundreds of thousands of views were received, including the following: “The Effectiveness of Mixing Corona vaccines” (Link: <http://alrai.com/article/10606607/>).
- Despite the intensive efforts and close collaboration of the Livelihoods partners with the authorities to increase employment opportunities for refugees and Jordanians aiming to support Jordan’s economic recovery from COVID-19, significant challenges remain. With an unemployment rate of 23% in Jordan, many refugees who hold work permits are still struggling to find jobs and support their families. Moreover, only Syrian refugees in Jordan are legally allowed to work. Refugees from other nationalities such as Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, and Somalia, are unable to obtain permits and to maintain their refugee status at the same time.

II. Sector’s Updates



BASIC NEEDS

Activities

- **UNHCR COVID-19 Emergency Response Assistance:** UNHCR did not receive any COVID-19 Emergency Response funds in December 2021 but recycled the existing funds of the year (JOD 86,970). This covered 611 families that had technical issues withdrawing their previous COVID-19 assistance. The assistance was provided to 607 Syrian families composing of 2,122 individuals and 4 non-Syrian families composing of 8 individuals.
- **Partners’ Update:** IOM received funds to cover Syrian families with COVID-19 emergency response assistance in December 2021. They assisted 501 families composing of 1,330 individuals that had not received COVID19 assistance before.
- **Winterization Assistance:** UNHCR Jordan used saved funds in addition to recycling winterization funds from November for the cases that did not withdraw their assistance. This covered assistance to additional 13,339 families with an assistance value of USD 3.3 million. 6,278 (47%) of the cases were non-Syrians and 7,061 cases (53%) were Syrians.
- **COVID-19 Vaccination Facilitation Incentive:** UNHCR is urging all refugees in Jordan to receive their COVID-19 vaccine, to protect themselves from serious illness and ensure they can access all services in Jordan, especially with the Government of Jordan [Defence Order No. 35](#) which restricts access to ministries, public departments and private sector institutions unless the person has received two doses of a COVID vaccine. Therefore, among several efforts UNHCR have provided Vaccination Facilitation Incentive assistance to PoCs who have received two doses of the vaccine. The assistance value is 7.5 JOD (USD 10) per a vaccinated individual outside camp, to cover the transportation cost to the nearest vaccination centre and the price of one meal. In December, the basic needs unit has provided the facilitation incentive to 117,000 individuals that received the two doses of the vaccine, of which 35% are females and 65% are males, and 9% are non-Syrians (11,027 individuals). The total assistance value provided in December for the vaccination facilitation incentive was JOD 870,00 JODs (USD 1.2 million).

Planning

- The following exercises are in nearest the planning pipeline: Post Distribution Monitoring (COVID-19 and End year), the 'Mobile Wallet' training in camps and uWallet verification.

Challenges

- Additional funding is required to meet COVID-19 vaccine compensation as well as COVID-19 emergency funds.



