

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

Issue 14 | 16 – 31 July 2021











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1. COVID-19 Update

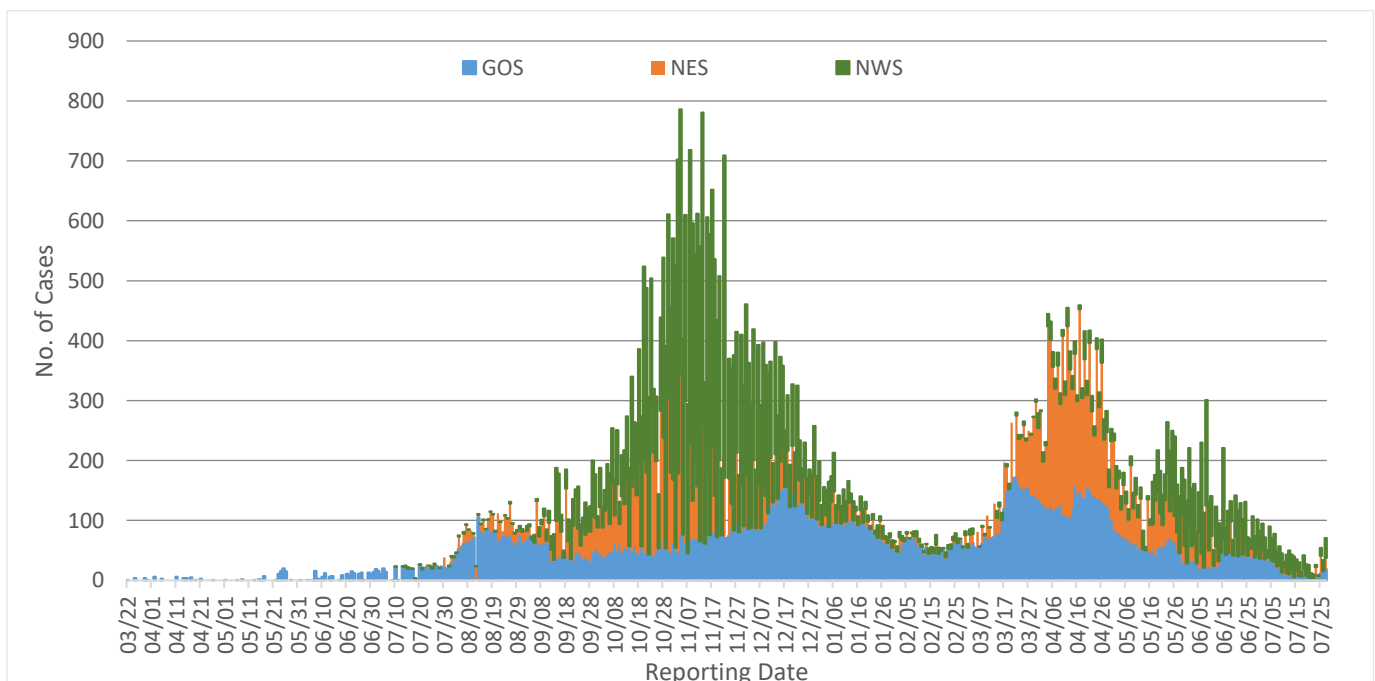
1.1 COVID-19 Statistical Summary at Whole of Syria Level

As of 27 July 2021

	70,888	Total cases (including 4,809 health workers)
	20,447	Active cases
	47,046	Recovered cases
	3,395	Deaths
	4.8%	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
	15	COVID-19 functional laboratories
	300,827	COVID-19 tests done
	1,420	Overall testing rate per 100 000 population
	335	Incidence rate per 100 000 population (highest in Al-Hasakeh; 987)
	23.6%	Positivity rate

