



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

Some COVID-19 positive refugees seem not to inform partners about their health status fearing that they would not be considered for resettlement, that their financial assistance would discontinue or that they would lose their jobs. Enhanced efforts are undertaken through messaging and other means of communication to properly inform refugees and prevent any misperceptions.

In Za'atari Camp, the number of active positive Corona cases as of 29 December among refugees stands at 90. In total, there have been 868 confirmed cases, of which 774 recovered and were discharged. In total, Za'atari counted four fatalities as a result of COVID-19 among refugee camp residents. A total of 14,189 PCR tests were conducted as of 29 December.

In Azraq Camp, out of a total of 572 positive Corona cases identified as of 29 December, the number of active positive cases amounts to 14, while 557 cases have completed their quarantine and treatment at the Dead Sea Isolation Area, Al-Hamza Hospital, Public Area or home-based Isolation and one refugee died. A total of 15,555 PCR tests were conducted as of 29 December.

In Emirates Jordanian Camp (EJC), the total number of positive Corona cases as of 29 December amounts to 271; 93 of them remain currently active, while 177 completed their isolation or were discharged and one died. A total of 3,718 were conducted as of 29 December.

In King Abdallah Park (KAP), the number of active positive cases stands at three as of 29 December out of a total of 25, while 22 recovered or were discharged. A total of 987 PCR tests were conducted as of 29 December.

## II. Sector Update



### HEALTH

#### Activities:

- The refugee camp populations will have free access to COVID-19 vaccine in line with MoH/WHO criteria. Ministry of Health (MoH) approved the COVID-19 treatment centre in Azraq Camp as vaccination centre. For Za'atari, the MoH Immunisation Department Committee selected the IMC Public Health Center in district 6 as COVID-19 vaccination center.
- For Mafraq governorate, MoH identified the Mafraq Chest Infection and Communicable Diseases Hospital, the King Talal Military Hospital and the Ruwaished Hospital as vaccination centres for COVID-19.
- Minister of Health addressed UNHCR officially to finalize the recruitment procedures for qualified refugee health workers for support in the Corona crisis. MoH agreed to provide them with a temporary medical license.



### BASIC NEEDS

#### Activities:

- Since the beginning of the COVID-19 emergency response, UNHCR and partners assisted 55,404 (49,257 Syrian and 6,147 Non-Syrian) out of 56,258 eligible cases with COVID-19 Emergency Cash Assistance. 77%

- received assistance for three months, 13% for two months and 8% for one month. In December, UNHCR and partners have booked 25,338 cases to be assisted. Please see the COVID-19 [dashboard](#) for more details.
- UNHCR continues to provide regular Monthly Basic Needs cash assistance to 33,000 (30,000 Syrian and 3,000 non-Syrian) most vulnerable families. Since November, UNHCR and partners started their winter cash assistance programme. Out of the total eligible 93,329 families (83% Syrian and 17% Non-Syrian), 55,251 (70% Syrian and 30% Non-Syrian) have already been booked for winter assistance. Monthly Basic Needs and COVID-19 Emergency Cash Assistance beneficiaries are eligible to receive the one-off winter assistance. The winter assistance dashboard can be accessed [here](#).

#### Challenges:

- The economy in Jordan continues to struggle due to COVID-19 resulting in lack of economic opportunities for refugees. This is evidenced by an increase in number of home visit requests, the cornerstone for computation of eligibility for cash assistance. 5,852 families who have either never requested for a home visit or had their last home visit prior to January 2018, have requested to be assessed in the last four months, as they consider themselves highly vulnerable and in need of cash assistance. This demonstrates that continued short term cash assistance under COVID-19 is required to support refugees in 2021 till the economic situation stabilizes.
- Under winter assistance, currently only 59% of eligible cases have been assisted. There is need for additional funding to provide assistance to all eligible refugees for winter especially given the current challenging context.



#### FOOD SECURITY

#### Activities:

- WFP is finalizing preparations for January Cash Assistance to 115,164 Cases (499,914 Individuals) with USD 14 million. Refugees in camps and communities will start receiving assistance on 3 January 2021.
- As part of the COVID-19 emergency response, since June 2020, WFP has included 5,613 Refugees Cases (15,730 individuals) for food assistance and is preparing for further expansion of the COVID-19 response caseload in the coming month.
- WFP continues to provide in-kind food assistance to households in Azraq and Za'atari Camps currently in quarantine due to COVID-19.



