

# **BI-WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT WHOLE OF SYRIA**

*Issue 6 | 16 - 31 March 2021*











## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1. COVID-19 UPDATE.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1. COVID-19 Statistical Summary at Whole of Syria Level .....	1
1.2. Daily Distribution of COVID-19 Cases at Whole of Syria Level .....	1
1.3. Distribution of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths at Whole of Syria Level.....	2
1.4. Distribution of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths by Governorate and Outcome .....	2
<b>2. WHO SYRIA RESPONSE .....</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1. Health Sector Coordination.....	2
2.2. Non-Communicable Diseases and Primary Health Care .....	3
2.3. Communicable Disease (CD) .....	3
2.4. COVID-19 Laboratories.....	3
2.5. Trauma .....	3
2.6. Mental Health .....	4
2.7. Tuberculosis (TB) / HIV.....	4
2.8. Immunization .....	4
2.9. Environmental Health .....	5
2.10. Points of Entry.....	6
2.11. Nutrition .....	6
2.13. External Relations and Communication .....	7
2.14. Community Engagement (NGOs) .....	7
2.16. Operation Support and Logistics .....	8
2.17. Capacity Building .....	8
2.18. Aleppo Sub-Office .....	9
2.19. Homs Sub-Office.....	9
2.20. Lattakia Sub-Office .....	9
2.21. Al-Qamishli (NES) Sub-Office.....	10
2.22. Deir-Ez-Zor Sub-Office.....	10
<b>3. NORTH-WEST SYRIA (NWS) RESPONSE.....</b>	<b>11</b>
3.1. Primary Healthcare Centers (PHC) Network .....	11
3.3. Surveillance .....	11
3.4. Tuberculosis (TB) Program .....	12
3.5. Community Healthcare Workers (CHW) .....	12
3.6. Mental Health .....	12
3.7. Non-Communicable Diseases.....	12
<b>4. VACCINE UPDATES .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>5. USEFUL LINKS.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>6. CONTACT US .....</b>	<b>13</b>

## 1. COVID-19 Update

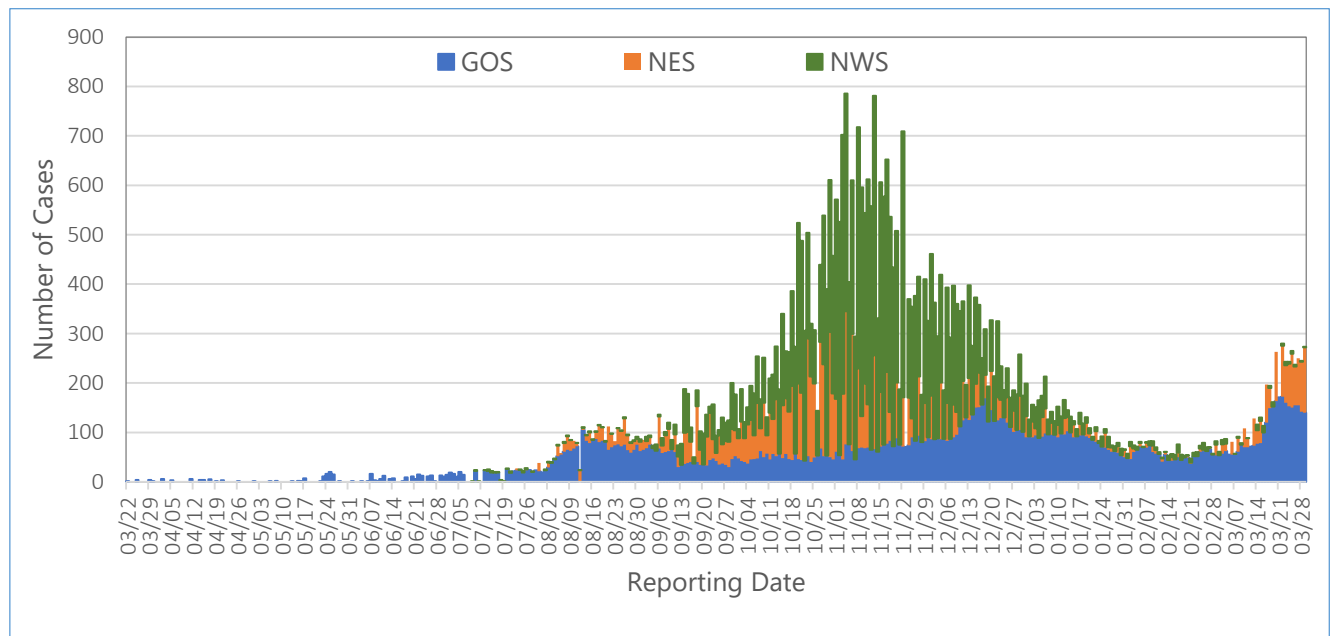
### 1.1. COVID-19 Statistical Summary at Whole of Syria Level

As of 29 March 2021

	<b>49 825</b>	Total cases (including <b>3 907</b> health workers)
	<b>14 303</b>	Active cases
	<b>33 263</b>	Recovered cases
	<b>2 259</b>	Deaths
	<b>4.5%</b>	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
	<b>20</b>	COVID-19 functional laboratories
	<b>201 852</b>	COVID-19 tests performed
	<b>990</b>	Overall testing rate per 100 000 population
	<b>244.3</b>	Incidence rate per 100 000 population (highest in Al-Hasakeh; 486)
	<b>24.7%</b>	Positivity rate (highest in As-Sweida; 64.7%)