EDUCATION

- UNICEF continued to provide access to education for vulnerable children and adolescents through direct support for 2,647 children with disabilities (52% female; 56% in camps) across 65 schools in partnership with Mercy Corps, as well as for 5,151 children and adolescents (46% female; 17% in camps) enrolled in NFE in partnership with Questscope, MECI and Relief International.
- In December, UNICEF supported the transportation of 2,866 students (51% female) from Informal Tented Settlements to school. In addition, UNICEF supported 47,331 children (54% female) in Makani Centres with in-person Learning Support Services.
- In December, in refugee camps, UNICEF in partnership with Questscope and Relief International, provided internet data packages to 682 NFE students (46% female) and 56 teachers/NFE facilitators (50% female) to support continued learning during COVID-19.
- UNICEF continues to support schools in refugee camps to implement school improvement plans developed in 2021, with a focus on teaching and learning, through the continued provision of coaching and mentoring for 53 school principals.
- In December, in coordination with the MOE, UNICEF supported the printing of 295,593 Learning Bridges booklets (grade 4 and 5 booklets for national level distribution and grade 7 and 9 booklets for camp level distribution).
- In December, when schools were open, UNICEF supported the tracking of COVID-19 close contacts in camp schools through an attendance monitoring system for over 36,000 students. This data is being used by school principals to inform school development planning and to identify, track and support students at risk of drop out.
- With UNHCR support, JOHUD supported school transportation for 234 non-Syrian students (53% female). In addition, 169 students (54% female; 78% non-Syrian (Sudanese, Somali, Yemini, Iraqi); 22% Jordanian) in Grades 8 to 12 benefitted from homework support classes in English and Mathematics and school kits were distributed to 43 non-Syrian students (50% female).
- In December, 1,262 learners (57% female; 50% Syrian) accessed the UNHCR-supported digital learning platform, Kolibri.
- UNHCR Education Unit, in coordination with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the Connected Learning in Crisis Consortium, organised an Instructional Design for E-Learning workshop for university professors in Jordan and Lebanon. A total of 91 professors (32% female; 7% Lebanese) participated.
- In December, UN Women provided support for 73 students (55% female) to attend Oasis centres in Za'atari and Azraq refugee camps, offering education activities and afterschool support remotely.
- UNESCO, with support from the Government of the Republic of Korea and through its partnership with Luminus Technical University College, supports 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 December, 126 students (59% female, 49% Syrian) from the IT and Business disciplines started their third trimester and 49 students (43% female, 33% Syrian) from the Creative Media Production discipline continued to benefit from the programme. Furthermore, 95 laptops were distributed to students to support continuity of learning.
- In December, UNESCO/IIEP facilitated consultations, linked to the Education Strategic Plan Mid-Term Review Policy Dialogue, with the MOE and key partners on crisis sensitive planning. This was to develop a roadmap to support the MOE based on national priorities to strengthen crisis-sensitive planning, including capacity development, a new risk management unit, and a crisis and disaster management strategy and policies.

- The Ministry of Higher Education confirmed the continuity of in-campus education and examinations in all public and private universities and colleges.
- Madrasati Initiative supported Masahati Student Club activities in eight schools. Masahati is an after-school Extra-Curricular Activities programme, focusing on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). A total of 800 students (50% female) in Grades 4 to 10 participated in clubs covering: human rights, multimedia and photography, sports, young researchers in human rights, leadership, debate, career guidance, and English language.
- Madrasati Initiative provided remedial classes to 127 male students in Grades 4 to 9 covering Arabic, English, Mathematics and Science. Furthermore, Madrasati continued to coach 299 homeroom teachers (100% female) in 34 schools who are providing weekly music classes to 7,535 students (52% female) in Grades 1 to 3.
- Middle East Child Institute (MECI) in partnership with UNICEF supported 80 out-of-school children (44% female) to newly enrol in the non-formal education (NFE) Dropout programme and a transportation service was provided to 815 NFE students (53% female). In addition, 100 extra-curricular activity sessions were conducted benefitting 1,313 students (54% female).
- Caritas Jordan supported 800 students (50% female) with Learning Support Services and 620 students (52% female) to attend kindergarten classes.
- Care International provided Conditional Cash Assistance (CCA) to 1,862 children (52% female) who are out-of-school or at risk of dropping out. Through CCA, children are supported to re-enrol in formal or non-formal education and receive remedial support.



FOOD SECURITY

- WFP has been delivering its monthly cash assistance to 466,073 individuals in camps and host communities. In camps, special in-kind assistance is provided to refugees in special areas and under COVID-19 quarantine.
- WFP completed the annual validation process which ended on December 31st, 2021.
- In line with the Government's decisions to encourage the vaccination rate in Jordan and given WFP's responsibility to enhance vaccination for refugees (Defense Order 35), WFP sent SMSs to its beneficiaries and posted messages on Facebook encouraging them to get fully vaccinated which they need to access public, private and UN premises.
- Appeal results related to the end of a special assistance grant for households affected by COVID-19 pandemic were communicated by WFP to beneficiaries.
- The Food Security Monitoring activities are completed, results being presented at the upcoming Food Security Working Group meeting and other relevant fora.



HEALTH

- The Institute of Family Health (IFH) sexual and reproductive health clinics in Sweileh, East Amman, Zarqa, Madaba, Deiralla, and Al-Karak engaged in conduct of 13 awareness sessions aiming to strengthen the relations of the refugees and the local communities. The sessions targeted 186 WGMB, 85% were Syrians, and 15% were Jordanians included such subjects as: antenatal care, postnatal care, high-risk pregnancies, STI, maternal nutrition to prevent anaemia, reproductive cancers, and post-abortion and preventive precautions against COVID-19.

