The Ministry of Health (MoH) reported 608 COVID-19 confirmed cases as of 24 July with 35 fatalities and 184 recovered. 44 of the total cases are reported to be healthcare workers.

The increase in COVID-19 cases in Government of Syria (GoS) areas has overwhelmed the capacity of local hospitals.

On 9 July, the first confirmed case of COVID-19, which belonged to a health professional, was announced in northern Syria. As of 28 July, 30 people with COVID-19 have been identified in northwest Syria and a spike in numbers is feared between the seventh and eighth week from the first discovery.

Gaps and constrains in the country include, inadequate supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), the need to enhance laboratory and case investigations, and safe guarding of public health; preventing cross infections within and out of health facilities.

In June, approximately 2,985 students crossed into government-controlled areas to sit their high school certificate and were accommodated in 25 centres located in six governorates.

The Socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, notably in food security and livelihoods, are likely to exacerbate existing substantial humanitarian needs across the country. On 17 June, the U.S. Caesar sanctions went into effect and throughout the month the informal SYP/USD exchange rate has experienced extreme volatility, at one point rising to the highest rate on record – approximately SYP 3,200 to $USD 1 on 8 June. The cost of the survival minimum expenditure basket (SMEB) has increased by 68 percent.

World Vision’s response to COVID-19 in Syria

In May 2020, a total of 12 projects were fully operational despite COVID-19, and four projects partially.

3,466 activities in total were conducted on the prevention of COVID-19 spread.

In May and June 2020, WV distributed 8,102 consumable hygiene kits to internally displaced persons in northwest Syria. 39,117 individuals benefited from this activity.

WV provided additional hand soap in each kit to encourage hand-washing. In total, 15 bars of soap were provided with each kit.

WV provides water trucking support and hygiene kit distribution to 43,260 people in northern Syria, in addition to lifesaving emergency WASH assistance.

61,581 individuals benefited from water provision in northwest Syria. In total, 55,245.5 cubic metres of water were provided during May and 62,243.50 cubic metres in June.

36,933 children have benefitted from WASH activities in northwest Syria camps.

29,232 individuals were provided a total of 21,003.10 cubic metres of safe drinking water in northwest Syria. 119 water tanks were distributed in the same camps in order to reduce lines for water collection and increase hand-washing practices.

Between June and July, WV distributed 2,500 multi-sectorial cash grants to newly displaced households living in northwest Syria to support them in meeting their survival needs.

Balsam, 61, has asthma, which became out of control after she was displaced from her hometown in northwest Syria. ECHO’s support to our project, made it possible for our implementing partner, Syria Relief & Development (SRD), to reach her through a medical mobile unit and provide the necessary medical care.
By 27 July, Jordan had recorded 1,168 confirmed cases, 1,041 recovered and 11 deaths.

While the country has been gradually loosening the restrictive measures and re-opening public spaces, the airport remains closed at the time of writing this report.

Azraq and Zaatari Refugee Camps are still operating at 30% capacity. A transit site in Zaatari Refugee Camp is currently being prepared with a capacity of 120, while in Azraq 153 people are currently in the quarantine site.

On 9 June, the Ministry of Education (MoE) announced that school reopening would be on 10th of August with the first few weeks dedicated to learning recovery during COVID-19 school closures.

UNICEF and MoE along with partners have started planning nationwide ‘Back to Learning Campaign’ programme to minimise children’s dropout from schools. As a co-chair for the Education Sector Working Group, WV is participating in the process of developing the campaign’s programme.

World Vision’s response to COVID-19 in Jordan

- In Azraq Refugee Camp, WV teams across all projects are operating the centres in order to reach out to the parents of children under the Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE) and Early Childhood Development (ECD) projects.

- Under BMZ project, WV is implementing capacity building activities to the project’s partners in Amman, Irbid, Mafraq and Zarqa. The project’s team also worked with partners to complete all remaining online training courses for approximately 200 beneficiaries.

- The EU MADAD Trust Fund is supporting the ongoing Solid Waste Management (SWM) in Azraq Refugee Camp in partnership with GIZ. 17 tons of waste are collected daily for around 40,000 residing refugees.

- Under CPiE in Azraq Refugee Camp, remote sessions continue to be conducted for 150 children and 100 adolescents and their parents, along with door-to-door follow up and Information Education and Communication (IEC) dissemination.

- Under CPiE in Azraq Refugee Camp, WV teams across all projects are operating the centres in order to reach out to the parents of children under the Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE) and Early Childhood Development (ECD) projects.

- The CPiE 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.

Qutaibah, 5, was born in Azraq Refugee Camp in Jordan. He used to attend one of the early childhood education centres in the camp that we run. Although the centre was closed due to COVID-19 restrictions inside the camp, Qutaibah managed to continue learning and participating in all activities from his home. His teacher sends him the learning materials on the mobile phone now.

 SOURCES:
Worldometers: Coronavirus Update
UNHCR Operational Update Jordan - June 2020

Funding Partners

Under the ECD Programme in Azraq Refugee Camp, WV distributed the curriculum, along with stationery and healthy snacks to the kindergarten children in villages two and six. We also distributed cleaning materials during the MoE training under ‘Step by Step’ programme.

Feedback sessions with caregivers of children enrolled in the Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres were held on a regular basis via phone; parents were contacted and provided with feedback of their children’s educational progress.

Under BMZ project, WV teams across all projects are operating the centres in order to reach out to the parents of children under the Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE) and Early Childhood Development (ECD) projects.

Under CPiE in Azraq Refugee Camp, remote sessions continue to be conducted for 150 children and 100 adolescents and their parents, along with door-to-door follow up and Information Education and Communication (IEC) dissemination.

The CPiE 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.

Under the ECD Programme in Azraq Refugee Camp, WV distributed the curriculum, along with stationery and healthy snacks to the kindergarten children in villages two and six. We also distributed cleaning materials during the MoE training under ‘Step by Step’ programme.
As of 27 July 2020, the total number of confirmed positive cases in Turkey was over 226,000. Among these cases, 209,487 have recovered and 5,613 have died.

On 4 May, the government has declared a normalisation plan for the next three months as the number of active COVID-19 cases has been decreasing across Turkey.

As of 3 June, the curfew was lifted, which includes Urfa province, where the new World Vision office is located.

By the end of May, the psychosocial support mechanism was initiated to provide support to citizens through face-to-face, telephone and online meetings, in order to reduce the psychological impact of COVID-19 on short and medium terms.

In the first two weeks of June, professional training centres and community education centres were reopened. International travel was allowed through land borders, yet only with the countries that have the pandemic under control. As of 30 July, half-time employment measures have ended.

Many refugees struggle to access health and other services due to language barriers and issues with their statuses. Many 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.

We expect protection risks to increase for vulnerable populations, including Gender-Based Violence (GBV), domestic violence and child labour.

Syria Response Key Advocacy Messages

- World Vision welcomes the UN Security Council Resolution 2533 which has been recently adopted, allowing millions of Syrians in dire need in the North-West to continue receiving relief assistance. The UN Security Council should urgently reauthorise the use of the Bab Al-Salam crossing, to facilitate aid to reach those in need in northern Aleppo, and they should immediately work to find a solution to access challenges in northeast Syria including through reauthorising UN cross border assistance through Yarubiyah.

- Where governments have put in place movement, public gathering or other restrictions to prevent the transmission of COVID-19, ensure humanitarian staff and operations are classified as ‘essential,’ and facilitated to re-start or continue through waivers/exemptions while ensuring access to appropriate safety measures, PPE and testing.

- 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.

Funding Partners

SOURCES:
Worldometers: Coronavirus Update