Combating the spread of COVID in the Greater Madaba Municipality

COVID-19

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by

Local Development Unit
Introduction:
the municipality operates under the Municipal Law No. 41 of 2015, which regulates the work of municipalities in delivering required services to citizens. In this unique case of COVID-19, the municipality received a notice from the National Center for Security and Crisis Management of the government of Jordan. In the first instance, it activated its risk management strategy which is directly connected to the LED plan of the municipality. Emergency cell in the municipality was activated, in coordination with the Ministry of Local Administration and the Ministry of Health, and all municipality's health and environment departments were put on alert. The government decided to enforce the defence law and adopt movement prohibition and curfew to control the epidemic. This decision was a challenge to the municipality and its citizens as the municipality was trying to provide all needs of the people.

Since March 2020 the municipality has dealt with several important topics in the fight against the spread of the epidemic, so much so that municipalities were termed the second line of defense. No COVID cases were recorded in the city of Madaba. The tasks of the municipality are as follows:

1- Environment, public health and safety
2- Social responsibility, social cohesion and support for poor families and refugees
3- Maintaining the local economy
One: environment, health and public safety

1- Solid waste management:

The municipality activated the local Waste Management Plan, mobilizing waste collection vehicles and organizing work force to ensure waste is collected and sent to the landfills on regular basis and without interruption.
2- Safety and public health:

- Intensive washing and disinfecting of the main streets
- Continuously disinfect shops before and after active hours
- Spray and disinfect all neighborhoods by newly purchased state-of-the-art, disinfecting equipment
- Awareness-raising campaigns for citizens on how to deal with this pandemic
- Inspection campaigns on commercial establishments to ensure compliance with the conditions and public safety
- Installation of "sterile room" corridors, a local invention, on the entrances of the municipality, the hospital and public facilities to ensure that people are disinfected.
Second: social responsibility, social cohesion and support for poor families and refugees

The most important task in these circumstances is to improve the living conditions of the citizens. To achieve that the municipality cooperated with the local community, overcoming the challenges by communicating with all segments of society and refugees to mitigate the impact of the virus, as follows:

- Reach out to all segments of society, refugees and residents.
- The municipality supported about 3,500 families, providing food, medicines and other needs of these families.
- Support the refugees with food supplies, treatments and medication for the sick
- Transport people who were in dire need to execute urgent tasks outside their homes.
- Provide citizens with water, and provide suction & extraction services.
- COVID awareness campaigns
- Campaigns to distribute public safety kits such as gloves, masks and disinfectants
- Social distancing initiative in front of banks, bakeries and other facilities by placing 2 meter yellow marks in order to protect citizens.
Third: Maintaining the local economy

The city ran spray campaigns to disinfect all commercial establishments before and after the curfew period.

- Awareness campaigns for shopkeepers on the use of public safety materials
- Inspection campaigns to ensure easy flow of the economy
- Ensure uninterrupted supply of all items from their sources
- Deferral of levies and taxes due from traders until the economy recovers in general or in part.
- Continue municipal economic projects through a risk management plan
- Encourage investment in recession times by offering facilities to investors
- Monitor and follow-up on the LED plan, redirecting where necessary in accordance with COVID challenges and effects.