

Monthly COVID-19 Bulletin

June 2022

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Epidemiological Overview

Data as of 25 June 2022

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| Total cases 197 494 | Total deaths 7 224 | Total recovered 155 794 |
| Case Fatality Ratio 3.7% | Total Tests 650 412 | Total Vaccine Doses used 4 194 672 |

Analysis of epidemiological data for Whole of Syria

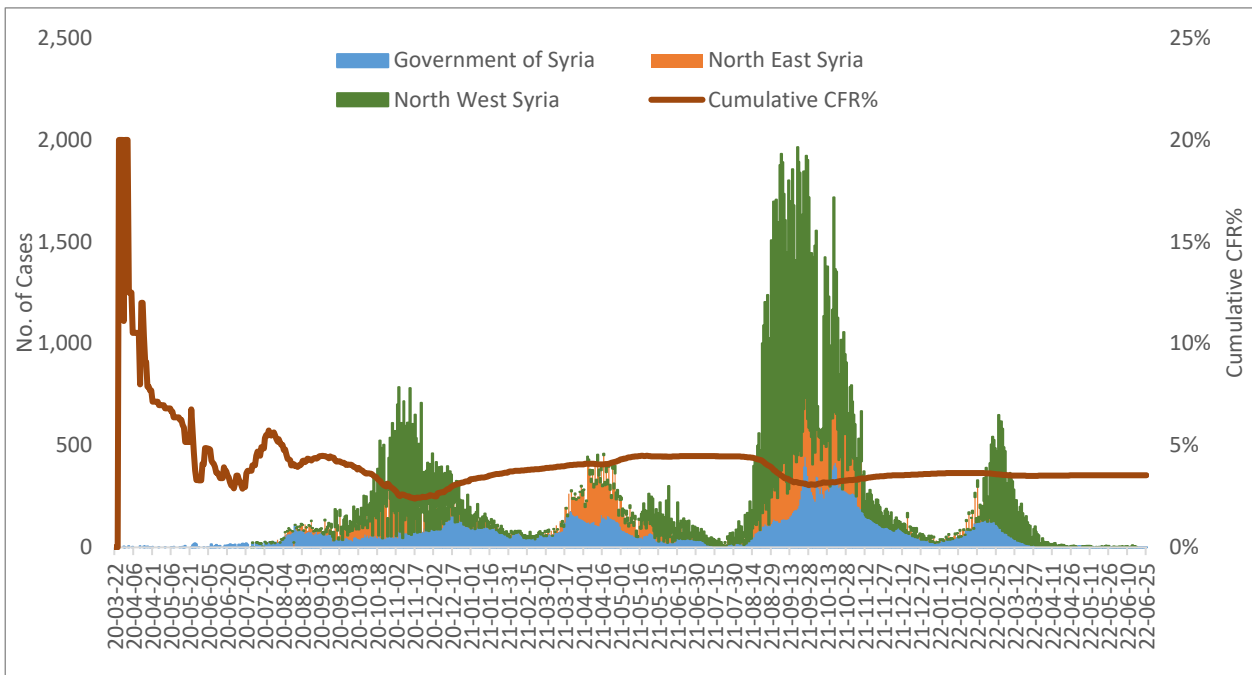
A total of 197 494 confirmed cases of COVID-19 were reported in Syria between 22 March 2020 and 25 June 2022 of which 102 991 (52.15%) were reported from north-west Syria (NWS), while 55 921 (28.32%) from areas of Syria controlled by the government (GoS), and the remaining 38 582 (19.54%) from north-east Syria (NES). During the same period a total of 7 224 related deaths were reported of which 3 150 (43.60%) from GoS, 2 496 (34.55%) from NWS, and 1 578 (21.84%) from NES. The overall Case Fatality Rate (CFR) is 3.7%. The CFR was highest in GoS (5.6%), NES (4.1%) and in NWS the CFR was 2.4%. The high CFR rates in GoS is attributed to the testing strategy for only severe and critical cases admitted to hospital for treatment.

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported in June across the Whole of Syria decreased by 47% (n=70) compared with previous month (n=134). A decrease was noticed in NWS by 22% (n=39) compared to May (n=50). Cases reported in GoS decreased by 63% (n=28) compared to May (n=77). Moreover, NES

reported a decrease of new cases by 57% with 3 new cases compared to 7 cases in the previous month. The decline of COVID-19 new cases was observed in all Syrian governorates. The number of reported COVID-19 cases and its percentage from the national total across 7 governorates during the month of June is as follows: Aleppo 31.43% (n= 22), Idleb 28.57% (n= 20), Damascus 24.29% (n= 17), Homs 4.29% (n= 3), Rural Damascus 4.29% (n= 3), Al-Hasakeh 4.29% (n= 3), Dar'a 2.86% (n= 2).

Syria has observed a downward trend in the number of COVID-19 positive cases over the month of June, while many neighboring countries started to show an increase in COVID-19 cases which might be the start of a new wave. In the Eastern Mediterranean region there is a 45% increase in cases between W25 compared to W24. Syria is strengthening its alertness for timely case detection; a genetic sequencing has been established in the country to be put in service in the coming period.

Figure 1. Whole of Syria weekly reported COVID-19 cases up to 25 June 2022

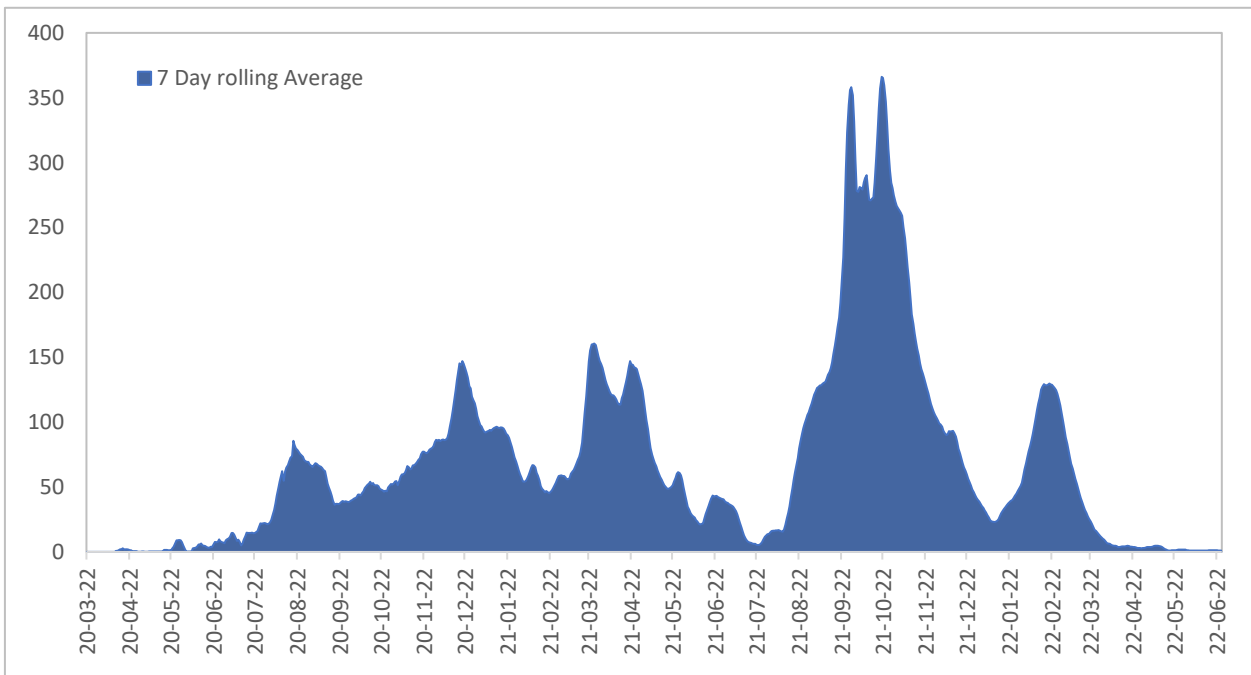


Analysis per region

Government of Syria

COVID-19 cases in GoS areas continued to decrease during June 2022, the 7-day average of new cases was 1 compared to 3 average cases in May 2022.

