

I. Background

The Basic Needs Working Group (BNWG), made up of more than 30 humanitarian organizations and agencies, has put into action its model for emergency response which encourages coordination of assistance, shares best practices, and provides a collaborative response. The COVID Response Task Force kicked off on March 24 with and is developing a sector response using a recognized model for coordination. The goal is efficient and effective and transparent management and distribution of funds, to ensure maximum coverage of vulnerable families without duplication of effort. The CRTF agrees to utilize the following products and systems for a coordination response: Identification and eligibility through an agreed model of scoring that creates a single beneficiary list; coordination of a standard 'safety net package'; and prevention of duplication through a RAIS Coordination Module.

With the number of cases of corona virus increasing in Jordan, the Government has imposed strict measures to restrict movements within the country. This has disrupted the formal and informal labour market. The majority of PoCs whether formally employed on an hourly or seasonal basis, or in the informal economy have seen the elimination of their livelihood without any of the social safety net on offer to Jordanians.

The most recent UNHCR survey on the Syrian population identified 78% living below the poverty line within the existing livelihood opportunities¹. With restrictions to movement /employment, refugees will be hit the hardest. More than 85,000 families of all nationalities have been identified as living below the GoJ poverty line. Approximately 44,000 are currently receiving some form of basic needs assistance.

II. Standard Approach

- COVID responses should not replace existing Basic Needs programs. Current beneficiaries on basic needs social assistance or other regular assistance types should continue to receive this assistance with no changes.
- Existing programs should not be re-labelled "COVID" funds, as it will likely require re-approvals from line ministries and MOPIC, and the intent is to get money into the hands of the vulnerable population as quickly as possible.
- Expanded Population - COVID appeal funding will be used on a new population, not currently receiving basic needs assistance. The population will be defined as families who had access to minimal livelihoods/work income prior to the COVID crisis and have now lost their income due to mobility restrictions and business shutdowns.
- Overall objective is to help families get through the crisis without incurring high levels of debt.
- The safety net package would as far as possible be aligned with the plans of the Ministry of Social Development, taking into account that studies have shown that the costs of living for displaced persons is higher than for national citizens living in poverty (largely due to housing expenses) (ref)
- In-kind distribution to Jordanian families will follow the guidance of the Ministry of Social Development and MOPIC, by coordinating with the identified national NGOs (JHCO, Tkiyat and Red Crescent)
- An Exit Strategy that will determine the withdrawal from emergency assistance to prevent dependencies for previously resilient households

¹ 2010 GoJ Poverty line. Under the expected updated poverty line, 93% of the Syrian population will fall within this category

III. RESPONSE

The BN/COVID Task Force will immediately begin development of the following products and systems:

1. Identification and eligibility through existing data (VAF home visits and Registration data)
2. Creation of a single pool of families identified as eligible for an emergency response. This single list will be shared with all partners.
3. Use of a standard package for basic needs/social assistance for those not currently receiving assistance.
4. Prevention of duplication through RAIS Coordination Module
5. Exist Strategy – defined metrics to determine when to end monthly emergency assistance.
6. Consistent messaging with refugees

1. Identification and Eligibility – Approved

The criteria for a social assistance/basic needs approach identifies families who have been surviving in Jordan through informal or formal low paying jobs, likely with food assistance from WFP. Emergency cash assistance would allow refugee families to emerge from the crisis without the additional burden of debt caused by survival expenses that cannot be postponed.

