











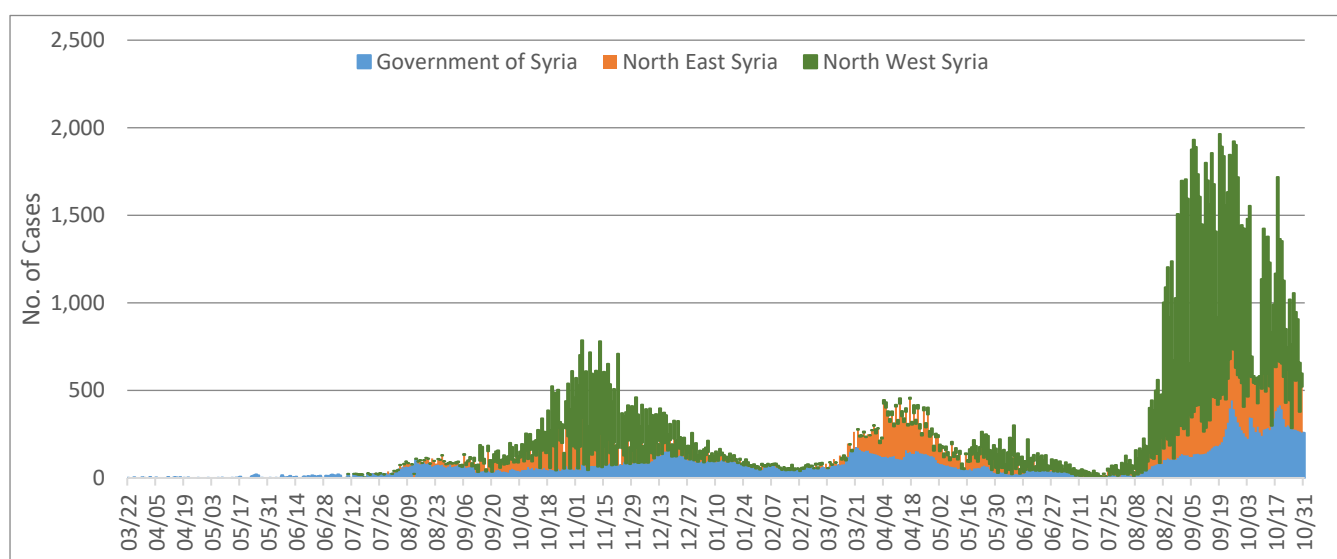
## COVID-19 STATISTICAL SUMMARY AT WHOLE OF SYRIA LEVEL

As of 31 October 2021

|   |         |  |
|---|---------|--|
|    | 166,848 | Total cases (including 7,031 health workers)                         |
|    | 81,613  | Active cases   |
|    | 79,509  | Recovered cases  |
|    | 5,726   | Deaths   |
|    | 3.4%    | Case Fatality Rate (CFR)   |
|    | 15      | COVID-19 functional laboratories                                     |
|    | 502,702 | COVID-19 tests done  |
|   | 2,322   | Overall testing rate per 100 000 population                          |
|  | 771     | Incidence rate per 100 000 population (highest in Al-Hasakeh; 1,980) |
|  | 33.2%   | Positivity rate  |

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

22 March 2020 – 31 October 2021



There is 35% decrease in the occurrence of COVID-19 cases in Whole of Syria in October 2021 (n=31,074) compared with cases reported in September (n=47,939). The decrease was mostly noticed in NWS by 57% in October cases (n=14,585) compared to cases reported in September (n= 34,184). In NES COVID-19 cases decreased in October by 2% (n=7,290) compared to September (n=7,465). The GoS reported an increase in cases by 46% (n=9,199) in October compared to September (n=6,290).

The monthly incidence rate of COVID-19 in WoS declined in October to 146.7 per 100,000 compared to incidence rate in September which was 226.3 per 100,000 (highest incidence rate since the start of the outbreak in Syria). This decline is mainly attributed to the decrease in cases reported in NWS, while the GoS areas reported the highest number of cases in October. There has been no significant change in the trend for cases in NES during October.

The fourth wave of COVID-19 in Syria could be linked to the Delta variant which was identified in Northwest Syria in the last week of August and neighbouring countries (such as Lebanon, Iraq, Iran and Jordan).

