



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 total, 63 COVID-19 cases were confirmed in Azraq camp (by 08 October), of which 12 cases have completed their quarantine and treatment and were released from the Dead Sea Isolation Area and Al-Hamza Hospital. Four active COVID-19 cases (a cancer patient with her three children) remain at Al-Hamza Hospital, Amman, while 47 active COVID-19 cases stay in the Public Quarantine Area in Azraq camp.

In Za'atari Camp, the confirmed positive COVID-19 cases amount to five (by 08 October), one of which has already recovered and returned from the Dead Sea back to the Camp. Among the three active cases is a seven-year-old child staying at the transit/ isolation area (jointly with mother and other family members.) The three active cases also include a 75-year-old kidney dialysis patient.

No COVID-19 cases have yet been identified in King Abdullah Park (KAP).

As of 8 October, no COVID-19 positive cases were reported in EJC, where very strict measures to prevent unnecessary movement are implemented and PPEs have been distributed to all refugee residents. Nevertheless, one teacher reported symptoms and has been tested, alongside 6 colleagues. Also, a general practitioner who worked in EJC last week tested positive and all medical staff in contact with him have undergone PCR tests as part of contact tracing.

As of 4 October 2020, a total of 5,304 PCR swabs were collected in Azraq Camp and a total of 5,260 PCR swabs were collected in Za'atari Camp. amounts to 5,260. Both Camp's established protocols were followed, and contact tracing was undertaken for all cases.

The Business Continuity Plan (BCP) for urban refugee response was updated considering recent developments and community transmission scenario to ensure continued safe access of urban refugees to essential package of health services.

## II. Sector Update



### HEALTH

#### Key Activities:

- In response to the gap left due to sudden suspension of the Moroccan Hospital's services, the IMC emergency department's expansion plan is being implemented. This will increase the capacity of the department to 14 beds, including CPR room and trauma room with additional two ambulances to support medical evacuation capacities.
- In preparation for a community transmission scenario in both Camps, the community health network was strengthened with an additional 35 Community Health Workers (CHW) recruited in Azraq Camp, and ongoing capacity building for 152 CHW to optimize risk communication and community engagement.
- With ongoing expansion of the Azraq treatment centre and in line with the preparedness plan for operating the site, the newly recruited clinical staff (14 individuals) underwent training organized by MOH on IPC, case management and treatment protocols.

- In Azraq Camp, UNHCR coordinated a training on PCR sampling for newly recruited staff by IMC Health partner. 13 additional staff were trained, hence the total of trained Staff by MoH amounts now to 52.
- The Za'atari transit/isolation site has a capacity of 280 persons. The site is continuously supported by 2 nurses and a receptionist. Azraq camp currently counts on 51 shelters in the Public/ Isolation area; in order to enhance its capacity, construction of additional 50 shelters started on 4 October.
- In King Abdullah Park (KAP), the quarantine area has been activated based on Ramtha Department of Health (DoH), until active surveillance system is put in place. KAP residents returning to the camp are placed in isolation and tested. Medical screening at the camp main gate continues with, an average of 54 persons per day due to resumption of schools and daily commuting by students.
- MSF in Za'atari Camp received MoH approval letter to start functioning for COVID-19 cases with asymptomatic and mild symptoms, while the Ministry's feedback for treatment of moderate cases is not yet finalized.
- JHAS HQ agreed to JHAS Clinic doctors to collect Nasopharyngeal swabs after training has been provided by Ramtha DoH; the protocol is yet to be established once training is completed. PCRf has signed a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with JHAS HQ to support KAP clinic with two general practitioners to provide health care services inside the camp 24/7 for 6 months starting on 20 September 2020.



## **BASIC NEEDS**

### **Key Activities:**

- During the period 20 September to 03 October a total of 2,033 cases have been assisted under COVID-19 emergency response by the five partner organizations Care, DRC, JHCO, WRG and ICMC. Details are available on the [COVID-19 Emergency Cash Coordination Dashboard](#).

### **Challenges:**

- Funding remains a challenge to provide COVID cash assistance for a duration of 3 months, and most cases have to date only one single time the monthly COVID cash assistance; fewer cases obtained the assistance over two months and even less three times.