Identification principles

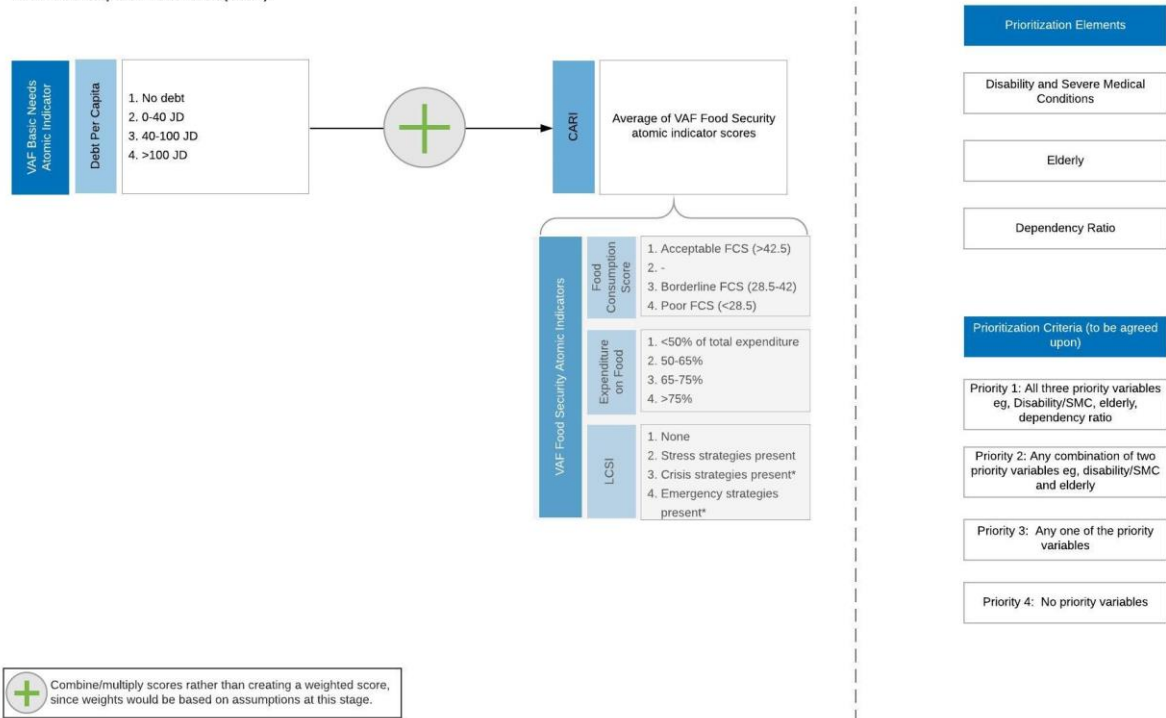
- Target households that had minimal income prior to COVID-19 measures, with assumption that they have lost their usual source of livelihood and will struggle to cover basic needs in the short-term.
- Expand (not top-up) the population served by Basic Needs sector for a limited period. These families should be able to return to work/livelihoods options once the crisis abates. The current 'social assistance' population will not be included in the identification.
- Use of existing data (VAF indicators and Registration biodata and special needs) to determine eligibility
- Create a common pool of cases that can be referenced and booked by all partners.
- Common pool will exclude any cases currently receiving basic needs assistance from any partner under an existing programme. Principles of complimentary assistance will continue through strong coordination to deduplicate families receiving food assistance, shelter assistance or cash for work assistance by any organization.
- Partners can use additional filters/criteria to prioritize beneficiaries or focus on geographic locations

Eligibility Script = **55,533 cases** not on existing basic needs assistance

- Exclude VAF poverty/welfare score since the proxy means test modelling was based on the Syrian population – and modelling for Non-Syrians is not available. Other proxy indicators for poverty are being identified
- Include basic needs score (atomic indicator) Debt per Capita;
- Include Coping strategies and Dependency ratio also relevant as larger family sizes tend to score higher in severity and livelihood opportunities vary in the number of potential working adults in the HH
- CARI score is internationally recognized, includes expenditure component of basic needs score as well as coping strategies.
- Social vulnerability is included in the food security score – head of household less relevant in this indicator (male HoHs who could otherwise work can still be considered).

- Combine/multiply scores rather than creating a weighted score, since weights would be based on assumptions at this stage.

Basic Needs COVID-19 Targeting Criteria COVID-19 Response Task Force (CRTF)



2. Levels of Assistance (standard packages) Approved

Safety net package

- Safety net package is aligned to the survival minimum expenditure basket.
- The package includes the elements of a basic needs' survival basket (rent, food, water/sanitation and utilities). Assistance that is initially aligned with the NAF/MOSD amounts may be topped up later to ensure equality of packages if funding allows.
- Many of the targeted beneficiaries are currently receiving food assistance. These beneficiaries will receive a safety net package without the food component (Option 1) to avoid duplication.

Safety Net Package - Option 1 (beneficiaries receive food assistance)

Category	FS 1	FS 2	FS 3	FS 4	FS 5	FS 6	FS 7+
Rent	73.51	96.36	107.37	114.48	120.59	122.11	126.17
Utilities	14.92	19.04	21.62	23.23	23.98	25.19	26.69
Water	4.49	6.19	7.72	8.53	9.16	10.06	10.99
Partial Safety net package	92.92	121.59	136.71	146.24	153.73	157.36	163.85
MOSD assistance (expected amt)	70	70	136	136	136	136	136

*Amounts will be rounded up/down for ATM distribution

Safety Net Package - Option 2 (beneficiaries currently not receiving food assistance)

Category	FS 1	FS 2	FS 3	FS 4	FS 5	FS 6	FS 7+
Rent	73.51	96.36	107.37	114.48	120.59	122.11	126.17
Food	19.92	39.84	59.76	79.67	99.59	119.51	139.43
Utilities	14.92	19.04	21.62	23.23	23.98	25.19	26.69
Water	4.49	6.19	7.72	8.53	9.16	10.06	10.99
Full Safety net package	112.84	161.43	196.47	225.91	253.32	276.87	303.28
MOSD assistance	70	70	136	136	136	136	136