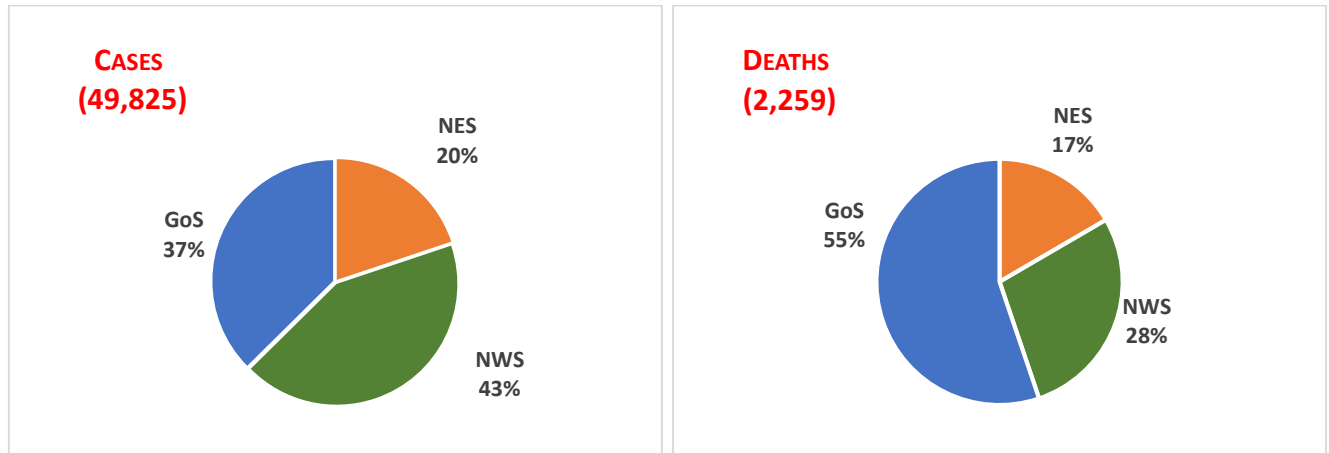
### 1.2. Daily Distribution of COVID-19 Cases at Whole of Syria Level

22 March 2020 – 29 March 2021 (n = 49 825)



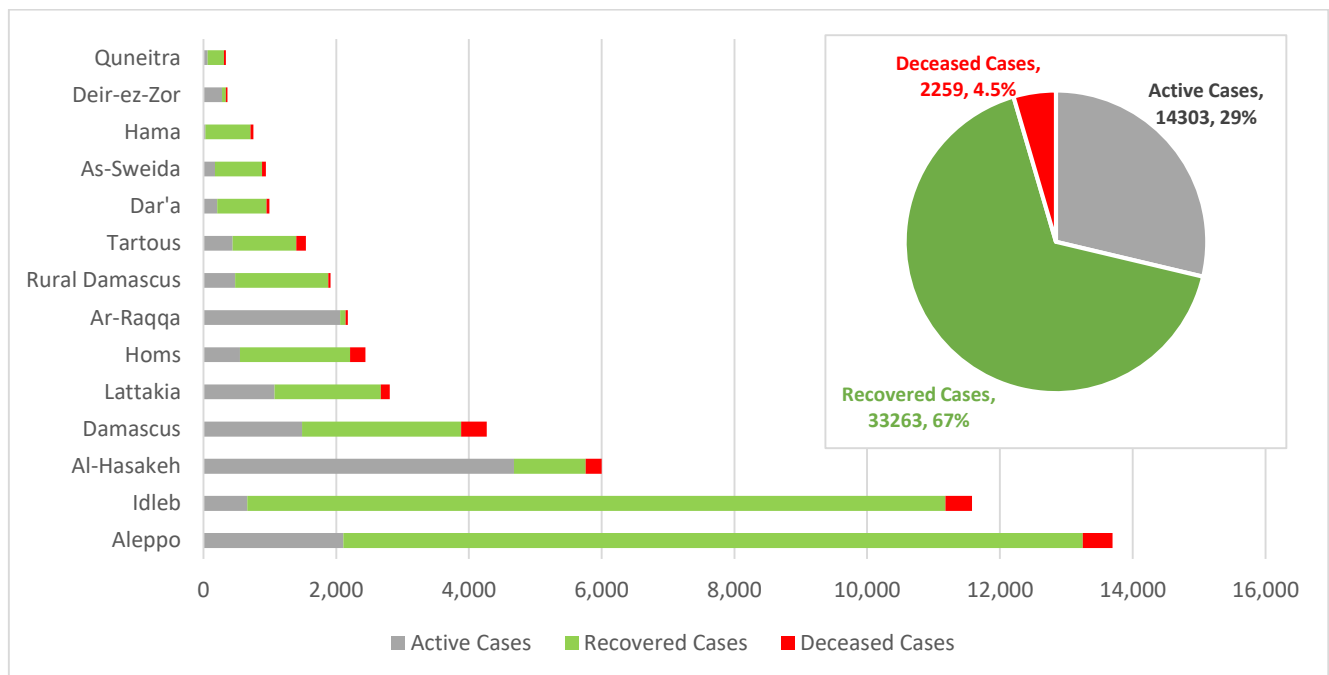
### 1.3. Distribution of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths at Whole of Syria Level

22 March 2020 – 29 March 2021



### 1.4. Distribution of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths by Governorate and Outcome

22 March 2020 – 29 March 2021



## 2. WHO Syria Response

### 2.1. Health Sector Coordination

- On 23 March published and disseminated the monthly Health Sector Bulletin for February.
- Conducted a health sector consultative meeting on 16 March, to discuss the results of the Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) survey. The findings of the survey were presented, and the results were analyzed by the Global Health Cluster. Based on inputs from health partners, a plan of action has been prepared and shared with partners on 25 March, for review and comments.
- In consultation with health partners, provided inputs to OCHA on “2021 Whole of Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)” as well as a summary of the needs and response.
- Participated in several meetings and webinars to enhance health sector coordination, tackle humanitarian needs in Syria and provide operational updates with a special focus on the COVID-19 vaccine rollout.

