

Key Figures as of 26 September 2021

Total laboratory-confirmed cases

33 323

Total deaths reported











2215

Total patients recovered

23 599

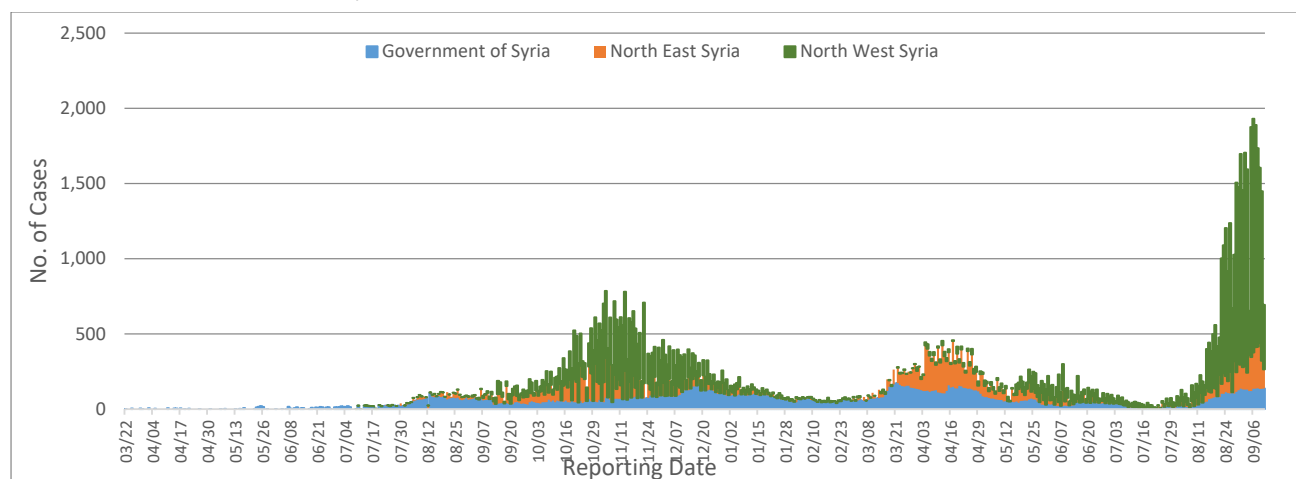
COVID-19 Update

COVID-19 Statistical Summary at Whole of Syria Level

	127,773	Total cases (including 5,741 health workers)
	63,196	Active cases
	60,354	Recovered cases
	4,223	Deaths
	3.3%	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
	15	COVID-19 functional laboratories
	426,738	COVID-19 tests done
	2,015	Overall testing rate per 100 000 population
	603	Incidence rate per 100 000 population (highest in Al-Hasakeh; 1,530)
	29.9%	Positivity rate

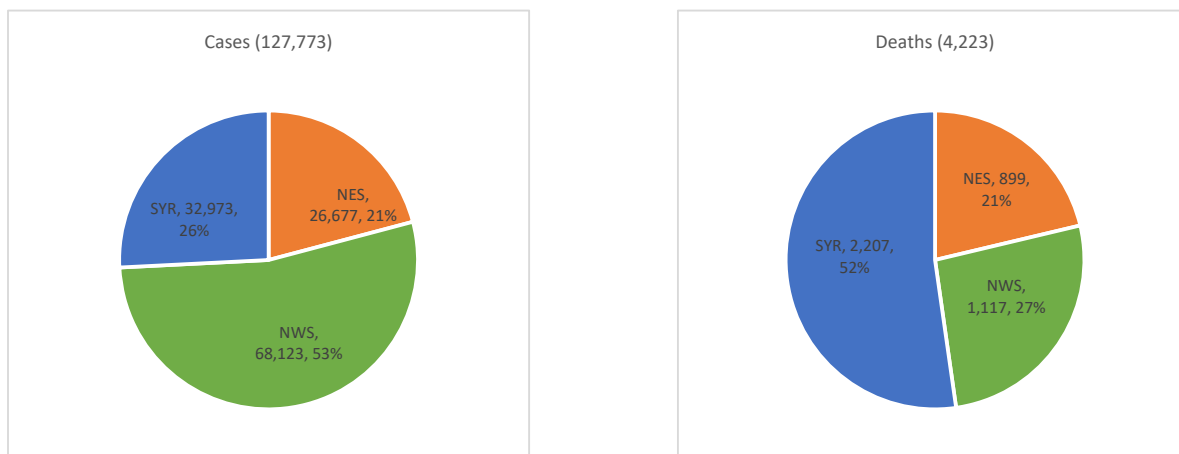
Daily Distribution of COVID-19 Cases at Whole of Syria Level