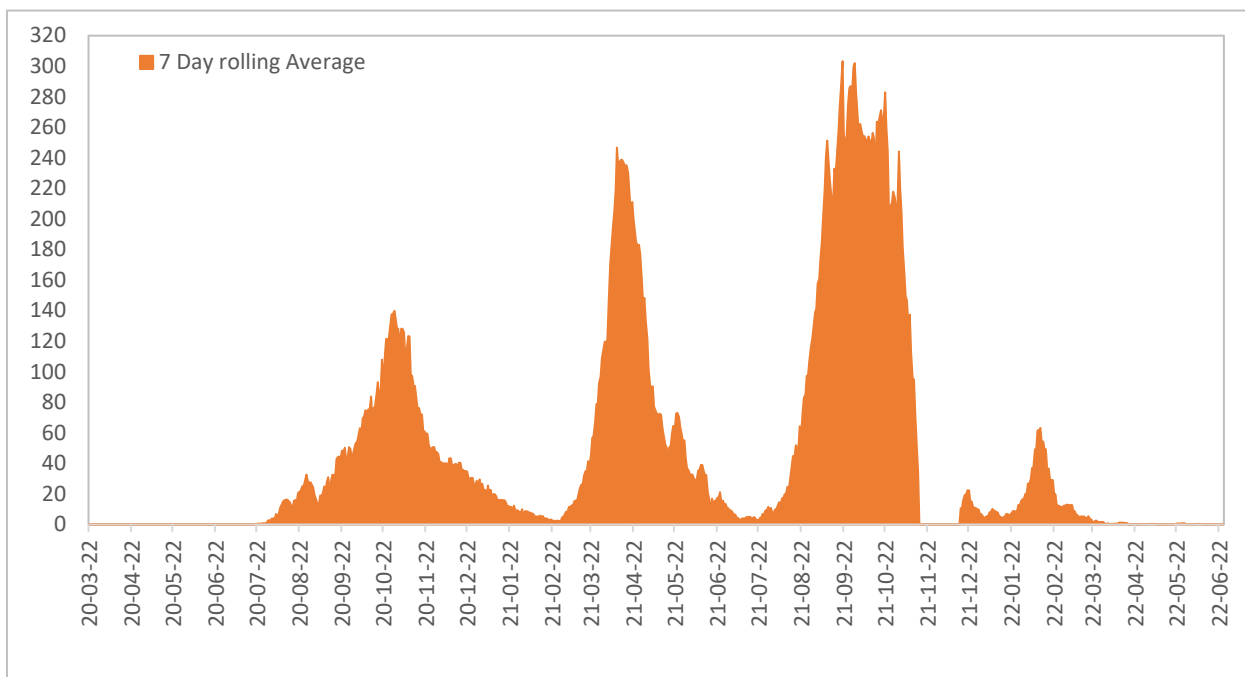
Figure. 2 The 7-day rolling average of COVID-19 cases in GoS



North-east Syria

There has been a decrease of COVID-19 in NES since March 2022. The current 7-day average dropped to 1 case by 25 June 2022.

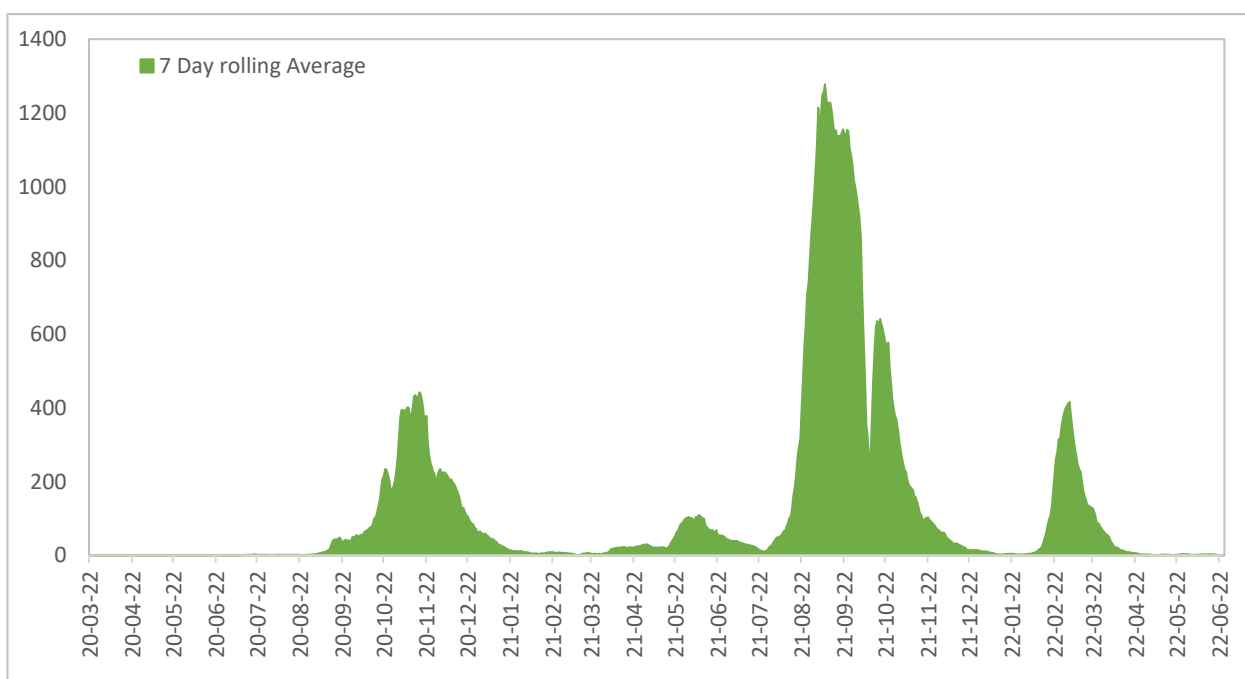
Figure 3. The 7-day rolling average of COVID-19 cases in NES



North-west Syria

The number of confirmed cases in NWS decreased in June 2022 by 22%, the 7-day average of new cases by 25 June is 2 cases.

Figure 4. The 7-day rolling average of COVID-19 cases in NWS



Deaths

In June, the number of newly reported deaths associated with COVID-19 (n=7) was down by 56% compared to May 2022 (n= 16). The cumulative mortality rate is 33.4 deaths per 100 000 cases. The number of COVID-19 associated deaths reported in June was in NWS (n=7) where deaths accounted for 100% of the total deaths in WoS. The cumulative case fatality rate is 3.7%. CFR remained the highest in Deir-ez-Zor - 8.8%, Damascus - 8.4%, As-Swieda - 8.7%. The high CFR is attributed to testing severe COVID-19 cases admitted to hospitals, while testing of mild and moderate cases Ag-RDTs is available only in some PHCs.