**Amounts will be rounded up/down for ATM distribution*

- d. The assistance is a short-term emergency response provided to absorb shock due to the sudden change in livelihoods/work opportunities. Projects should outline a 1-6 month plan for response, with flexibility depending upon the length of time work restrictions are in place. Planning and budgeting should be adjusted as per the situation warrants.
- e. Rent is the biggest component of the package which is substantially different from the assistance offered to the Jordanian population as 70% of Jordanian population have access to housing which is not the case for the refugee population²
- f. In-kind/NFI assistance for Jordanian population should be channelled through the Government's identified national NGOs responsible for the emergency response: Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO), Tkiyet Um Ali and Red Crescent. The three national NGOs are delivering baskets of food and non-food items. The first delivery will focus on 35,000 households. Any organizations planning in-kind distributions to Jordanian households should contact:

Name	Title	Phone umber	Email
Arwa Abu Hudeib	Head of planning division	795068942	a.abuhudib@jhco.org.jo
Ghalia Al Kurdi	Programs coordinator	7988590563	g.kurdi@jhco.org.jo

3. Prevention of Duplication through RAIS Coordination Module (approved)

The COVID coordination module has been developed in RAIS. Organizations disbursing COVID funds must first have funding and approvals from GoJ and then "book" cases on RAIS before distributing assistance to avoid duplication. As soon as assistance is distributed, it should be uploaded as 'assisted' in RAIS. A dashboard will be developed to recording bookings and distribution. The guidance for using the coordination module is referenced in Annex 2. The

² http://www.dos.gov.jo/dos_home_e/main/linked-html/household/2017/G1/Table2G1_Jor.pdf

dashboard can be found here: [Click here](#) for the COVID-19 Emergency Cash Coordination Dashboard

Coordination for Jordanian beneficiaries should be organized by individual organizations. Contact for NAF: Khawla Abu Sararah (077 6652509).

4. Exit Strategy

The purpose of the exit strategy is to assist the sector in defining indicators to consider when judging the stages for expansion/retraction/withdrawal of the emergency response. The true indicators would reflect the global and national economic recovery, however in the absence of this data, the Task Force has defined proxy indicators that will allow for expansion or retraction of the emergency response which tracks the reality on the ground in Jordan.

- a. Removal of restrictions by Government of Jordan- The first indicator would be the removal of curfew and lockdown restrictions imposed by the Government of Jordan as way to contain the spread of Corona Virus. With the lifting of restrictions, opening of business and access to transportations, the population would be able to move and engage in economic activities, thus removing the need to be provided with additional assistance
- b. Withdrawal of Government of Jordan's assistance package for Covid-19 Response- The Basic Needs Assistance provided is aligned to the Government of Jordan's assistance as the need and target population that are addressed are the same. The exit of the assistance will also mimic the Government of Jordan's exit of the assistance as it considers the improved access to economic activities due to the change in situation
- c. Full resumption of NGO lead activities- Another indicator that would be considered would be the resumption of income generating activities that are carried out by different stakeholders- livelihood programmes, cash for work programmes etc. all designed to create economic activities for the target population with the assumption that most of the population assisted under this response would be engaged by some of these stakeholders. The resumption of these activities also indicates that economic life in Jordan is slowly moving to normalcy
- d. Due to potential delays in receipt of funds or approvals, organizations should take into consideration that despite a resumption of work opportunities, families identified as eligible who have not been assisted may still be managing under the burden of increased debt due to the COVID restrictions in movement.
- e. Opening all sectors, completion of vaccination drives and resumption of live as normal are additional indicators for the exit strategy to fully kick in.

5. Consistent Communication to Persons of Concern – Approved

Members of the task force will use all channels of communication to disburse the messages below (list of general communication channels for all Task Force members can be found in Annex 3. Targeted messages to beneficiaries will include key messages created by the CRTF. Full messaging and Arabic translation found in Annex 4.

Joint Messaging for partner's use:

- a) Update primary phone numbers (for all general channels – not targeted SMS)

Standards for non-camp Refugee Response Jordan 2020

- b) General message relating to COVID emergency assistance funds (for all general channels – not targeted SMS)
- c) Safety message (targeted SMS to beneficiaries on list)
- d) Message to identify length of assistance – or last month of assistance (targeted SMS)
- e) Exit message (for all general channels – not targeted SMS)

Annexes

1. List of TF members
2. Guidance for use of the RAIS Coordination Module
3. Communication channels spreadsheet
4. Communication/Messaging and Translations