22 March 2020 – 26 September 2021



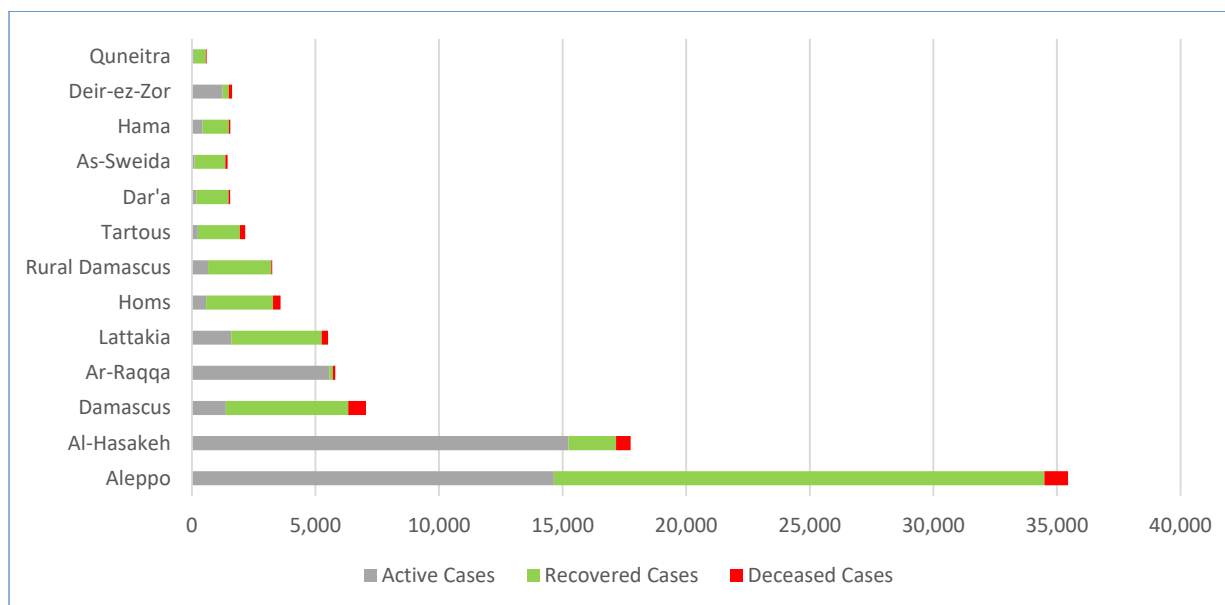
Distribution of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths at Whole of Syria Level

22 March 2020 – 26 September 2021



Distribution of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths by Governorate

