The unprecedented emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic across the world has promoted an urgent need to support the most vulnerable segments of the population, such as young people, not only from a public health perspective, but also in the long-term individual and collective recovery and resilience.

As of April 13th, the Kingdom of Jordan has 389 confirmed coronavirus cases. The Government has enforced a curfew and movement regulations to restrict mobility of citizens in an effort to reduce the accelerated spread of the virus. As a result, both formal and non-formal education is transitioning to a digitized format. UNICEF Jordan has been supporting its national partners to ensure continuous, labour market-driven learning for the most vulnerable young people by moving curricula online.

UNICEF Jordan Country Office has been at the forefront of building the capacity of the Government to continue delivering crucial services to young people, as well as supporting this population in continuing their long-term positive development through access to online learning.

In order to ensure that the most vulnerable young people continue to access the training opportunities, UNICEF Jordan is supporting its beneficiaries with access to data packages, as well as tablets, to enhance their access and meaningful participation in learning. Young people enrolled in the diverse range of UNICEF programmes will receive 301 computers, 345 tablets, and 722 data packages to enhance their connectivity.

UNICEF Jordan, in partnership with its academic partner, is delivering cutting-edge training opportunities to the most vulnerable young people through remote learning technology. Such advanced courses include full media production, advanced computing, and photography and image processing. Within the end of the month, technical training, such as CNC, dental, digital fabrication, hybrid technology, welding, and HVAC, will also be delivered through remote learning. Currently, 497 students are enrolled in the programme with a 100 per cent transition to the digital format. To support the most vulnerable who lack digital literacy skills, the call center was tasked to reach each student and talk them through how to access the curriculum remotely through the different online platforms.

UNICEF Jordan has also worked with its partners in adapting its digital training curriculum to be delivered online via different technologies, such as Zoom and Facebook Live. To date, 478 young people — 78 per cent female — are participating in both interactive training sessions led by facilitators and formal structured learning opportunities to continue accessing the training. Microwork training prepares young people for freelance work in the digital economy, such as data archiving, data management, and website management.

The e-Learning strategy is highly adaptable to the feedback of young people to enhance their experience. Based on the feedback of young women beneficiaries in Tafilah governorate, for example, UNICEF Jordan switched from live interactive sessions to structured presentations with ongoing live support from facilitators, as young women felt more comfortable with this arrangement when their facilitators were male.

As part of a long-term e-Learning strategy, UNICEF Jordan will transition all available in-person training to be accessible to a wide audience of young people in a remote format, including training on social innovation and entrepreneurship, technical and vocational training, and climate action related curricula. The exact format and components of the training will be determined an audience analysis conducted by UNICEF,
which surveyed over 1,200 young people across Jordan in their e-Learning behaviors, preferences, and interests.

In Azraq and Za’atari refugee camps, UNICEF Jordan is working with a national partner to map out beneficiary accessibility to smart gadgets and the internet in order to proceed with entrepreneurship training and strategic support to establish 40 home-based businesses. Beneficiaries with low connectivity will be connected with closest connected peers or receive data package and tablet support to enable them to move forward with their project preparation.

Additionally, UNICEF Jordan is transitioning its cultural heritage curriculum, as well as Islamic geometry, and recycled mosaic training to be delivered to children and adolescents via online platforms as part of the technical and vocational programme offering. This intervention targets children and young people living in Informal Tented Settlements, which are considered to be the most marginalized and under-resourced population across the Kingdom.

**Learning Passport**

UNICEF Jordan is piloting a global partnership with Microsoft to develop an online platform that will host all of the trainings described above (e.g., advanced coding and software development, microwork, cultural heritage training, life skills), as well as other key 21st century skills, such as life-skills, social innovation (Upshift), social entrepreneurship, human-centered design, and financial literacy. Any new curricula will also be accessible to young people across Jordan in Arabic through this portal, including social innovation and entrepreneurship, and other sectors of technical and vocational training. All curricula will be accessible both online and offline, offering maximum opportunity for youth to have access to its valuable content, offering the best user journey experience in distance learning. This open-source platform offers an innovative solution to deliver critical knowledge and skills training to the most vulnerable young people in Jordan in a short timeframe.

These efforts have helped accelerating the transition to e-learning, noting that all these materials will, once the emergency is over, form part of an innovative blended training programme for youth, able to reach the most vulnerable youth, especially women, in the most distant communities in the Kingdom, ensuring equitable access to continuous education, helping bridge the digital divide and making more effective use of resources. UNICEF Jordan’s strategic shift to promote online learning will support young people in the post-COVID19 recovery phase on national, community, and individual levels.