



النهضة العربية للديمقراطية والتنمية
Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development

Legal Paper
Legal Aid Unit



Summary (2)

Decisions and measures taken by the Jordanian Government
to respond to the COVID19- health crisis

(24/3/2020-30/4/2020)



July
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I. Introduction

This paper is part of a series that summarises the decisions and measures taken by various sectors of the Jordanian government in the face of the COVID-19 health crisis. This is the second summary that compiles and documents the decisions and actions taken by Jordanian officials, this time in the 24/3/2020-30/4/2020 period, with the aim of studying and analyzing them later.

The original document is drafted in Arabic and contains a much more detailed account of these measures.

II. Decisions, procedures and declarations issued by the Ministry of Labor:

Date:	Decisions, procedures and declarations:
23/3/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures to supply citizens with ration materials, food items, milk for children, medicines and oil derivatives. Clarification of the mechanism for paying and receiving salaries in the month of March.
29/3/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disseminating a manual on safety and measures to combat the spread of Coronavirus among banking and exchange workers.
31/3/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launching the website: www.stayhome.jo to facilitate issuing temporary electronic permits for up to three employees specified by an employer.
9/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launching the website: www.mol.gov.jo containing a Q&A manual to answer inquiries about Defence order No. 6 of 2020 and issues related to the employers, employees and work.
12/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launching a number of e-services through the platform: www.hemayeh.jo, to receive employers' requests and complaints concerning Defence order No. 6 of 2020.
13/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcing procedures and conditions for obtaining approvals for economic sectors, institutions and enterprises to resume their businesses. Announcing instructions that allow enterprises to pay not less than 50% of the regular wages to workers who are not required to work, in accordance with the provisions of the fourth item of Defence order No. 6 of 2020.
20/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using the platform www.stayhome.jo to learn about the mechanism for issuing permits to move from home to one's place of work after the commercial sector reopened
25/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allowing migrant workers to leave the Kingdom, exempting them from paying due fines and fees, when the case. Registration starts on Sunday morning 26/4/2020 through the platform: www.hemayeh.jo.

III. Decisions, procedures and declarations issued by the Ministry of Industry and Trade:

The measures and declarations included instructions on closing and opening various economic sectors, cases of violating defence orders, and regular updates on the strategic stocks of food items.

Date:	Decisions, procedures and declarations:
24/3/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any bakery that sells directly to the consumer will be closed in coordination with the competent authorities. Delivering flour to bakeries and deciding mechanism for delivering bread to people's homes.
25/3/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcing the mechanism by which the market, especially supermarkets and small shops, is kept supplied with ration products continuously.
26/3/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declaring that the strategic stocks of various ration products are above the safe limits. Defining the price ceiling for the following produce; potatoes, cucumber, tomatoes, courgettes, eggplants and onions. Closing more than 20 facilities for violating instructions.
27/3/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening meat shops on the following Saturday and setting the price ceiling for eggs.
30/3/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> His Majesty, King Abdullah II visits Jordan Silos and Supply General Company in Irbid. During the visit, HM emphasizes the need to preserve the strategic food stock in the Kingdom. Declaring that the volume of grain stocks (wheat and barley) in the Kingdom, which amounts to 1.833 million tons, is sufficient for more than a year.
31/3/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declaring the mechanism reached by the Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the Ministry of Digital Economy for issuing permits. Declaring the quantities of forage distributed to feed livestock.
8/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suspending the granting of licenses for exporting and re-exporting foodstuffs from April 6.
12/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allowing food stores of an area larger than 200 square meters to sell directly to citizens from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
15/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declaring that the strategic stocks of various ration items is in a very comfortable position and exceeds the safe limits of each commodity.
19/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcing the opening of more commercial enterprises, namely: print newspapers, technical and television sector, energy, services and consultations, sweets selling, industrial sector, at certain rates, shops selling electrical appliances, telecommunications and technology, clothing, jewellery shops, household, office furniture-selling and stationery shops, construction, health sector opened in their entirety, and electrical and electronics stores.

20/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stressing that social security registration is a requirement for the functioning of the facilities and sectors authorized to work under the decision issued the day before.
27/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More businesses allowed to open: financial auditors, tax and accounting consulting, finance management offices, barbers and hair-dressers, dry cleaners, watch repairers, shoes, accessories and cosmetics selling stores.

