UNRWA COVID-19 BRIEF UPDATE: 17 MARCH 2020

1. Epidemiological situation (WHO data: as of 16 March 2020)

**Number of cases**
- Lebanon: 109 cases, 16 recovered, 3 deaths (local transmission)*
- West Bank: 39 cases, 3 recovered, 0 deaths (local transmission)*
- Jordan: 33 cases, 1 recovered, 0 deaths (imported case)*
- Gaza: 0 cases, 0 deaths
- Syria: 0 cases, 0 deaths

**ALL COUNTRIES at HIGH RISK:** COVID-19 PANDEMIC (* MoH)

**Global situation**
- 167,511 cases, 6,606 deaths

**Situation in neighboring countries**
- Iran: 14,991 cases, 853 deaths
- Iraq: 124 cases, 9 deaths
- Egypt: 126 cases, 2 deaths
- Israel: 200 cases, 0 deaths

(Ref: WHO)

2. UNRWA operations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Affected operations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gaza</td>
<td>Schools, Gaza Training Centre (GTC) and Khan Younis Training Centre (KYTC) closed till end of March.</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Bank (WB)</td>
<td>Schools closed this month. Access restricted between Jerusalem &amp; WB. Some staff in Jerusalem are under home quarantine. Tulkarem is lockdown after the confirmation of new case. UN advised that, starting from 16 March, all UN staff (inclusive) in WB should be working from home, unless they have to come to their offices. Field Office and HQ staff based in Jerusalem are telecommuting.</td>
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<td>Jordan</td>
<td>Suspend the working hours of educational institutions (kindergartens, nurseries, schools, universities, colleges, institutions and training institutes) from Sunday morning, March 15, 2020, for a period of two weeks. All public events and gatherings stopped until further notice. Staff are working from home from 16 March.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Schools are closed; all unrwa offices will be closed today until 29th March, and staff will work from home except the health centers’ staff, environment health workers and Procurement and Logistics (PLD) colleagues (who will be called for duty)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>Schools, Training Centers and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) are closed until 2/4/2020, all staff will work from home except: health centers’ staff, cash and food assistance staff, and staff who cannot work from home</td>
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<tr>
<td>HQ</td>
<td>Most staff at HQ (Amman) and all staff at HQ (Jerusalem) are telecommuting. HQ (Amman) has minimal number of staff who work at their office. All meetings are done virtually.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- **NOTE:** Health centres operational in all fields, implementing triage for people with respiratory symptoms. Purchase of hand sanitizers, liquid soap and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) is ongoing to be distributed to health centres, distribution centres and sanitation labourers as needed.

3. Tips for staff working in office

- Book all meetings virtually (using MS Teams, Zoom, Skype, etc.);
- Avoid contacts with others by keeping at least 1 m / 3 feet away from them;
- Cover mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when coughing or sneezing and use the nearest waste receptacle to dispose of after use. If you do not have a disposable tissue, cough or sneeze in your elbow;
- Keep your workstation clean and hygienic; surfaces (e.g. desks and tables) and objects (e.g. telephones, keyboards) need to be wiped with disinfectant regularly;
- If you feel unwell, refrain from attending meetings, and make arrangements to work from home;
- Wash your hands often using liquid soap and plenty of water and/or hand rub (sanitizer).

- For more info, please visit the following websites: [WHO](https://www.who.int) [WHO/ Eastern Mediterranean Office](https://www.emro.who.int)

**Protect the health of your children, watch for the symptoms**

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