### **Health Sector Sub-National Activities: North-East Syria (Al-Qamishli Hub)**

- On 17 March, attended the meeting with Al-Roj camp administration, camp management and selected humanitarian partners and consolidated the health and protection sector inputs related to challenges in the camp.
- Provided health sector inputs during Al-Hol camp coordination meeting (16, 23, and 30 March) arranged by UNHCR, in addition to the Al-Qamishli Inter-Sector coordination meeting arranged by OCHA on 22 March.
- Organized Al-Hol camp regular health sector coordination meeting (18 and 25 March).
- Organized a sub-national health sector coordination meeting (28 March).

## **2.2. Non-Communicable Diseases and Primary Health Care**

- Delivered lifesaving and PHC/NCD medications including 7 752 vials of Insulin and syringes to health partners in Hama, Al-Hasakeh, Deir-Ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, and Aleppo. The number of treatment courses provided under PHC was 23 860.
- Started the rehabilitation process for Al-Sayda-Zainab PHC, which is affiliated with Al-Quneitra DOH but located in Damascus governorate, under the Russian fund, in addition to further rehabilitation works for Hanano and Kady-Askar PHCs in Eastern Aleppo.
- Three health facilities will be rehabilitated in Daraa governorate: (1) Sheikh Meskeen PHC, (2) Othman Public Health Center, and (3) a tuberculosis centre, which is still under the tendering process.
- In coordination with MoH, a workshop was held on 27 and 28 March to discuss the Cancer Control National Plan.

## **2.3. Communicable Disease (CD)**

- Supported by WHO, the national deworming campaign launched in March. The campaign reached more than 3 million school-age children from all governorates.
- 150 000 tubes of anti-lice lotion were distributed to School-Health Directorates in all governorates. Another shipment of 210 000 bottles of anti-lice shampoo and lotion is to be delivered in April 2021.

## **2.4. COVID-19 Laboratories**

- To enhance laboratory testing capacity and support the expansion of COVID-19 laboratories, WHO continues to support the training of laboratory technicians from all Syrian governorates at the central public health laboratory (CPHL) in Damascus. Nine technicians from Ar-Raqqa and Deir-Ez-Zor were trained on molecular biology technology, COVID-19 PCR testing, GeneXpert testing, in addition to biosafety and biosecurity procedures.

## **2.5. Trauma**

- To enhance the public hospitals' capacity and ensure an appropriate response for emergency cases, health partners in Aleppo, Hama, Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Deir-Ez-Zor were supported with 290 000 treatments from 29 Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK), as well as 2 472 treatments of life-saving medicines.
- Provided three cardiac software workstations for the already-procured and delivered CT-scan machines to Al-Bassel Cardiac Surgery Hospital (Damascus/MoH), Damascus University Cardiac Surgery Hospital (Damascus/MoHE) and Al-Bassel Cardiac Surgery Hospital (Lattakia/MoH). Furthermore, an X-ray machine was delivered to Al-Baath University Hospital in Homs.
- To enhance the COVID-19 preparedness measures, urgently provided medical equipment to the newly-established isolation centre at Al-Fayha Sports' city in Damascus. Medical supplies included oxygen concentrators, a resuscitation trolley with defibrillator and suction device, pulse oxymeters, infrared thermometers, stethoscopes, sphygmomanometers and glucometers devices.
- More than 130 persons with disabilities benefited from different types of assistive devices that were delivered to the SARC-Aleppo branch.

- Trained 200 health workers (prosthetics and orthotics technicians, physiotherapists, and psychiatrists) from Damascus and Rural Damascus, at the MOH centre of Prosthetics and Rehabilitation, on “*Manufacturing of Knee-Ankle-Foot Orthoses (KAFOs)*”, “*Rehabilitation of Patients with Upper Limb Amputation*”, “*Development of Intellectual Skills for Children with Cerebral Palsy*”, “*Manufacturing of Hip-Knee-Ankle-Foot Orthoses (HKAFOs)*”, “*Manufacturing of prostheses for the amputation at hip disarticulation level*”, “*Manufacturing of hand splints*”, and “*Rehabilitation program of children with cerebral palsy*”.
- Trained 75 health professionals in isolation centres, intensive care units, and emergency departments from Hama, Daraa and Al-Quneitra on “*Advanced Children and Adults Life Support*”.

## 2.6. Mental Health

- Followed up with the Mental Health Directorate at MoH on issues related to the implementation of the MHPSS pilot project at the Primary Healthcare Center (PHC) and community level pilot project.
- Conducted a field mission to Homs and Hama governorates to scale up the Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS) interventions with MoH and MoE, monitor activities with partnered NGOs, and assess the mental health needs of Al-Rukban camp in Rural Homs.
- Conducted 13 capacity-building activities, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, targeting school health workers and OXFAM community volunteers. Main topics included Mental Health GAP (mhGAP) programme, psychological first aid, as well as basic psychosocial skills for COVID-19 responders.
- Actively participated, along with the HIV / TB unit, in a meeting with the Global Fund for an in-depth revision of piloted project activities that integrate MHPSS services with HIV prevention and promotion at the community level. The project is in partnership with Al-Sham NGO.

## 2.7. Tuberculosis (TB) / HIV

- Provided TB-related health services in both Aleppo and Rural Damascus governorates through two WHO-supported mobile clinics; 743 beneficiaries were targeted through 30 awareness-raising sessions, 76 TB suspected cases were tested, five of whom were confirmed positive.
- WHO-supported Al-Sham NGO continued its outreach activities for HIV high-risk groups; 460 beneficiaries were targeted through 51 awareness-raising sessions, 366 volunteers were tested for HIV and no positive cases were reported.
- Conducted a virtual meeting with Al-Sham NGO, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) to discuss the progress on the HIV outreach project in Syria in terms of testing and counselling activities, mainly for high-risk groups.