Figure 5. The 7-day rolling average of COVID-19 deaths

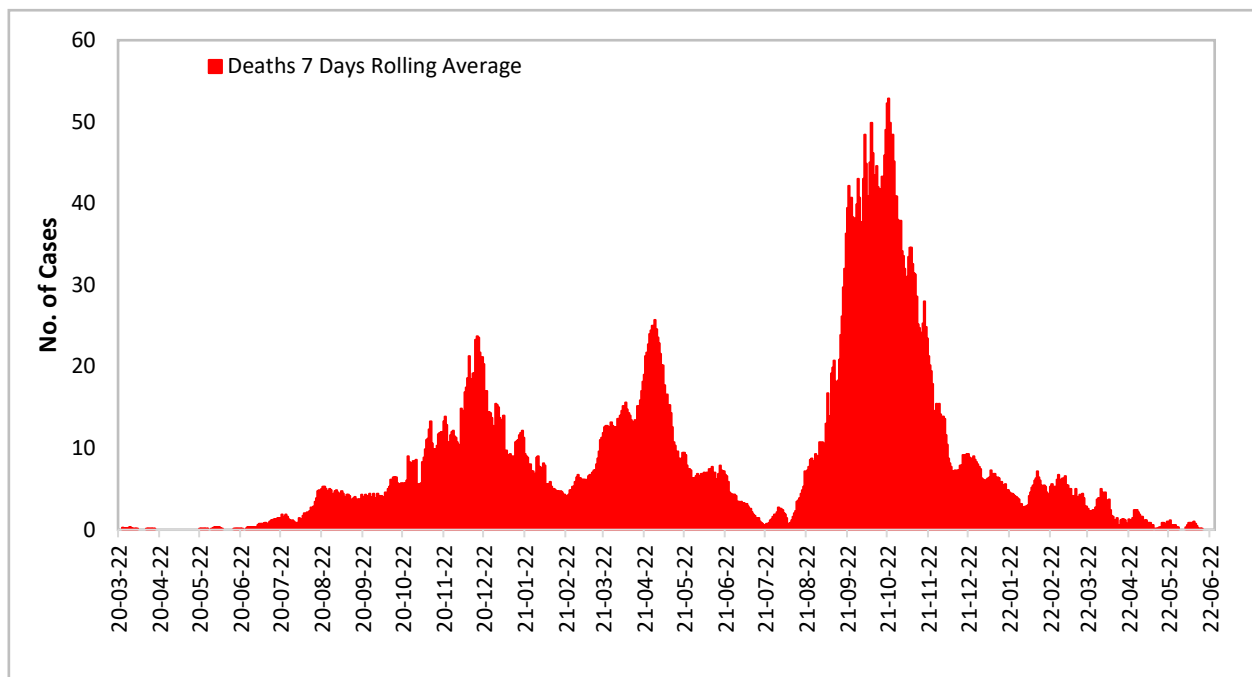


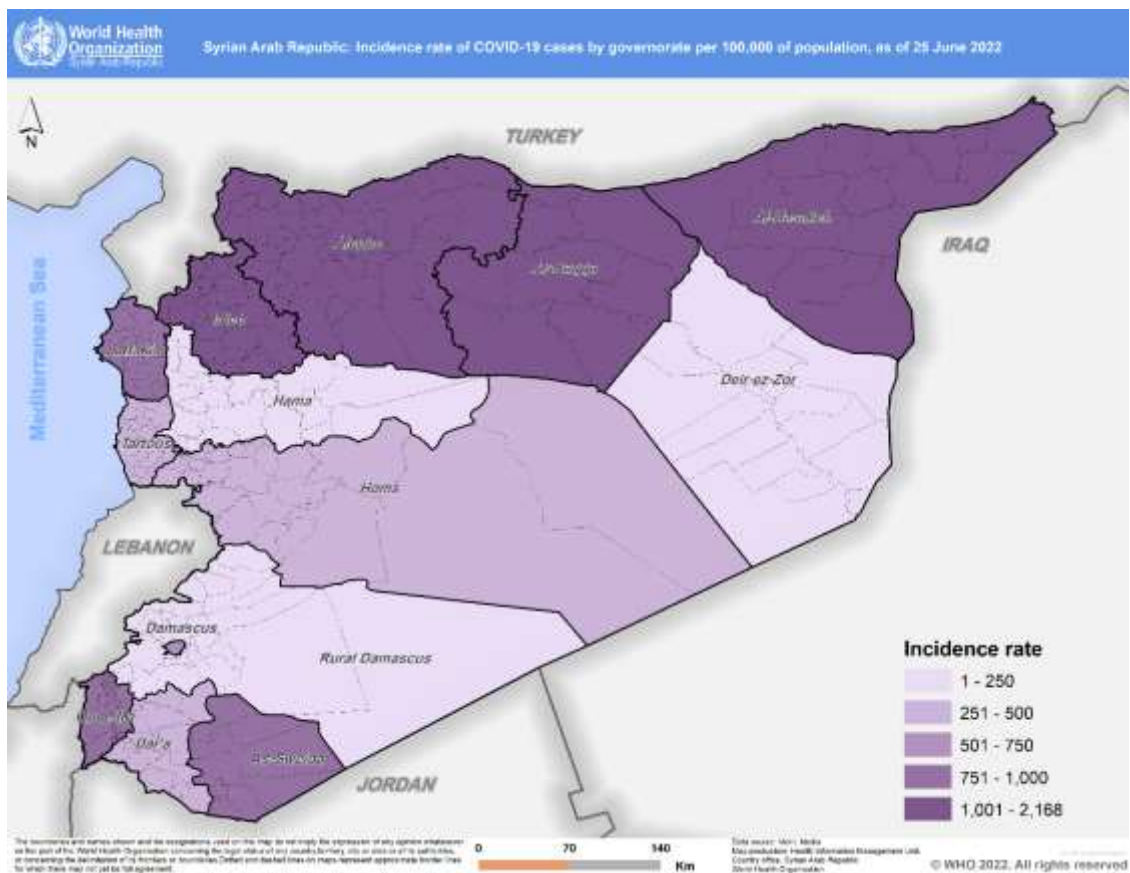
Table 1. Number of deaths increase/decrease since last month

| | |
|---|---|
| 7 224 Total COVID-19 related deaths reported to date | 1 25-day average number of deaths (during reported month) |
| 1 30-day average number of deaths (during previous month) | |

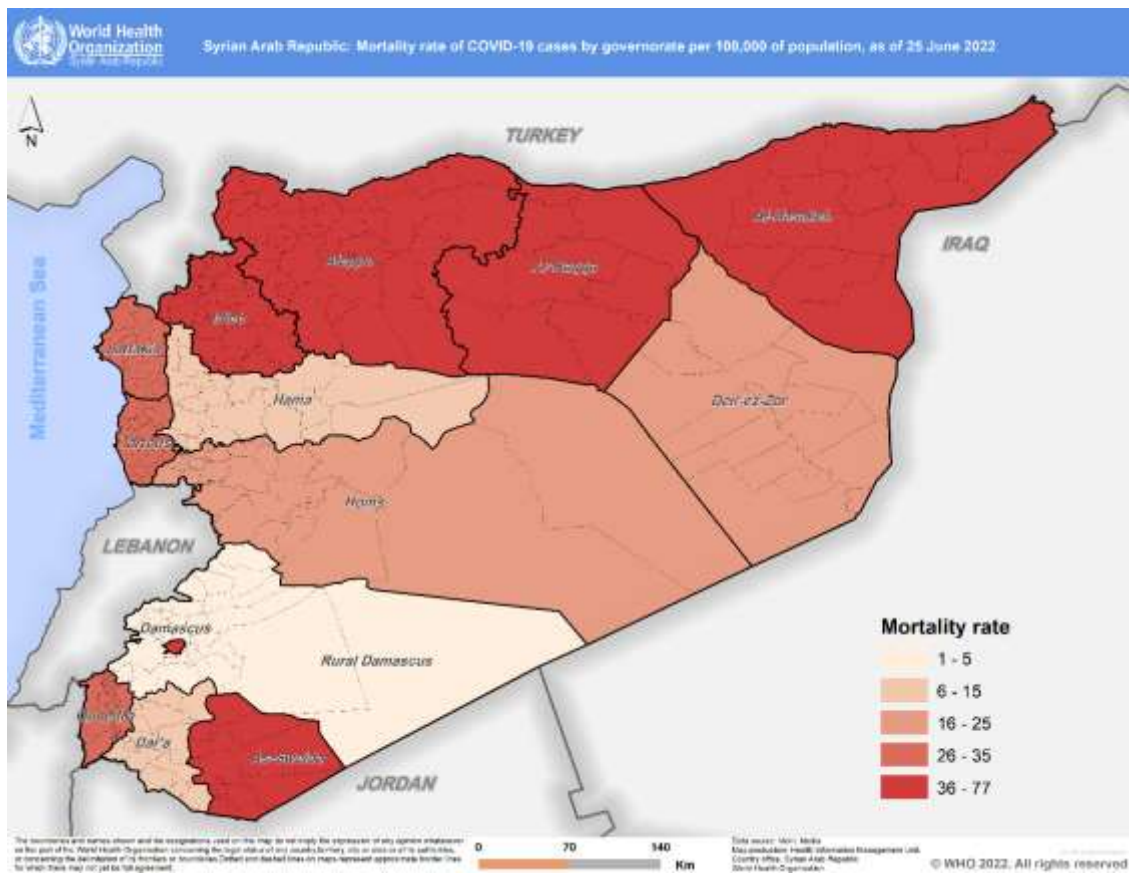
Table 2. Newly reported and cumulative cases of COVID-19 and associated deaths, by region, up to 25 June 2022