## WHO-SYRIA RESPONSE

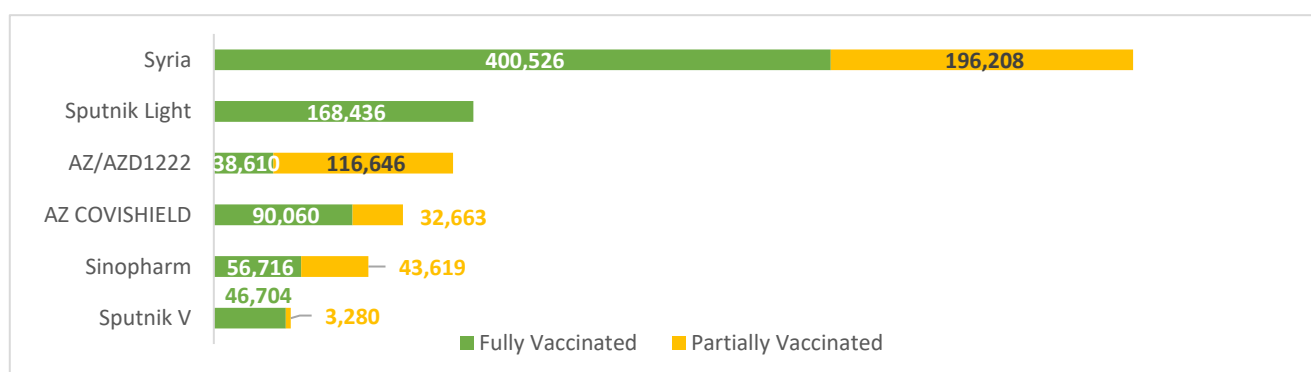
### COVID-19 Vaccination

Additional batches of vaccines are expected to be delivered to Syria through COVAX in the coming months, between October and December 2021.

Based on projected deliveries, only 16% of the total population could be fully vaccinated by the end of 2021. Doses delivered through the COVAX system will be responsible for the vaccination of 13.2% of the population.

To date, 828 824 vaccine doses have been administered, 49% of which were delivered through COVAX and 51% through bilateral agreements.

400 526 (2.5% of the population) are fully vaccinated. An additional 596 734 people (3.7% of the population) have received a first dose.



### EPI activities:

The National Polio Immunization Campaign was conducted on 10-14 October 2021, targeting 2.8 million children aged under 5 years with 2 drops of bOPV (oral Polio Vaccine). More than 9 000 health workers were mobilized for the campaign at both fixed and mobile sites in all governorates. Special plans were made to ensure coverage in distant remote areas of Deir-ez-Zor east of the Euphrates, nomadic settlements and IDP camps. 2 450 177 children (88.1%) are reported to have been reached through the campaign. The estimated national coverage reported by the independent monitoring body is 89%.

Discussions at the latest quarterly review meeting of the national measles committee revolved around the challenges faced by the programme and ways in which vaccination against measles in Syria can be improved. Syria has so far reported 10 confirmed cases of measles and seven confirmed cases of rubella across governorates.

A workshop held centrally and attended by EPI officers from different governorates endorsed a strategy to improve the vaccination status of zero-dose children nationwide.

## Primary Health Care and Non-Communicable Diseases

Five workshops, attended by 125 participants, were delivered with the aim of strengthening the capacity of MOH staff in the field of health for the elderly. The workshops focused on safe health care in the context of COVID-19, health promotion, prevention and the management of malnutrition and were complemented by two supervisory visits to clinics for the elderly in Rural Damascus and Aleppo during which services were monitored and gaps identified.

WHO conducted a series of meetings with MOH to update and endorse the standard clinical protocols for NCDs including chronic blood diseases, thalassemia, autoimmune diseases.

The Organization also maintained coordination efforts with MOH with regards to family medicine, addressing sectoral support, capacity building for GPs and doctors, and delivery of a Regional Diploma of Family Medicine at the PHC level.

## Secondary and Tertiary Health Care (STHC)

WHO continues to support the children's hospitals in Aleppo and at Harasta National Hospital in Rural Damascus through the provision of medical equipment.