## 2.8. Immunization

- During February 2021, the percentage of the Extended Program on Immunization (EPI) coverage was 62% for DPT3, 71% for MMR1 and 62% for OPV3.
- Attended the Interagency Coordination Committee meeting (ICC) which was led by the Deputy Minister of Health. Participants included representatives from different ministries (Finance, Planning, Education), senior MoH managers, as well as members from the Syndicate of Doctors and the Board of Pediatricians. The main recommendations were to (a) address the GAVI board for their maintained support to Syria, especially for the zero-dose children; (b) confirm GAVI’s support for the vaccine delivery; (c) get the commitment of the GAVI board for the fiscal year 2022.
- To enhance routine immunization in Syria in 2021, WHO supported 14 EPI planning workshops at the district level in all 14 governorates. The objective is to reduce the number of zero-dose children as per GAVI/MOH targets. Special plans are to be adopted for the Eastern-Euphrates (Ar-Raqqa and Deir-Ez-Zor).
- To enhance the quality of surveillance indicators for early detection and timely response to outbreaks, WHO supported training for newly appointed surveillance officers on vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Continued supporting routine vaccination activities through mobile teams, outreach activities as well as supervisory visits from the central and governorate level to district teams.

- Supported a training of environmental surveillance personnel from municipalities and their counterparts at MOH; the training is conducted twice a year.
- Procured supplies for the national Rotavirus laboratory to revive the surveillance system in Syria.

### **COVID-19 Vaccination preparedness:**

- WHO supported the preparedness for COVID-19 vaccination in Syria through a series of Training-of-Trainers (ToT) that entailed microplanning, service provision, pharmacovigilance, communications, cold chain, Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), etc. All TOT activities were conducted at the central level.
- The COVAX board reported a delay in the AstraZeneca vaccine procurement to Syria; the 912 000 doses that were supposed to arrive soon may arrive sometime in May. The COVAX team is trying to probe other possible channels as well.
- The costing tool has been finalized; WHO and UNICEF have a joint appeal to mobilize funds to cover the operational cost for the COVID-19 vaccination.
- The National Deployment and Vaccination plan (NDVP) is being developed by a UN team; WHO being a team lead and UNICEF a co-lead.
- Moderated, together with MoH counterparts, the online platform for the pre-registration for COVID-19 vaccination. The platform should be ready for the first trial by 31 March 2021.
- Supported workshops to be conducted at the governorate level; almost 3 000 personnel will complete their training on specific topics before the initiation of the COVID-19 vaccination in Syria.

### **Polio**

- Conducted the Polio National Immunization Days (NID) campaign in all governorates between 7 and 11 March 2021, with a special emphasis on high-risk areas in Northeast Syria, including camps and nomads. The campaign targeted 2.8 million under-5 children with two drops of bOPV through 1 129 vaccination sites, 2 315 mobile teams, and over 9 000 MoH health workers. WHO ensured a smooth campaign implementation through training health workers and supervisors, delivering vaccines inside Syria and transporting the mobile vaccination teams. The reported coverage is 2 545 020 children (91%) and the Independent Monitors coverage assessment showed a 91% coverage estimate as well.
- Procured supplies for the national Polio laboratory including Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) case testing and environmental sampling.
- Met with the Polio committee of national experts to follow up on the AFP cases.
- The National Certification Committee (NCC) submitted the national polio certification report for 2020.

## **2.9. Environmental Health**

- Monitored the water quality of different water sources; water networks, ground wells, reservoirs, water tanks, and jerry cans to check chemical and biological contamination and identify pathogens.
- The number of tests conducted during the reported period is:
  - 61 tests in 10 villages in Rural Aleppo (northern and southern parts); 43 water sources were found biologically contaminated and were sterilized.
  - 117 tests in 11 districts in Rural Damascus; 21 water sources were found biologically contaminated and were sterilized.
  - 910 tests in NES (Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, and Deir-Ez-Zor), including eight IDPs camps and 20 collective shelters; 111 sources were found biologically contaminated and were sterilized (mainly jerry cans).



*Monitoring the quality of water*

## 2.10. Points of Entry

- As part of its support to enhance the national capacity of preparedness and response to health emergencies and to ensure health security under International Health Regulations (2005), WHO supported MoH by strengthening the core capacities at PoE.
- Reviewed the capacity at one of the ground crossings in Tartous (Areeda PoE), as well as three seaports (Tartous, Baniyas and Alwad) through a joint MoH/WHO field visit. As a result, the need to establish proper healthcare services and screening mechanisms for travellers was identified.
- As a new medical point is being established by Deir-Ez-Zor DoH in Al-Boukamal ground-crossing, MoH and WHO are working on equipping the point with medical devices and furniture to provide health services to travellers. Moreover, WHO is working on establishing a medical point in Dabbousiyeh ground-crossing, in Homs.
- Supported MOH in training 20 officials from As-Sweida DoH and Daraa DoH through a workshop at MoH premises to enhance the preparedness and response capacity at PoE, mainly IPC measures and risk communication based on the IAR recommendations conducted in December 2021.

## 2.11. Nutrition

- Attended a virtual training with the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office on the Development of Food Standards and Regulations for Trans-Fatty Acids (TFA) in Foods.
- Collected data from 21 stabilization centres for February 2021; 86 patients were admitted, with the highest number being in Aleppo (25 admissions).
- Collected nutrition surveillance data for February 2021; 92 518 services were provided at 926 health centres.
- Collected neonatal resuscitation program data for February 2021; 4 916 deliveries were achieved at 46 hospitals in 12 governorates.
- Monitored and evaluated the training at stabilization centres in Lattakia, Tartous and Aleppo.

