



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 Corona cases as of 31 January amounted to 62. In total, there have been 1,239 confirmed cases as of 31 January, of which 1,168 have recovered and were discharge. During the first half of the month (1-15 Jan), there was a total of 235 cases recorded, an increase compared to previous months, while in the second half of the month, only 82 cases were recorded. In total, Za'atari counted nine COVID related fatalities, of which 50% were recorded during the first half of January. A total of 17,711 PCR tests were performed.

In Azraq Camp, there are no active Corona cases as of 31 January. In total, there have been 595 confirmed cases of which 593 have completed their treatment or quarantine at the Dead Sea Isolation Area, Al-Hamza Hospital, Public Area or home-based Isolation. In total, Azraq counted 2 mortalities. During the reporting month, 5,599 PCR tests were conducted resulting in a total of 21,502 tests conducted by end January.

In Emirates Jordanian Camp (EJC), the number of active Corona cases as of 31 January amounts to 17. In total, there have been 339 confirmed cases, of which 318 completed their isolation or were discharged. Fatalities related to COVID-19 amounted to four by end January. A total of 4,221 PCR tests have been conducted, of which 450 were conducted during the month of January.

The Government generously has included refugees in its national vaccination campaign setting a positive standard globally. The first refugee was vaccinated on 14 January. As of end January, a total of 154 refugees had been vaccinated in Za'atari. In Azraq, by 31 January, 277 had registered on the MoH platform for the vaccine and 6 were vaccinated. In EJC 95 had registered for the vaccine and eight have taken the vaccine by end of January.

The minimum expenditure basket (MEB) for 2020 was finalized and is applied to Syrian refugee households living outside the Camps and in Urban areas, which is aligned with the poverty line. On average, costs for smaller families increased while costs for larger families decreased The WASH sector added hygiene items to the Survival MEB (SMEB), given the current health pandemic. The Livelihoods sector was added for the first time, which encompasses the cost of work, such as work permit fees, working tools and PPE. Food security experienced an average increase, especially in the last quarter of 2020. You can find the complete [document here](#).

II. Sector Update



HEALTH

Activities

- MOH is expected to receive 41,000 doses of Pfizer vaccine in February and 370,000 doses of Astra Zeneca in March. The Ministry has started to organize campaigns encouraging individuals to register for the COVID-19 vaccine. In line with the launch of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign by MoH, UNHCR developed and started to implement vaccination plans in Za'atari and Azraq Camps to monitor vaccination activities and ensure a fair and equitable access by PoCs. UNHCR is working in close coordination with MoH at the central and directorate level to ensure a well-coordinated campaign. For advocacy and to address myths and misconceptions on getting vaccinated, UNHCR is utilizing the existing cadres of Community Health Volunteers (CHVs), provided by health partners, to carry out community awareness and mobilization. Monitoring of vaccination activities includes data collection and reporting of all vaccine doses administered and timely reporting of any 'Adverse Events Following Immunization' (AEFIs).
- MSF informed UNHCR that it would close its COVID-19 treatment centre in Za'atari Camp during the last week of January because of the very low numbers of needed admissions to the centre, and therefore

funding constraints to sustain the operation. UNHCR and MSF have agreed on the transition of services after the treatment centre's closure, in coordination with Mafraq Health Directorate and camp management. It was agreed that MSF would provide minimal essential medical staff for conducting assessments of COVID-19 cases at the isolation area until end March, 2021. Cases in need of admissions will be referred to MoH Al Badia hospital. MSF will also provide training to IMC staff to continue the assessments of cases after March 2021. In addition, criteria and thresholds for re-activating the camp treatment centre have also been agreed with MSF, should there be any significant increase in the number of reported cases or if the MoH Al Badia hospital reaches its 75% bed occupancy capacity for COVID-19 admissions.

- In Mafraq, Caritas started the fourth round of NDCs medications dispensing, targeting a total of 445 patients. Each patient will receive a stock of medications for three months. Caritas also completed two monitoring visits this month to ensure that the medical team was on board as per BCP, and checking that the appointment system, and COVID19 prevention measures were in place.