## Trauma

WHO has delivered over 5 228 treatments of life-saving medicines and more than five different types of trauma kits - supporting around 500 trauma cases - to health partners in the governorates of Damascus, Homs and Aleppo. These deliveries are part of efforts to enhance the capacity of public health facilities to deliver timely and appropriate responses to emergency cases, including cases of COVID-19.

Training sessions on major incident medical management and support at hospitals, risk management and evacuation of buildings, and management of ICU patients were attended by 75 health workers from Homs, Aleppo, Damascus and Tartous. Attendees included doctors, nurses and anaesthesia technicians working in isolation centres, intensive care units and emergency departments.

A total of 13 people with disabilities benefited from different types of assistive devices delivered to MOH and local NGOs in Damascus and Lattakia.

Workshops on the management of war wounds and injuries, hospital major incident medical management and support, chemical attacks and hazardous materials, and first aid and trauma life support were attended by 175 health workers from the governorates of Ar-Raqqa, Lattakia, Damascus and Hama. Attendees included doctors, nurses and anaesthesia technicians working at isolation centres and ICU and emergency departments.

## Mental Health (MH)

WHO continues to support 20 ongoing MHPSS projects across the country, which are being monitored by the MH unit and a team of experts. Plans for the technical supervision for all MHPSS workers have been designed and are being implemented to ensure the provision of quality services.

A core team has been established with team leads to provide technical support for MHPSS workers at IPS. During the month of September, 33 861 services were supported at 140 locations, taking the total number of services supported since the beginning of the year to 82 120, delivered at 268 locations.

A workshop, held centrally with the Ministry of Education, focused on MHPSS, combatting COVID-19 related stigma and stress coping mechanisms for children, and was attended by directors of health directorates and health educators from across Syria.

A number of risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) activities related to mental health are underway. Four campaigns currently under preparation focus on women's health and include components related to COVID-19 and MHPSS. They will be implemented in Homs, Hama, Lattakia and Aleppo. WHO is also preparing to conduct a cross-sectoral coordination meeting with the education and child protection chiefs of sector to harmonize coordination for MHPSS interventions and programming at the school level. An action plan has been drafted and a full mapping exercise is underway at the country level, with plans to form a sub-working group under the MHPSS TWG that focuses on MHPSS for children. The Organization is also supporting the emergency response for Dar'a, in partnership with two NGOs, which has included delivery of 660 life-saving interventions and 17 specialized psychiatric consultations by health and community workers who have been trained and retrained in psychological first aid and delivery of mhGAP consultations.

## 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 in line with IHR (2005). 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. The three medical points will be operational by the end of the year.

## Environmental Health

WHO supports the monitoring of water quality in Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor and at IDP camps in NES. During the reporting period, 57 water samples were tested in two villages in the northern part of Aleppo and 905 were tested in the NES governorates of Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, and Deir-ez-Zor, including at eight IDPs camps and 23 collective shelters in Al-Hasakeh. Among them, contaminants were found in 52 water sources (91.2%) in rural Aleppo and 37 sources (4.1%) in NES. At IDP camps, contaminants were found only in jerry cans and ice cubes.

In response to the spike in cases of watery diarrhoea observed in Deir-Ez-Zor since April 2021, WHO has been supporting the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment (MOLAE) to conduct advanced laboratory analysis of water specimens collected from Deir-ez-Zor on a weekly basis. On 25-26 September, a total of 10 samples (six from water network, one each from a water station, the Euphrates, a well and a reservoir) were collected in three districts of Deir-ez-Zor: Al-Tabni, Al- Jora, and Al Aghwat. All samples were found to be contaminated and non-potable.



*WHO supports the monitoring of water quality in the governorate of Deir-ez-Zor*

## Coordination

## Syria Health Cluster Coordination

WHO attended and provided input during inter-agency discussions on crossline delivery of supplies to north-west Syria.

The Organization also facilitated a Health Sector coordination meeting, during which COVID-19 and COVAX updates are a standing agenda item.

WHO attended and provided health sector inputs during the intersectoral coordination meeting, the Whole of Syria biweekly operational call, the HCT meeting, and a meeting dedicated to water response monitoring in NES.

