

TRANSFORMING SYRIA THROUGH EVIDENCE-INFORMED POLICY-MAKING



Introduction

In December 2024, Syria began a transformative journey in evidence-informed policy-making (EIPM) with the adoption of the WHO Rapid Advice Tool for Country Action. This marked a significant milestone for Syria's Ministry of Health (MoH), aligning their approach with the WHO Regional Action Plan for the Eastern Mediterranean region. By leveraging the insights from this initiative, Syria quickly integrated evidence into policy making. In January 2025, the report generated from the tool was reviewed by the Director of the Centre for Strategic Studies and Health Training, highlighting Syria's commitment to improving health outcomes through evidence-based decision-making. This success story showcases how the strategic adoption of the Rapid Advice Tool empowered Syria to build a strong foundation for evidence-driven policies, setting the stage for sustainable improvements in public health across the nation.

Key Outcomes

- **Capacity-building on EIPM:** A comprehensive training session was conducted, enhancing the Ministry of Health's technical capacity to integrate evidence into health policy-making processes at the national level.
- **Identifying priority actions for Syria:** Using the WHO Rapid Advice Tool, key recommended actions were identified for Syria, tailored to the country's context, to guide the development of a national action plan for EIPM.
- **Multi-stakeholder engagement and consensus-building:** Involving diverse stakeholders, including government agencies, health experts, and international partners, fostered consensus and ensured broad support for the integration of evidence into Syria's health policy-making structures.

“The adoption of the WHO Rapid Advice Tool marks a pivotal step in our commitment to evidence-informed policy-making, which will enhance Syria's health outcomes for years to come.”

**Dr. Maher al-Sharaa, Minister of Health,
Syria**

March 2025



“Syria's commitment to evidence-informed policy-making sets a powerful precedent for the region, driving impactful and sustainable health decisions.”

**Dr Arash Rashidian, Director of Science,
Information and Dissemination, WHO Regional
Office for the Eastern Mediterranean**

“We are proud to support Syria in its journey towards evidence-based health policy-making, a critical step for achieving universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals.”

**Ms Christina Bethke, WHO Representative
a.i., Syria**