| Area | New cases in June 2022 (%) | Change in new cases Last month | Cumulative cases (%) | New deaths in June | Change in new deaths compared to last month | Cumulative deaths (%) |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Government of Syria | 28 (40%) | -63.6% | 55,921 (28.32%) | 0 (0%) | 0% | 3,150 (43.60%) |
| North-east Syria | 3 (4.3%) | -57.1% | 38,582 (19.54%) | 0 (0%) | 0% | 1,578 (21.84%) |
| North-west Syria | 39 (55.7%) | -22.0% | 102,991 (52.15%) | 7 (100%) | -56.3% | 2,496 (34.55%) |
| Whole of Syria | 70 | -47.8% | 197,494 | 7 | -56.3% | 7,224 (100.0%) |

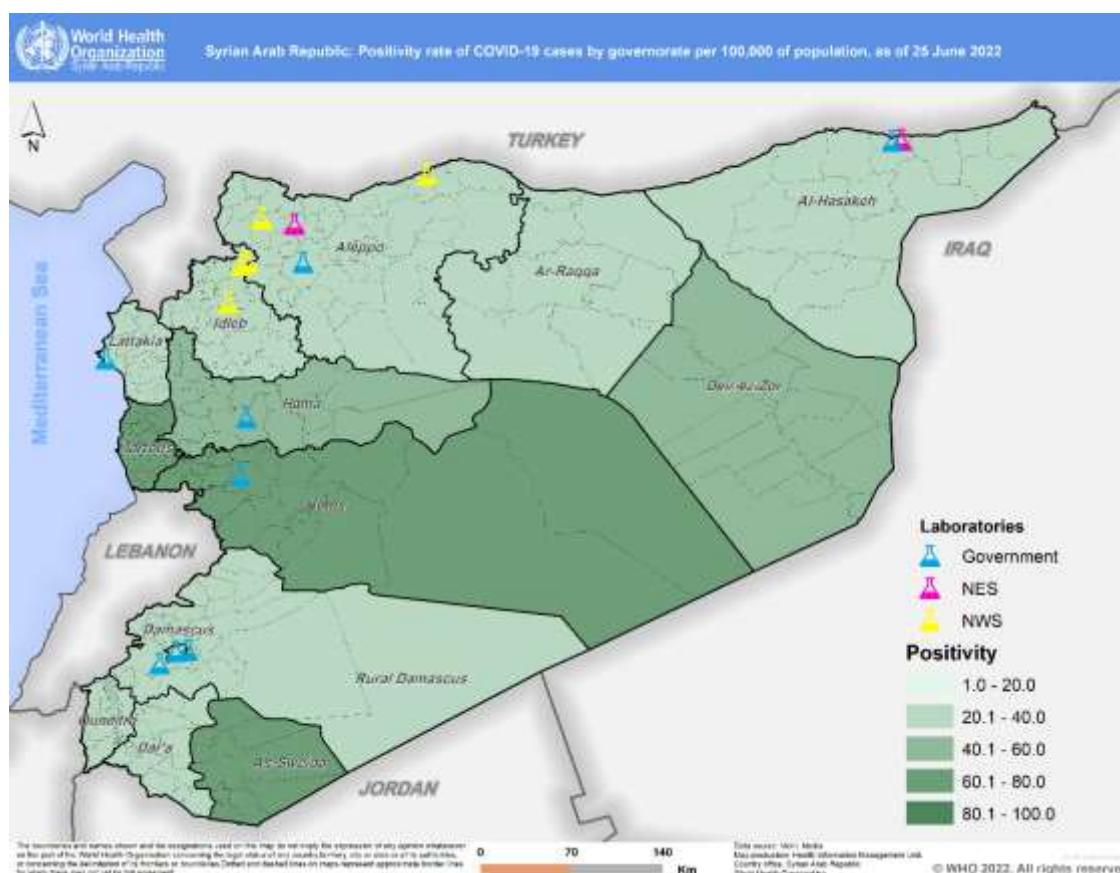
Map 1: Total number of COVID-19 cases per 100 000 of the population reported in each governorate, as of 25 June 2022



Map 2: COVID-19 related deaths per 100 000 of the population reported in each governorate, as of 25 June 2022



Map 3: COVID-19 Laboratory Positivity Rate by governorate, as of 25 June 2022



Syria had a low incidence levels of community transmission with 0.3 cases/100,000 population/month during June. The cumulative incidence rate since the start of the outbreak in WoS is 912/100 000 (as of 25 June 2022). The incidence rates are underestimated due to the low numbers of tested cases.

Testing

The number of PCR tests conducted in June 2022 decreased by 13.4% (n= 7 583) compared to 8 761 tests in May 2022. 650 412 is the total number of PCR tests conducted in WoS up to 25 June 2022. During June 2022, a total of 762 Ag-RDTs were performed at MoH/PHCs, MoE/school health directorate centers and NGOs medical points. The total number of PCR and AG-RDTs tests in June was 8 345 and the monthly testing positivity rate was 1% which is like the positivity rate in May.

Table 3. Positivity Rate increase/decrease since last month

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>8,345</p> <p>Number of tests conducted during the reporting month (PCR and Ag-RDTs)</p> | <p>1%</p> <p>Testing positivity rate in the reporting month</p> |
| <p>1%</p> <p>Previous average positivity rate</p> | |

COVID-19 Vaccinations

Vaccination activities continue across Syria at both fixed health facilities and through mobile medical teams in rural areas. 276 858 new doses were administered across Syria during June 2022, and 161 556 individuals took their first dose during the same period.