The Organization worked with a team from the OCHA Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF) to finalize the list of health sector eligible actions and priority areas under the SHF second reserve allocation, launched on 24 October.

## North-east Syria Cluster Coordination

WHO provided health sector inputs during the Al-Hol camp coordination meeting, organized by UNHCR, which focused on medical waste zone management at Roj Camp, which is organized by NES WASH Working Group.

Followed up with partners on issues related to health sector activities at camps in NES.

## Crossline Supplies (NES and NWS)

- **NES:** During the reporting period, one crossline delivery of supplies was arranged via airlift, from Damascus to Qamishli airport in the governorate of Al-Hasakeh. The cargo included COVID-19 vaccines and vaccines used for routine immunization activities.
- **NWS:** Following a first and successful WFP crossline convoy to NWS, the possibility of arranging a second inter-agency convoy is currently being explored by WFP. A second convoy would likely include supplies from different UN agencies including health supplies by WHO. The supplies have already been identified and will soon be dispatched to a WHO warehouse in Aleppo for inclusion in an inter-agency convoy.

## External Relations and Communication

WHO supported the Ministry of Information in conducting a two-day capacity building workshop for media professionals from different media outlets. The focus of the workshops was the development of effective and evidence-based communication materials regarding health issues to promote the public health sector as well as to fight rumours and misinformation.

The promotion of a healthy lifestyle and COVID-19 preventive measures were the focus of training workshops attended by 50 health educators from the Ministry of Education. The workshop included sessions delivered by WHO experts that aimed to raise awareness on mental health integrations, combatting stigma and enabling children to cope with stress during emergencies. Updates on COVID-19 and vaccine related issues were also integrated into the sessions.

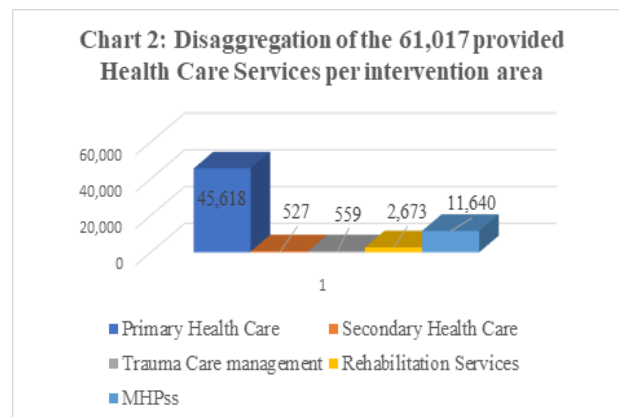
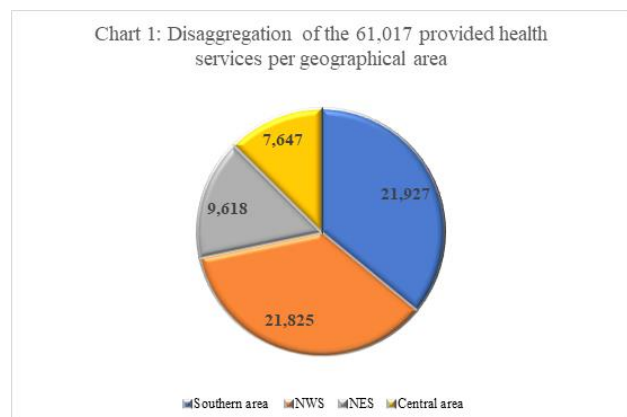


*WHO-supported capacity building workshop for media professionals*

Updates on COVID-19 and vaccine related issues were also integrated into the sessions.

## Community Engagement (NGOs)

WHO supports 16 implementing partners and 4 community initiatives to strengthen health response across Syria. Two are in Damascus, three in Dar’a, three in Rural Damascus, four in Aleppo, seven in NES and one in Homs.



