

# SYRIA CRISIS RESPONSE

Situation Report No.4 | July 2020

COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE SYRIA, JORDAN, & TURKEY

## Syria Situation Update

- 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 constraints 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.



- Over 80% of Syrians already live under the poverty line, and further drops in the value of the pound will impact millions of people's purchasing power and access to even basic commodities.
- Immediate gaps for 143,000 internally displaced persons in northwest Syria are as follows: water trucking, recurrent solid waste management, and public latrines rehabilitation/construction. Adding up, 171,520 people need hygiene kits. The collapse of the Syrian Pound is resulting in activities' suspension, notably with existing water trucking contracts becoming nonviable.
- The 4th Brussels Conference, hosted by the EU and the UN, ended with the announcement of pledges totalling US\$ 5.5 billion (€4.9 billion) for 2020, and multi-year pledges of close to US\$ 2.2 billion (€2 billion) for 2021 and beyond.
- The UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2533 on 11 July, which authorises UN cross-border assistance through Bab Al-Hawa only for 12 months. As a result, the UN can no longer utilise the Bab Al-Salam border crossing.



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.

World Vision

## 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.

## Funding Partners



## SOURCES:

Humanitarian Access Team Weekly Report 17-23 July 2020  
Assistance Coordination Unit (ACU) Update - 28 July 2020  
Humanitarian Access Team Flash Report: The Caesar Act, June 2020

Center for Operational Analysis and Research: Syria Update - 6, 13, 27 July 2020  
OCHA Syrian Arab Republic: North East Syria: Al Hol camp - 26 July 2020  
OCHA Syrian Arab Republic: COVID-19 Update No. 15 - 24 July 2020  
OCHA Recent Developments in Northwest Syria - Situation Report No. 17, 18 - 13 July 2020

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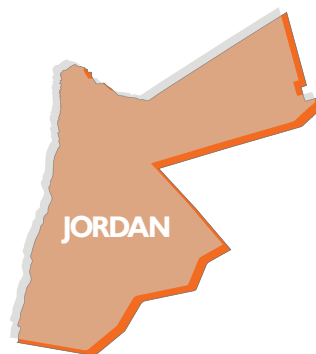
## Jordan Situation Update

- 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.
- On 22 June, the Government of Jordan endorsed the 2020-2022 Jordan Response Plan to the Syria crisis totalling \$USD 6.6 billion.
- As per the decision of the Ministry of Health (MoH), all non-Syrian asylum seekers and refugees across the Kingdom will now be able to access healthcare at hospitals and medical facilities run by the Ministry of Health at the non-insured Jordanian rate by presenting their UNHCR- issued Asylum Seeker/Refugee certificates.

### SOURCES:

Worldometers: Coronavirus Update

UNHCR Operational Update Jordan - June 2020



## 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.
- 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 JPF project, **567 children** in host communities continued participating in remote remedial classes through Zoom and WhatsApp during May and June, and they received weekly home sports videos. **27 teachers and field staff** received assessment, supervision support, and two experience sharing sessions. Nine videos related to Psychosocial Support (PSS) and Children's Online Safety were provided to caregivers and parents whose children were attending remote remedial classes. **468 children** attended the home activity called 'Little Helper Operation', through which children plan and support their parents with house chores.
- 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.



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.

## Funding Partners



giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



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## Turkey Situation Update

- 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.

### SOURCES:

Worldometers: Coronavirus Update



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

- A livelihood project focusing on the economic integration of Syrian refugees and vulnerable host communities' members is in its start-up phase. The intervention aims at supporting people motivated to get their living by engaging in entrepreneurial activities through the provision of soft and business skills and financial help to establish registered micro enterprises. WV aims at supporting economic recovery for people through this intervention.
- As the situation is returning to normal in Turkey, WV and its partners worked on the scenarios how to move forward in line with the normalisation planning of World Vision Syria Response's Turkey-based projects.
- WV partners have reactivated field operations as of 8 June, taking into consideration the precautions in place for the project centres. During this period, partners continue both tele-counselling and physical one-to-one counselling in the Hub.
- As precautions, the partners have divided the Case Management Team, the Psychosocial Support Team and the Translator Team into two balanced groups.
- Online activities (SMS Campaign, production of videos and social media content) continue.

## Funding Partners



## WV Syria Response Funding Needs



## 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.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Johan Mooij | Syria Response Director  
johan\_mooij@wvi.org

Elias Abu Ata | Syria Response Communications Manager  
elias\_abuata@wvi.org