

1. Epidemiological situation (WHO data: as of 5 April 2020)
Number of cases including Palestine refugees (PRs)

- Lebanon: 527 cases, (PRs: 1)*, 35 recovered, 18 deaths (local trans)*
- West Bank: 225 cases, (PRs: 34)*, 18 recovered, 1 death (PR) (local trans)*
- Jordan: 345 cases, (PRs: 0)*, 110 recovered, 5 deaths (local trans)*
- Gaza: 12 cases, (PRs: 9)*, 6 recovered, 0 deaths (local trans)*
- Syria: 19 cases, (PRs: 0)*, 2 recovered, 2 deaths (imported cases only)*

ALL COUNTRIES at HIGH RISK: COVID-19 PANDEMIC

(* MoH, * Not officially declared, ? suspected & under investigation)

Global situation (WHO) 06:00 pm Amman time

- 1,174,866 cases, 64,541 deaths, 208 countries/areas/territories with cases

Situation in neighbouring countries

- Iran: 58,226 cases 3,603 deaths
- Iraq: 961 cases, 61 deaths
- Egypt: 1,070 cases, 71 deaths
- Israel: 7,589 cases, 42 deaths

2. UNRWA Fields of operations summary updates

Access/movement	UNRWA's operations
The overall security risk level is assessed moderate.	
Gaza	The overall security risk level is assessed moderate.
Partial lockdown in effect. Erez crossing is shut down for permit holders and is open for special medical and humanitarian cases only. Rafah Terminal closed in both directions, opened for imported goods and for urgent medical and humanitarian cases. Returning Palestinians are quarantined upon arrival. Kerem Shalom crossing is opened again. Movement restrictions appear imminent, and a system of ID cards for critical services is under discussion.	Field (FO) and Area Office (AO) staff telecommuting until 15 April, except for Health and other critical staff. Schools and vocational training centres remain closed until further notice. Relief and Social Services (RSSP) offices are closed, with no home visits except in emergency cases. Around 8,613 families received their food baskets via the new house-to-house delivery modality for food distribution, with positive feedback received by RSS M&E team from 8,600 families. Daily sterilisation of Health Centres (HCs), sanitation offices, water wells, equipment and vehicles is ongoing. Microfinance has deferred installments for clients for the month of April. Home delivery of NCD medicines started.
The overall security risk level is assessed low.	
West Bank (WB)	The overall security risk level is assessed low.
Curfew imposed across the WB, including to/from East Jerusalem, except for emergencies. Movement restrictions remain severe across the WB. Movement in Ramallah is allowed only during 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Additional checkpoints and blockades were reported around Bethlehem (under 24 hrs. curfew) and surrounding areas and Artas village is still completely isolated. Movement is allowed for health, emergency staff and press. The PA will continue to minimize working hours and staff numbers at the Ministries. Biddou and surrounding villages are under curfew & strict lockdown. The state of emergency was extended for another month. All Governorates in the North continue to carry out screening and testing of workers returning from Israel (with 14 days home quarantine) especially with the Passover (Pesach) feast dates (8-16 April) approaching.	Decision to open Biddu HC is to be taken today, and its staff are still in home-quarantine. People tested for COVID-19 in Kalandia camp were found to be negative. Positive cases were detected in Tulkarem camp (2 confirmed cases, one is a PR who did not visit HC during the past 2 weeks), and total closure was imposed on it. Thabit (Tulkarem) MOH hospital is closed for new patients, and all staff and patients inside are in quarantine. Two confirmed cases found in Sourif; one is a PR (did not visit HC during the last 2 weeks). Schools and all Microfinance (MF) branches remain closed. FO are telecommuting until 15 April. RSSP launched a hotline for the provision of psychosocial support. RSSP continued to provide protection-related services and follow up on Child and Family Protection (CFP) and GBV cases. Food distribution with WFP for Bedouins continues. Critical staff, guards, sanitation workers and drivers on duty. Hebron city is totally locked down. UNRWA vehicles were redeployed to staff as needed. UNRWA staff members had no problems accessing their duty stations (especially health, emergency, and essential staff). Sterilising campaign continued in the camps in all areas.
The overall security risk level is assessed minimal (except North East where it is assessed moderate).	
Jordan	The overall security risk level is assessed minimal (except North East where it is assessed moderate).
All ports still closed. The Health Minister said that the airport and borders could remain closed until after Ramadan. Partial curfew in effect (6:00 pm to 10:00 am). Only one person, with e-permit only, will be allowed per vehicle except for emergency cases. More security forces to enforce the curfew will be deployed in towns and villages. All official UN vehicles, carrying a "7" or "UN" licence plate, are free to move during 10:00 am to 6:00 pm within Amman only. Movement outside Amman requires prior coordination. The driver and any passengers (int. or local) in such vehicles must have at least a UN ID (UNLP is preferred). The movement permission does not apply to yellow no. '8' plates.	Education institutions, MF branches and CBOs closure extended. Public and private sector closed, except for vital sectors. UNRWA FO & AOs are closed, and staff are telecommuting until 15 April. Guards and sanitation labourers work normally. People aged 16-60 can go out on foot for purchasing of basic commodities. Shops open from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, with curfew from 6:00 pm till 10:00 am. A full curfew will be imposed from 6:00 pm on Thursday 2 April to 10:00 am on Saturday 4 April. Until 4 April, health staff delivered, in cooperation with local communities, medicines to a total of 14,176 priority group of patients in all four Areas. UNRWA security Guards work modality in all the installations is back to normal. Microfinance Department made a blanket approval for a 4-month loan repayment deferment starting from April, noting that re-approval is needed every month.