Challenges

- MOH's Assistance General Secretary indicated that MOH had limited supplies of the vaccine and was waiting for COVAX supplies. Negotiations are also ongoing for additional vaccine supplies.



BASIC NEEDS

Activities

- In 2020, from the beginning of the COVID-19 emergency response, 56,054 cases received emergency assistance, noting that some of these cases are not part of the eligible beneficiary list and were assisted due to protection concerns or case management. Out of these, 84% (86% Syrian and 72% Non-Syrians) have been assisted for 3 months or above, 7% (Syrian 7% and Non-Syrians 7.3%) have been assisted for a period of 2 months and 10% (10% Syrians and 8.6% Non-Syrians) have been assisted once. 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. In January 2021, JHCO provided cash assistance to 262 Syrian families for winter. Please see the winterization [dashboard](#) for more details.

Challenges

- Additional funding support remains a challenge. COVID-19 emergency assistance to support eligible PoCs for an additional 3 months remain a gap.
- Only 50% of eligible cases have been assisted under winter support. Additional funding is required to meet this gap, especially considering the economic conditions in Jordan due to COVID-19 linked economic slowdown.



FOOD SECURITY

Activities

- In January, WFP delivered cash assistance to 482,403 individuals in host communities and camps with monthly cash assistance.
- As part of the targeted COVID-19 emergency response, WFP has additionally included 17,511 individuals for food assistance (cash modality) since August 2020. Steps are taken to further expand this special caseload in the coming months.
- WFP continues to provide in-kind food assistance to households under quarantine in Azraq and Za'atari Camps and supports refugees under self-isolation in their own shelters.
- WFP is piloting a new approach to measure vulnerability that complements the Food Security Index (FSI/CARI), an index combining food consumption, coping strategies, and poverty (as measure by the MEB). Future priorities include the development of a prioritization and targeting for assistance model.
- Key priorities for this and the next quarter include continued advocacy for funding to support the food security of refugees and the re-opening of helpdesks in the communities outside of camps.



PROTECTION

Activities

- UNHCR continued remote processing and refugee data updates for registration conducting remote renewal interviews for 22,520 refugees. In addition, UNHCR distributed Asylum Seekers Certificates to 45,409 individuals/7,900 families. To dispel confusions regarding the renewal process and the government's extension of recognition of expired asylum seeker certificates until 30 Jun 2021, UNHCR has further strengthened its communication with persons of concern to raise awareness of the need to register new births and to renew their asylum seeker/refugee certificate.
- Protection Sector Working Group partners provided 389 different services (CP, SGBV, MHPSS and other general and emergency protection). The total number of refugees reached during 17 March – 1 December amounted to 644,147. The government's generous decisions to include refugees in the corona response plan, including vaccination as well as the inclusion of non-Syrians in health and education systems, contributed positively to the protection environment and the work of the sector. Refugees in and out of camps have had continuous access to protection and other services.
- The SGBV and CP SWGs held a joint meeting with National Council for Family Affairs and the national taskforce on child marriage with over 100 organizations participating. The meeting focused on the impact of COVID-19 on child marriage, the National Action Plan against child marriage, highlighting assessments and studies conducted during 2020 and sharing best practices to prevent and eliminate child marriage.
- The CPIMS TF conducted a thematic session this month on child labour (CL) where the CL assessment tool was introduced supporting the collection of quality data by the various case management agencies and thus allowing for evidence-based interventions. The National Counsel for Family Affairs updated that the draft national SOPs on Child Labour are under review for endorsement by the office of the PM.
- Following the recommendations of the baseline Case Management (CM) assessment conducted by GBVIMS Taskforce, a coaching session was conducted this month on suicide, mental health care and setting up a safe environment for mental health concerns, support for staff care, principles of empowerment and survivor centered approach as well as attitudes and perceptions towards IPV survivors, among others.
- The Disability Task Force incorporated age inclusion into its terms of reference converting to “Disability and Age Task Force (DATF)”, with HelpAge and JOHUD as technical advisors on age. More efforts are needed to provide services to persons with disabilities and elderly across Jordan, especially the South, to ensure that information is accessible to persons with different types of disabilities. The DATF developed a factsheet and updated the service mapping activity matrix.
- During January, three PSEA ToTs were conducted to 134 individuals from partners of the Network and 16 government officials from Ministry of Health, Family Protection Department and Ministry of Social Development. The Main topics addressed were core policies and principles, reporting incidents, consequences and impact of PSEA, and risk assessment among others.