## **FOOD SECURITY**

### **Key Activities:**

- As part of the COVID-19 emergency response, WFP has included additional 5,527 refugee cases (15,346 individuals) for food assistance and will be expanding assistance to additional 2,924 vulnerable cases.
- WFP continues to provide in-kind food assistance to the households which are quarantine due to COVID-19 in Azraq & Za'atari Camps.
- Results of the Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) collected from Syrian refugees in camps during 31 August - 9 September has demonstrated increased pressure on food security. Key findings are:
  - 19% of households showing an insufficient food consumption score, as compared to 5% one year ago.
  - There is a high adoption of coping strategies: 12% adopt emergency coping strategies compared to 4% one year ago.
  - On average, households have contracted 100 JOD of debt more than one year ago, mostly to cover food needs.

**Key Activities:**

- Members of the SGBV Working Group have continued to provide GBV response services to support survivors of violence in different locations across the Kingdom, both online through phone counselling, and in person, with a few disruptions of services due to increased COVID-19 risks. In Za'atari Camp, in-person case management is offered only through an appointment system to minimize social contact. In Azraq Camp, in-person services were interrupted for 2 weeks due to the increasing number of cases in the camp. Group activities are suspended in the Camps, but they remain active in urban sites at 30% capacity, respecting sanitizing measures and social distancing; this includes PSS support groups, empowerment and recreational activities and awareness raising sessions.
- The SGBV WG distributed [1,500 posters to publicize and disseminate the Amaali phone application for safe referrals](#) in six different locations including Za'atari and Azraq Camps, Mafraq, Irbid, Amman, Karak.
- The Community Based Complaint Referral Mechanism (CBCRM) was signed by the UNDP Representative (on behalf of the Resident Coordinator) and the UNHCR Representative in July 2020, which will mobilize the implementation of the prevention component of the PSEA strategy (training, awareness raising and reporting, and risk assessment and mitigation). In parallel, the measures set in place for provision of survivor assistance will incorporate the health and psychosocial counselling component, as well as legal advice and support to the survivor. PSEA network will work on streamlining of PSEA considerations into all planning and implementation of projects of all sectors, providing services to persons of concern with a special focus also on measures which can be implemented in the different phases of the Corona crisis.
- The Protection Sector has focused on supporting Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and national partners to strengthen their protection capacities: increase services for non-Syrians refugees and Jordanians in the South; continue protection services include case management, psychosocial support, legal support, emergency cash assistance, awareness raising sessions, hygiene kits distribution, family and women empowerment and training to service providers; development of a platform for online and offline occupational therapy material to provide support to caregivers for children, elderly and persons with special needs and/or disability; provide legal aid to all refugees and vulnerable with a focus on ensuring that documents are obtained in due time and without discrimination nor illegitimate fines.

**Challenges:**

- An increasing number of positive COVID-19 cases in Government institutions are posing challenges to the Government's capacity to respond to cases of domestic violence and other forms of GBV. UNFPA, UNHCR and UNICEF are supporting the Family Violence Protection Team to review the system and coordinate a response to ease the burden of the response from Government institutions ensuring safety of service provision and continuity of services for GBV survivors.
- Women, elderly, adolescents, youth and children, persons with disabilities and minorities are at risk of social exclusion, discrimination and socio-economic marginalization, especially due to debts, overdue rents, lack of available job opportunities and general increases in costs of living. This has led to an increase in domestic violence, risks of harassment, negative coping strategies, as well as child labour and child marriage. The disruption in existing social services e.g. safe shelters, lack of services for non-Syrian refugees and limited access and transportation opportunities for women to access safe shelters has exacerbated the situation. There is a continued lack of mental health workers and qualified professionals with proper health training (Currently there are 2 Psychiatrists per 100,000 citizens; 0.04 nurses per 100,000 citizens only).



