



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

In Za'atari Camp, the number of active positive Corona cases among refugees as of 14 December stands at 262. In total, there have been 754 confirmed cases, of which 490 recovered and were discharged. In total, Za'atari counted 2 fatalities as a result of COVID-19 among refugee camp residents. A total of 12,501 PCR tests have been conducted in Za'atari.

In Azraq Camp, the total number of confirmed Corona cases as of 14 December amounts to 558; 9 of them remain currently active, while 548 completed their isolation at the Dead Sea Isolation Area, Al-Hamza Hospital, Public Area, home-based Isolation or were discharged. One death in relation to COVID-19 was reported for Azraq. A total of 14,443 PCR tests have been conducted as of 14 December.

In Emirates Jordanian Camp (EJC), out of a total of 206 Corona cases identified as of 14 December, the number of active positive cases amounts to 93, while 113 cases have completed their quarantine or treatment. A total of 3,470 PCR tests were conducted as of 14 December.

In King Abdallah Park (KAP) Camp, the number of active positive cases among refugees as of 14 December stands at 01. In total, there have been 22 confirmed cases, of which 21 cases have recovered or were discharged. A total of 514 PCR tests were conducted in KAP.

The Sector Gender Focal Points Network conducted a capacity-building workshop on Gender and Intersectionality in the Humanitarian Response which shared policy and practice developments in the field of gender and intersectionality internationally.

All sectors completed their JRP 2021-2023 review updating all Project Summary Sheets, which were shared with donors, who completed their review. The JRP 2021-2023 will shortly be shared with Cabinet for endorsement.

II. Sector Update



HEALTH

Activities:

- Ministry of Health (MoH) identified 30 public hospitals and 30 primary health care centers to serve as COVID-19 vaccination centers. In addition, two vaccination centers for the camp populations have been identified in Za'atari and in Azraq Camps. Refugees are included in the target population to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as per MoH/WHO defined criteria.
- MoH agreed to deploy qualified refugee health workers in field hospitals to support the COVID-19 health response. Bilateral discussions are still ongoing between MoH and UNHCR on the recruitment modality for refugee medical staff.
- The COVID-19 treatment center is now fully operational in Azraq Camp, with a capacity of 50 beds. MoH has approved the treatment center to receive COVID-19 positive cases.
- On 6 December, EMPHNET started working in Mafraq Camp to support the MoH team in swabs taking and contact tracing.



BASIC NEEDS

Activities:

- Since the start of the implementation of COVID-19 emergency cash assistance, UNHCR and partners have assisted 51,093 unique cases (89% Syrian and 11% Non-Syrian). In December, 22,339 cases (97% Syrian and 3% Non-Syrian) have been booked to be assisted. COVID-19 emergency assistance is provided for 3 months; as of 12 December, 59% of all eligible cases have received assistance for 3 months, 32% have received assistance for 2 months, 7% have only received assistance for one month, and 2% cases have not received COVID-19 assistance at all. Please see the [link](#) to COVID-19 basic needs assistance dashboard.
- In addition to COVID-19 assistance and the regular monthly basic needs cash assistance covering 33,000 cases (30,000 Syrian and 3,000 Non-Syrian families), UNHCR and partners have started to release winterization assistance. Out of the total eligible population of 93,329 cases (83% Syrian and 17% Non-Syrian) a total of 46,681 (68% Syrian cases and 32% Non-Syrian) cases have already received the assistance to cover the additional needs during winter months. Monthly Basic Needs and COVID-19 Emergency Assistance beneficiaries are eligible to receive the one-off winter assistance. See the link to [Winter dashboard](#).

Challenges:

- The economy in Jordan continues to struggle due to COVID-19 as little income generating activities exist, especially the service industry which normally provided economic opportunities to refugee population. There is need to continue the provision of COVID-19 emergency cash assistance to the vulnerable population beyond 2020. Continued and enough funds to cover these enhanced requirements for cash support remains a challenge.
- The fund available for winterization currently covers only 50% of the target population with only 51,000 cases booked. There is continued need to advocate for additional funds to meet urgent winter needs of the population.