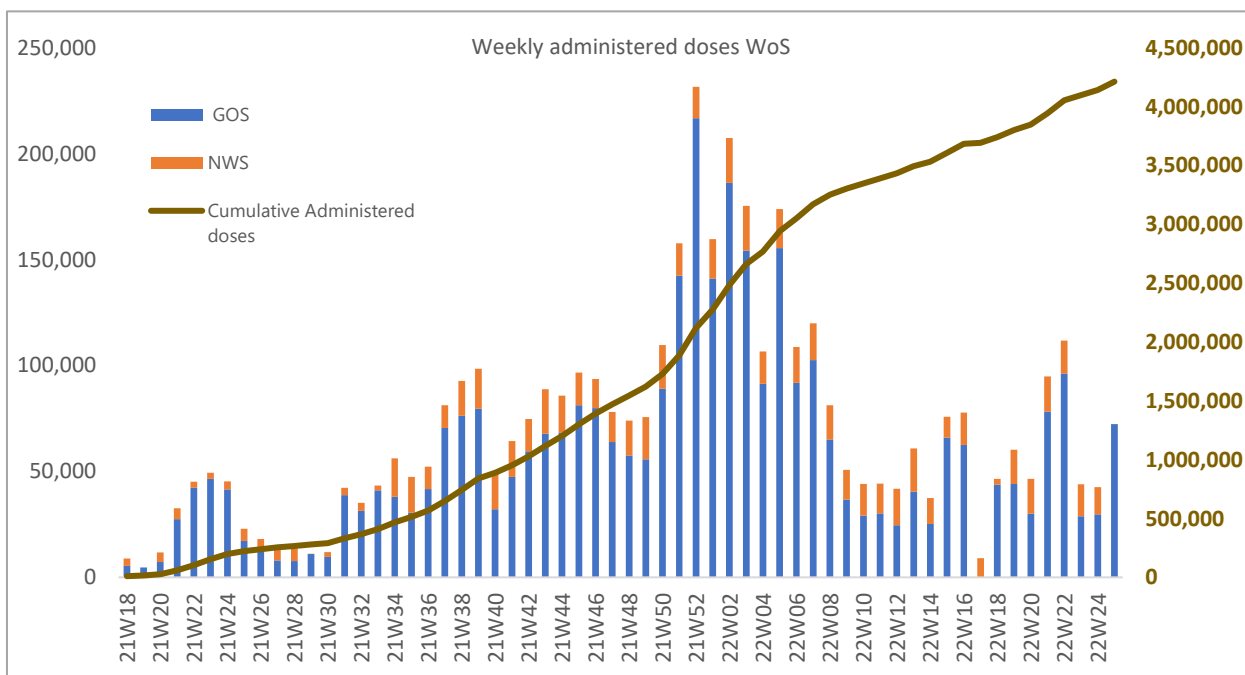
MoH has concluded the first round of COVID19 vaccination campaign on 2 June 2022 by vaccinating about 181 thousand people in 10 days. The second round was implemented during the period 19-30 June 2022. This campaign was accompanied by an intensified media campaign. The campaign targeted 2.5 million population above 18 years in all governorates. Different available vaccines (Sinovac, Sinopharm, AZ and J&J) were offered in the campaign. WHO is providing technical and financial support to the community-based organizations mobilized in some governorates.

Table 4. Overall delivered vaccines since April 2021 till 25 June 2022:

| | Type of Allocation | Manufacturer of vaccine | Quantity |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| GOS | COVAX | AZ Covishield | 1,203,500 |
| | | AZ/AZD1222 | 1,318,340 |
| | | Sinovac | 3,307,200 |
| | | Janssen | 3,458,400 |
| | | Total | 9,287,440 |
| | Bilateral | AZ/AZD1222 | 368,640 |
| | | Sinopharm | 1,995,000 |
| | | Sputnik light | 250,000 |
| | | Sputnik V | 100,000 |
| | | Soberana | 120,000 |
| | | Abdala | 120,000 |
| Total | 2,953,640 | | |
| GOS Total | | | 12,241,080 |
| NWS | COVAX | AZ Covishield | 53,800 |
| | | AZ/AZD1222 | 350,400 |
| | | Sinovac | 823,200 |
| | | Janssen | 832,800 |
| | Total | 2,060,200 | |
| WOS Total | | | 14,311,280 |

The available vaccines are sufficient to reach 45.8% of the population. As per the above table, vaccines received from bilateral agreements represent 20% of the total received, and the remaining 80% were delivered through COVAX. More intensification of COVID-19 vaccination is sought through vigorous RCCE and mobile vaccination teams.

Figure 5. The average weekly administered doses

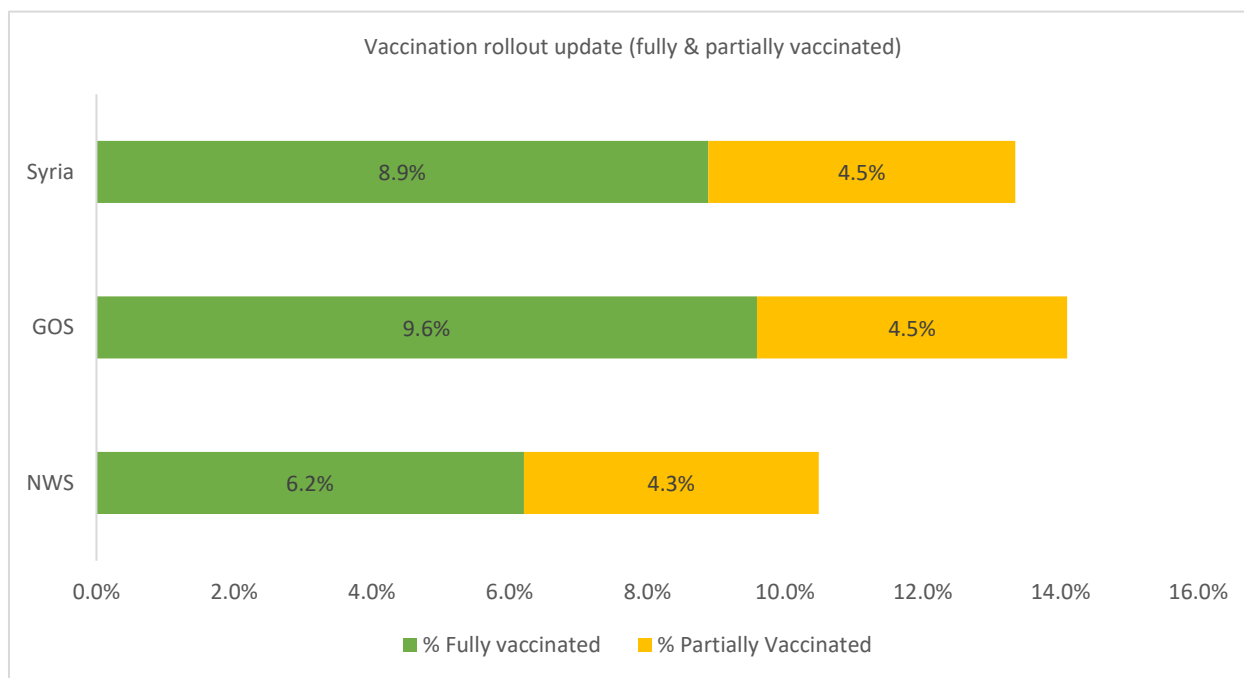


There is 15% increase in the administered doses of vaccines during June (n= 276,858) compared to the previous month (n= 240,673).

Vaccination coverage as of 25 June 2022:

- 13.3% of the total population received at least one dose of the vaccine, and only 8.9% are fully vaccinated.
- A total of 4 194 672 doses of different vaccines were administered and the total number of vaccinated people 2 743 546.