## 2.12. Information Products and Related Activities

### Products

- HeRAMS Annual Report 2020 for private hospitals in Al-Hasakeh governorate
- HeRAMS Annual Report 2020 for UNRWA health centres in Syria
- WHO Summary of key performance indicators (KPI), January 2021
- Flash Update #50 for the recent incidents against Thiyabiyeh public primary health care centre in Rural Damascus
- 4Ws December 2020 snapshot at Whole of Syria (WoS) level

### Activities

- Updated the COVID-19 Dynamic Infographic Dashboard for Syria
- Updated the online item tracking system for COVID-19 in Syria
- Reported on EMRO key performance indicators (KPI)
- Provided key information on health facilities based on HeRAMS
- Updated Maps for health sector interventions



### 2.13. External Relations and Communication

- WHO and UNICEF are working in close cooperation with MOH to develop the COVID-19 vaccination media campaign. The first batch of social media key messages was developed and shared with MOH for technical clearance.
- In close cooperation with the Ministry of Health, WHO supported the first media workshop on the introduction of COVID-19 vaccination in Syria with the participation of more than 35 media professional representing different national media channels.
- WHO provided media coverage for the Brussels V side event conference, including developing social media content, visibility videos as well as responding to media inquiries.
- WHO-Syria's digital and social media channels are regularly updated with new information on COVID-19 and other public health resources. COVID-19 Vaccination brief was updated on 29 March.
- Work is in process concerning the Solidarity Initiative focusing on psycho-social support to parents, caregivers and children through 'My Hero is You' colouring book. Two workshops are to be conducted from 4 to 15 April with the participation of 80 NGO volunteers.

### 2.14. Community Engagement (NGOs)

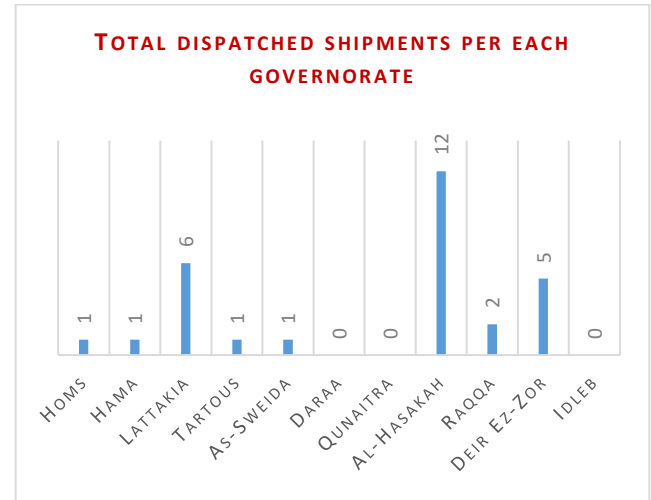
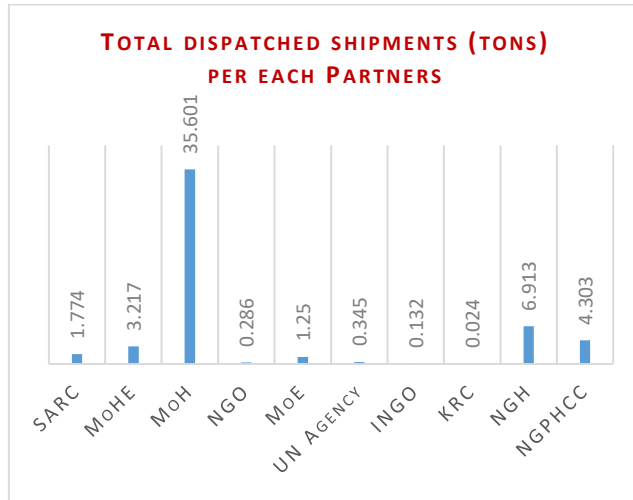
- To strengthen the provision of lifesaving and life-sustaining health care services on a referral basis in NES, WHO provided trauma care services for 33 beneficiaries as well as advanced surgical intervention for 20 people in need, mainly from IDP camps and informal settlements.
- Enhanced the delivery of primary healthcare services through providing medication and conducting medical consultations on child health, reproductive health, trauma and chronic diseases. In Damascus and Rural Damascus, more than 900 health services were provided to vulnerable population.
- Conducted awareness-raising sessions on HIV to high-risk population; mobile teams supported 802 beneficiaries in 11 governorates, while 632 people received Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS).

