Syrian Arab Republic

Country context*		
Population (000s)	21,898
GNI per capita (PPP Int $)	—
Physician density (per 10 000 population)	1.46
Nurse & midwife density (per 10 000 population)	1.87
Hospital bed density (per 10 000 population)	15

Life expectancy at birth (years)	76
Total health expenditure (% GDP)	3.3
ICT Development Index rank	102
Mobile-cellular subscriptions (% population)	59.30
Internet users (% population)	24.3

1. eHealth foundations

National policies or strategies

	Country response	Global "yes" response§	Year adopted
National universal health coverage policy or strategy	Yes	75%	1975
National eHealth policy or strategy	No	58%	N/A
National health information system (HIS) policy or strategy	Yes	66%	1990
National telehealth policy or strategy	No	22%	N/A

Funding sources for eHealth

	Country response	Global "yes" response§	Funding source %**
Public funding	No	77%	Zero
Private or commercial funding	No	40%	Zero
Donor/non-public funding	Yes	63%	<25%
Public-private partnerships	No	42%	Zero

Multilingualism in eHealth

	Country response	Global "yes" response§	Year adopted
Policy or strategy on multilingualism	N/A	28%	N/A
Government-supported Internet sites in multiple languages	N/A	48%	

eHealth capacity building

	Country response	Global "yes" response§	Proportion**
Health sciences students – Pre-service training in eHealth	No	74%	N/A
Health professionals – In-service training in eHealth	Yes	77%	<25%

2. Legal frameworks for eHealth

Policy or legislation – purpose	Country response	Global "yes" response§
Defines **medical jurisdiction, liability or reimbursement of eHealth services** such as telehealth	No	31%
Addresses **patient safety and quality of care** based on data quality, data transmission standards or clinical competency criteria	No	46%
Protects the **privacy of personally identifiable data** of individuals irrespective of whether it is in **paper or digital format**	Yes	78%
Protects the **privacy of individuals' health-related data** held in electronic format in an **EHR**	No	54%
Governs the **sharing of digital data between health professionals in other health services** in the same country through the use of an EHR	No	34%
Governs the **sharing of digital data between health professionals in health services** in other countries through the use of an **EHR**	No	22%
Governs the **sharing of personal and health data between research entities**	No	39%
Allows **individuals electronic access to their own health-related data** when held in an **EHR**	No	29%
Allows **individuals to demand their own health-related data be corrected** when held in an **EHR** if it is known to be inaccurate	No	32%
Allows **individuals to demand the deletion of health-related data** from their **EHR**	No	18%
Allows **individuals to specify which health-related data** from their **EHR** can be **shared with health professionals** of their choice	No	28%
Governs **civil registration and vital statistics**	Yes	76%
Governs **national identification management systems**	Yes	65%

World Health Organization

3. Telehealth

Telehealth programmes country overview		
	Health system level**	**Programme type****
Teleradiology	‡	‡
Teledermatology	‡	‡
Telepathology	‡	‡
Telepsychiatry	‡	‡
Remote patient monitoring	‡	‡

4. Electronic Health Records (EHRs)

EHR country overview		
	Country response	**Year introduced**
National EHR system	No	N/A
Legislation governing the use of the national EHR system	‡	
Health facilities with EHR	**Use EHR**	**Facilities with EHR %****
Primary care facilities (e.g. clinics and health care centres)	N/A	‡
Secondary care facilities (e.g. hospitals, emergency care)	N/A	‡
Tertiary care facilities (e.g. specialized care, referral from primary/secondary care)	N/A	‡
Other electronic systems	**Country response**	**Global "yes" response**§
Laboratory information systems	N/A	35%
Pathology information systems	N/A	18%
Pharmacy information systems	N/A	33%
PACS	N/A	26%
Automatic vaccination alerting system	N/A	10%
ICT-assisted functions	**Country response**	**Global "yes" response**§
Electronic medical billing systems	Yes	58%
Supply chain management information systems	No	58%
Human resources for health information systems	Yes	69%

5. Use of eLearning in health sciences

eLearning programmes country overview		
Health sciences students – Pre-service	**Country response**	**Global "yes" response**§
Medicine	N/A	58%
Dentistry	N/A	39%
Public health	N/A	50%
Nursing & midwifery	N/A	47%
Pharmacy	N/A	38%
Biomedical/Life sciences	N/A	42%
Health professionals – In-service	**Country response**	**Global "yes" response**§
Medicine	N/A	58%
Dentistry	N/A	30%
Public health	N/A	47%
Nursing & midwifery	N/A	46%
Pharmacy	N/A	31%
Biomedical/Life sciences	N/A	34%

6. mHealth

mHealth programmes country overview		
Accessing/providing health services	**Health system level****	**Programme type****
Toll-free emergency	National	Established
Health call centres	National	Established
Appointment reminders	National	Established
Mobile telehealth	‡	‡
Management of disasters and emergencies	National	Established
Treatment adherence	‡	‡
Accessing/providing health information	**Health system level****	**Programme type****
Community mobilization	National	Established
Access to information, databases and tools	International	Established
Patient records	‡	‡
mLearning	‡	‡
Decision support systems	‡	‡
Collecting health information	**Health system level****	**Programme type****
Patient monitoring	‡	‡
Health surveys	‡	‡
Disease surveillance	National	Established

7. Social media

Social media and health	Country response	Global "yes" response§	Year adopted
National policy or strategy on the use of social media by government organizations	No	18%	N/A
Policy or strategy makes specific reference to its use in the health domain	‡	5%	
Health care organizations – use of social media	**Country response**	**Global "yes" response§**	
Promote health messages as a part of health promotion campaigns	No	78%	
Help manage patient appointments	No	24%	
Seek feedback on services	No	56%	
Make general health announcements	No	72%	
Make emergency announcements	No	59%	
Individuals and communities – use of social media	**Country response**	**Global "yes" response§**	
Learn about health issues	Yes	79%	
Help decide what health services to use	No	56%	
Provide feedback to health facilities or health professionals	No	62%	
Run community-based health campaigns	No	62%	
Participate in community-based health forums	No	59%	

8. Big data

Policy or strategy – purpose	Country response	Global "yes" response§	Year adopted
Governing the use of big data in the health sector	No	17%	N/A
Governing the use of big data by private companies	No	8%	N/A

LEGEND

*   Country context indicators
ICT Development Index Rank. 2015 - https://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/idi/2015/
All other country indicators. Global Health Observatory. 2012-2014 - http://www.who.int/gho

**   Glossary
§   Indicates the percentage of participating Member States responding "Yes"
—   Don't know
N/A   Not applicable
‡   Indicates question was unanswered
☐   Question not asked
Zero   No funding

International level: Health entities in different geographic regions
Regional level: Health entities in countries in the same geographic region
National level: Referral hospitals, laboratories and health institutes (mainly public, but also private)
Intermediate level: District or provincial facilities: public and private hospitals and health centres
Local or peripheral level: Health posts, health centres providing basic level of care
Informal: Use of ICT for health purposes in the absence of formal processes and policies
Pilot: Testing and evaluating a programme
Established: An ongoing programme that has been conducted for a minimum of 2 years and is planned to continue