

# SYRIA CRISIS RESPONSE

Situation Report No.3 | May 2020

COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE SYRIA, JORDAN, & TURKEY

## Syria Situation Update

- 58 laboratory-confirmed cases have been reported by the Ministry of Health to date - including three fatalities and 36 recovered cases.
- No cases of COVID-19 have been identified in North-West Syria among civilian population. However, 8 confirmed cases within Turkish Army in Afrin have been evacuated to Turkey.
- 6 positive tests of COVID-19 were reported by the authorities in North-East Syria through their own laboratory capacity, as well as three recovered cases. No confirmed cases of COVID-19 have so far been reported in Al-Hol camp.
- Civilians are affected by a deteriorating economic and security situation, due to the Syrian Pound reaching new lows and an increase in improvised explosive device (IED) incidents.
- Only 57 public hospitals (64%) are fully functioning in the country. There is a considerable shortage of trained staff and a high turnover rate, all of which reduce its capacity to manage cases, and of medical equipment essential for case management, including ventilators.
- Border closures, sanctions, the volatility of the exchange rate, banking challenges in Lebanon, and other factors that impact the import of certain medical supplies critical to an effective COVID-19 response are a concern.
- Pumps, sterilisation equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) are in short supply in the local market, resulting in the inability of partners to procure items, or increased costs due to price hikes.



## Humanitarian Access and Business Continuity in Syria

- Border crossings from Turkey to Syria remain impacted as countries continue implementation of precautionary measures. However, key border crossing points remain open for humanitarian and commercial crossings.
- Borders between Lebanon and Syria remain closed, with some limited exemptions for commercial and relief shipments. This closure has negative impacts on WV's programmes which we run through a Local Partner.
- International and domestic commercial passenger flights remain suspended all across the Response area (Syria, Turkey, Jordan), yet there is a number of flights that is still ongoing.



World Vision's hygiene promotion team and volunteers have been conducting public awareness campaigns in northern Syria on COVID-19 infections, in addition to preclinical symptoms and prevention measures to combat the Coronavirus. We have reached 8,500 households and distributed 5 bars of soap for each family.

## World Vision's response to COVID-19 in Syria

- WV is currently supporting **15 health facilities**, including **9 mobile medical units**, **3 primary healthcare clinics**, **2 hospitals** and **1 dialysis centre**.
- 6,000 masks and pairs of gloves** along with sanitisers were provided to the field team to equip them with the PPE.
- 6 events** took place in mid-May on measures aimed at COVID-19 prevention and more events are planned for coming weeks.
- WV is distributing consumable hygiene kits targeting **8,500 households** across 8 IDP camps. The same targeted households have previously received 5 bars of soap, as well.
- WV provides water trucking support and hygiene kit distribution to **43,260 people** in northern Syria, in addition to lifesaving emergency WASH assistance.
- WV has increased the water ratio by **10 litres** per person per day to become 35 in northern Syria.
- 2,161 hygiene promotion sessions** were conducted, reaching a total number of **19,619 individuals**.
- COVID-19 awareness raising materials were shared with **605 project participants** through Psychosocial support, vocational training, gender-based violence and protection awareness sessions, and referral activity.
- WV's protection team has already prepared psychosocial support, vocational, gender-based violence and protection awareness session materials that will be shared with **7,700 project beneficiaries** through WhatsApp and Telegram in the course of the project.

## Funding Partners



## SOURCES:

Syrian Arab Republic: COVID-19 Response Update No.04 - 18 May 2020  
Syrian Arab Republic: COVID-19 Humanitarian Update No. 10

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## Jordan Situation Update

- By 20 May, Jordan had recorded 672 confirmed cases and 9 deaths.
- No reported cases to date of COVID-19 among Syrian refugees either inside or outside the camps.
- In Za'atari and Azraq Refugee Camps where 120,000 Syrians have been on lockdown since March 21, the two main hospitals and networks of health clinics are fully staffed and have introduced additional infection-control measure.
- Refugee camps continue to operate with reduced teams in Za'atari and Azraq with urgent protection needs being addressed.
- Temperature screening at the entrance is ongoing in both refugee camps. Electricity provision remains prolonged, while water and sewerage services continue normally.
- Camp supermarkets continue operating with additional hours. A restriction remains on bread buying and crowd control measures for male/female lines, and provisions for the most vulnerable.
- Urban refugee population still do not have access to comprehensive primary health care services including Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) medications due to the current curfew.
- WV's COVID-19 Rapid Needs Assessment conducted among refugees and host community members highlighted cash and food assistance as top urgent needs, in addition to educational services.



## World Vision's response to COVID-19 in Jordan

- WV's regular programming in Azraq Refugee Camp remains suspended - affecting **+30,000 beneficiaries** - due to the ongoing nationwide curfew. In both Azraq and Za'atari Refugee Camps.
- 1,050 children** inside Azraq Refugee Camp are receiving curriculum-based videos, voice notes and messages to sustain the full educational cycle insofar as possible.
- Under the Early Childhood Development programme at Azraq Refugee Camp, Teaching Assistants (Incentive-based Volunteers) are continuing to work remotely using Applications and maintaining an income.

