Project Description

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has partnered with ISSRAR consortium to help the local community in Azraq to help reduce the spread of the virus and cope with the economic and social effects of the crisis. Aside from different health and hygiene related interventions, special focus was given to immediate existential economic impact of the crisis on the most vulnerable members of the community. ISSRAR contributes to the provision of clean water, sanitation and hygienic conditions (WASH), which are of paramount importance for the protection of human health in all outbreaks of infectious diseases, including the recent and ongoing COVID-19 outbreak.

COVID-19 Information Dissemination

Remote awareness raising activities were carried out by making more than 50 direct calls to key people who disseminate information across Azraq. Calls were followed up with sending official, reliable information via social media platforms. Since access to Azraq has been granted to the ISSRAR team, on-the-ground awareness raising activities have been carried out. To date these included designing, printing and disseminating brochures that were handed and explained to each household in Azraq. The brochures describe important prevention measures against COVID-19.

Hygiene Kits Distribution

The ISSRAR team, in collaboration with the local community, distributed 3,000 packages of essential hygiene kits for personal care, housekeeping, and health protection to all homes in the Azraq district including; North Azraq, South Azraq, Tatweer district, Hamza district, Al Ain Al Bayda and farms district, and a group of Al-Omari borders residential units.

A number of hygiene kits were also distributed to public institutions, including to thirteen (13) governmental departments and institutions, eight (8) governmental schools, and to all nine (9) mosques in Azraq.
Cash-for-Work

In order to support the vulnerable groups that were directly affected by the COVID-19 crisis, the distribution was carried out by hiring daily workers along different steps of the preparation and distribution of the hygiene kits. The hygiene kits were distributed by contracting (59) daily-workers, including (15) transport vehicle drivers, (7) guards, (11) workers for loading and unloading hygiene kits, (18) Distribution workers, in addition to (5) local focal persons and (3) cleaning workers.

Recovery and Development phase (upcoming)

Following the COVID-19 emergency response in Azraq District, ISSRAR team is aiming to continue supporting the vulnerable groups through Cash-4-Work activities by renovating water and sanitation facilities of selected governmental schools to ensure compliance with the required hygiene standards while transitioning back to normal. Moreover, Cash-4-Work approaches will be used for harvesting, cutting and separation of the reed plants for the planned constructed wetland for wastewater and feacal sludge treatment.