The overall security risk level is assessed low.	
Lebanon	The overall security risk level is assessed low.
All borders are closed. The airport was opened today, and for this week, for returning Lebanese nationals stuck in some countries, who are quarantined in hotels rented by the government. Vehicles are only allowed to be on the road on alternate days from Monday - Saturday, and no vehicles will be permitted to move on Sundays. Cars with diplomatic plates are exempted from these measures, as are UN personnel including UNRWA's personnel traveling in their own cars. Lockdown of the country has intensified by General Security Forces and has been extended until 12 April. All citizens were requested to self-quarantine at homes. A country wide general closure (curfew) is in place, controlled by security forces, from 7:00 pm until 5:00 am with some essential services (security, bakeries, medicine) exempted.	HCs are open between 8:00 am and 2:00 pm. FO and AOs are closed, all staff are telecommuting until 12 April except for health centre staff, sanitation workers and key staff from other programmes. Patients are required to make appointments by phone before coming to their health centres. Schools and training centres are closed. LFO will cover 90% and Palestine Embassy in Lebanon will cover 10% of the hospital cost for confirmed COVID-19 PR cases. In coordination with MSF, LFO is preparing STC's dormitories for use as possible isolation units for mild confirmed COVID-19 cases. All health centres are thoroughly disinfected by sanitation teams daily.
The overall security risk level is assessed high.	
Syria	The overall security risk level is assessed high.
Country-wide curfew in effect from 6:00 pm to 6:00 am. All ports are closed except for cargo trucks. Closure of all commercial activities until further notice, excluding foodstuffs, pharmacies, cleaning centres, and medical supplies. Government ministries reduced their work force. Movement is prevented between governorates, and between urban and rural areas excluding those with permits, emergency services, main services providers, health workers and the press. All UN staff are permitted to move freely within two governorates (Homs & Hama), and are subject to curfew in other areas.	Emergency food and emergency cash distribution continue. UNRWA schools, training centres and CBOs are closed. Disinfection and cleaning of camps is ongoing. Sanitation and Security staff work in full capacity. Office time across Syria FO is 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. Critical staff come to the office on shifts; other staff are telecommuting until 16 April. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) has approved travel of UNRWA's staff between rural areas and cities, and this is helping in the continuation of critical services UNRWA provides. Almost all UNRWA staff in rural areas have been able to reach their workplaces. Qaber Essit (QE) area, and QE camp are isolated. All staff based inside QE camp will continue to deliver critical services in the camp, with PPEs. Staff living in QE but working outside were asked not to report to work. Staff who live outside but had travelled QE last week to work have been asked to 'self-quarantine' and not report to work.
HQ (Amman, Jerusalem and Gaza)	
Same as field of operations	All HQ offices are closed, and most staff are telecommuting until 15 April.
UNRWA Liaison offices	
Staff are telecommuting as follows: Cairo Office until 15 April, NY and Washington until 30 April, and Brussels until 19 April (if there is no substantial change by then, measures will continue to be applicable until 3 May)	

All HCs are operational (In Jordan 16 HCs opened to dispense home-to-home NCD medicines, and in WB, 2 HCs Kalandia and Biddu are closed). Health staff, sanitation labourers, distribution staff, and security guards use protective personal equipment (PPE). A drop in the number of patients at HCs has been observed. Special measures are put in place at HCs for triage and limiting contact and time of stay at HCs. NCD patients received medicines to cover 2-3 months of treatment. Some medical services have been reduced/ suspended depending on the fields. Plans for telemedicine/hotlines finalized/in progress as well as plans to reduce health staff where appropriate.

3. NEW Resources on COVID-19 from HR-STAFF WELLBEING!

The Human Resources Department is pleased to inform you that it has launched its "Well-Being Tips" page on "UNRWA COVID-19 page" which includes tips for staff, their families and their children. Please click on the photo.



Please email us at: unrwa-covid19@unrwa.org for any questions.