#### PROTECTION

#### Activities:

- UNHCR continued remote processing and refugee data updates. It conducted remote registration renewal interviews with 194,662 refugees. Albeit distribution of renewed asylum seekers certificates remains a challenge, the procedure set up in September 2020 to distribute documentation allowed for the delivery of asylum seeker certificates to over 84,000 individuals.
- By 1 January 2021, 400,000 refugees will still be in possession of expired documentation, and as such, the decision of the Government of Jordan to extending their validity until 30 June 2021 is much welcome.
- The lack of income generating opportunities available to refugees and asylum seekers continues to diminish their ability to meet rent obligations. The volume of eviction related case referrals has now reached 263 (186 Syrian and 77 non-Syrian) concluding successfully in payment plan extensions with landlords or delivery of emergency cash assistance.

- SGBV Sub-Working Group (SWG) conducted three days online GBV Safe Referral Training of Trainers targeting 30 participants from different national and international organizations and UN agencies. The training aimed at building the capacity of partners' staff with protection background, to train frontline workers on conducting safe referral for GBV survivors as part of GBV integration in humanitarian actions. Successful participants will be certified to provide training in the future.
- Case management and supervision assessment was conducted targeting GBV case management agencies of the GBVIMS Task Force. 102 participants (79 case managers and 23 supervisors) from national and international organizations, women organizations and UN agencies completed the assessment, which aimed to reveal
  - current challenges and gaps and identify focus areas for coaching and capacity building. Areas of strengths included appliance of survivor centered approach, supervision and interventions with adult GBV survivors,
  - while areas of development will be addressed in the capacity building plan through remote support and support to particular categories at risk e.g. LGBTI, children and survivors of marital rape.
- CPIMS Task Force is expecting to receive its members' feedback on child labor assessment tool and final confirmation to be added to the CPIMS/CPIMS+, aimed to be put in place in January 2021.
- The Eligibility Criteria for Cash-for-Protection (CFP) are under review and being finalized. More clarification is being provided on CFP in addition to the multipurpose cash assistance services.
- In Za'atari Camp, a UNHCR survey among refugees at the isolation site revealed that all respondents understood the purpose of the isolation site to prevent spread of the virus and protect the community, including their responsibility in complying with rules and protecting their family members. 71% confirmed to having been counselled prior to their stay with 80% finding the counselling useful. 71% considered the conditions at the isolation site appropriate; only few complained about the cold in the rub halls, bathrooms being sub-standard, and other refugees not adhering to requests to keep the facilities clean.
- Starting May 2020, mental health service providers have been observing an increase of distress levels driven by COVID-19. MHPSS services are provided in camp and urban settings for refugees and host population by different service providers. They include secondary and tertiary level referrals, online services and limited face-to-face sessions. In coordination with MoH and IMC urgent cases with mental health concerns are attended to.
- Communication with Communities (CwC) remains active. During the past two weeks, UNHCR through JOHUD and NHF provided accommodative equipment to 531 persons with disabilities (250 Syrians, 249 Jordanians, 332 non-Syrians) and 158 older people (30 Jordanians, 125 non-Syrians and three Syrians). NHF organized 13 campaigns for 649 persons with disabilities on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities and the 16 days of activism against GBV. 150 wheelchairs were distributed during the campaign in Amman, Mafraq and Ma'an.



#### Activities:

- Between the 2nd and 10th of December, UNICEF, in coordination with partners, distributed 8,567 hygiene kits to 36,631 individuals in Azraq Camp (49% female). Both family and small hygiene kits were distributed according to family size, ensuring the kits' quantities are able to cover the needs of the beneficiaries over the coming months.
- On 14 December, UNICEF and partners started a blanket distribution of cleaning kits and soap bars in Za'atari Camp. Approximately 15,500 cleaning kits and 76,200 soap bars will be distributed to all 76,200 Camp residents (50% female).

- On 21 December, UNICEF conducted a blanket distribution of 125 cleaning kits and 552 soap bars in KAP Camp, reaching 552 individuals (47% female). This distribution is part of the period distribution of WASH NFIs to individuals in KAP Camp, covering basic hygiene and sanitation needs for one month for all Camp residents.
- Support by UNICEF, in coordination with UNHCR and NRC to families in self-isolation in their shelters or in public areas in Azraq, KAP and Za'atari refugee Camps continued over the past two weeks and reached 380 individuals in Azraq (49% female) and 1,217 in Za'atari (50% female). No additional items were distributed to families in KAP as no new positive cases were identified during the reporting period.
- In Azraq Camp, UNICEF completed all works related to WASH infrastructure in relation to the expansion of the public area. On 16 December, the site was handed over to UNHCR. It will accommodate any new or suspected COVID-19 cases in the Camp.
- In KAP Camp, one additional private latrine was installed, reaching now 111 latrines in the Isolation area to ensure access to adequate sanitation services.