22 March 2020 – 26 September 2021



WHO-Syria Response

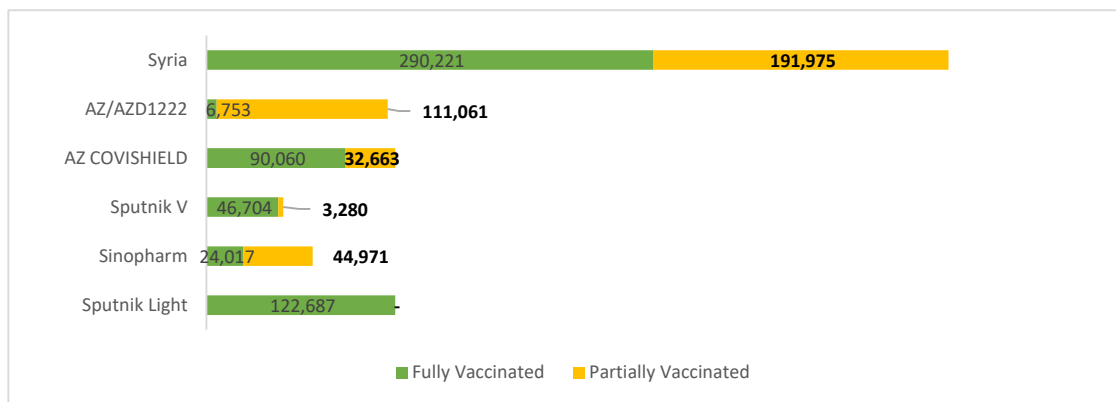
COVID-19 Vaccination

The COVID-19 vaccination campaign concluded on 16 September 2021 in most of the governorates.

170 400 doses of AZ/AZD1222 arrived in Damascus on 23 September 2021, a donation from Sweden delivered through the COVAX mechanism. Additional doses are expected to be delivered through COVAX within the coming months.

Given past and expected deliveries, only 13.7% of the total population will be fully vaccinated by the end of 2021, COVAX contributions covering 11.2%. To date, 649 730 doses have been administered (52% COVAX and 48% bilateral).

Of the 482 196 people (2.6% of the population) to have received at least one dose, 290 221 (1.6% of the population) have received a second dose, hence, fully vaccinated.



Primary Health Care and Non-Communicable Diseases

WHO facilitated the participation of MOH counterparts and the National Cancer Control Steering Committee in virtual meetings on an external review mission to Syria being held in the context of the IAEA’s Integrated Mission Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (imPACT) to assess national capacity of radiotherapy for cancer cases.

Another mission, held virtually, aimed to discuss the country’s tobacco control status based on the Interactive Smoking Projection and Target Setting Tool (ISPT) for Syria.

Secondary and Tertiary Health Care (STHC)

WHO continues its provision of medical equipment to Harasta National Hospital in Damascus, the Children’s Hospital in Aleppo, and Dammar Hospital in Rural Damascus, in addition to providing lifesaving and dialysis sessions to other health partners.

Trauma

WHO has delivered over 47 235 treatments of life-saving medicines and more than 13 different types of surgical and trauma kits - supporting around 1300 trauma cases - to health partners in the governorates of Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, and Al-Hasakeh. These deliveries are part of efforts to enhance the capacity of public health facilities to deliver timely and appropriate response to emergency cases, including cases of COVID-19.

One hundred twenty-five health workers from As-Sweida, Damascus, Rural Damascus, and Dar’a attended training sessions on hospital major incident medical management and support, risk management and evacuation of buildings, and management of ICU patients. Attendees included doctors, nurses and anesthesia technicians working in isolation centres, intensive care units and emergency departments. An additional 150 prosthetic and orthotic technicians, physiotherapists and psychiatrists in Damascus received training.

In commemoration of World Patient Safety Day, WHO supported a 2-day national workshop on safe maternal and newborn care at Aleppo University Hospital. The workshop was attended by 16 renowned university professors and 155 health professionals from the Ministry of Higher Education, including medical school deans, directors of the university hospitals, medical specialists and postgraduate doctors. Together they discussed the importance of

raising awareness around maternal and newborn safety and advocating for the adoption of best practices at the point of care to prevent avoidable risks and harm to patients.

Public health laboratories

WHO delivered supplies for CD4 testing of all people living with HIV/AIDS in Syria to enable evaluation of their response to treatment regimens supported by Global Fund (GF) through WHO.

Training aimed at strengthening capacities of lab technicians is ongoing. Two workshops on the bacteria meningococcal meningitis were held at CPHL and attended by 13 personnel with practical training.