IV. Decisions, procedures and declarations issued by the Ministry of Agriculture:

Date:	Decisions, procedures and declarations:
3/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allowing cars and small trucks to transport agricultural products from farms to governorates from 4 am to 2 pm every Saturday.
6/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launching a special fund to support the Ministry of Health in combating the COVID-19 pandemic.
8/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructing farmers not to consult the agriculture departments in person, for health reasons, as the ministry had formed a specialized committee to follow up on all observations made via hotlines Dedicating 50 phone numbers and six hotlines for the ministry's center across the Kingdom. Establishing a Facebook page under the name of "Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture" to communicate, receive all information, and follow up on complaints.
16/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launching the electronic filing service for obtaining import and export licenses, through an application on the ministry's website: www.moa.gov.jo.
18/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting up health and regulatory mechanisms for the importing barley.
20/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resuming export of sheep, complying with the conditions set for the purpose, like weight and number of sheep authorized to be exported.
22/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donating 7 tons of Jordanian dates to the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO) on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan.
28/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision to export 14 batches of sheep and goats.

V. Decisions, procedures and declarations issued by the Judicial Council:

Date:	Decisions, procedures and declarations:
24/3/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Judicial Council reviewed a decision by the Execution Departments Heads and the Execution Judges to postpone the imprisonment of prosecuted persons for a civil debt that does not exceed JD 100,000, to release them and ban them from travelling abroad. The council estimated the decision would be applied to 4,000 individuals.
30/3/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donating JD100,000 to the Ministry of Health to help it combat the spread of the COVID-19.
19/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing a committee comprising judges and a representative of the Jordan Bar Association to discuss the functioning of the justice sector. The committee recommended the introduction of the remote trial technology for crimes of all kinds, as a first stage, in coordination with the relevant stakeholders. Suspending promotions and salary increases for judges issued in 2020, under the Judicial Service System No. 2 of 2020, applied as of 2020/05/01 until 2020/12/31.
28/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resuming the work of the courts and at a minimal level.

VI. Decisions, procedures and declarations issued by the Judges' Chamber:

Date:	Decisions, procedures and declarations:
2/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivering the alimony to the banks. Eligible recipients shall receive the alimony through the family prepaid cards or the Jordanian Post Corporation. Encouraging the non-holders of the family prepaid cards to update their personal information via the platform: www.sjd.gov.jo.
22/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allowing the processing of marriage contracts in the southern governorates and opening the Sharia courts.
26/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deferring proceedings in cases scheduled for the Sharia subordinate court in the period 20/4/2020-7/5/2020, except for the maintenance cases and emergencies, until the end of Ramadan.

VII. Decisions, procedures and declarations issued by the Ministry of Health:

The ministry issued continuous updates on cases of infection, number of deaths and healed cases, new tests, number and places where random tests were conducted, and the value of donations to the ministry to combat COVID-19. It also provided updates on data related to the stock of medical equipment and the quantity of medicines in pharmacies. At the same time, the ministry broadcast messages raising awareness and assuring citizens, and followed up on delivery of medicines to the elderly and new-born children.

Date:	Decisions, procedures and declarations:
24/3/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore sent 21,000 units of tests for COVID-19 to the Kingdom.
26/3/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hotline numbers and the "Ask about Corona" service, available 24 hours a day to receive feedback and inquiries from citizens about the virus, its symptoms and prevention methods, were announced; 100 doctors were employed for this service.
28/3/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evacuating people quarantined at Dead Sea Hotels and in the capital Amman. Royal directives were issued to purchase 200 respirators, expected to arrive within two weeks from the date they were issued, and large quantities of protective equipment for medical crews.
31/3/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The national campaign "Elak O Feed", for protection from the Corona virus, was launched.
3/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health centers were opened from Sunday to Thursday for a survey of newborns.
5/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 400 random tests were conducted on citizens in the southern governorates. The total received funds by the Ministry of Health for the COVID-19 account amounted to JD 14 million. Chinese businessman Jack Ma donated 100,000 Corona test kits.
7/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The electronic platform for providing chronic medicines www.emed.hakeem.jo was launched.
11/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test results for COVID-19 in Al-Zaatari camp proved all negative.
17/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Random test results for COVID-19 in Baqaa, Jerash and Souf camp proved all negative.
23/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical clinics, dentist practices, X-ray centers and laboratories were allowed to open, complying with the required health conditions.