### 2.15. Pharmaceuticals

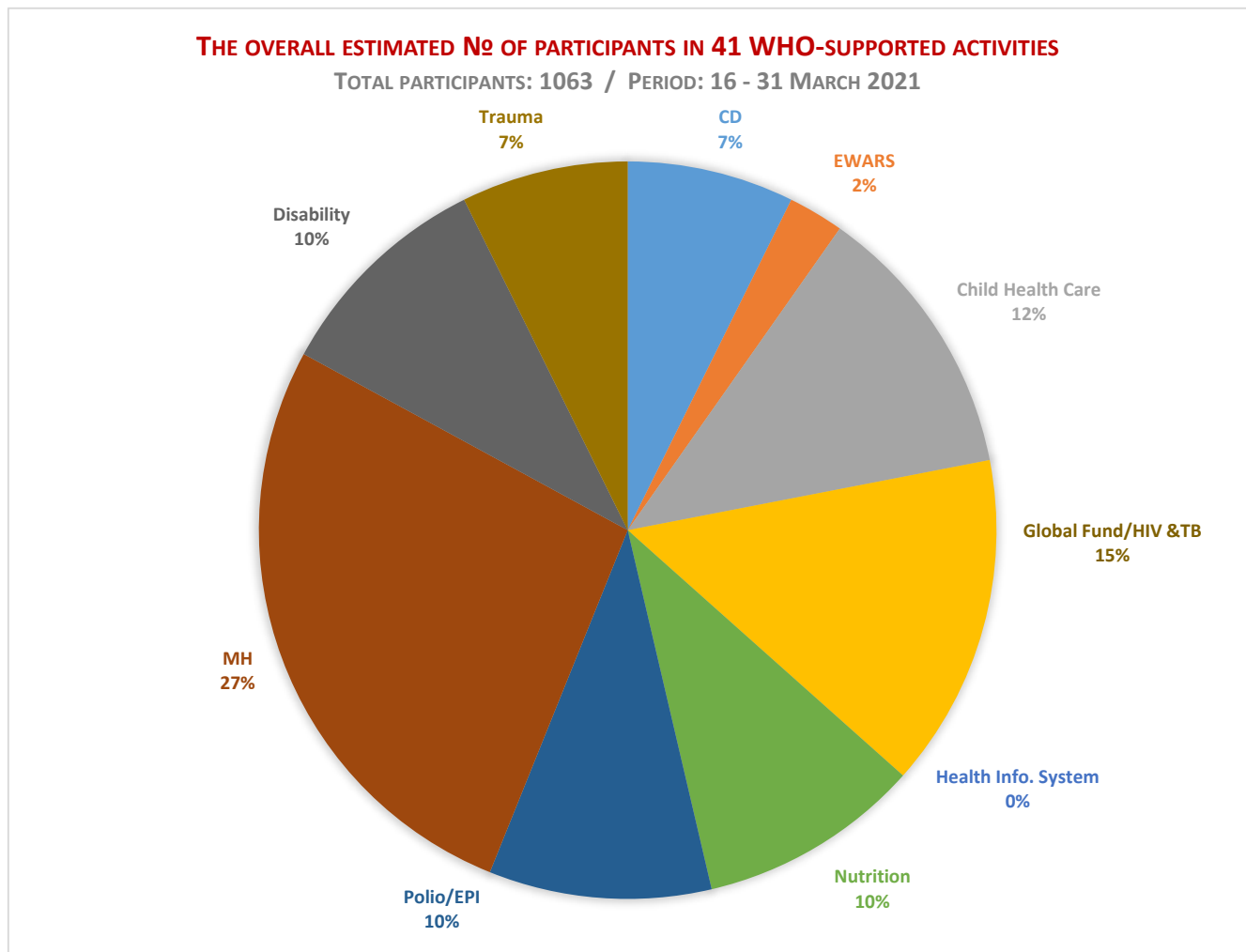
- To strengthen the capacity of health workers on drug safety and ensure timely and quality reporting of adverse drug reactions; the WHO's pharmaceutical unit will support during the 2nd quarter of 2021, the pharmacovigilance program at MOH/Drug Control Department with six workshops targeting 125 health workers appointed as pharmacovigilance focal points at different health facilities across the country.
- Followed up on timely distribution of medicines and medical equipment to health facilities.
- Defined, in close coordination with MOH, the most essentially needed medicines to ensure continuous provision of lifesaving medicines at health facilities.

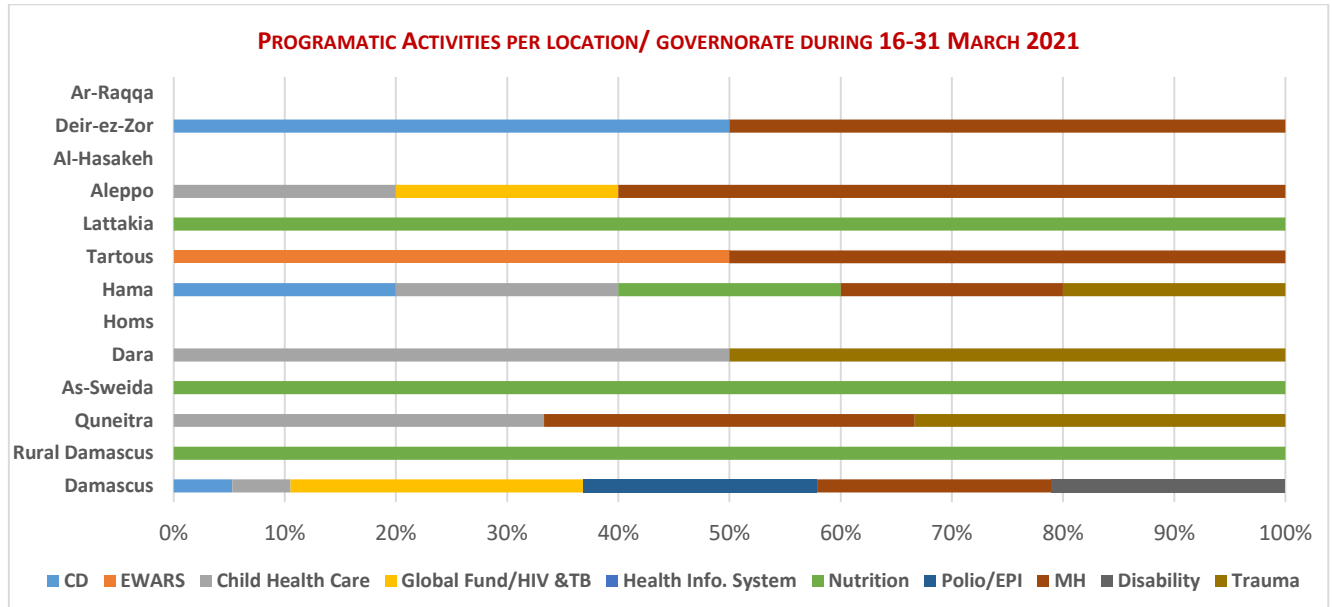
## 2.16. Operational Support and Logistics

- In the reporting period dispatched 53.85 tons of medical and lab supplies, kits, equipment, and printing materials covering 11 governorates (except Idleb, Al-Quneitra and Daraa).
  - The recipients included 17 MoH facilities, 1 MoE school health directorate, 5 MoHE facilities as well as 1 INGO, 10 NGOs, SARC, 2 camps and UNRWA.
  - The total number of treatments provided was 548 562 as well as 400 trauma cases.