The National Poisoning Centre reactivated its training activities after a suspension of over 3 years. Three workshops have been held at Al-Mujtahid hospital, the first of which focused on poisons and antidotes and was attended by 35 participants from 10 governorates. The second was on snake and scorpion bites, countermeasures, antidotes and reporting, and was attended by 44 participants from 8 governorates, while the third was on food poisoning (poisonous plants, mushrooms, and fish), medical countermeasures and reporting.

Mental Health (MH)

WHO continues to support 20 ongoing mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS) projects nationwide, which are mapped through the MHPSS referral pathway and monitored by the MH unit and team of experts.

In September, a total of 2 813 different activities and sessions were conducted on the ongoing risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) and mental health and psychosocial support campaign in the governorates of Aleppo, Homs and Hama. The campaign, under the 'My hero is you & living with times' initiative targets children and the elderly, as well as parents and caregivers.

An additional 31 capacity-building activities and training workshops were conducted, in cooperation with MoH, MoE and various implementing partners, targeting the health cadre and health and community workers on the Mental Health GAP programme (mhGAP GUI and community toolkit). Training focused on psychological first aid, basic psychosocial skills for COVID-19 responders, first line support, and tele-MHPSS basic counselling in the context of COVID-19.



Partners in rural Aleppo engage in the 'My Hero is You' campaign

Points of Entry (PoE)

MoH and WHO are equipping the medical point at Abu Kamal in Deir-ez-Zor with medical devices and furniture to enable the provision of health services to travellers. WHO is also establishing a medical point at Jubousiya ground-crossing in Homs and another at Judeidet Yabous in Rural Damascus, rehabilitating spaces and equipping them with medical devices.

International Health Regulations (2005)

WHO and MOH jointly conducted a consultation meeting on International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) and Joint External Evaluation (JEE) in Damascus on 22-23 September. A total of 40 government officials from 11 ministries (MOH, MOHE, MOE, MOWR, MOFA, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance, Ministry

of Defense, Ministry of Interior, and Ministry of Transportation) attended, including the deputy ministers of health, education, water resources, agriculture, finance, defense, interior, and transportation. The concept of IHR (2005) and the purpose of JEE were introduced during the meeting and multi-sectoral group of participants reviewed and updated the JEE self-assessment of the national capacity for preparedness and response to health security.

Environmental Health

WHO supports water quality monitoring in Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor and IDP camps in NES. During the reporting period, 73 water samples were tested in four villages in the eastern and northern part of Aleppo, in addition to 29 samples in 13 districts in Rural Damascus, and 20 samples in Basir and Sur sub-districts in the eastern side of the Euphrates in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, and 1 033 tests in NES (Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, and Deir-ez-Zor) including eight IDPs camps and 23 collective shelters in Al-Hasakeh. Among them, contaminations were found in 63 water sources (86.3%) in rural Aleppo, 14 water sources (48.3%) in Rural Damascus, and 56 sources (5.4%) in NES.

In Deir-Ez-Zor, a total of 109 water samples were collected from wells, water tanks and tankers in two districts (Deir-ez-Zor and Al Mayadin) of which only 23.9% (13) were found to be safe for drinking. Bacteria culture tests were performed for 34 samples, of which E. Coli was isolated in 16 samples. WHO has also supported MOLAE in conducting further laboratory analysis of water specimens from Deir-ez-Zor on a weekly basis.

Health Systems

With support from EMRO and WHO Country Office, the Ministry of Health has concluded phase one of the National Death Certification plan, and all functioning MOH hospitals are now using the District Health Information Software (DHIS2) to report, enter and analyse data on mortality, including that caused by COVID-19. The project will be extended to other hospitals in the country.

External Relations and Communication

WHO has provided visibility coverage for the consultation [meeting on International Health Regulations and Joint External Evaluation](#) that was held on 22-23 September to review the self-assessment with multi-sectoral national stakeholders.