FOOD SECURITY

Activities:

- WFP continues to provide food parcels and bread to the households which are in quarantine due to COVID-19 in Azraq, Za'atari and KAP Camps. COVID-19 confirmed cases have been either quarantined 14 days in their shelters or at the designated areas.
- In Azraq and Za'atari Camps, the Incentive Based Volunteers (IBVs) are assisting persons with disabilities and elderly at WFP supermarkets. To enhance the disability inclusion initiative, WFP has completed site exercises increasing awareness among beneficiaries and has further improved inclusiveness of services for refugees.
- WFP's mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) project remotely monitors household food security, nutrition and food market-related trends. Recent mVAM found that 21% of households show an insufficient food consumption compared to only 14% in 2018. Female-headed households, small households (1-3 members) and households with persons with disabilities have disproportionately poor food consumption. There is an increase in the adoption of harmful livelihood coping strategies since the onset of COVID-19. 28% of households resort to at least one emergency livelihood coping strategy to meet their essential needs while only 21% in 2018. All findings can be accessed through the mVAM dashboard [here](#):



Activities:

- Prior to COVID-19 (January and February 2020), only two eviction related referrals were received by UNHCR. Since the lockdown, the number of cases has risen steadily, reaching a current annual total of 250 eviction-related case referrals (71% Syrian, 29% non-Syrian). For all these cases, UNHCR and legal partner ARDD/Legal Aid have successfully negotiated payment plan extensions with respective landlords or arranged for emergency assistance to the affected refugees and asylum seekers. The lack of income generating opportunities available to refugees and asylum seekers continues to diminish their abilities to meet rent obligations.
- MoSD updated the PWG on directions taken regarding the Social Protection Strategy. MoSD established three task forces in alignment with the strategy's pillars for its implementation. The first focuses on opportunities for families to be economically self-sufficient based on decent working conditions and social security; the second pillar focuses on empowerment of the population through education, health care, and social service; the third on targeted social assistance that allows the poor to maintain a basic level of consumption and dignity. In addition, a shock responsive pillar was set up to respond to COVID-19. The Council of Ministers approved an action plan outlining specific activities and measures for the overall implementation of the strategy. Also, a Committee was newly established to focus on Syrian refugees matters and already resumed activities.
- On the occasion of 16 days of Activism against SGBV, the SGBV Sub-Working Group (SWG) produced a joint video to raise awareness on forms of domestic violence and ways to prevent it. Humanitarian workers and service providers from different organizations contributed to this collective effort to spread messages through various artistical ways. The video was disseminated in field locations and on the UN social media page in occasion of the orange hour. The video is accessible on [UNFPA's YouTube channel here](#). The SGBV WG at national and field level closed the celebration of the campaign on 10 December and is preparing a final report summarizing main achievements and reach.
- On 8 December, in coordination with the United Nations Communication Group (UNCG), the SGBV Sub-WG conducted an online "UN Talk on Domestic Violence". Key actors from the government, members of the international community and civil society organizations discussed the joint efforts by the UNs and national and international community in combating domestic violence.
- The GBV working groups in different field locations marked the 16 days of Activism against SGBV. In Mafraq, organizations conducted 43 activities in the communities; in collaboration with JOHUD radio station a talk about domestic violence disseminated key messages. In Irbid, the organizations reported over 14 activities, and SGBV group organized a joint webinar with GBV practitioners highlighting challenges for domestic violence survivors and possible solutions. In Azraq and Za'atari Camps activities were organized in all villages and districts throughout the 16 days. The SGBV Sub-WG organized online webinars for humanitarian workers and disseminated key common messages to communities.
- CP and GBV Sub-WGs are preparing for a joint session on 'early marriage' in collaboration with NCFA. The session will highlight the efforts of national actors as well as cross-sectorial linkages.
- The CPIMS and PIMS taskforces are in the process of finalizing a child-labour assessment tool to be included in the CPIMS/CPIMS+. The tool assists in collection and collation of information, which will be used to analyse child labour concerns being recorded by case management agencies and to identify possible trends.
- A Guidance Note on separation of children in camps due to COVID-19 is under preparation in collaboration between UNICEF, UNHCR and IOM. The note aims at addressing possible situations of separation for families affected by COVID-19 and possible temporary alternative care arrangements and paths.
- All MHPSS services are available at primary care level and medication is provided by INGOs for two/ three months. Referral Hub refers to the National Centre for Mental Health based on needs. MHPSS support lines, which were established across Jordan in March at the onset of the lockdown, are still active and operate as emergency support line targeted at victims of self-harm and harm-for-others situations.



