UNRWA COVID-19 BRIEF UPDATE: 8 April 2020

1. Epidemiological situation (WHO data: as of 7 April 2020)

   • Number of cases including Palestinian refugees (pts): 3,872
     - Gaza: 1,535 cases
     - West Bank: 248 cases, 346 recovered, 1 death (pts) (local)
     - Jordan: 353 cases, (pts: 9*), 138 recovered, 6 deaths (local)
     - S. Lebanon: 19 cases, 5 (pts) and 14 recovered
     - Syria: 19 cases, (pts: 10*), 3 recovered, 2 deaths (imported cases only)

   ALL COUNTRIES AT HIGH RISK: COVID-19 PICTURE

   • Israel: 1,317,130
   • Egypt: 4,317
   • Gaza: 8

2. UNRWA Fields of operations summary update

   A. Access/movement

   Gaza

   • Stocks breakdown in effect. One crossing is shut down for permit holders and is open for special medical and humanitarian cases only: Rafah Terminal closed in both directions. Two crossings are closed for goods and urgent medical and humanitarian cases. Returning Palestinians are allowed to return from Rafah to Gaza through Sufa Crossing is again open. Again. Movement restrictions appear impermanent, and a system of ID cards for critical services is under discussion.

   West Bank (WB)

   • Movement across the WB, including north from East Jerusalem, except for emergencies. Movement restrictions remain in place in Jerusalem, Ramallah, and Bethlehem. The PA is extending movements permitted to the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) only until 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Movement is also allowed on week-ends in emergency staff areas. The PA will continue to minimize working hours and staff numbers at the Ministries. Border villages, including Bidalos (located as epicenter area), Qatana, Aljub, Bitounia and surrounding villages (95% of residents of these villages are refugees) are under lockdown. Movement of workers residing in these areas was extended for another month. All Governmental in the field will work on half days with 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Staff and key workers returning from Israel (with 14 days home quarantine) are allowed to return. (Please consult the last update dated 28-31 April 2020). Movement in halhul, Sunuf, Safad, and Ayelot. The general closure of travel in and out of Fawwar camp closed by the IDF on Thursday (8 April 2020). The general opening of entrance of Fawwar camp, closed by the IDF on Thursday (8 April 2020). The movement of and all IDPs in Jerusalem, except for emergency cases. Only one person, with emergency needs, allowed to return to the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) area from East Jerusalem. Bethlehem HC is still closed, and its staff are still in home quarantine. People tested for COVID-19 in Kalandia camp were found to be negative. Thabt Tahkarmat MOH hospital is closed for new patients, and all and patients and staff inside were isolate for COVID-19. Schools and all Microfinance (MF) branches remain closed. F. 04 for telecommuting until 15 April. RSP launch a hotline for the people with coronavirus psychosocial support. RSP 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, and essential workers are teleworking. UNRWA vehicles were redeployed to staff a needed UNW. Staff members had no problems accessing their duty stations especially health, emergency, and humanitarian. All staff are receiving daily updates.

   Lebanon

   • Access/stock open. The airport and borders could remain closed until after 5 April. The PA in there will remain open to allow 6:00 am to 6:00 pm at home in all areas of Lebanon. Only one person with Emergency needs allowed to go to the WBA to buy medicine to cover 2 month (25% families covered) or local communities, 10% of the family income (20% families covered). The PA will launch a total loan repayment deferment starting from April, noting that re-employment of camps is ongoing. Sanitation and health units remain in place,

   • Syria

   • Country-wide curfew in effect from 6:00 pm to 6:00 am. All permits to state (above 5 persons) closed. Closure of all commercial activities until further notice, excluding foodstuffs, pharmacies, cleaning centres, and medical services. Palestinian workers are still allowed to the back and in Damscus City, the movement will be supervised by the PA.

3. UNRWA’s operations

   Field (FO) and Area Offices (AO) staff telecommuting until 14 April, except for Health and other critical staff. School and vocational training centres remain closed until further notice. Relief and Social Services (RSS) offices are closed, with no home visits except in emergencies. On the sixth (last of 20 for planned) 4,475 families received their food baskets via the new house-to-house distribution method. Distribution has started and continues (in different health centres (HCs), sanitary offices, water, wells vehicles and equipment is ongoing. All staff of the refugee and internally displaced people (IDPs) in the delivery of NCD medicines Home delivery of essential medicine to the patients under 90 and with medical certifications. 90% of ambulances work. Talk free hotlines at HC active, numbers disseminated to community.

   Gaza

   • HQ Gaza coordinate with Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Interior to ensure that the movement of the medical teams and patients to the medical facilities (including the hospitals) is facilitated. No movement permission for any questions.

   Jordan

   • 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 pm). Only one person, with e-permit only, will be allowed per vehicle to go to the hospital to buy medicine to cover 2 months of treatment. It was allowed only during 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Movement is also allowed on week-ends in emergency staff areas. The PA will continue to minimize working hours and staff numbers at the Ministries. Border villages, including Bidalos (located as epicenter area), Qatana, Aljub, Bitounia and surrounding villages (95% of residents of these villages are refugees) are under lockdown. Movement of workers residing in these areas was extended for another month. All Governmental in the field will work on half days with 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Staff and key workers returning from Israel (with 14 days home quarantine) are allowed to return. (Please consult the last update dated 28-31 April 2020). Movement in halhul, Sunuf, Safad, and Ayelot. The general opening of entrance of Fawwar camp closed by the IDF on Thursday (8 April 2020). The general opening of entrance of Fawwar camp, closed by the IDF on Thursday (8 April 2020). The movement of and all IDPs in Jerusalem, except for emergency cases. Only one person, with emergency needs, allowed to return to the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) area from East Jerusalem.

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