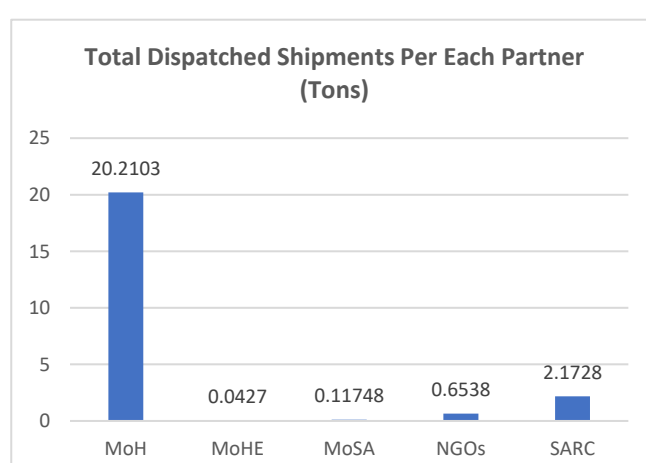
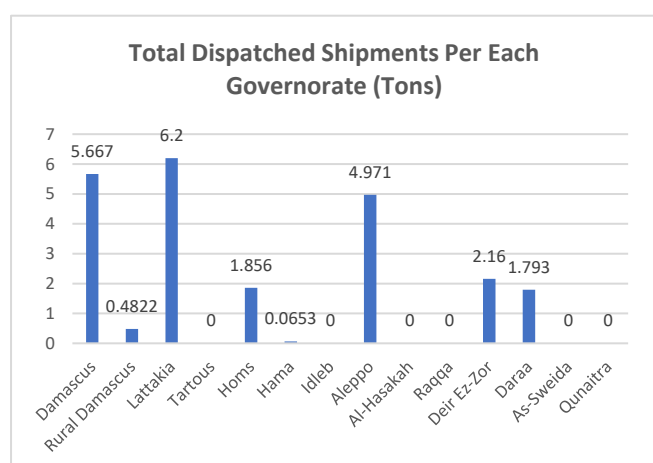
## Information Products and Related Activities

WHO produced and shared:

- Flash updates #61, 62 and 63, related to recent incidents against Jasem centre, Naseeb centre, and Nawa Hospital in Dar’a;
- Information about site visits to Harasta Hospital and Al-Qutayfeh Hospital as part of the Electronic Medical Records (EMR) initiative;
- Updates to the COVID-19 dashboard and online item tracking system;
- Key information on health facilities, based on HeRAMS data;
- Updated maps for health sector interventions.

## Operations Support and Logistics

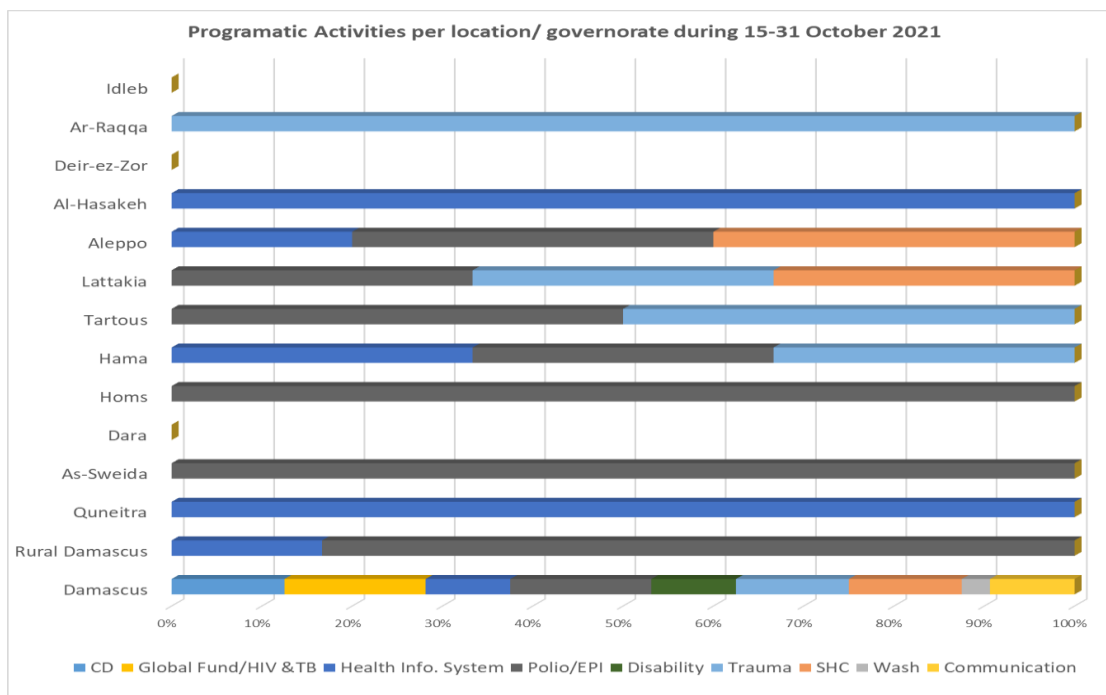
WHO dispatched 23.19 tons of medical and lab supplies, kits and equipment to eight governorates. They were received by 25 MoH facilities, two MoHE facilities, four NGOs, MOSAL and SARC.