Activities:

- UNICEF continues supplying all 112,855 refugees in Azraq, King Abdullah Park (KAP) and Za'atari Camps with an uninterrupted supply of clean water. The quantities being supplied remain at under 4 million liters per day (at times, below 3 million liters per day) in Za'atari Camp and under 2,000,000 liters per day in Azraq Camp, with all water being supplied through internal boreholes and a minimal amount through trucking. This is a result of lower water demand due to lower winter temperatures.
- Due to the higher prevalence of rainy days, UNICEF and partners have decided to stop disinfection of all vehicles entering KAP and Za'atari Camps as of 30 November.
- Over the past two weeks, UNICEF in coordination with UNHCR and NRC and in support of families in self-isolation in their shelters or in public areas in Azraq, KAP and Za'atari Camps, has distributed the following items: 101 cleaning kits and 30 jerry cans to 525 individuals in Azraq (49% female); 4 cleaning kits and 13 soap bars to 13 individuals in KAP (38% female); and 296 cleaning kits, 113 bottles of hand sanitizer, 107 hygiene kits, 700 soap bars and 82 sprayers and bleach to 1,005 individuals in Za'atari (50% female).
- In Azraq Camp, UNICEF completed the expansions of the public (transit) area and the IMC COVID-19 treatment facility. Overall, UNICEF supported with the installation of 105 WASH units across the two areas, enabling equitable and uninterrupted access to clean water and sanitation services for all children and their families passing through these areas.
- In KAP Camp, one additional private latrine was installed, bringing the total amount of private latrines in the isolation area up to 110, ensuring that all vulnerable children and their families passing through this area have access to adequate sanitation services.
- Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) continued in cooperation with ACF, ACTED, and OXFAM, with approved messaging disseminated to over 142 WhatsApp groups to 4,719 individuals (45% female) living in Camps and in host communities. The messaging has focused on water conservation and information regarding COVID-19 awareness and prevention, as well as general updates regarding water pumping schedules in Azraq Camp.
- Over the past three weeks, ACTED has distributed 369 bottles of hand sanitizer, 369 PPEs and 369 WASH kits (composed of consumable and non-consumable WASH NFIs) to 1,753 children and their families living in informal tented settlements and vulnerable communities (52% female).



Activities:

- As part of the ESP Partnership and Coordination Structure, The Ministry of Education (MOE) organized its first Policy and Planning Coordination Committee (PPCC) on 14 December with partners of the education sector. It mainly focused on tracking and coordinating the progress on the five core functions of the ESP (Planning and Budgeting; Monitoring and Feedback; Research and Evaluation; Data and Information Management; Coordination) with Gender Equity and Equality as cross-cutting issues.
- The MOE, with technical support from UNESCO and its International Institute for Education Planning (IIEP), has been working in preparation for the ESP Mid-Term Review. As part of the process, UNESCO and IIEP have supported the MOE to plan a preliminary COVID-19 impact study to analyse the impact of COVID-19 on education provision, understand major challenges, document good practices in ensuring continued learning and identify potential gaps. As a first step, a data mapping exercise has been conducted with inputs from partners, including from the Education Sector Working group (ESWG) and the Education Development Partners Group (EDPG). The progress was reported in the MOE-PPCC meeting.