### Key Activities:

- In Azraq, KAP and Za’atari Camps, UNICEF has continued supplying water through internal and external sources, continuing to supply over 60 litres per person per day, meeting the daily water needs of over 113,000 refugees. Over the past two weeks, water demand in Za’atari Camp has risen significantly and UNICEF has addressed this challenge by increasing the monitoring of water being supplied in the field during the pumping hours, as well as and covering the extra consumption quantity through external sources.
- UNICEF, in coordination with partners, has also continued the disinfection of all vehicles entering Azraq, KAP and Za’atari camps. Over the past two weeks over 5,000 vehicles have been disinfected.
- In response to the positive COVID-19 cases which have been identified in Azraq and Za’atari Camps, UNICEF has been supporting both families under self-isolation in their shelters, as well as those in the transit area, with hygiene critical hygiene and sanitation supplies, including additional quantities of water as needed. Over the past two weeks, UNICEF and UNHCR distributed 117 cleaning kits, 4 hand sanitizers, 13 hygiene kits and 15 soap bars to approximately 120 individuals in KAP Camp (B: 36; G: 32; M: 26; W: 26). In addition, UNICEF, in coordination with NRC, distributed 167 cleaning kits, 17 hygiene kits (received from IMDAD) and 13 jerry cans to approximately 716 individuals in Azraq Camp (B: 222; G: 209; M: 139; W: 146). Finally, UNICEF also distributed 4 cleaning kits and 10 soap bars to 4 individuals in Za’atari Camp (B: 1; M: 2; W:1).
- Further in response to the positive COVID-19 cases identified in Azraq Camp, UNICEF has installed 2m3 water tanks, including steel stands, at 21 shelters for families under self-isolation. The main purpose of this is to ensure that the families receive water to meet their daily demands, as well as to protect the other plot residents against possible infection. UNICEF has launched a bid for expansion of the treatment and isolation facilities in Azraq Camp; The bid closes on the 6th of October 2020.
- UNICEF and Sector Partners finalized emergency response plans for both camps, thereby ensuring that business continuity protocols are in place ensuring that COVID-19-response activities as well as critical WASH-services are able to continue.
- During the past month, the following partner organizations distributed the following items in Informal Tented Settlements (ITS):
  - Future Pioneers distributed 565 plastic bags, 1,508 bottles of hand sanitizer, 1,508 gloves and 13,432 face masks to 6,823 individuals (B: 1,888; G: 1,831; M: 1,488; W: 1,616);
  - The Islamic Centre Charity Society distributed 650 hygiene kits to 2,894 individuals living (B: 1,273; G: 669; M: 645; W: 307);
  - The ILO distributed 21 soap bars and 137 hygiene kits to 649 (B: 209; G: 163; M: 136; W: 151);
  - Mateen distributed 4,920 soap bars and 1,691 hygiene kits to 7,992 individuals (B: 2,263; G: 2,185; M: 1,730; W: 1,814);
  - Terre des Hommes distributed 153 hygiene kits were distributed to 694 (B: 200; G: 180; M: 143; W: 171).



### Key Activities:

- The Government of Jordan announced the continued partial school closures until 16 October: schools for children in Grade 4-11 are closed and attendance for KG2, Grade 1-3 and 12 are optional.
- In Azraq Camp, some students were exposed to COVID-19 and 7 schools are working remotely, while 8 schools are working normally; books were distributed to all students in the Camp.
- Various organizations including Save the Children, Noor Al Hussein Foundation, and WVI continue supporting children’s well-being by integrating remote life skills support and PSS activities into the online

education modalities that they support. Some activities also include caregivers to enable them to better support their children at home. A total of 576 households (1,092 girls and boys, and 550 men and women) have been reached across different areas in camps and host communities, including Za'atari camp, Azraq camp, and Irbid.

