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

Number of cases including Palestinian refugees (PRs)
- Lebanon: 479 cases, (PRs: 1 & 17)*, 35 recovered, 14 deaths (local trans)*
- West Bank: 122 cases, (PRs: 34)*, 18 recovered, 1 death (PR) (local trans)*
- Jordan: 278 cases, (PRs: 0)*, 36 recovered, 5 deaths (local trans)*
- Gaza: 12 cases, (PRs: 9)*, 0 deaths (local trans)*
- Syria: 10 cases, (PRs: 0)*, 2 death (imported cases only)*

ALL COUNTRIES at HIGH RISK: COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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2. UNRWA Fields of operations summary updates

Access/movement Work modalities

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 open now.

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. New 24-hour delivery modality for food distribution on track, with around 4,600 (400 from yesterday) deliveries scheduled today, with positive feedback received from around 2,300 families. Daily sterilisation of Health Centres (HCs), sanitation offices, water wells, equipment and vehicles is ongoing. Microfinance has deferred installment payments for clients for the month of April on a daily basis.

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. Starting from today, movement in Ramallah is allowed only between 10:00 am-5:00 pm. All UNRWA offices will remain open. The overall security risk level is assessed minimal (except North East where it is assessed moderate).

Schools and all Microfinance (MF) branches remain closed. FO are telecommuting until 15 April. RSSP launched a hotline for the provision of psychosocial support. The number of refugees visiting the RSS offices continues to dramatically decrease following the declaration of the curfew. Food distribution with WFP for Bedouins continue. Biddu health centre is still closed. 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. The Psychosocial First Aid hotline is actively working. UNRWA staff members have had no problems accessing their duty stations (especially health, emergency, and essential staff). Education and other programmes are printing and disseminating Self Learning Materials (SLM) to students who have no access to electronic SLM. Sterilising campaign continued in the camps in all three areas.

Jordan The overall security risk level is assessed low.
All ports still closed. 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. 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. A full curfew will be implemented from 6:00 pm on Thursday 2 April until 10:00 am on Saturday 4 April, with no one to leave their homes even on foot, and all shops and business closed. Medical facilities will remain open. More security forces to enforce the curfew will be deployed in towns and villages.

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. JFO health staff continue distributing medications to the priority group of patients in all four Areas. Till this morning, JFO health staff managed to deliver the medications to 2,446 patients in four Areas. The distribution continued in coordination with local communities.

Lebanon The overall security risk level is assessed low.
All borders are closed. 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. 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. Field Director has provided support for confirmed COVID-19 PR cases, LFO will cover 90% and Palestine Embassy in Lebanon will cover 10% of the cost. In coordination with MSF, LFO is preparing 85% Training Centre’s (STC) dormitories for use as possible isolation units for mild confirmed COVID-19 cases. All health centres are thoroughly disinfected for sanitization teams on a daily basis.

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. Markets, cultural and social activities are closed, excluding essential services. 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 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 come to the office; other staff are telecommuting until 16 April. Almost all UNRWA staff in rural areas have been able to reach their workplaces, and were provided with facilitation letters from UNRWA and UN staff. UNRWA operations in the following localities are affected by the security situation, e.g. Aleppo, Daraa, Latakia, and Hama.

HQ (Amman, Jerusalem and Gaza) 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, URGENT: IMTD alert and Lifeline details for UNRWA fields of operations

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