Figure 6. Vaccination status in Whole of Syria as of 25 June 2022



Vaccination coverage per region:

Government of Syria

| | |
|--|---|
| 3 477 375 Vaccines administered | |
| 2 292 935 People who received at least one dose | 1 560 212 People who are fully vaccinated |
| 14.1% Percentage of the population who received at least one dose | 9.6% Percentage of the fully vaccinated population |
| 0.8 % Percentage point increase from the last month | 0.8% Percentage point increase from the last month |

North-west Syria

| | |
|---|---|
| 717 297 Vaccines administered | |
| 450 611 People who received at least one dose | 266 686 People who are fully vaccinated |
| 10.5% Percentage of the population that received at least one dose | 6.2% Percentage of the fully vaccinated population |
| 0.7% Percentage point increase from the last month | 0.8% Percentage point increase from the last month |

Whole of Syria:

| |
|------------------------------------|
| 4 194 672 Vaccines administered |
|------------------------------------|

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 743 546 People who received at least one dose | 1 826 898 People who are fully vaccinated |
| 12.6% Percentage of the population that received at least one dose | 8.1% Percentage of the fully vaccinated population |
| 0.7% Percentage increase from the last month | 0.8% Percentage increase from the last month |

WHO Syria operational updates by other pillars

Pillar One: Coordination

- Followed up points on operational support to Qamishli hub.
- Provided health sector inputs to OCHA regarding health sector profile in southern governorates (As-Sweida and Dar'a), with COVID-19 inputs integrated.
- Prepared a separate update (including on COVID-19) for RC/HC Syria for his briefing with donors.
- Developed the Health Sector Bulletin (including COVID-19 information) for June 2022.
- Contributed to finalization of the SHF 2022 First Allocation Strategy Paper, reflecting COVID-19 gaps and challenges.
- Circulated relevant documents to Health Sector Syria partners including COVID-19 Weekly Epidemiological Bulletins, COVID-19 Monthly Bulletin, Summary of Key Performance Indicators and other documents.
- Submitted health-related inputs for developing a common Situational Analysis Framework for Area-Based Return Support (ABRS) assessments, which contained information on COVID-19 case management.
- On 29 June, organized and facilitated the Qamishli Sub-national health sector meeting with updates on COVID-19 presented as one of the agenda items
- Provided Syria Health Sector inputs and documents in preparation for all-hubs meeting on contingency planning and risk assessment organized by Whole of Syria Health Cluster; COVID-19 has been included as one of the risk scenarios.
- Provided Syria Health Sector inputs in preparation for a joint Whole of Syria Health and Nutrition Sectors' meeting with donors, and WHO Syria Country Office's meeting with the FCDO.
- Hosted and facilitated several health sector coordination meetings on the level of hubs, including Deir-ez-Zor sub-national health sector meeting, Qamishli sub-national health sector meeting, Aleppo sub-national health sector meeting, Al-Hol health sector coordination meeting, where COVID-19 has been discussed as one of the standing agenda items.

Pillar Two: Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Continued to amplify messages about COVID-19 vaccines through sharing influencers' testimonials and social media posts, to highlight the importance, effectiveness and safety of vaccines during the ongoing pandemic.
- Conducted a meeting with NGOs working in Al-Quneitra, Daraa and Rural Damascus to enhance their communication skills and enable them to address hesitancy-related issues within their communities.
- Hosted a national RCCE coordination meeting at the WHO Country office with RCCE partners from UN agencies and INGOs to discuss the current status of COVID-19 vaccination in Syria, lessons learnt from the previous campaign (held 22 May – 2 June), and possible collaboration to scale up vaccine uptake during the second national vaccination campaign, which concluded on 30 June.
- Facilitated three RCCE workshops about COVID-19 vaccines, in cooperation with the Directorates of Health in Homs, Hama and Aleppo. The workshops targeted more than 200 volunteers from NGOs, community initiatives, as well as religious leaders and personnel from DOHs to equip them with the desired skill sets to ensure adequate message dissemination as well as to support the national COVID-19 vaccination campaign and raise vaccine coverage in Syria.
- Conducted an interactive Training of Trainers, in cooperation with the Syndicate of Doctors. The training was held with the active participation of more than 40 doctors from different Syrian governorates to discuss measures to combat hesitancy among healthcare workers concerning COVID-19 vaccines, address their concerns and capitalize on their influence to scale up vaccine uptake in Syria.

Pillar Three: Surveillance

Suspected Meningitis outbreak in northeast Syria (NES):

- Since the 2nd week of May 2022, an increase of suspected meningitis cases was reported in NES governorates. A total of 461 probable cases were reported as of 26 May. Cases were distributed as: (60.7%; 280) of cases were in Ar-Raqqa, (37.5%; 173) in Al Hasakeh, and (1.7%; 8) in Deir ez Zor.
- Two deaths were reported, one in Ar-Raqqa (female infant 1.5-month) and one in Deir ez Zor (6 months infant).
- The most affected district is Ar-Raqqa where (74.2%) 204 cases are reported. Majority of cases (58.5%; 164) are reported from Raqqa city, which need further investigation to study if there is specific cluster of cases within the city.
- In Al Hasakeh, cases were distributed in Al Hasakeh city, followed by Qamishli then Al Malkiah (62.4, 23.6% and 12% respectively).
- Culture analysis: 7 CSF samples were cultured in in Al Hasakeh out of which one is identified as a gram-negative bacterial growth while the rest were negative.
- Furthermore, sequencing analysis of 9 CSF samples were sent to WHO CC (American University Beirut) lab in Lebanon on 9 June 2022, the initial results received on 13 June indicates: 8 Neisseria meningitidis serogroup B and one result of Neisseria meningitidis serogroup W. There was a significant concern addressed by the lab and WHO Damascus office for potential contamination, and new samples were recommended to be confirmed but under strict aseptic techniques; hence TOT was conducted virtually prior to the collection of the second batch.
- The second batch of 17 CSF samples were sent to WHO CC (American University Beirut) lab in Lebanon on 9 June 2022, the initial results were 7 positive cases for enterovirus while the rest are negative.
- **Conclusions:** Despite the very small number of cases that may be due to bacterial pathogens, the overall clinical, epidemiologic, and lab results indicate to viral meningitis outbreak.

WHO response:

- Ongoing active case finding of suspected cases by EWARS focal points.
- 4 kits of 25 pastorex (RDTs) for a total of 100 tests shipped to NES and distributed between Al Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa governorates.
- Online training on the use of RDTs was provided by EMRO to the lab technical officer.
- Shipped two boxes of 100 Lumbar Puncture (LP) kits for a total of 200 LP to Qamishli which are in the process of being shipped to different health facilities.
- The PCR kits have been shipped from Pasteur Institute France to HQ, and later to Syria. Once the CPHL in Damascus receives PCR kits, it will have the capacity to run PCR confirmation.
- In process of procuring PCR multiplex kit for the detection of streptococcus pneumonia, Haemophiles influenza, and Neisseria meningitis
- The total of 91 TI transport media have been newly produced and shipped from WHO CC in Oslo to Syria.
- The local procurement of antibiotics from Qamishli is ongoing.
- Arrangement for training physicians on case management by infectious disease specialist.
- Updating the national guideline for case management of meningitis is in process, the first draft is ready and pending MoH endorsement.

Influenza:

- Follow up on the recommendations of the EMRO/IHP mission, which was conducted between 30 May to 02 June 2022, with the objective of promoting integration of SARS-CoV-2 and ORVs within the sentinel influenza surveillance system and EMFLU2 pilot testing, in addition to the following recommendation:
 - Adjust and update the SARI reporting form as per comments from sentinel sites to be printed and dispatched with the unique patient number coding.
 - Print stickers holding new agreed SARI patient codes (already dispatched to MOH).
 - Conducted a refresher training for surveillance teams and physicians at the five sentinel hospitals. The expected outcome is to enhance hospitals reporting knowledge and adherence to SARI standard case definition.
- A meeting was conducted for the national influenza committee to follow up on the progress regarding data reporting and entry through EMRO platform EMFLU2.

Monkeypox preparedness

- Laboratory testing and sample management; WHO supported CPHL with Monkey Pox PCR testing kits to conduct 200 tests as a preparedness for any emergency.
- Updated the talking points on monkey pox to be shared with partners.