VIII. Decisions, procedures and declarations issued by the Ministry of Education:

Date:	Decisions, procedures and declarations:
16/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The digital library of Jordanian curricula platform www.moe.gov.jo was launched in cooperation with the Ministry of Digital Economy.
18/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision taken to continuously follow up on students' activities and registration on the educational platform: www.darsak.gov.jo, and to provide information on the measures taken to ensure online examinations.
23/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extending the time to access "Darsak" platform until 8 pm instead of 6 pm.

IX. Decisions, procedures and declarations issued by the Ministry of Digital Economy:

The ministry worked mainly on designing and following up on the technical aspects of the government platforms on which citizens register to receive services and support during the crisis, in coordination with these ministries, in addition to developing these platforms based on feedback and comments from ministries and citizens.

Date:	Decisions, procedures and declarations:
16/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launching the digital library of the Jordanian curricula platform: www.manahej.moe.gov.jo, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.
23/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued monitoring of the feedback from citizens and residents on the StayHome platform for issuing permits.
24/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing the Social Security Corporation with number of applicants registered on the platform: www.mehan.jo -- freelancers and daily wage labourers -- so that the institution may include them in its databases and send them their insurance numbers

X. Decisions, procedures and declarations issued by the Ministry of Culture:

Date:	Decisions, procedures and declarations:
20/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreement signed with the "Plan International" Foundation to support the Ministry of Culture competitions.
29/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.shaghafi.gov.jo platform launched to develop and hone young talent capabilities.
30/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website for the cultural competition entitled "Kul Mur Sayamur" launched.

XI. Decisions, procedures and declarations issued by the Ministry of Social Development:

The ministry provided continuous updates on the number of beneficiaries, aid packages, and value of financial assistance, collaborators, and the benefitting vulnerable groups, like the elderly, orphans, day labourers and the poorest families.

Date:	Decisions, procedures and declarations:
28 /3/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 2,000 food parcels were prepared at the ministry's stores by the social protection team and the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO) for two days.
31/3/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The General Union of Charities gave the ministry a donation of JD 20,000.
30/3/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial aids from the National Aid Fund benefitted about 215,000 families, while "Tkiyet Um Ali" provided monthly food packages to about 30,000 families in the Kingdom.
7/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 20,000 food parcels were distributed to families with seasonal income (day laborers), in partnership with the Nawa Platform.
14/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government program launched to support day laborers through the National Aid Fund, which included cash assistance.

XII. Decisions, procedures and declarations issued by the Ministry of the Interior:

The ministry provided continuous updates on the electronic service applications to be used for residence purposes and for granting transport permits, and monitored any violations of the Defence Acts, and followed up the situation of and reassured students from Arab countries studying in Jordanian schools and universities.

Date:	Decisions, procedures and declarations:
26/3/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous provision of electronic services related to the renewal of temporary residence, granting annual residence permits and renewing annual residence permits on the website: https://eservices.moi.gov.jo/MOI_EVISA/.

XIII. Decisions, procedures and declarations issued by the Central Bank:

Date:	Decisions, procedures and declarations:
28/3/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening exchange firms to provide transfer services and allowing delivery to homes.
29/3/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructions for the provision of money transfers were issued by licensed exchange firms. E-portfolios of private-sector workers, owners of enterprises and businesses without bank accounts were to be used to transfer and receive salaries.
31/3/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An initiative targeting the companies of mobile payment providers operating in the Kingdom was started.
3/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Central Bank of Egypt launched a JD500 million program to finance small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). More details on the national loan guarantee program to respond to COVID-19 crisis were given during the 60-minute program that hosted Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan Dr. Ziad Fariz. Bank payments by companies and individuals for the month of April were postponed.

XIV. Decisions, procedures and declarations issued by the Ministry of the Environment:

Regular updates were provided on environmental violations and sanctions, including the closure of industrial plants that were in breach of environmental conditions, as well as information on inspection tours by the ministry officials to ensure environmental safety measures were observed in all the Kingdom's governorates.

Date:	Decisions, procedures and declarations:
28/3/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several measures were taken in cooperation with other concerned national institutions to reinforce preventive efforts to fight the spread of COVID-19. Continuous monitoring of the management of the waste of COVID-infected people in quarantine in hotels. Carrying out spraying and sterilization campaigns on public and private buildings and waste management facilities, in cooperation with the provincial municipalities.

