

Alert note*Jordan Humanitarian Crisis, December 2023***Completed by:** Fares Swais – DSPR Jordan Executive Director**Date completed:** 12/12/2023.**Forum:** ACT Jordan Forum**Type of emergency:** Humanitarian Crisis**Date of emergency (if rapid onset):** October 7th, 2023

1. The nature of the emergency
<p>On 7 October 2023, Palestinian militant groups, mainly Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, with other groups such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, launched a major attack on Israel from the Gaza Strip. The attack included rocket barrages and vehicle-transported attacks across the border on Israeli communities and forces. In response, the government of Israel declared a state of emergency and war; The Israeli military retaliated by conducting a counteroffensive and an extensive aerial bombardment campaign on Gaza followed by an invasion. The continued conflict has resulted in a severe humanitarian disaster, with destruction to houses, schools, medical institutions, and key infrastructure.</p> <p>As a result of this conflict, it created a short term crisis for families from Gaza Strip who were visiting Jordan for family reasons, or university students who is studying in Jordan and got stuck due to the boarder's closure and were not able to return back to Gaza which forced them to stay in Jordan with no source of income required in paying their housing rent, securing their daily needs of food and non-food items, medication, and university tuition fees for the students who are already studying at the Jordanian universities and lost all financial support to continue their studies. Adding to that the crises created a negative impact on psychological wellbeing of those who got stuck in Jordan creating the feeling of insecurity and stability.</p>
2. The impact and scale of the emergency (please include your source of information)
<p>The conflict created crises on a small-scale level for the targeted group. Based on internal needs assessment in cooperation and coordination with the Jordan Hashemite Charitable Organization (JHCO), The official government entity that are supervising the aid that goes to Gaza, the assessment showed that there are 115 Palestinian families of 288 individuals who came to Jordan before October 7th, for different reasons and got stuck and were not able to go back to Gaza, in addition to 30 university students who are studying at Jordanian universities who are facing major problems, particularly financially due to their inability to cover their university fees, because they were not able to communicate with their families inside the Gaza Strip or the death of their families due to the war which led to complete stop of financial support to those students.</p> <p>Families and students face basic and medium risks, which may grow in the next weeks because of the ongoing conflict in Gaza. This war has resulted in a whole or partial loss of communication between families and students and their families inside Gaza, putting additional pressure on families and students, particularly female students.</p> <p>Families and students' basic needs are mainly financial due to their incapacity to keep up with or cover them to cover their daily needs such as food, housing rent, university tuition fees, winter needs, and daily consumption needs. Protection intervention for them throughout this period has become important to avoid aggravating any other protection reasons and interventions that may arise because of failure to take or satisfy their needs during this period.</p> <p>Taking such protection measures may help or protect them from any cumulative current or future risks, such as forcing them to leave their houses because of their inability to cover the rent or protecting them from exploitation because of working in jobs that are not permitted, or their inability to cover their basic needs of food and expenses. It also protects students from stopping their studies due to the inability to cover their academic requirements and the financial obligations of the universities.</p>
3. Local and national capacity

The recent war on Gaza comes to add the pressures on already fragile economy and humanitarian situation and effect population in Jordan due to hosting around 1.4 million Syrian refugees, and already having more than 2.5 million Palestinian refugees living in 13 refugee camps all over Jordan since 1948, and 1967 who are relying on UNRWA support as well as other NGO's and INGOs to address their humanitarian and living needs. The situation has led to significant challenges in responding to the needs of the population. Some key local structures and resources including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) of whom are playing a crucial role in providing assistance to Palestinian refugees in Jordan, offering services like education, healthcare, and relief. Except for the Jordan Hashemite Charitable Organization which is the government entity who is in charge of sending all aid to Gaza Strip and trying to help those who are stuck in Jordan after October 7th, the people affected by this conflict are not receiving any assistance from other organizations. DSPR Jordan with cooperation with local NGOs and Civil Society and Church Related Organizations to play a vital role in addressing the crisis and facilitate providing them with the needed services such as healthcare, education, and providing humanitarian and needed assistance.

DSPR member of ACT Alliance has a long experience in responding to emergency interventions, including health services, and providing medicines and supplements for sick children and mothers, psychosocial support, cash relief, and cash vouchers, distribution of food and non-food items and vouchers and supporting university students by paying their tuition fees. DSPR Jordan coordinates its work with local partners and stakeholders, and with community-based organizations and community entities and with the ACT Jordan forum and uses their premises for awareness and community related activities. In addition to that, DSPR coordinates with the Jordan Hashemite Charitable Organization to ensure efforts are coordinated with UN health clusters providing the needed health and nutrition services and guarantees complementarity and exchange lessons learned with different players.

4. Key needs and gaps

Cash assistance:

Multipurpose cash distribution is needed as consumption support for families daily needs due to the loss of their income and unconditional cash to cover other needs related to housing rent and winterization needs. Through its network with Palestinian refugee camps local committees in Jerash and Amman, DSPR Jordan was provided with the list of the families and university students who got stuck in Jordan after October 7th. DSPR Jordan conducted field visits and phone calls to collect the needed data of the targeted families and students.

Education:

DSPR Jordan will contribute to paying part of the tuition fees for university students who are stuck in Jordan with no financial support due to the war at Gaza.

Health Support:

DSPR Jordan will support individuals seeking medical care through referring them to hospitals and clinics for further treatment and needed medical tests and covering medical fees and ensuring the availability of vital medicines and supplies.

Psychosocial Support:

DSPR Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) works on a wide range of activities. This includes psychosocial First Aid sessions, debriefing sessions, relaxation techniques, stress release, and resilience-building exercises for children, women, men, and people with special needs to create a balance in their psychological status and reduce further development to psychosocial problems.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i>)	X
Appeal (<i>intended for large scale emergencies</i>)	

If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.

Capacity details of forum members with the intention to respond are given below:

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise	Support required	Estimated Budget range
DSPR Jordan	Amman, and Jerash Governorates	Cash Relief, Food and Non-Food, Health, and Protection	Financial	USD 150,000

5. Potential responses

DSPR Jordan, and based on initial needs and expertise, our intervention will include unconditional cash handout (small cash amounts to households to ensure coverage of their consumption needs); health Support: medications, medical follow up and referral of medical cases, cash to families to pay their housing rent, tuition fees for university students, and Psychosocial components to support and raise awareness of individuals and family members. The scope of the intervention is to target the areas where DSPR Jordan works in Amman city especially in the east, and in Jerash Governorate, including Palestinian refugee camps. DSPR Jordan will coordinate its efforts with three local hospitals and clinics in Amman and Jerash to address the most urgent needs of individuals, and with CBOs, and NGOs to provide needed facilities to support the refugees each in its area.