Pillar Four: Points of entry, international travel, and transport

- On 4 June, MoH disseminated a circular regarding multi-country monkeypox outbreak to activate the vigilance and surveillance against this disease. Up to date no monkeypox cases were detected in Syria.

Pillar Five: Laboratories and diagnostics

- WHO continues to support MoH with COVID-19 testing supplies and reagents; recently, the CPHL received 94 000 PCR tests.
- MOH/CPHL/EMRO and Smorodintsev Research Institute Russia are discussing the performance of the genetic sequencing in Syria.
- Two training workshops on COVID-19 PCR testing were conducted by the central COVID-19 laboratory in Damascus for lab staff in the governorates of Daraa and Swieda.

Pillar Six: Infection prevention and control

- To sustain safe health care delivery WHO supported health partners with IPC/PPE supplies under the southwest response as follows: 10 000 surgical masks, 50 Alcohol hand rubs 75%, and 4 kits of gloves to the national hospital and Mosaic NGO in Lattakia.
- Strengthened the capacity building of 50 MOH laboratory technicians from Hama and Tartous governorates on the IPC standards, patient safety measures, and best practices for sterilization at the health facility level to prevent health associated infections and antimicrobial resistance.
- Follow up on the online COBO data entry training on the surveillance of COVID-19 infection among health care workers at the PHC and hospital sector level in Syria.
- Participated in the multisectoral meeting to update AMR online survey, 10 participants from MOH, MOHE, Ministry of Local Administrative, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Livestock (Terrestrial & Aquatic).

Pillar Seven: Case management, clinical operations, and therapeutics

- To enhance the COVID-19 recommended treatments at the national level, WHO supported the public hospitals with 1 090 vials of Tocilizumab (prequalified treatments for COVID-19 by WHO).
- 2 CT scan Scanner/Spiral Computed Tomography System /32/ Slices were distributed to Harasta and Damascus hospital.
- Over 63 249 treatments of life-saving medicines and medical kits and medical equipment (one Digital Mammography X-Ray Machine, 84 oxygen concentrators, 12 ventilators, 20 patients' beds, one patient monitor, and 15 pulse oximeter) were delivered to health partners in Damascus, Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Lattakia and Tartous. These deliveries are part of enhancing the capacity of public health facilities for timely and appropriate response for life-saving interventions and COVID-19 cases.
- 150 health workers from Damascus, Rural Damascus, Hama, Daraa and Qunaitira received training on "COVID-19 vaccine plan and preventive measure for the spread of the virus." The targeted groups were health workers from the isolation centers, Directorate of Emergency and Ambulance Services, ICU and emergency departments.

Pillar Eight: Logistics and operations

- In June 2022, WHO provided approximately 32 tons of medical and lab supplies, kits, and equipment to 9 governorates with a total value exceeding USD 852 000 Thousand. They were distributed to the Ministry of Health directorates of health in different governorates, Ministry of Higher Education and Ministry of Education-affiliated health facilities, NGOs, INGOs, and SARC.
- Received 2 Scanners/Spiral Computed Tomography in favor of Harasta national hospital and Damascus Hospital.
- During June, WHO dispatched almost 4.3 tons in favor of Sarmada including life-saving items and PPEs sufficient to provide 51 185 treatments and 500 trauma cases.

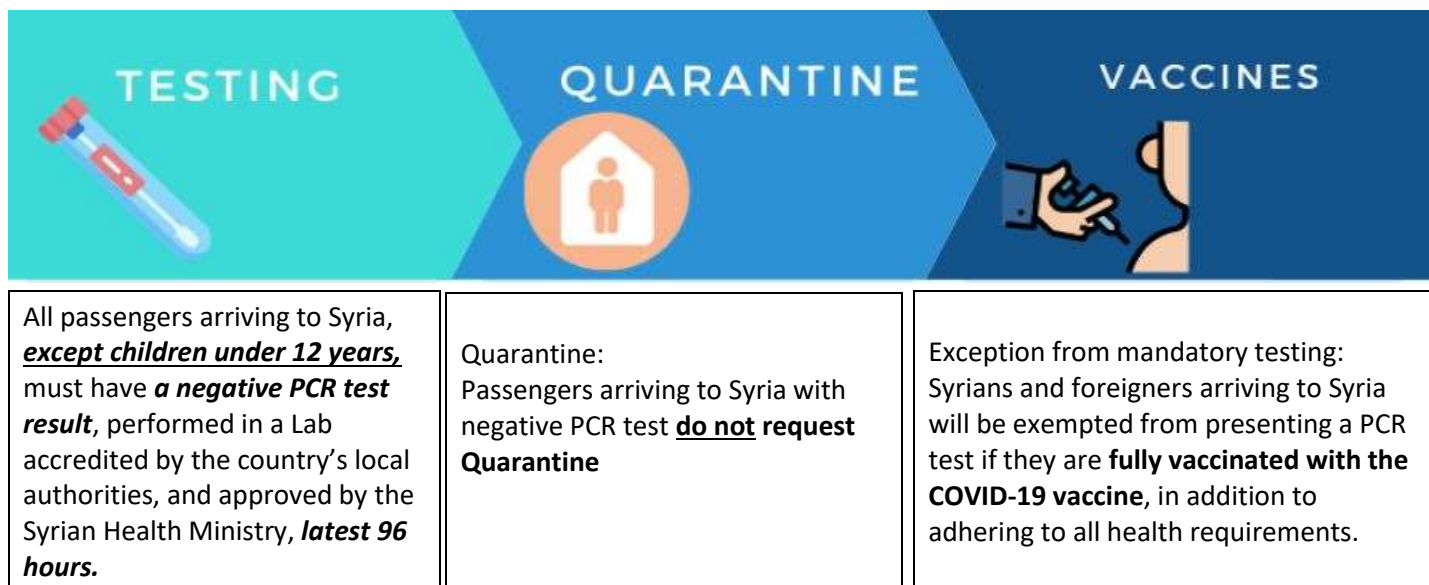
- Two crossline shipments (one road convoy with two trucks in total and one airlift) have been delivered to northeast Syria in June 2022 with a total weight (18 942 kgs) and a total number of 175 929 treatments. It included different types of medicines- and vaccines in favor of Qamishli national hospital and Al Hassakeh DOH.