XV. Decisions, procedures and declarations issued by the Social Security Corporation:

Continuous updates were provided on the institution channels of communication, and campaigns to inform how to register on different platforms were carried out. The corporation also provided updates on the assistance distributed (packages and services), the number of beneficiaries (individuals and establishments) registered on the electronic platforms it launched and on who qualifies for coverage and assistance programs during the crisis.

Date:	Decisions, procedures and declarations:
24/3/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launching a new electronic service to receive requests for in-kind assistance from day laborers affected by the crisis, as well as from poor above 70 years old; applications were to be received through https://service1.ssc.gov.jo/sscaid/.
29/3/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperating with the Jordanian Armed Forces' Military Consumer Corporation on preparing and distributing thousands of food packages to needy families in different governorates of the Kingdom, and receiving the requests of unemployed day labourers on an electronic platform launched by the institution three days before to receive their demands.
1/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New electronic service launched to enable private sector enterprises to suspend the application of Pension fund to all or some of their employees.
6/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distributing shopping coupons to eligible unemployed day labourers, in cooperation with the Jordanian Armed Forces and the Jordanian Red Crescent Society at all Military Consumer Corporation branches, based on the areas of residence mentioned in the applications they submitted on the electronic platform.
16/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launching solidarity and support programs under Defence order No. 9 of 2020, which included the solidarity programs to protect the economy and workers.
17/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publishing more details on the support program Solidarity (1), Solidarity (2), and "Support" on the Social Security website.
21/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launching the e-platform for solidarity and support programs issued under Defence order No. 9 of 2020, which included five programs: Solidarity (1), Solidarity (2) and Support program with its three parts.
29/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allowing economic sectors in the private sector to register in the Solidarity (1) Program and the Solidarity (2) Program, with the exception of some sectors.

XVI. Decisions, procedures and declarations issued by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities:

Continuous updates on leaving measures of the locked-down people their hotel-based quarantines, as well as information on multi-party discussions on how best to minimize the impact of the crisis on the sector and ways to reactivate it as quickly and cost-effective as possible.

Date:	Decisions, procedures and declarations:
11/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The program "Our Jordan is a Paradise", which, before the COVID-19 crisis was to be launched in the spring, became "Our good Jordan"; it is ready to be implemented. The name was chosen to raise the morale of Jordanians.
13/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JD 10 million was allocated to support tourism. Owners of tourist facilities were exempted from paying fees and fines for licenses. Tourist guides were included in the concessional loan program. Allow restaurants to provide delivery and handling after the necessary conditions have been met.
21/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Tourism announced that the number of restaurants and establishments that applied through the www.delivery.mota.jo platform for catering during the current period amounted to 2347 restaurants to date, of which only 1,880 were completed.
26/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restaurants and pastry shops were allowed to operate under health and procedural requirements; they were also allowed to operate home delivery or pick-up services of pre-ordered food items from 8 am to 6 pm.

XVII. Defence orders issued by the Prime Minister's State office between 25/3/2020 and 30/4/2020

Date	Defence order number	Issues
25/3/2020	Defence order No. 3	Penalties for the violation of Defence order No. 2 of 2020
30/3/2020	Defence order No. 4	Establishing the "Hemet Watan Fund" to combat the Corona epidemic.
30/3/2020	Defence order No. 5	All time periods provided for in the legislation in force shall be suspended, these periods include: limitations prescribed period, plea in bar periods, and periods for any judicial procedures in all types of courts in the Kingdom, the public prosecution services, arbitral tribunal, the execution departments and the wages authority.
8/4/2020	Defence order No. 6	Protecting the rights of workers in various economic sectors, and establishing the foundation for setting up support programs for various categories of organizations and individuals.
15/4/2020	Defence order No. 7	Setting up remote learning mechanisms for schools, universities and vocational training.
15/4/2020	Defence order No. 8	Measures taken to protect public health and reduce the chances of infection in society.
16/4/2020	Defence order No. 9	Establishing solidarity programs 1,2 and support programs 1,2,3 aimed at supporting affected economic sectors and individuals.
30/4/2020	Defence order No. 10	Extension of the period for filing income tax returns.



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