



#InThisTogether

A Palestine refugee in Jerash camp in Jordan receive medical check up before entering the UNRWA health centre @2020

unrwa jordan field covid-19 sitrep

May 2020 (No.2)

In numbers

Essential medications were distributed door-to-door to **72,641 Palestine refugee NCD patients**.

Vaccination and immunization services were provided to **12,488 Palestine refugee children** and health workers supported **2,230 Palestine refugee women** with family planning services at UNRWA Health Centres.

Emergency cash assistance will be disbursed to more than **17,000 vulnerable Ex-Gazans residing in Jerash camp** to strengthen their resilience against the adverse impact of COVID-19 outbreak.

Situation update

As at 16th May 2020, 607 COVID-19 cases are confirmed (404 persons recovered, 9 deaths, **194 active cases**).¹ During the first week of May, the number of COVID-19 cases has gradually decreased, thanks to robust measures enforced by the Government of Jordan and public's compliance. However, a new spike in infection has been recently recorded, mostly due to the incoming commercial drivers traveling overland regionally and Jordanian students returning from abroad.

The **curfew** will remain in place till the end of Ramadan; however, movement restrictions are gradually eased and many economic sectors resumed their functions. The **government is closely following up to prevent further spread of the virus** and, may reassess the situation before easing restrictions further. UNRWA Jordan Field Office (JFO) is preparing the **Back-to-Office Plan** to upscale the office presence, ensuring safety measures are in place.

UNRWA continued actively participating **interagency coordination** through UN Country Team and sector working groups and making **a coherent joined up approach aligned with UN standards** and **the guidance of the Government of Jordan**.

On 8th May 2020, UNRWA launched the **updated Flash Appeal**, seeking US\$ 93.6 million, including US\$ 15.6 million earmarked for Jordan operations to address the most urgent needs up to the end of July 2020.

UNRWA Operational highlights

Health and Sanitation

Based on the Government's directives providing guidelines on resumption of services provided to the population in Jordan, 20 out of 25 UNRWA health centres (HCs) located inside and outside Palestine refugee camps reopened to provide **family planning** and **immunization services** to children and infants and to provide medication to non-communicable disease (NCD) patients. The delivery of medicines to patients' doorsteps continue for those who cannot approach the HCs due to movement restrictions. As at 16th May 2020, **72,641 NCD patients received their medications, 12,488 children were vaccinated** and **2,230 women received family planning services**. UNRWA ensures healthcare services to **refugees residing in King Abdullah Park** are sustained through the support to the Jordan Health Aid Society (JHAS). UNRWA Sanitation Labourers continued to maintain **environmental health service by removing 300 MT of refuse daily** and protecting from health hazards over 400,000 Palestine refugees across 10 Palestine refugee camps.

¹ www.corona.moh.gov.jo/ar

In close coordination with Department of Palestinian Affairs (DPA) and volunteers from the camps, community-based campaigns continued to disseminate awareness raising information on COVID-19 highlighting proper preventive measures among camp residents and to the Palestine refugee community at large.

Basic needs

To mitigate the adverse socio-economic effects of the pandemic on the most vulnerable refugee groups, UNRWA is distributing emergency cash assistance to **over 17,000 ex-Gazans residing in Jerash camp**, in addition to the disbursement of quarter two **unconditional cash assistance to 58,899 Palestine refugees (12,250 families)** recorded with UNRWA's Social Safety Net (SSN) scheme.

During the past two weeks, UNRWA conducted **a rapid impact assessment** involving a sample of 1,106 Palestine refugee households, to determine the impact of COVID-19 outbreak on refugees' access to healthcare, education, livelihood and economic opportunities. In addition to Palestine refugees in Jordan, this exercise included Palestine refugees from Syria and from Iraq. The findings, once analyzed, will assist Jordan Field Office to tailor evidence-based response to the identified needs. The preliminary results reveal that about 62% of those surveyed do not have enough food supplies and about 88% do not have enough cash to sustain them through another two weeks.

Education

While schools remain closed, UNRWA students continue accessing the **Agency's online platform** as well as the distant learning materials through internet and TV channels which the Ministry of Education (MoE) has set up in March. UNRWA teachers are monitoring students' progress and engagement, providing **remote individual follow-ups**. In line with MoE's instructions, the school year will finish by the end of May. Teachers are finalizing the academic evaluations of students, based on their performance over the year. The Agency is introducing an **online application system** for the forthcoming school year, to facilitate the registration of students.

Students normally attending the Agency's Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) and the Faculty of Educational Sciences and Arts (FESA) progress with remote learning modules. The Agency is planning to introduce catch-up classes, in line with what will be established by the Ministry of Higher Education, for those applied and hands-on courses usually delivered as part of the TVET curricula. Arrangements are underway to enable students to **undertake final exams remotely, from home**.

The findings of an Agency's Education programme assessment demonstrate that almost half of UNRWA students, particularly those coming from the economically disadvantaged backgrounds, have difficulties accessing the remote learning materials due to the unavailability of smart devices resulting in further disturbance of meaningful education process. UNRWA is formulating its **response towards guaranteeing that students have adequate access to distant learning tools** while keeping closely in contact with students via phone and other social media applications.

Protection

UNRWA is endeavoring to ensure that the most vulnerable Palestine refugee groups – those exposed to potential risks of violence during this time of lockdown and crisis – are protected and not left alone. The conditions and needs of the **refugees in King Abdullah Park, Persons with Disabilities (PwD), Female-headed Households (FHH), children and the elderly** are continuously monitored by frontline staff. Since the start of May, protection specific messages were disseminated via UNRWA's various communication channels, and specific **Gender-based Violence (GBV) and Mental-Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) hotlines** were established to enable persons of concern to ask and receive timely support.

Online care services were provided to Children with Disabilities (CwD) and their families, benefiting 648 households. Over 100 families participated in **online awareness-raising sessions on safety and protection measures** for CwD. Palestine refugees continue being advised on available internal and external referral pathways as necessary.

Flash Appeal (March-July 2020)

In response to the evolution of the COVID-19 crisis across the Agency's fields of operation, and health and socio-economic impacts on Palestine refugee populations, UNRWA revised its COVID-19 Flash Appeal, superseding the original appeal issued on 17 March.

Through this revision, the Agency requires **US\$ 93.6 million** including **US\$ 15.6 million for Jordan Field** to address most urgent needs, up to July 2020. UNRWA Jordan Field requirements include:

1. **US\$ 1.6 million** to provide PPEs and hygiene and sanitation tools to frontline staff across 25 health centres, sustain additional hospitalizations costs and ensure the continuous provision of environmental health services across 10 Palestine refugee camps
2. **US\$ 800,000** to provide continue access to remote education and learning
3. **US\$ 13.1 million** to distribute emergency cash assistance to the most vulnerable refugee population groups, including Ex-Gazans, and Palestine refugees from Syria and Iraq
4. **US\$ 140,000** to provide comprehensive support to those refugee groups who are exposed to protection risks.