## Capacity Building

A total of 57 capacity building activities attended by 1425 participants were supported by WHO during the reporting period.





WHO

## Syria Suboffice Response

### Aleppo Suboffice

During the reporting period, WHO delivered more than 31 998 health care services through its implementing partners, through eleven mobile medical teams and at eight PHCs and two trauma centres.

A training workshop on TB conducted in Aleppo on 20-24 September 2021 was attended by 25 participants. The main objective was the provision of trainees with updated information on TB diagnosis and treatment.

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness month, WHO implementing partners in NWS launched an awareness raising campaign to highlight the importance of early detection of the disease. Sessions were conducted at 15 PHCs and 11 MMTs supported by WHO, targeting 1 464 women, of which 33 received advanced medical investigation through mammography and sonography.



WHO supports awareness raising campaign on breast cancer in rural Aleppo

TB mobile clinics in Aleppo continue to provide health services. Of 50 tests conducted on suspected cases, four were confirmed as positive. An additional 496 beneficiaries benefited from awareness sessions, of which 17 were delivered.

### Lattakia Suboffice

The national polio vaccination campaign concluded following vaccination of 99 470 children aged under five years in the governorate of Tartous. Vaccinations were carried out at 134 PHCs and 40 MMTs, achieving a coverage rate of 92%. Meanwhile in the governorate of Lattakia, 112 594 children under the age of five were vaccinated at 105 PHCs, achieving a coverage rate of 92%, and through 60 mobile teams, which achieved a coverage rate of 93.5%. WHO conducted independent monitoring for two days in Tartous and Lattakia and facilitated transportation for all 100 MMTs in both governorates.



*WHO-supported national polio vaccination campaign in Lattakia governorate*

As part of the COVID-19 response, WHO has supported the needs of isolation facilities through the provision of 145 00 pieces of PPE, including masks and protective gloves. WHO has also conducted site visits to the main isolation facilities in Lattakia (National Hospital, Tishreen University Hospital and Al-Haffeh Hospital) to assess ongoing needs and plan ahead. The Organization participated in an emergency meeting with Lattakia DOH to discuss the possibility of moving to emergency Plan C at hospitals and the impact it would have on public health services.

Within the framework of the newborn care programme, WHO conducted supervisory visits to seven villages in Lattakia and three in Tartous (Zegreen, Brj islam, Qlaeh, Al-Hwez, A-Daleh, Al-Kroom, Al-Yazdeh, Aqer Zete, Al-Neameh).

WHO participated in a seminar on breast cancer in Tartous arranged by the directorate of social affairs in collaboration with UN agencies and local NGOs. The seminar aimed to raise awareness about the risks of breast cancer and focused on the importance of early detection. WHO briefed participants on all WHO-supported activities ongoing during ‘pink month’.

## Homs Suboffice

WHO-supported mobile teams visited more than 98 villages in rural Homs and Hama that do not have medical services, targeting children, the elderly, parents and care givers within the context of the COVID-19 response and ‘My Hero is You’ and ‘Living with Times’ initiatives. A total of 69 schools in 51 villages were visited, reaching more than 61 805 beneficiaries during the reported period.

Activities to prevent, detect and respond to leishmaniasis, an epidemic-prone disease, are ongoing in Hama. A campaign of spraying aims to contain and prevent spread of the disease. The vector control campaign in areas of Hama with a high prevalence of leishmaniasis ran between 27 June and 31 October. A total of 9 650 beneficiaries living in 1 426 houses in 10 areas with high infection rates were sprayed during the reported period.