## 2.17. Capacity Building





## 2.18. Aleppo Sub-Office

- Led by WHO Representative in Syria, a technical team visited Aleppo Governorate to follow up on the program implementation under different intervention areas, to address critical health needs, and to enhance the delivery of health care services to people in need.
- On 24 March 2021 and on the occasion of World TB Day, WHO, in cooperation with the Directorate of Health in Aleppo, supported a central national workshop with the participation of more than 50 health professionals.
- Through the global fund contribution, WHO is currently supporting the Ministry of Health by providing the needed stocks of TB to ensure continuous availability for all patients and necessary laboratory equipment, in addition to providing training of health workers.

## 2.19. Homs Sub-Office

- Attended the Inter-Sector Coordination Meeting to discuss and update on the humanitarian situation and response plan at Al-Rukban. To note, the total number of people who left Al-Rukban transiting through Homs shelters remains at 19 977 people, of whom 329 left supported by UN/SARC.
- Supported the deworming campaign which was conducted in Homs targeting 111 primary schools with 288 000 students.
- Supported three medical mobile teams to cover the health needs in northeast and southwest Hama. The total number of medical consultations provided reached 1 190 as well as 78 psycho-social support services.

## 2.20. Lattakia Sub-Office

- Conducted a virtual health sector working group meeting, participants from 6 international organizations, 7 local health partners, as well as local authorities in Lattakia and Tartous attended the meeting.
- On the occasion of Mother's Day and in collaboration with the directorates of Health and Social Affairs, 200 gifts were distributed to mothers working at health facilities in Lattakia.
- Continued outreach activities for HIV high-risk population. Among the beneficiaries were 96 prisoners, 54 truck drivers and 186 workers in Lattakia as well as 180 in Tartous. 237 individuals were tested during all sessions.



WHO conducted a workshop on IYCF program in Lattakia

- Conducted several workshops under the mental health GAP (mhGAP) program.
- Conducted training on nutrition surveillance clinics to enhance service deliveries under the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) program.
- Supported workshops conducted to discuss the governorate's vaccination plans, IPC measures, service delivery and cold chain management.
- Delivered 24 000 NaCl (0.9%) Intravenous fluids to Lattakia DOH, as a response to the urgent needs in hospitals.
- Supported the diabetics' centres in Lattakia and Tartous with 25 000 1-ml syringes, in addition to 100 000 tabs of hypoglycemia gliclazide tablets.
- Started the deworming campaign at schools in Lattakia and Tartous targeting school-children up to 6th grade.



*WHO-supported deworming campaign*

## 2.21. Al-Qamishli Sub-Office, Northeast Syria (NES)

- Conducted a meeting with UNHCR to discuss cross-cutting issues related to the COVID-19 preparedness plan as well as possible support from UNHCR in terms of identifying an appropriate warehouse. The meeting was followed by a field visit to the UNHCR warehouse.
- To discuss access to health services at Al-Roj expansion phase, a meeting with the camp management and camp administration was conducted during a joint mission with UNHCR & UNICEF. WHO highlighted the health sector is ready to support with supplies, mental health and referral system.
- To follow up on the communicable disease program, a WHO technical team conducted a field mission to Al-Hasakeh DoH and Al-Areasha camp to assess the reported increase of scabies cases at the camp while focusing on strengthening COVID-19 surveillance.
- Continued the quality monitoring of drinking water through regular visits to 8 camps and 20 collective shelters. 906 samples were tested, 12.2% of which were contaminated on the jerry can level.
- To enhance COVID-19 surveillance in the northeast Syria, as well as to strengthen lab testing and data analysis, a WHO technical team conducted a field mission to Al-Qamishli district health centre, Al-Qamishli National Hospital, the PCR laboratory, as well as Jyan COVID-19 treatment centre.
- Distributed Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK 2017), as well as medicines, medical supplies and personal protection equipment to 18 Hospitals and 155 Primacy Healthcare Centers in NES. The number of targeted treatment reached 411 561.



*COVID-19 Isolation Area at Al-Areasha Camp*



*GeneXpert COVID-19 Lab at Al-Qamishli National Hospital*

## 2.22. Deir-Ez-Zor Sub-Office

- Called for joint coordination meeting to discuss the Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) problem in the governorate and plan for hygiene promotion, potable water awareness campaign, and chlorine tablets distribution campaign this coming summer in communities that are at high risk of waterborne disease transmission, specifically districts that have high notification rates of waterborne diseases. The meeting on 18 March 2021 was attended by DoH, UNICEF and OXFAM.

- Together with the Health Information Systems (HIS) focal point, a field visit was conducted to Al-Assad Hospital compound to update the assessment of the COVID-19 treatment facility and to evaluate its medical needs.
- Within the plan of strengthening the capacity of community health workers (CHW) and increasing the coverage of psychosocial support (PSS) services, including psychological first aid and self-care strategies; WHO has supported the training of 18 health assistants and educators from the Directorate of Education in Deir-Ez-Zor Governorate, on 24 and 25 March 2021. During the workshop, COVID-19 risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) session was presented.
- Finalized, together with the Head of Leishmaniasis program at DoH, the micro plan for the Cutaneous Leishmaniasis (CL) awareness-raising campaign, mosquito nets distribution and home residual spraying at CL-affected communities. The campaign, which will deploy 50 workers from DoH and municipalities, will start with a 4-day training, then will be followed by 34 working days in the field. The campaign is anticipated to start in mid-May, end in mid-September, and target 156 700 households in affected communities. As for less affected communities, 20 CHW will participate in awareness-raising sessions.



*Capacity building for healthcare workers on psychosocial support*

### 3. North-West Syria (NWS) Response

#### 3.1. Primary Healthcare Centers (PHC) Network

- WHO continues fully supporting 41 PHCs and Mobile Teams in NWS within the integrated health service delivery network; 21 of them through integrated service delivery networks and 21 as a last resort coverage. Three PHCs in Sarmada Termaneen (UDER) had a suspension for one day only (Monday, 22 March, 2021) due to the security situation around Bab Al-Hawa area/hospital incident.
- The Referral System is fully functional in Idleb and North Aleppo, partially functioning in Afrin, with 183 implementing health facilities. Seven PoEs as well as the COVID-19 referral ambulances and other patient vehicles are suspended due to fund limitations.