## EDUCATION

### Activities:

- UNICEF and Ministry of Education (MoE) launched the publication of a Jordan country report on out-of-school children in December, accompanied by a technical workshop. Over 120 government officials, donor government, NGO and UN colleagues participated and discussed sector achievements and challenges associated with children who are out of school and at risk of dropping out. The full report and policy briefs are available [here](#).
- UNICEF started distribution of Learning Bridges materials to refugee children in camps to support the effective roll-out of the programme. During the reporting period the materials were distributed to 11,504 children (57% female) in Za'atari, Azraq and EJC.
- During the reporting period, UNICEF distributed 150 family activity kits to families and children in the refugee Camps (101 kits in Za'atari; 49 in Azraq).
- During the reporting period, UNHCR's connected learning hubs, Kolibri platform was accessed by 1,600 beneficiaries (55% female) remotely through virtual classes; 40% in Camps and 60% in urban. The virtual classes focused on Science, Math, English and Arabic languages.
- UNHCR, through its partner JOHUD, continues to serve children with disabilities with home-based educational interventions. Special education services were delivered to 121 refugee and Jordanian children with moderate and mild disabilities through 172 home-base early intervention sessions. Out of the 172 sessions, 18 were conducted remotely and 154 through home visits that took place in Amman, Zarqa, Irbid, Mafraq, Kafraïn, Ma'an, Karak, and Tafilah.
- In support of MoE Gender Strategy and raising awareness efforts, UNHCR completed a community activity with refugee artists drawing and printing 500 posters, to be distributed in MoE public schools tackling the subjects of school violence, child labour, and early marriage.
- Connected Learning Hubs have been established in three Juvenile Centers operated by the Ministry of Social Development to facilitate online, offline and blended education programs for Jordanian and refugee juveniles. A training of trainers (ToT) was conducted for MOSD/Juvenile Center staff introducing the Kolibri digital online/offline platform.
- UNHCR, in coordination with the national NGO MADRASATI, set up multipurpose rooms in four schools operated by the Ministry of Education (Irbid, Balqa, Amman, Karak) equipping them with digital learning equipment to support blended and online education. A ToT was conducted for 55 MoE teachers on the Kolibri Digital Platform.



## LIVELIHOODS

### Activities:

- Number of work permits for Syrian refugees increased slightly from 207,073 end of September to 212,524 on 30 November (40% Agriculture, 23% Construction, 12% Manufacturing, 8% Wholesale, 9% Accommodation and food service, 8% others).

Total permits	Jan 01 2016- Nov 30 2020	Jan 01 2020- Nov 30 2020
Male	201,773 (95%)	33,175 (93%)
Female	10,751 (5%)	2,427 (7%)
Total	212,524	35,602

*Syrian WPs figures report by MOPIC*

The Livelihoods sector will continue to support the Government of Jordan to meet its new commitment of 90,000 flexible work permits to be issued to Syrian refugees over the next 24 months.

- By 27 December, 76 Jordanian owned Home-Based Businesses (HBB) and 13 Syrian owned HBBs have been registered in 2020 as well as 44 Jordanian and 13 Syrian owned HBBs have been licensed. Souq Fann selected 41 HBBs to sell their products on the platform and Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation (JEDCO) started to link HBBs with other platforms such as Blifon, Souq Jo and E-markets. The “Leaders of Tomorrow” has published the first group of HBBs products supported by Blumont on its official website.
- Blumont will provide awareness sessions on Home Based Businesses for beneficiaries of ACTED’s project “Providing sustainable work opportunities to refugees and vulnerable Jordanians in the agricultural sector in Jordan”.
- Jordan Education for Employment (EFE-Jordan) provided the virtual training ‘How to market yourself in the labour market’ to all university students and graduates of all nationalities in all governorates in Jordan.
- EFE-Jordan and Leaders International project under RDPP is currently conducting an assessment of skills of Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians as one of the main reasons of rising unemployment in the industrial sector in Jordan is the mismatch between labor supply and demand. The assessment will identify gaps in skills, and training needs to assist in developing a curriculum for a training program in coordination with the industrial sector, that would foster higher employment in the short-term.



## SHELTER

### Activities:

- Within the framework of the Shelter Extension project, 137 of 3x3m shelters have been distributed to vulnerable families as part of the COVID response in Za’atari.
- By the end of 2020, the road improvement projects for one district in Za’atari will be completed.
- Isolation site at Za’atari is under expansion to accommodate additional 20 persons to meet the capacity of 300 persons.
- In Azraq 2020 has seen an increasing number of shelter repair requests challenged with the limited funding to support all families in the Camp. In the past three years, only 15% of families were provided with maintenance support in the camp while conditions in all caravans have been deteriorated. Shelters repair and maintenance are ongoing through the Quick Fix Team for both vacant and allocated shelters. During the period of 13 – 23 December, 11 shelters have been fixed.

## 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>