22 Teaching Assistants (IBVs) at WV's Early Childhood

- Education Centre in Azraq Refugee Camp are communicating with **800 caregivers** on how to support remote learning and introducing creative games for children's mental and psychosocial health.

The Child Protection in Emergencies project at Azraq

- Refugee Camp will reach **650 new beneficiaries** (children and their parents) through psychosocial support and life skills activities. WV is anticipating to reach up to **7,000 beneficiaries** with the community awareness campaigns.

World Vision

- WV continues running the Solid Waste Management service and the Green Centre at Azraq Refugee Camp, providing daily waste collection and disposal services to all **30,000 residents**. Jordanian WV staff are equipped with all needed PPE to ensure their safety.
- The Hygiene promotion team in Azraq Refugee Camp is supporting all WV teams in sending messages related to the COVID-19 response to all children enrolled in our education programmes in the camp, targeting **1,500 children and parents**.
- Under the remedial education project for host community children, WV has trained teachers on a remote remedial learning programme who are now reaching **more than 1,000 children**.
- In host communities, **529 children** received remote remedial classes and continued learning via Zoom and WhatsApp. Training sessions were conducted for 27 teachers to support their capacity building on remote implementation. In addition, psychosocial support videos are provided weekly to **566 caregivers** to effectively cope with stress and support children during curfew.



As the COVID-19 lockdown goes on, over 800 children - aged 4 to 6 years at Azraq Refugee Camp's kindergarten in Jordan - are receiving our distance learning programme every day via WhatsApp or through direct contact. World Vision staff is preparing audio and video recordings, worksheets for teaching purposes, in addition to designing various activities and narrating stories for children's self development and improvement.

## Funding Partners



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## Turkey Situation Update

- As of 20 May, Turkey had 152,587 confirmed cases with around 4,222 deaths.
- The Government has declared a normalisation plan in which age group restrictions, closing of schools and ban on mass prayers are planned to be lifted, depending on the agenda. As of May 27th, the curfew is expected to be lifted in certain cities including Urfa Province, where the new WV Office is located. Restrictions remain in place in COVID-19 hotspots, including Gaziantep, where the old WV Office is still located and where most of WV staff live.
- International travel will be allowed for land borders as of June 15, only with the countries where the pandemic is under control.
- Psychosocial support mechanism will be initiated to provide support to citizens in face-to-face, telephone and online meetings, so as to reduce the psychological impact of the pandemic in short and medium term.
- People under the age of 20 and over 65 are subject to curfews. The ban on sale of facemasks has been lifted.
- Turkey has a well-functioning health system and good public health capabilities. However, it also hosts the world's biggest refugee population.
- Many refugees struggle to access health and other services due to language barriers and issues with their status. Syrian refugee children in the country have also missed out on months or years of education, and now risk falling even further behind in the event of prolonged school closures.



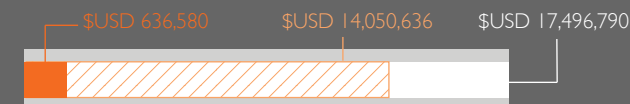
## World Vision's response to COVID-19 in Turkey

- WV currently has one protection project in Turkey, providing case management, individual protection assistance, as well as legal, awareness raising and psychosocial support to refugees at Info-Hubs across key areas.
- All regular programming under the project is suspended and both WV and partner staff are working from home, but the team are scaling up ways to provide remote and one-to-one assistance.
- Partners are providing remote psychosocial support, case management and referral support, supported by the World Vision protection team with practical guidance.
- Partners disseminate protection and community health awareness messages through SMS, videos and social media campaigns.
- WV and the partners are working on scenarios to resume the field operations partially as of 1st June based on the normalisation plan introduced by the Government of Turkey.
- In addition to the protection project, a livelihood project has started in Urfa, which aims at improving access to income generation and helping economic-vulnerable individuals to establish formal micro-businesses while adopting all the prevention measures imposed by the Government.

## Funding Partners



## WV Syria Response Funding Needs



- WV Syria Response's overall funding ask
- Awarded funds
- Funds in the pipeline

Funding ask: **\$USD 3,446,154**

## Syria Response Key Advocacy Messages

- Facilitate access of humanitarian staff and aid, and cease hostilities to allow COVID-19 mitigation, containment and treatment measures to be implemented unhindered.
- The international community must fully fund the Syria Humanitarian Response Plan, as well as the COVID-19 response. Ramping up health-related assistance and strengthening the capacity of health facilities should be prioritised by both the international community and donors.
- The international community, UN, and humanitarian actors must respond urgently and adequately to both direct and indirect impacts of COVID-19 on already vulnerable groups including children.
- The UN Security Council must prioritise and renew the UNSC Resolution 2504 before 10 July 2020 for a period of twelve months to maintain a vital lifeline to over 4 million people in need in Syria.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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