WHO and the Ministry of Higher Education collaborated to light up the facades of two university hospitals (maternal and child health) in Damascus in orange – signature mark of [World Patient Safety Day 2021](#) focused on maternal and newborn care and safety.

The Organization prepared a package of awareness-raising resources to facilitate campaigns conducted by MoE medical teams with WHO support in the governorate of Lattakia where growing cases of COVID-19 in schools have been witnessed. The campaign strengthened the public’s understanding of the public health measures that must be followed, and encouraged vaccine uptake among teachers, which will help maintain their safety and ensure the continuity of in-person education at schools.



The façade of the University Pediatric Hospital in Damascus was illuminated in celebration of World Patient Safety Day 2021

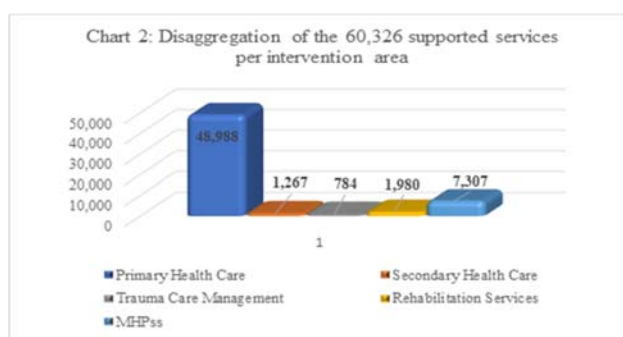
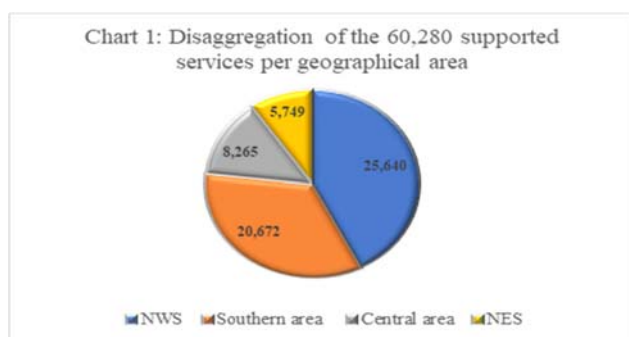
Information Products and Related Activities

WHO produced and shared:

- A flash update #60 about the recent incident against Dar’a Al-Balad MoH Health Center (12 September 2021).
- Updated data on the COVID-19 dashboard and online item tracking system.
- Key information on health facilities based on HeRAMS.
- Updated maps for health sector interventions.

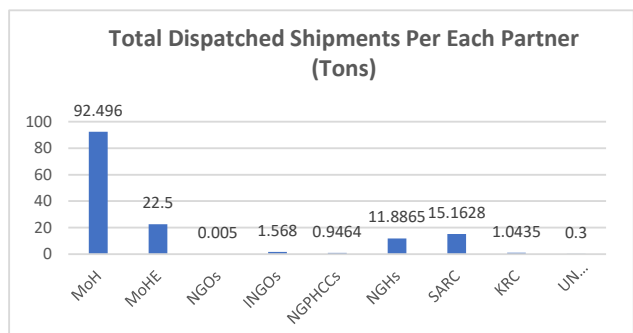
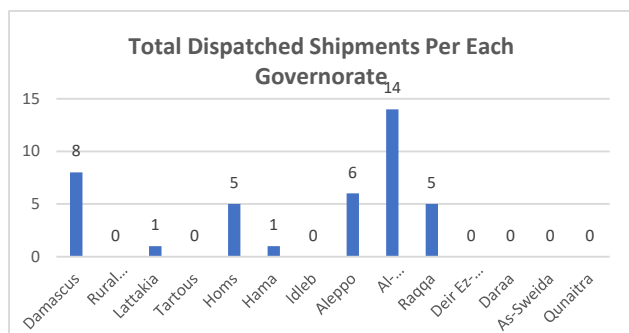
Community Engagement (NGOs)

WHO supports 18 implementing partners to strengthen health responses across Syria. Two are in Damascus, two in Dar’a, three in Rural Damascus, three in Aleppo, seven in NES and one in Homs.



