Jordan’s Response to Coronavirus Outbreak
Key Messages

• Jordan’s early response, maintaining transparency and raising awareness, prioritises citizens above all else, despite difficult economic conditions

• Jordan is ahead of countries regionally and internationally in implementing measures to curb the spread of COVID-19

• Jordan is constantly updating and heeding official medical protocols and recommendations

• These measures can help flatten the COVID-19 curve
The Curve of the Spread of COVID-19 in Jordan with and without the Protective Measures

**Infection of around %81 of the population of Jordan**

**Without Protective Measures**

**With Protective Measures**

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<th>Date:</th>
<th>March 2020</th>
<th><a href="http://www.jsf.org">www.jsf.org</a></th>
<th>JordanStrategyForumJSF</th>
<th>@JSFiordan</th>
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<td>Source:</td>
<td>To Excel Consulting- International Reports, Study by Imperial College- London: “Impact of Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) to reduce COVID-19 Mortality and Healthcare Demand”</td>
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Jordan Seeks to Flatten COVID-19 Curve
Response

Strict precautionary measures were implemented across the country at a very early stage; measures began before a single case was recorded, making it one of the fastest early responses in the world.

Regular press updates by concerned ministries to provide citizens with clear and accurate information at all times. Official website launched to provide information and designated hotlines for receiving inquiries and concerns about virus.

The health and wellbeing of Jordanians are “above all else”, as highlighted in the [Royal Decree approving the Cabinet decision to proclaim the Defence Law](#). GoJ has taken steps to lead by example when it comes to social distancing and is holding teleconference meetings.

Jordan was among the first countries to evacuate its citizens and fellow Arabs from Wuhan. Since then, Jordan has taken more than 130 decisions and measures to protect the public. The 131st decision was proclaiming the Defence Law.

**Defence Law:**

- His Majesty directed the GoJ to ensure it will not infringe on basic liberties, freedom of expression
- The law is in line with the Constitution, and comes under necessary preventive measures to decrease the number of those who could get infected
Health and Safety Measures Taken

1. Six hospitals designated for testing corona across Jordan: Al Bashir, Jordan University, Zarqa New Public Hospital, King Abdullah University Hospital, Karak Public/Prince Hashim Military Hospital.

2. Certified Biolab/Medlab for testing. Cleared Prince Hamza Hospital, designated for isolation cases [Six hundred beds].

3. Five hospitals in the northern, central and southern regions designated to operate as centres for quarantine and sampling of suspected cases.

4. GoJ announced an agreement with Facebook to launch a public awareness campaign for spreading educational content issued by the MoH on ways to prevent the spread of the virus.

5. Masks produced locally, companies distribute at reasonable cost; masks and disinfectant bottles available at Civil Consumer Corp. and are sold at cost.

6. Refugee camps designated medical teams, visiting/leaving is not allowed.
Economic Measures Taken

Central Bank of Jordan:
- Measures taken to increase liquidity and reduce cost of borrowing

Cut interest rates on monetary policy instruments by 100 basis points.

Postponed credit facility instalments for all economic sectors

Ministry of Finance:
- GoJ committed to identifying ways to reduce short/long term impact on businesses/workers and to helping firms stay liquid

Postponed sales tax payments until payments are received and not at the time of sale

Allowing companies on the ‘golden and silver lists’ to pay only 30% of customs duties and postponing the remaining 70% for later

Reduction in the total percentage of social security contributions from 21.75% to 5.25%, with reductions for both employers and employees
Economic Measures Taken

Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Supply:
Ensuring sufficient storage of goods and announcing price ceilings for food commodities

Emergency plan activated, storing wheat, barley and bran at maximum capacity.
PM assures commodity stockpile is sufficient.

Announced price ceilings for food commodities (including produce and poultry) — in response to consumer complaints of price-gouging.

Ministry of Labour:
To provide protection for workers

Suspension of operations at private and public institutions — excluding vital sectors (i.e. healthcare).

Previously: enabled flexible work arrangements in all its forms for the private sector (remotely and flexible hours).
Economic Measures Taken

**Ministry of Transport:**
Ensuring freight continues, as well as travel bans.

**Directed institutions and government departments to limit transportation, including travel bans to and from the Kingdom.**

**Announced cooperation between Jordan Armed Forces (Air Force) to facilitate airfreight traffic and shipments. Land, air and sea shipping continues**

**Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities:**
At an average cost of JD50-70 per night/14 days, a significant stimulus to the hotel sector

**34 hotels in Jordan (23 in Amman and 11 in the Dead Sea) allocated to house 4,892 quarantined individuals coming from abroad.**

**Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources:**
**Easing restrictions on payment timelines for electricity bills**

**Stocks of crude oil and fuel sufficient for months ahead. No suspension of power services to any subscriber for a month.**
Launched e-payment donation service, and considered expired health insurance cards renewed automatically for 1 month.

Disbursed public servants’ salaries earlier/before the 2-week official leave.

Direct support to citizens (one-off payments); tax deferrals for households and companies (payroll, income and property tax); reduced social security contributions; expanded unemployment benefits; child-care subsidies; mandatory sick pay; student loan holiday; expanded support for veterans and pensioners.

Energy Ministry will not collect ‘max. load’ dues from agriculture/hotel/other sectors until end of June, directed electric power companies not to cut power over unpaid bills.

Extended business licences until 1st June.

Air/land cargo is continuous; eased inspection on imported goods to expedite process, extended time on cargo shipments to stay in Aqaba 7-14 days while fees remained the same.
Logistical Measures Taken

Travel to/from Jordan halted; Jordanians coming transferred to quarantine; prohibited welcoming arrivals at airports/border crossings

Imposed curfew, in addition to strict security measures at quarantine sites

Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army units placed at entrances/exits of cities

Suspended public/private sector work for two weeks except for vital sectors [health/water/gas/agriculture/logistics/security/IT/disinfectant]; prohibited gatherings of more than 10 people/transport between governorates

Suspended printing newspapers/operation of public transport, closed down malls/allowed only opening of pharmacies and bakeries. Basic supplies, medicine, being home-delivered to maintain curfew

Foreign Ministry established crisis unit tasked with enacting precautionary measures at embassies, maintain contact with embassies to be reachable by expatriates
Classes at schools, universities suspended

E-learning platform (darsak.gov.jo) launched

Televised classes also broadcast on three Jordan Television channels

Higher Education Ministry disbursed JD3 million in aid to public universities
Polls and Statistics

Ipsos Poll: Vast majority of Jordanians agree with GoJ measures

IPSOS Poll: 83% agree with gov. decision to keep public at home.

70% agree with enforcement of Defence Law.

76% of Jordanians think GoJ handling of coronavirus is ‘not exaggerated’ and 95% agree with decision to close schools, 94% with decision to suspend religious activities, 97% with preventing visits to prisons.

97% understood the isolation measures implemented for arrivals to Jordan.

83% in favour of closing media platforms that spread rumours.

Poll released by Jordan Times citing IPSOS on March 17.