

July 2020 Sustained Grantee Spotlight: Collateral Repair Project



Even in the midst of a pandemic, Collateral Repair Project is bringing much needed support to refugee families in Jordan. Here is a recent update on how COVID-19 is shaping CRP's response:

“When the coronavirus pandemic arrived in Jordan in early March 2020, the government took swift action to protect the health of the population and immediately locked down the entire country. All non-essential businesses were forced to close and people were restricted to their houses, except to purchase food from local grocery shops and bakeries. Whilst these measures have been largely successful in controlling the virus, the effects on refugee and low-income Jordanian families has been devastating. Income from informal work, which many refugees relied on, disappeared overnight. In addition, the majority of humanitarian organizations in Jordan had to shut down their operations during the lockdown, closing another possible avenue for refugees to seek assistance.

Although CRP was forced to close its community centers in mid-March, we are continuing to provide Emergency Assistance and have actually expanded the program in response to the worsening economic situation of many of the families we serve. We have been able to continue to provide credit to all families enrolled in CRP's Emergency Assistance Food Voucher Program by working closely with two grocery stores in the local community. Instead of collecting a physical voucher from CRP, heads of household are now notified to go directly to the grocery store at an appointed time to sign for the voucher in the shop. Alternatively, CRP can arrange for groceries to be delivered to home addresses.

Schools in Jordan have been closed since March, and it seems likely that they will remain so until at least the fall. The CRP Youth Team has been conducting extensive outreach in order to understand how the lockdown is affecting children and their families. One of our biggest successes has been to adapt the After School Club and the Preschool programs into curricula of activities for families and children to work on in their homes. A schedule is sent out every week to parents, which includes ideas for arts and crafts activities, yoga and physical exercise, literacy

and numeracy activities as well as materials and instructional videos made by staff and volunteers.

One of the very rewarding things for us has been the enthusiasm of the families for these programs. Early on, parents began to send in pictures of their children working on the activities and the finished products. With their permission, CRP is now posting some of these pictures to our Arabic language Facebook page, which motivates other kids and families to join in.

Our broader outreach in the community continues and the Community Centre staff are constantly looking for new ways to engage and deliver our program of livelihoods, empowerment and psychosocial support to refugees and vulnerable Jordanians. The women of the Hope Workshop have been staying engaged through regular online English Classes, and all through Ramadan they posted delicious recipes to our Facebook group. We have transitioned a number of other programs into distance learning programs, including yoga and physical exercise classes, and a very popular course in personal finance.”