

### **UNRWA COVID-19 BRIEF UPDATE: 31 MARCH 2020**

### 1. Epidemiological situation (WHO data: as of 30 March 2020)

### Number of cases including Palestine refugees (PRs)

- Lebanon: 446 cases, (PRs: 1, 1?), 27 recovered, 11 deaths (local trans)\*
- West Bank: 107 cases, (PRs: 34)\*, 18 recovered, 1 death (PR) (local trans)\*
- Jordan: 268 cases, (PRs: 0)\*, 26 recovered, 5 deaths (local trans)\*
- Gaza: 10 cases, (PRs: 6)\*, 0 deaths (local trans)\*
- Syria: 10 cases, (PRs: 0)\*, 2 death (imported cases only)\*

### **ALL COUNTRIES at HIGH RISK: COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

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

### Global situation (WHO) 2:00 pm Amman time

 697,243 cases, 33,257 deaths, 202 countries/areas/territories with cases

### Situation in neighbouring countries

- Iran: 41,495 cases, 2,757 deaths
- Iraq: 547 cases, 42 deaths
- Egypt: 609 cases, 40 deaths
- Israel: 4,247 cases, 15 deaths

### 2. UNRWA Fields of operations summary updates

### **Access/movement**

### Work modalities

### G272

### Partial lockdown in effect. Erez crossing is shut down for permit holders (over 5,000). 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 closed.

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. Relief and Social Services (RSSP) offices are closed, with no home visits except in emergency cases. Contracts being finalised for home distribution of final Q1 food distribution (70,000 families). Daily sterilisation of Health Centres (HCs), sanitation offices, water wells, equipment and vehicles is ongoing.

The overall security risk level is assessed moderate.

### West Bank (WB)

## Curfew imposed across the WB, including to/from East Jerusalem, except for emergencies. All Ministries are closed. Movement in East Jerusalem and Israel is severely limited, except for vital business. Al Jib Checkpoint is closed (alt.: Hizma & Qalandiya Checkpoints). Stricter control of workers coming from Israel and settlements (tested and quarantined). Measures and access is more stringent in Israel in response to increased COVID-19 cases.

### The overall security risk level is assessed low.

Schools and all Microfinance branches remain closed. FO are telecommuting until 15 April. RSSP launched a hotline for the provision of psychosocial support. RSS AOs are opened, offering services. Camp sterilization is ongoing. Food distribution with WFP for Bedouins continue. Biddu health centre closed and staff are self-quarantined, with some tested yesterday by MOH. Critical staff, guards, sanitation workers and drivers on duty with the permission from Field Director only. Hebron city is totally locked down. UNRWA vehicles were redeployed to staff as needed.

### Jordan

### The overall security risk level is assessed minimal (except North East where it is assessed moderate).

All ports still closed. Partial curfew in effect (8:00 pm to 10:00 am); use of cars is restricted except for persons holding permits. Holders of UNLPs and diplomatic passports can cross King Hussein Bridge, with a COVID-19 free certificate from the Government of Jordan and should undergo 14-days home quarantine.

Education institutions, MF branches and CBOs are 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-06:00 pm, with curfew from 06:00 pm till 10:00 am. Jordan FO got 60 permits for health staff to move. They delivered, with community support, medications to 383 NCD patients to their homes in Jerash and Suf camps.

### Lebanon

### All borders are closed. Lockdown of the country has intensified by security forces, and all citizens were requested to self-quarantine at homes. A country wide general closure (curfew) is in place, controlled by security forces, from 7 pm until 5am.

### The overall security risk level is assessed low.

HCs are open between 8:00 – 14:00. Schools and training centres are closed, (self-learning programme is rolled out. 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. For hospitalising a confirmed COVID-19 PR, LFO to cover 90% and Palestine Embassy in Lebanon to cover 10% of the cost. In coordination with MSF, LFO is preparing Siblin Training Centre's (STC) dormitories for use as possible isolation units for mild confirmed COVID-19 cases.

### **Syria**

# Country-wide curfew in effect from 6:00 pm to 6:00 am. All ports are closed except for cargo trucks. Markets, cultural and social activities are closed, excluding essential services. Government ministries reduced their work force. Movement is restricted between provincial centres, and between urban and rural areas excluding those with permits. All UN staff are permitted to move freely within two governorates (Homs & Hama), and are subject to curfew in other areas.

### The overall security risk level is assessed high.

Emergency food distribution 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 attend to the office; other staff are telecommuting until 16 April. No UNRWA staff living in the rural and suburbs of Damascus city could report to work in the city, due movement restrictions. UNRWA operations in the following localities are affected by the security situation, e.g. Aleppo, Daraa, Latakia, and Hama.

### 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)

3. Annex: Health services update and Lifeline details for UNRWA fields of operations

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