Za'atari camp:

- COVID-19 treatment Centre has been completed and on a standby to be activated if the MOH COVID-19 field hospitals are full and unable to accommodate more cases. This Centre is dedicated to the treatment of moderate COVID-19 cases.
- The capacity of the COVID-19 treatment Centre is to provide inpatient medical services for 6 suspected COVID-19 cases and 48 COVID-19 cases.
- The epidemiological situation in the camp: 199 positive cases and 4 mortalities during the month of December. The positivity rate has decreased since week 48.

- UNFPA Jordan supported its implementing partner JHAS to enhance the Clinical Data Management (CDM) capabilities by introducing an electronic medical file card to the clients, which intends to improve the quality of the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and promotes knowledge of the services provided at the SRH clinics.

Azraq camp:

- The community mobilization to target the 12-17 age group in the COVID-19 vaccination campaign is continuing.
- December has witnessed a significant increase in positive COVID-19 cases. The total of confirmed was 133 cases, which is doubled compared to 56 cases reported the previous month in Azraq camp.
- EMPHNET has suspended its engagement in providing support in COVID-19 surveillance. Due to funding constraints, contact tracing and case investigation in Azraq and Za’atari since December 26th, 2021, has been suspended.



LIVELIHOODS

- According to MoPIC, 62,195 work permits were issued to the Syrians in 2021. This has become the highest issuance in a single year since the work permits have been introduced to the Syrian refugees in 2016. In 2021, issuance of flexible permits allowing refugees to move between similar jobs in the same sector as well as among employers and Governorates reached 31,025.

Beneficiaries	Total work permits issued		Percentage (%)	
	Jan’ 2016 – Dec’ 2021	in 2021	Jan’ 2016- Dec’ 2021	in 2021
Male	261,408	56,693	94.07	91.15
Female	16,465	5,502	5.93	8.85
Total	277,873	62,195	100	100

- Refugee women’s participation in the labour markets is slowly progressing, which calls for activating the interaction between partners and employer organizations to accelerate the progress. The sector sees a need to develop a participatory road map with the stakeholders including government actors and private sector to include various sectors appealing for women.
- The Home-Based Businesses (HBB) Taskforce hosted a consultant and technical expert from Mashreq Gender Facility (GMF) to support the discussion on HBBs challenges faced and the regulations’ complexity and inconsistency through the study conducted earlier by GMF and the JNCW (the Jordanian National Commission for Women). The discussion included key results from the study that focused on developing systems for operating Home-Based Businesses, the need to reduce organizational burdens, and key recommendations and plans.
- The Cash for Work (CFW) Coordination group met on December to provide latest developments regarding CFW coordination and CFW work permits.
- An updated version of the IBV SOPs for Za’atari camp was shared with the BNLWG members, the SOPs are effective from the 1st of January 2022.
- The graduation component of the Resilient Youth, Socially and Economically (RYSE) project being implemented by a consortium comprised of Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Jordan River Foundation (JRF), and Mercy Corps (MC), and leading the Graduation Approach Coordination & Advocacy Taskforce in Jordan, is signing a Data Sharing Agreement with UNHCR. The objectives of the Agreement are to facilitate sharing of personal data of persons of concern with the Partner to support the Partner’s cash assistance, Home-Based Business Grant and Self-Employment Grant and protection programmes; in addition to ensure de-duplication of assistance and services. This Agreement applies to personal data of a list of 500 Syrian households across Jordan identified by UNHCR based on the eligibility criteria determined by the Parties until the Partner reaches its target of 500 Syrian households for the RYSE.

- Different announcements were shared with refugees informing them about new livelihoods projects for 2022 introduced by different partners such as EFE-Jordan, LTUC and Turquoise Mountain.



PROTECTION

- On 2 December during the ‘**16 Days of Activism Against GBV**’ campaign, the dedicated taskforce of the GBV SWG consisting of 23 organizations arranged a [joint event](#) under the sub-national theme ‘Controlling Behaviours: Limiting My Choices and My Power’ which was conducted simultaneously in Amman, Mafraq, Irbid, in Za’atari and Azraq camps. The joint event included an opening which was [streamed online](#) from Za’atari camp under the patronage of the Swedish Ambassador in Jordan. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, around 150 participants including women and girls from different communities and service providers attended the event in different locations.