*WHO supports awareness raising activities delivered through the initiative “My Hero is You”.*

The National polio vaccination campaign concluded in Homs following vaccination of 172 500 children aged under 5 years, while in Hama the total number of vaccinated children reached 178 064.



## Deir-ez-Zor Suboffice

WHO conducted a field visit to the oxygen station at Al-Assad Hospital to follow up on urgent needs and plan future support accordingly. Another visit, to the Environment Directorate at the Directorate of Health, was organised to check on water monitoring devices provided through WHO support.

## Quamishli Hub / North-east Syria (NES)

WHO supports 15 health provision points in delivering health care services to the most vulnerable groups in camps and rural areas across north-east Syria (NES).

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 1 092 samples taken from camps and tested, 3.8% were found to be contaminated at the jerry can level.

With WHO support 15 health facilities continue to deliver emergency health services to the most vulnerable groups in camps and rural areas across NES.

The national polio vaccination campaign (10-14 of October) concluded in NES with the following results:

- In the governorate of Al-Hasakeh, the total number of vaccinated children aged under five years surpassed 260 000. The campaign was carried out through 63 mobile teams and 43 fixed centres.
- In the governorate of Al-Raqqqa, the total number of vaccinated under five children surpassed 171 000. The campaign was carried out through 195 mobile teams and 75 fixed centres.
- In the eastern part of Deir-ez-Zor, the total number of vaccinated under five children surpassed 25 000. The campaign was carried out through 320 mobile teams.



*WHO supports the National Polio Vaccination campaign in Deir-ez-Zor*

## North-west Syria

### Primary Health Care (PHC)

The North Aleppo network is fully functional and includes 32 health facilities. The Afrin Network, also fully functional, includes 18 facilities, two ambulances and one TB centre.

Phase 8 of Harim network is expected to begin next week with 54 health facilities aiming to deliver 1 million consultations during the implementation period.

WHO supports 14 PHCs as part of last resort coverage and will consider support / continue supporting a few more PHCs once the prioritization exercise is finalized by the PHC technical working group (TWG) and the Health Cluster. PHC TWG held a meeting to set the draft initial criteria for prioritization.

### Tuberculosis

Service provision is ongoing at three TB centres. Updates from the Azaz TB centre, operated by SRD, indicate:

- A total of 131 beneficiaries visited one of the TB centres during the past week;
- Five patients were diagnosed with TB across the centres;
- A total of 17 samples were sent to Antakya for GeneXpert testing;
- Three samples tested through GeneXpert came back positive.

## Dialysis

The collection of data related to the quality improvement assessment is ongoing. A technical team comprising two doctors from John Hopkins University arrived in Gaziantep on Saturday 16 October to support the analysis of data and present the results at a workshop.

## COVID-19

The gap in PCR testing was covered by WHO. Delivery of two batches took place on 7 October 2021 and 14 October 2021. The number of daily tests is now approximately 1 500. The occupancy rate of hospital beds has surpassed 82%. The rate at ICUs is 97.5% and at CCTCs 75%.

Partners are investigating suspected cases of mucormycosis among COVID-19 patients. EWARN is working on surveillance capacity; the Case Management Working Group has drafted clinical management guidelines; and the IPC Working Group is working on SOPs and a checklist for health facilities to support prevention of mucormycosis fungal infection in COVID-19 patients.

WHO is exploring the possibility of laboratory testing for confirmation for existing mucormycosis cases, either through procurement of test kits or through referral to laboratories in Turkey through the Country Office.

## EWARN

The supportive mission from the regional office started in the beginning of October 2021. EMRO team facilitated a 3-day workshop on EWARN and rapid response during emergencies as well as carrying out an evaluation of the EWARN activities.

## Supply and Cross-border Deliveries

WHO has delivered 800 amps of Ambisome in response to detected cases of visceral leishmaniasis and black fungus; as well as 94 500 PCR testing kits, of which 2 000 kits for variants.



*A 3-day workshop on EWARN and Rapid response during emergencies*

## 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](#)
- [WHO Syria Site](#)
- [EMRO Dashboard](#)
- [COVID-19 Situation in EMRO Region Reports](#)

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