Pillar Nine: Maintaining essential health services and systems

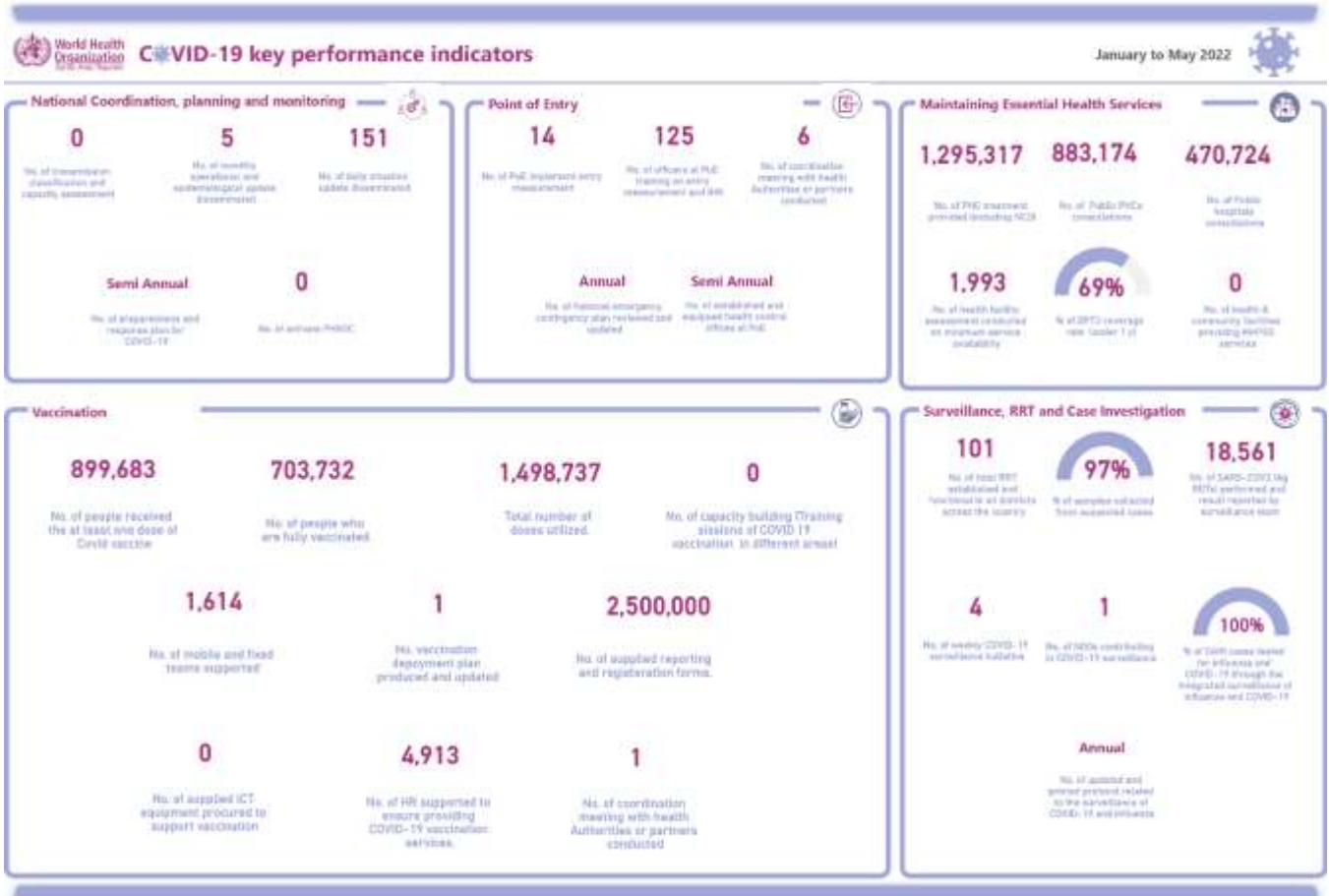
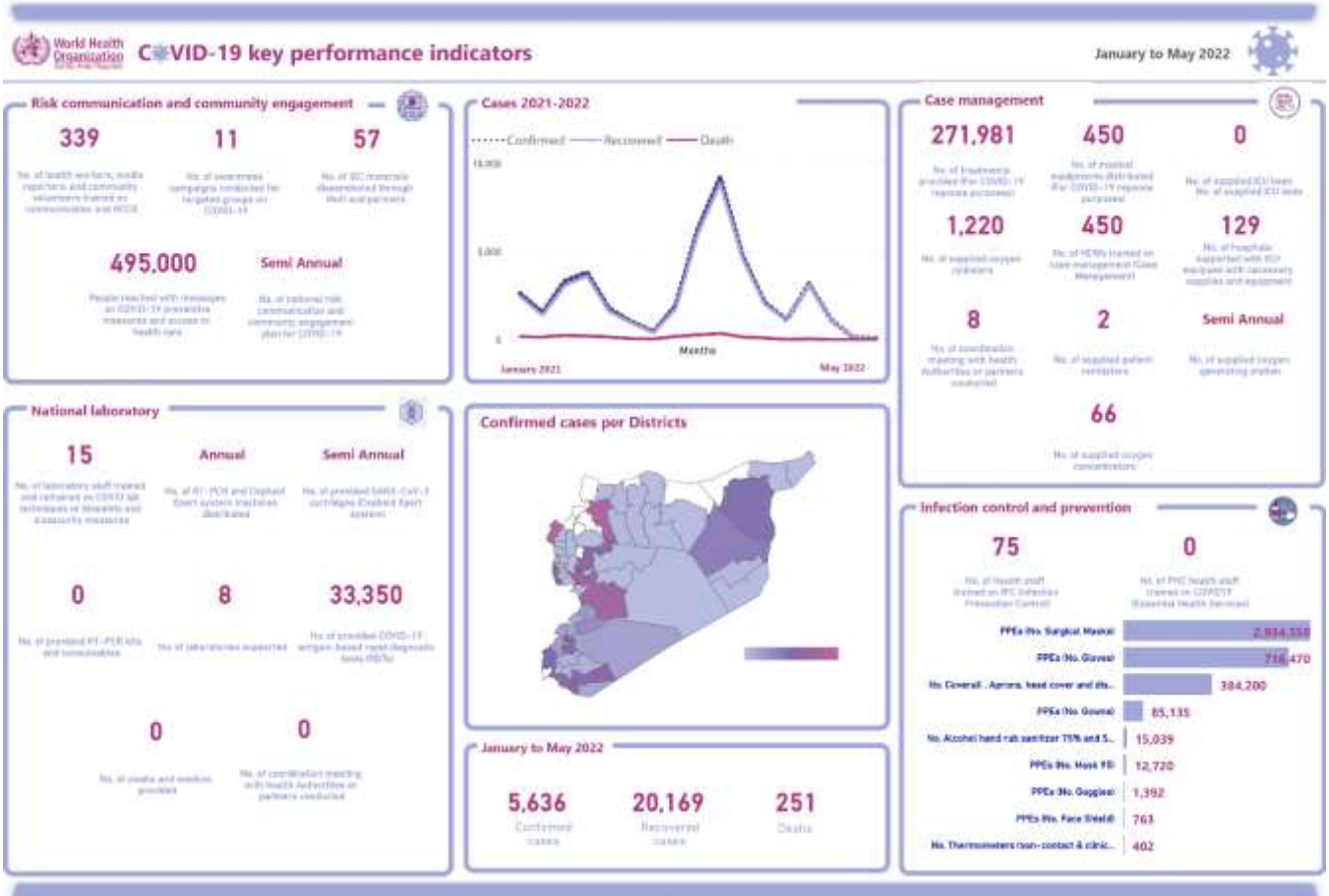
- The National Guideline for maintaining health services during COVID-19 pandemic has been finalized with the support from WHO. Plans of dissemination to all primary health care centres are ongoing.
- Special sessions on education at times of COVID-19 and implications for online training were introduced in the capacity building activities carried out by the Centre of Strategic Studies and Health training targeting health trainers at MoH.

SYRIA COVID-19

Travel Updates and Requirements (as of March 2022, Source MOH)



COVID-19 key performance indicators for May 2022



Technical guidance and other resources

- [WHO Syria Site](#)
[WHO technical guidance](#)
- [WHO COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
- [WHO Weekly Operational Updates on COVID-19](#)
- [WHO COVID-19 case definitions](#)
- [COVID-19 Supply Chain Inter-Agency Coordination Cell Weekly Situational Update](#)
- [Research and Development](#)
- [OpenWHO courses on COVID-19](#) in official UN languages and in [additional national languages](#)
- [WHO Academy COVID-19 mobile learning app](#)
- [The Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan](#) (SPRP) outlining the support the international community can provide to all countries to prepare and respond to the virus

Recommendations and advice for the public:

- [Protect yourself](#)
- [Questions and answers](#)
- [Travel advice](#)
- [EPI-WIN: tailored information for individuals, organizations, and communities](#)

Contact:

Dr Iman Shankiti, Acting WHO Representative in Syria, ishankitii@who.int
Dr Mohammad Al-Emad, Acting WHO Emergency Team Lead in Syria, alemadm@who.int