The joint event included a [video screening activity](#) where videos developed by 16 women and girls on forms of controlling behaviours as an outcome from the storytelling workshops provided for those women and girls were presented and also discussed in all the locations. The joint event included other activities that were mostly led by community members including theatre plays, learning sessions, videos, bazaar and more.

In addition to the joint event, the taskforce developed [16 key messages](#) in consultation with more than 250 women, men, girls and boys including persons with disabilities of different nationalities from both host communities and refugee camps. The taskforce collected more than 300 activities organized by 28 organizations in one [joint activity calendar](#).

- Aligned with the ‘Whole Society Inclusion’, ‘Leaving No One Behind’, ‘One Refugee Approach’, Protection Working Group (PWG) launched consultations on non-Syrians in Jordan aiming to develop recommendations to ensure a comprehensive approach to all refugees in the country. The PWG has been mapping services of 35 partners who provide services to non-Syrians, including case management, cash assistance, MHPSS, engagement with communities, training and capacity building, awareness-raising, legal aid and assistance, counselling, and medical assistance. 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. Additionally, the PWG will develop a task force on community mobilization and participatory approaches and hold capacity-building actions on disability inclusion, protection of LGBTI refugees and safe referrals.
- The CP SWG Co-chairs conducted a follow-up coordination meeting with two of the organizations who received the JHF CP allocation for 2021, to ensure no duplication of the projects which are implemented in the adjacent locations. The review of the project details, implementing CBOs and locations confirmed no overlap.
- The CP SWG is working on preparation of the Gap Analysis, which is planned to be conducted in January 2022.



SHELTER

Za’atari camp:

- UNHCR through its partner constructed a new COVID-19 treatment Centre in a location of a former Moroccan Field hospital. The construction was completed in mid-December and consists of three zones: a staff area, a suspected cases area and a confirmed cases area for effective isolation. General maintenance works were conducted in the related utilities such as water piping network, WASH services, completion of a protective fence.

Azraq camp:

- UNHCR through the appointed vendor conducted inspection and treatment of rodents and vectors in the public area, quarantine zone and COVID-19 treatment area using selected pesticides for control and protection against rodents, pests, and vectors such as insects, spiders, scorpions, and snakes.



- In December, UNICEF continued the provision of WASH services to all 122,789 refugees in three camps (Za'atari, Azraq and King Abdullah Park).

Za'atari camp:

- A camp-wide distribution finished on 9 December as UNICEF provided 148,386 soap bars and 8,321 small hygiene kits to all camp residents. Also, 957 family hygiene kits and 957 hand sanitizers were distributed to families with 5+ and 9+ family members respectively. Additionally, 197 soap bars and 40 cleaning kits were distributed to 40 families in the transit area reaching 197 individuals. Distributions for self-isolated families were resumed in December, and 39 cleaning kits, 39 hygiene kits and 169 soap bars reached 80 households in self-isolation.
- The water demand in December decreased further as UNICEF maintained an aggregate supply of clean and safe water of around 3,350 m3 per day, while external water trucking provided about 5,000 m3 of water for the month, representing about a quarter of the total supply.

Azraq camp:

- A total of 131 cleaning kits, 79 hand sanitizers, 79 hygiene kits and 183 jerry cans were distributed among 537 beneficiaries, including 344 children, to reach the most vulnerable families. In December, UNICEF's partners in the camp continued disseminating messages in relation to COVID-19 through 763 active Lead Mothers, 65 community and plot representatives and 130 Youth community representatives. In total, 713 active participants were reached during the month.
- In addition, UNICEF launched process to conduct feasibility studies for the installation of a new borehole in Azraq camp. Also, a pilot project for extension of the water network to the plot level began in December'21 and should be finalized by the end of January'22.

King Abdullah Park (KAP):

- In KAP, a camp-wide distribution took place in the month of December, providing 79 family hygiene kits and 130 small hygiene kits to 596 beneficiaries, including 334 children.

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>