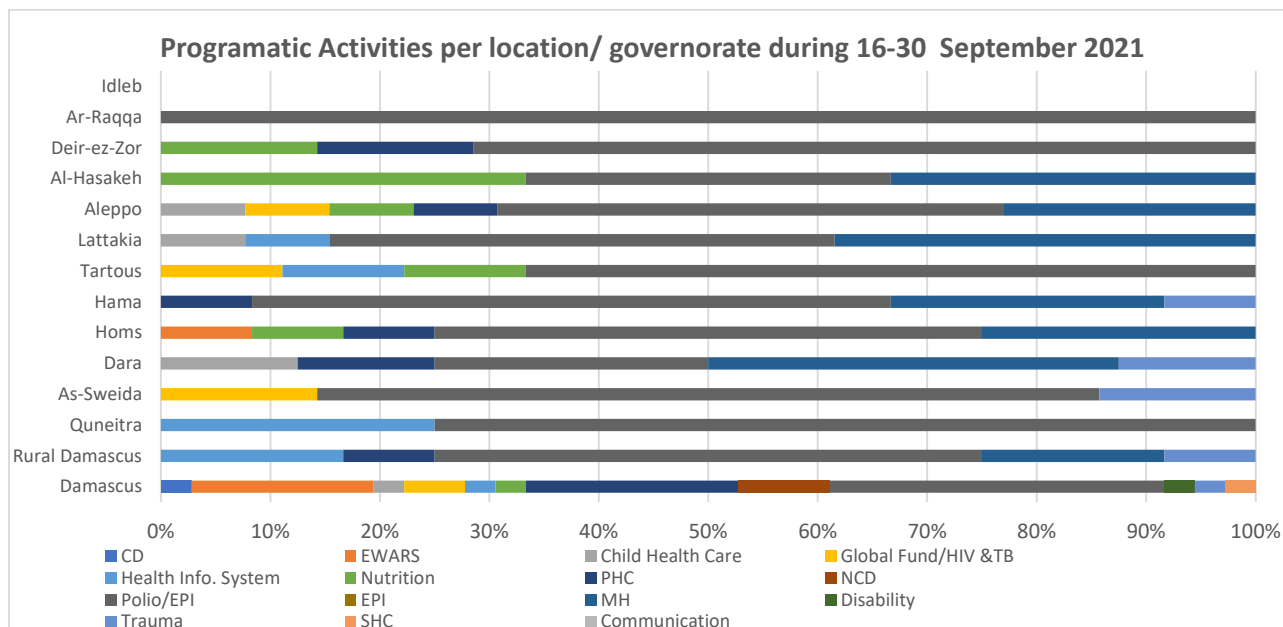
Operations Support and Logistics

WHO dispatched 145.9 tons of medical and lab supplies, kits, equipment, and hemodialysis sessions to six governorates (Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Damascus, Homs and Hama). They were received by ten MoH facilities, one MoHE facility, one NGO, six INGOs, nine NGH, two NGPHCC, SARC, KRC & KRC and supported a total of 102 055 treatments and 3600 trauma cases.



Capacity Building

WHO supported 138 activities for a total of 3 450 participants during the reporting period.



WHO Syria Sub-Office Response

Aleppo Sub Office

Within the ongoing RCCE & MHPSS campaign in Aleppo governorate, more than 2 809 activities were conducted during September targeting children and the elderly as well as parents and caregivers. WHO reached many of the hard-to-reach areas in northwest Syria (NWS) through its implementing partners, providing awareness raising sessions and promotional items, and distributing colouring books and crayons to more than 30 homeless children at a centre run by a WHO-supported NGO.



WHO supports children in rural Aleppo through the 'My Hero is You' initiative

During the reporting period, WHO provided more than 39 976 health care services through its implementing partners, including eight mobile medical teams, five PHCs and two trauma centres.