- Support to Early Childhood Education continues during school closures, reaching 4,115 Jordanian and Syrian girls and boys in camps and host communities. Various organizations including World Vision, Save the Children, Vento di Terra, and Jordan Hashemite Fund, Vento di Terra, Seenaryo, and War Child have used technology (mainly WhatsApp and SMS) to reach caregivers with educational material for their children.
- UNICEF has distributed 148 family activity kits in Za'atari Camp and 95 in Azraq Camp (719 children reached in Za'atari, but no individual figure available for Azraq) during the reporting period.
- UNICEF has supported 3,206 students (45% female) to benefit from NFE programme. Among them, 97 (42% female) beneficiaries graduated from the programme and 82 students (41% female) moved from Cycle 1 to 2 and from Cycle 2 to 3.
- UNESCO has been supporting the MOE to finalise the SDG4 National Review Report. Through a series of working sessions, technical support was provided to the MOE to improve the calculations of SDG4 targets and indicators in the report, and to improve the presentation of the data for better visualization and utilization.
- Under cash for education, UNHCR continues to support non-Syrians' access to school in commitment to the One Refugee Approach. 270 non-Syrian students were supported with provision of school kits and fees, transportation fees as well as virtual remedial classes.
- UNHCR established Connected Learning Hubs at 3 Juvenile centres and 4 multi-purposes rooms in MOE public schools. Kolibri digital online/offline platform was introduced to MOSD Juvenile centres staffs and 55 MOE teachers on utilising the platform. The aim of the TOTs was to build the capacity of MOE and MOSD educational staff and their educational learning support programmes to facilitate distant learning via Kolibri platform.
- Under UNHCR's complementary pathways initiative, refugee students who are supported with the country scholarship to Japan and to Mexico, arrived safely to their destinations. All 19 participants for the first batch of programme in Japan successfully graduated and obtained Masters degrees from graduate schools in Japan. Currently, other students being supported with the scholarships are at the graduate schools in Japan, and JICA has started new recruitment for the next batch for the scholarship scheme.
- British Council and QRTA have signed an operational alliance agreement for collaboration on a national-level research project, addressing the current policy and practice of teaching and learning in English. This is designed to increase learning opportunities for young people in Jordan. The research is also envisaged to develop appropriate recommendations for English education system reform. British Council and QRTA is forming a steering committee to launch the research, evaluate the results, and develop an implementation plan based on the results of the research.
- British Council has completed a needs assessment on early career academics in higher education institutions in Jordan and the challenges, opportunities and needs of academics to respond to the current and future teaching and learning needs of academics. This survey will inform the design of a capacity building programme for early career academics that aligns with the MOHE Policy Paper on online HE in Jordan.



LIVELIHOODS

Activities:

- Partner interest in Graduation Out of Poverty projects continues and coordination amongst relevant partners is focused on ensuring a common understanding and, where possible, harmonisation of approaches.
- The Vocational Training (VT) taskforce has reviewed the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) pandemic response guidelines and have agreed to undertake a service mapping exercise to reduce duplication and increase harmonization of efforts.

- The ILO and the Centre for the Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries (CBI), funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, held a virtual seminar “Changes ahead in labour regulations for Jordanian businesses sourcing and selling agro-products”. The seminar brought together representatives of agro-businesses, agro-sector associations and key stakeholders. It focused on the areas which are key to improving productivity, exports and decent work in the country’s agricultural sector.
- As of 10 December, BluMont has registered eight Home Based Businesses for Syrian refugees and 71 for Jordanians in Amman, Irbid, Zarqa, and Mafraq governorates, out of which 2 Syrian and 30 Jordanian Home Based Businesses were licensed. Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation (JEDCO) started to link the established businesses with its online platform, and some participants started the technical training with Souq Fann.
- On 3 December, in occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the Livelihoods Sector partners attended the Humanity & Inclusion online workshop “Improving Disability Inclusion through Good Practices”.

Challenges:

- Work permits processing has been predominantly focused on renewals and Cash for Work (C4W) permits, while number of newly issued work permits is minimal.
- Home Based Businesses are facing delays in registration and in obtaining licenses.
- Mobile money, aiming to strengthen labour markets and improve investment climate and to support investment promotion need to be accompanied by real efforts to raise financial awareness and literacy in order to scale up. During COVID-19, products and methodologies have been finetuned, however efforts are still on a learning curve and the formal financial inclusion of refugees is very low. Progress can be made through effective e-money awareness and literacy campaigns and trainings that would assist refugees (especially the younger populations) become familiar with such tools.



Activities:

- In Azraq Camp, UNHCR and NRC have completed construction of private latrines units at the public quarantine area. UNICEF completed installation of water supply networks for each shelter.
- In Azraq Camp, repair and maintenance of vacant and occupied shelters is ongoing through the “Quick Fix” Team. Over 13 shelters have been fixed during 1 - 13 December.
- The shelter repair project has been completed for 1,100 shelters in Za’atari Camp, where beneficiary families were selected based on a vulnerability assessment for persons with specific needs and with no income.
- As a part of a COVID-19 response project aimed at high-risk population, 40 (3x3) rooms have been distributed to vulnerable families in Za’atari Camp to mitigate exposure risks. The project targets 400 families in 2020 and foresees to provide additional 200 (3x6) shelter units in 2021.

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>