- From August to 30 September, UNICEF had reached 27,066 (49% female) vulnerable children a part of the Safely Back to School campaign and found 6,427 (44% female) were out of school. Reported reasons for being out of school include rejection from school registration due to documentation, disability, nearest school is full, financial challenges, child labour, child marriage and transportation challenges. UNICEF is working with partners to identify how best to support these children or refer them to existing education and social services. Schools opened under UNICEF supported safe school health protocol on 1 September. However, the longest heatwave recorded in Jordan's weather observation and an increasing number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the country has interrupted in class learning.
- WHO, UNICEF and UNESCO have issued updated guidance for policymakers and educators on running schools as safe as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. The UN guidance examines risk-based approaches to school operations, based on the level and intensity of transmission rates at lower schooling levels; age-appropriate considerations for measures such as physical distancing and masks in schools; and other measures to mitigate against COVID-19 in schools.
- In response to the necessities of face-to-face education for students with intellectual disabilities, the MOE and Higher Committee for Disabilities announced the continuation of face-to-face learning support for special education in resource centres in schools. Students with learning difficulties already have the option to study in school from KG2 to Grade 3, which remain open. In addition, children with learning difficulties from Grade 4 to 6 can continue to go to resource centres if a resource room is available. This is only for those public and private schools that have previously obtained a license from the Ministry to establish resources rooms, considering the health and safety standards. In camps, where schools are closed for 14 days due to a COVID19 case in school, Mercy Corps is able to continue to provide rehabilitative services to children with disabilities, after disinfection and testing of shadow teachers.
- Based on the Higher Education Council at MOHE session, it was decided to postpone the start of studies in public universities and colleges until 11 October 2020, provided that the form of education in the first semester of the academic year 2020/2021 should be hybrid with regular face-to-face and electronic blended education.
- UNHCR launched a call for application to the DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) scholarship programme in August 2020. The application was open to fresh Tawjihi students in 2020. A total of 1,471 applications were received, including 226 from the camps. Applicants received career counselling sessions during the selection process.
- The initiative 'Talents beyond Border' is now accepting applications for labour mobility to Canada, covering the IT and computer science sectors. Interested applicants must fill the [form here](#). Applications will be assessed by Talents beyond Borders, and successful candidates will be contacted directly. This programme does not fall under any of UNHCR's services, but it was directed to DAFI students in case anyone is interested to apply and benefit from it.
- To make the e-learning system succeed in Jordanian universities, in addition to implementation of the royal aspirations achieving partnership between public and private sectors, MOHE launched a national campaign 'Your University is at your Place'. This aims to provide a computer device to every university student to help them to overcome technical difficulties they may face during their studies or submission of final exams.
- For TVET, the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) concluded two workshops for persons with disabilities. VTC discussed future collaboration with the American University in Madaba to enhance efforts and to serve better future for the upcoming generations. The VTC also adopted an electronic payment mechanism for the admission and registration for trainees.



## LIVELIHOODS

### Key Activities:

- Partners were invited to join a virtual information session on the Youth, Technology and Jobs (YTJ) Project, to be implemented via the Ministry of Digital Economy & Entrepreneurship (MoDEE). During the meeting, the project director explained how the project will improve digitally enabled income opportunities for youth and expand digitized government services in Jordan and gave practical insights for potential collaboration with partners. The (YTJ) Project, alongside the EU funded project, "Innovation for Enterprise Growth and Jobs" (in short "Innovate Jordan"), also implemented through the MoDEE, will contribute to local efforts under the five-year reform matrix aiming to create a more competitive economic environment, and strengthen innovation initiatives.
- Fourteen partners have expressed interest to join the Vocational Training taskforce. Terms of Reference and an Action Plan are currently being prepared to guide the taskforce throughout its work.
- Some partners attended a High-Level ILO Webinar on "How employment and decent work can contribute to peace and social cohesion in time of COVID-19 crisis". Speakers included ILO Director General, Guy Ryder and the Minister of Peace from Ethiopia.
- As the risk of contracting COVID-19 continues in country, partners continue to support national efforts to reduce exposure risk by applying health measure and distancing guidelines in their projects, alongside supporting dissemination of prevention information among working refugees through available communication channels.

### Challenges:

- Given the recent spike in cases across governorates, the impact on the socio-economic situation and the loss of livelihoods, for refugees and daily labourers continues to be significant. The short term prognosis for Covid-19 anticipates ongoing disruption to health services and livelihoods and as such requires a quick scale up to both livelihood interventions and existing cash assistance, to not only support an increase in vulnerable households but also to fill existing gaps in social protection programmes which do not support those in informal employment.
- The longer-term impact on the socio-economic status within Jordan, requires review and analysis of evolving contexts to inform advocacy efforts.



## SHELTER

### Key Activities:

- Shelter partners in Za'atari and Azraq camps (UNHCR and NRC) continue to provide urgent shelter support for the designated isolation sites and at the household level. In preparation for winter months, UNHCR and NRC will start the maintenance and cleaning of the storm water networks in both camps.
- The Shelter Sector Working Group has provided inputs for the 2nd standard allocation of the JHF and has recommended to prioritise cash-for-rent, coupled with protection elements especially due to the devastating socio-economic impacts of COVID and the increased risk of evictions.
- In KAP, UNHCR completed a physical verification exercise for all caravans that are used by residents. The exercise verified the caravans' overall conditions in addition to the number of their residents as part of winterization preparations. KAP generator room rehabilitation has also been completed, while electricity maintenance works are ongoing.

## 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>