A total of 429 beneficiaries attended one of 10 awareness sessions on TB delivered through WHO-supported TB mobile clinics. Of the 33 suspected cases tested for TB, four cases were confirmed as positive.

A training workshop on TB conducted in Aleppo on 20-24 September 2021 was attended by 25 participants. The main objectives were to provide trainees with updated information on TB diagnosis and treatment.

Lattakia Sub Office

In collaboration with the health school directorate, WHO conducted an awareness raising and MHPSS campaign in Lattakia governorate targeting both primary and secondary schools.

WHO supported people with disabilities in Lattakia and Tartous through the distribution of assistive devices (wheelchairs, walkers, crutches) to 9 NGOs in the coastal area.

Homs Sub office

WHO participated in intersectoral mission to Palmyra to assess the health situation at the city's national hospital and monitor the COVID-19 situation throughout the city. Of the 1 250 returnee families, 450 are from Rukban camp.

With WHO support, the NGO Lamset Shefa, in cooperation with the Family Wellbeing Center in Dar Al Kabera and two medical mobile teams in the north and east of Rural Homs, has been providing primary and secondary health care services and mental health and psychosocial support to people suffering from psychological distress and domestic violence. A total of 6 998 beneficiaries received medical consultations, of which one was secondary, 226 were for trauma, 1 023 were MHPSS services and 13 were for speech & language sessions.

The RCCE and MHPSS awareness campaign at the community level in both Hama and Homs governorates is still ongoing and aims to raise awareness and promote adherence to COVID-19 precautionary measures while offering MHPSS services.

Mobile teams have reached more than 5 000 beneficiaries in 68 villages in rural Homs and Hama that do not have any medical services, targeting children and the elderly, as well as parents and care givers, within the context of the COVID-19 response.

A campaign to support early detection and response to the epidemic-prone parasitic disease leishmaniasis in the governorate of Hama is ongoing. During the reporting period, 1 523 houses in eight affected areas were sprayed with insecticides, benefiting a total of 11 717 residents.

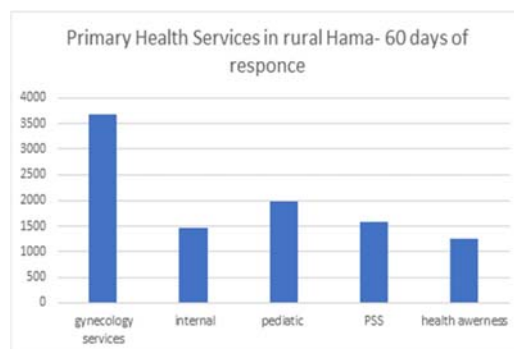
Four mobile medical teams supported by WHO completed a 60-day campaign to provide primary health care services and medicines to the most vulnerable people in the districts of South Hama, East Salamiya, and North-west Hama. A total of 5 527 beneficiaries received various services including: 367 gynaecology services, 1 478 internal consultations, 199 paediatric services and 1 586 MHPSS services. Health awareness sessions were attended by 1254 patients.



School children in Lattakia engage in a WHO-supported RCCE & MHPSS campaign



WHO partners raise awareness among the elderly in rural Hama



Deir-ez-Zor Sub office

A COVID-19 MHPSS and RCCE campaign is ongoing in the city of Deir-ez-Zor and its surrounding rural areas. During the reporting period, WHO-supported mobile medical teams visited 3 296 households and provided awareness raising and MHPSS sessions to 14 676 beneficiaries. Additional awareness sessions were attended by 405 inpatients admitted to the COVID-19 treatment facility and other wards at the hospital compound in Deir-ez-Zor city. A total of 2 900 posters and 5 000 brochures and flyers were distributed as part of campaign activities.



WHO supports PHCs in rural areas of Deir-ez-Zor governorate

Quamishli Hub / Northeast Syria (NES)

With WHO support, 15 health provision points are delivering healthcare services to the most vulnerable groups in camps and rural areas across north-east Syria (NES).