Challenges

- The issue of refugee reachability was addressed jointly by UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF with the three mobile network providers Zain, Orange and Umniah. More concrete results of these efforts are expected in February.



WASH

Activities

- UNICEF continues supplying all 112,855 refugees in three camps (Za'atari, Azraq and King Abdullah Park) with an uninterrupted supply of clean water.
- In Azraq Camp, UNICEF and partners, distributed 4 hygiene kits, 4 hand sanitizers, 4 jerry cans and 4 cleaning kits to 68 individuals (47% female) during January.
- In Za'atari Camp, blanket distribution of 15,355 cleaning kits and 71,560 soap bars was completed this month. UNICEF started with winterization campaign disseminating messages through WhatsApp groups and among camp community. The rehabilitation and set up of 4 wash units for the transit area was completed in Za'atari Camp.

- As part of its water conservation campaigns, UNICEF disconnected 18 partially closed mosques from the Water Network to reduce community violations on water and to diminish the huge water consumption in Za’atari Camp.
- In KAP, UNICEF and partners started a distribution of 180 hygiene kits and 118 hand sanitizers (49 % female).
- New partnership agreements for WASH community mobilization program 2021 were finalized with ACTED and Oxfam for Za’atari and ACF for Azraq Camp.



EDUCATION

Activities

- UNICEF provided transportation service to 667 students (48% female) in camps to support students in taking their complementary Tawjihi exams from 31 December 2020 to 16 January 2021. The students who attended Tawjihi exams included 483 students from Za’atari Camp (50% female), 133 students from Azraq Camp (45% female) and 51 students from EJC (33% female).
- UNICEF coordinated the electrification project in Azraq Camp with MOE and other partners, which was completed this month. It is expected that the learning environment of students in the camp will be enhanced, through the provision of better lighting in classrooms and improved heating during winter, as well as activation of computer labs in the schools. More than 12,000 students in the Camp are expected to benefit from these improvements.
- Partners such as World Vision International, NRC, GIZ, Relief International, Save the Children, Questscope, War Child, Vento di Terra, Bluemont, Care, and Fin Church Aid are preparing for the safe reopening of schools and learning centres following the MOE decision to resume face to face education. Activities to ensure the safe reopening of schools include supplying schools and learning centres with WASH, hygiene, and PPE materials, as well as general maintenance of facilities. In addition, preparations for awareness raising sessions for children, caregivers, and education personnel are ongoing to ensure safety precautionary measures are followed.
- Ahead of the second semester of the 2020/2021 academic year, UNICEF developed key messages for the “Safely Back to School Campaign,” based on MOE’s updated guidelines with a focus on safety measures, face to face learning modalities, PSS and learning recovery. They will be widely disseminated to partners, inside and outside the camps, to support bringing children safely back to school for the upcoming semester.
- UNICEF continues the distribution of learning materials for children in camps to ensure continuity of learning access. In January, 294 families in Za’atari and Azraq Camps received family activity kits. In addition, a total of 5,153 Learning Bridges activity packs (3,313 in Za’atari; 1,840 in Azraq) were distributed in the camps in the third round of distribution.
- UNESCO supports the Government of Jordan in mitigating the persistent gap in access to TVET through the implementation of the “Provision of TVET, On-the-Job Training, and Entrepreneurship Education to Youth Affected by the Syria Crisis in Jordan” project, funded by the Government of the Republic of Korea and in partnership with Luminus Technical University College (LTUC). Launched in December 2020, the project phase IV aims at providing access to TVET opportunities for 180 Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians through scholarships for an internationally accredited 8-month- “BTEC[1] Level II-Diploma” programme, as well as on-the-job training.
- UNESCO successfully finalised the project “Strengthening national capacities to develop and deliver quality E-Learning in higher education institutions in Jordan”, funded by GIZ., in January 2021. The project was a direct response to the impact of COVID-19 on the education system. This project has provided support to the newly established National Centre on e-Learning and Open Education Resources at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHESR). The support includes delivery and installation of studio equipment at the National Centre in the ministry, a capacity development training programme to certify trainers from public and private universities in Jordan in designing and providing quality e-learning, and the finalization of practical guidelines to support all universities in the Kingdom in developing standardised and quality online programmes.
- UNHCR supported the dissemination of information on third country scholarships and online courses, such as JISR-JICA (Japan), French Scholarship (France), the Columbia University Scholarship for Displaced Students (CUSDS - USA), EdX online courses, and Refugee EdTech Programme (online Micro-masters).