#### 3.2. Secondary Healthcare Centers (SHC)

- WHO continues supporting four secondary healthcare hospitals including Harem and Medina MNCH Hospitals, Bab Al-Salam General Hospital and Dana COVID-19-designated Hospital.

#### 3.3. Surveillance

- Till epi-week 12, out of 243 sentinel sites (Aleppo 134, Idleb 109), all sites reported on the 13 syndromes/diseases under the Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN) which constitutes 100% completeness and 99% timeliness of reporting (compared to 88% in the previous week).
- In that week, the top highest syndromes reported from NWS were 19 392 influenza-like illness (ILI) cases (6.7% increase from the previous week of 20 795 cases), 8 831 other acute diarrhoea cases (2% increase from the previous week of 8 659 cases), 331 acute jaundice syndrome cases (7.8% decrease from the previous week of 359 cases) and 256 Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) cases (13.2% decrease from the previous week of 295 cases)
- Till epi-week 12, a total of 91 alerts were recorded from Northern Syria. After primary screening and verifications, 14 ended up as true alerts – 2 other acute diarrhoea, 5 acute jaundice syndromes, 1 brucellosis, 3 SARI, 1 impetigo, 1 dermatologic, 1 scabies.

### 3.4. Tuberculosis (TB) Program

- The number of beneficiaries who visited the TB centres last week was 415; the number of newly diagnosed TB cases was 12.
- The number of GeneXpert tests sent to Antakya was 107; the number of positive samples was 6.
- Out of 16 Multidrug-resistant TB cases diagnosed in NWS, seven already started the treatment with the new all-oral shorter regimen.

### 3.5. Community Healthcare Workers (CHW)

- Two phases out of three were completed reaching 300 CHWs out of 500 selected to be trained in specific modules identified as a gap according to the assessment conducted by WHO in 2020. The courses were completed by the end of March 2021.

### 3.6. Mental Health

- The MHPSS Helpline and 24/7 Suicide Hotline are working and providing mental health services to the NWS population.
- WHO is supporting the work of five Mental Health Mobile Clinics, six non-specialized MHPSS facilities plus support for Sarmada Mental Health are ongoing.
- The MHPSS technical working group (TWG) developed an action plan regarding the case of four young men who committed suicide within 48 hours due to poor living conditions and economic problems. They came from Al-Golan Camp in Qah, Zardana town in Dana, Al Karameh Camp also in Dana, and one from Qababis in Al-Bab.

### 3.7. Non-Communicable Diseases

- As of 23 March 2021, there were a total of 171 000 patients registered from the 77 PHCs, 24 hospitals, 11 mobile clinics, 8 Thalassemia centres, 9 dialysis centres and 24 facilities with MHPSS services. These total NCD patients came from the 10 NGOs who submitted it to the NCD TWG (UOSSM, SDI, UDER, Shafak, AHF, SRD, MRFS, HiHFAD, RI and SAMS).

### 3.8. Immunization

- Polio Campaign started on 27 March 2021 in 44 Team Support Centres out of 52. The campaign will last for 6 days moving from house to house (H2H) and will be followed by Post Campaign Monitoring (PCM) conducted by Independent Monitors for 2 days.
- The target is 815 242 under-5 children in NWS, the campaign will use bOPV with 1 371 teams and 457 supervisors and 9 central supervisors.
- The total number of launched EPI centres in North West Syria (NWS) is 93, with a total number of 134 teams.
- The teams conducted 638 sessions during the reporting period with an average of 4.8 sessions per team.
- The estimated monthly target of under-1 children is 13 578. In February, 2 550 vaccination sessions were conducted out of 2 638 planned (97%).
- All EPI teams (622 participants) were trained by Special Interest Groups (SIG) on COVID-19 awareness, physical distancing and protective measures. A monitoring tool was developed to measure the teams' adherence to WHO guidelines regarding physical distancing, using PPEs and giving COVID-19 awareness. Governorate and district supervisors are submitting daily reports that are discussed in the virtual daily meeting.

## 4. Vaccine Updates

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

## 5. 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](#)
- [Latest Global WHO Weekly Update On COVID-19](#)
- [WHO COVID-19 Country And Technical Guidance](#)
- [United Nations Office For The Coordination Of Humanitarian Affairs](#)

## 6. Contact Us

### Contact:

#### DR AKJEMAL MAGTYMOVA

Head of Mission and WHO Representative  
 Syrian Arab Republic





Tel: +963 11 3353265 / 3353284  
 eMail: emwrosyr@who.int  
 Twitter: @DrAkjemal

#### DR MAHMOUD DAHER

WHO Health Emergencies (WHE) Lead  
 Gaziantep Field presence

Tel: +970 598 944650 / +970 82822033  
 eMail: daherm@who.int

### Follow WHO Syria:

-  [Facebook](#) /WHOSyria
-  [Twitter](#) @WHOSyria
-  [Instagram](#) @WHOSyria
-  [YouTube](#) WHO Syria

## جائحة كوفيد-19 COVID-19 Pandemic

If you have symptoms of fever & cough, self-isolate yourself & quickly seek medical care if you have trouble breathing

إذا ظهرت عليك أعراض الحمى والسعال، يادر بعزل نفسك، وسارع بالتماس الرعاية الطبية إذا شعرت بصعوبة في التنفس

Wash your hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub

اغسل يديك بانتظام بالماء والصابون أو بمطهر يحتوي على الكحول

Cough or sneeze into your bended arm or use disposable tissue

عند السعال أو العطس ادم وجهك بطني ذراعك أو استخدم منديل آحادي الاستعمال

World Health Organization  
 Eastern Mediterranean

For more information للمزيد من المعلومات  
[www.emro.who.int/COVID19](http://www.emro.who.int/COVID19)