WHO continues to provide much needed health services to the most vulnerable people at community level and camps in NES through its two implementing partners: the NGO Mar Afram and Al Hikmeh hospital. During the reporting period, 926 secondary cases were admitted to the hospital.

WHO continues to provide life-saving treatment for cases of malnutrition identified at the camps. During the reporting period, 12 people were admitted to the malnutrition treatment centre at Al-Hikmeh Hospital and ten were discharged. A further seven cases were admitted to the treatment centre in Ar-Raqqa, from which five were discharged following a full recovery.

The monitoring of water quality continues through regular visits to eight camps and 20 collective shelters and the provision of bacterial, F.R.C, T.D.S, EC, PH, and Turb tests. Of the 1032 samples taken from camps and tested, 4.45% were found to be contaminated at the jerry can level.



WHO supports the monitoring and testing of water in NES camps

Northwest Syria

Primary Health Care (PHC)

WHO is currently supporting close to 100 PHCs and MTs (of which 40 are fully supported) in north-west Syria through three integrated health service delivery networks, all of which are functional. These include the Afrin network, which is currently at phase three, includes 18 health facilities and two ambulances, and provided 40 001 consultations during August. The North Aleppo network is at phase two and includes 32 health facilities, while the Harim network is at Phase seven and functioning with 31 health facilities.

Referral System

The Referral System in north Aleppo, Afrin and Idlib is fully functional bar one gap in COVID-19 transportation vehicles in Idlib. The civil defense is providing support with 29 ambulances for transportation of emergency cases, but the gap still exists in transportation of non-emergency cases.

Tuberculosis

105 beneficiaries visited Idlib and Afrin TB centres during the reporting period. Eight were diagnosed as positive for TB. Nine samples were sent to Antakya for GeneXpert testing, of which one came back positive.

Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

The 21 NGOs under MHPSS TWG continued to undertake activities over the month of September, specifically in relation to the Suicide Prevention Campaign under the slogan “HOPE Makes LIFE”.

EWARN

The laboratory, surveillance and contact tracing project being implemented in partnership with World Vision is at ACU phase 4 and is running smoothly without delays.

The leishmaniasis case management project, implemented through MENTOR, is also ongoing.

COVAX

WHO received 45 200 doses of AZ/AZD1222 from Sweden in a forth delivery of batches through the COVAX facility.

To date, 119 158 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered. 98 205 people received their first dose and 20 953 have been vaccinated with second dose and are therefore fully vaccinated.

COVID-19

Stocks of swabs for COVID-19 testing are depleted and screening activities have been suspended to save minimal stock for use on tests of suspected cases only. WHO has advocated for the provision of emergency stock and MSF has agreed to provide 10 000 swabs and UTMs, expected to arrive to NWS within the week.

Occupancy rate at ICUs is over 90%, at hospital beds is 76% and at CCTCs is 69%. 15 CCTCs of 33 are active. Some partners are working on activating additional CCTCs while WHO is advocating for additional funding to activate even more.

There remains a shortage in the supply of oxygen. WHO is working with partners to relocate existing capacity in accordance with needs and gaps.

An IPC baseline assessment of 50 facilities was completed and a subsequent report was shared by our partners. Results indicate that the overall implementation of all IPC components in all health facilities is 37% complete. Final assessment scores of individual health facilities showed that none has advanced capacity, 26% have intermediate capacity, 41% have basic and 33% have inadequate levels of IPC capacity. The data will be used to support programme design for hospitals, PHCS and COVID-19 isolation facilities.

Vaccine Updates

For COVID-19 vaccine updates, please visit: [Update on COVID-19 Vaccination in Syria](#)

Useful Links

- [Syria Interactive Dashboards](#)
- [Syria Page in Health Cluster Site](#)
- [Syria Page in EMRO Site](#)
- [EMRO Dashboard](#)
- [COVID-19 Situation in EMRO Region Reports](#)

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