- MOHESR approved and adopted the Executive Action Plan on the Integration of E-Learning into Higher Education (HE) institutions in January 2021. This aims at ensuring that Jordanian e-Learning keeps pace with the global developments and to enhance its quality through effective synchronization with the global online learning trends.



LIVELIHOODS

Activities

- During December 2020, 3,004 work permits were issued by the Ministry of Labour and 412 flexible Construction work permits were issued through the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions (GFJTU), reaching a cumulative total of 38,740 work permits. Additionally, 1,208 flexible work permits were issued in the Agriculture sector through the agricultural cooperatives, reaching a cumulative total of 82,544 work permits.

	Number of work permits issued	Males	Females
1 Jan 2016 – 31 Dec 2020	215,668	204,614 (95.0%)	11,054 (5.0%)
1 Jan 2020 – 31 Dec 2020	38,756	36,117 (93.2 %)	2639 (6.8 %)
Dec 2020	3,004	2,826 (94.00%)	178 (6.00%)

- On 31 December, within the official Gazette, the ‘Comprehensive Instructions for the Conditions and Procedures for the formalization of Non-Jordanian Workers of Syrian Nationality in the labour market-2020’, was issued. The Ministry of Labour issued instructions to implement the Cabinet decision regarding extending the grace period for Syrian refugees and exempting them from work permit fees until 13 December 2021. The requirements include a medical examination needed in order to issue a work permit to Syrian refugees. The refugees are exempted from the fees for this examination. (**Ministry of Labour, Syrian Refugee Unit – Monthly and Annual Progress Report*)
- During the Livelihoods Working Group this month, there was a review of the group’s ToRs, updates and a legal analysis on the grace period and work permits fees for Syrians and the changes to the minimum wage and presentation on the ILO’s Agriculture Employment Units. The announcement for the LWG co-chair election was made during the meeting.
- The Vocational Training taskforce met in January to discuss the VT stipend fees and to brief on the number of Syrian refugees with disabilities to identify available opportunities for engagement of refugees with disabilities. IOCC, ILO, and BDC presented useful information for the taskforce members.
- During 2020 there have been an additional 23 home-based businesses registered and licensed for Syrian refugees.



SHELTER

Activities

- In Azraq Camp, shelter repairs and maintenance are ongoing for both vacant and allocated shelters; the Quick Fix Team (QFT) has fixed 36 shelters during January. As part of the COVID-19 response, UNHCR installed 2 RHUs refugee housing unit in Village 6 next to clinic and hospital.
- As part of monthly inspections for UNHCR Sites, NRC completed the general maintenance for UNHCR offices in Azraq (base camp, reception, public and protection area) including general maintenance for prefabs, waterproofing for offices, as well as silicon for windows and doors maintenance.
- In Za’atari Camp, through the Shelter Extension project, 365 of 3x3m shelters were distributed to vulnerable families as part of the COVID-19 response. The road improvement project for district 1 was completed successfully, which intends to prevent flooding during winter. Za’atari Camp is in the planning process for this year’s shelter repair programme which target 2,000 vulnerable families in the Camp.

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>