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

22 March 2020 – 27 July 2021 (n = 70,446)



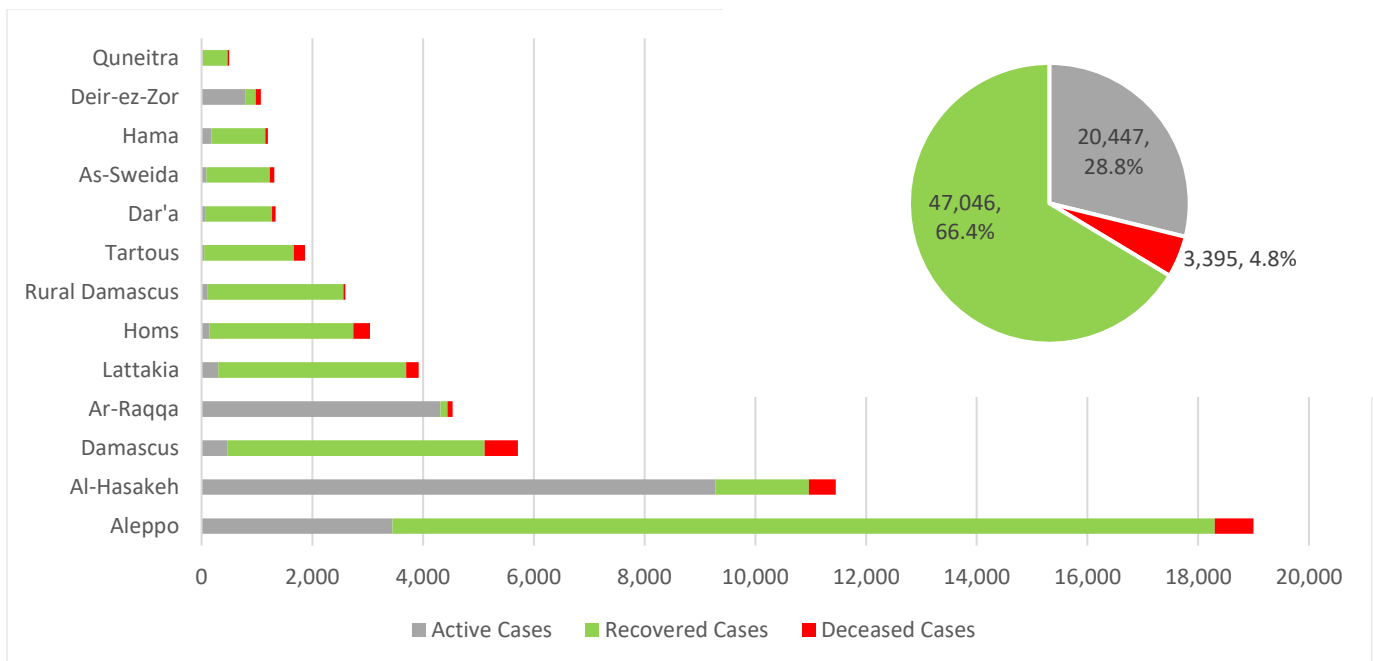
1.3. Distribution of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths at Whole of Syria Level

22 March 2020 – 27 July 2021



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

22 March 2020 – 27 July 2021



2. WHO-Syria Response

2.1. Points of Entry (PoE)

WHO continues to support MOH to enhance national capacity for preparedness and response to health emergencies and to ensure health security under International Health Regulations (2005), including strengthening core capacity at points of entry (PoE).

MoH and WHO are equipping the medical point at the Abu Kamal crossing in Deir-ez-Zor with medical devices and furniture so that it may facilitate the provision of health services to travellers. WHO is also establishing a medical

point at the Jubousiya ground-crossing in Homs and another at Judeidet Yabous in Rural Damascus, refurbishing the spaces and equipping them with medical devices.

2.2. Environmental Health

WHO monitors the quality of water, testing for chemical and biological contamination of different water sources, such as water networks, ground wells, reservoirs, water tanks, jerry cans, and running culture tests to identify pathogens in Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor and NES in collaboration with the ministries of local administration and environment as well as the DOH.

During the reporting period, testing was done on 70 water samples taken from four villages in the north and east of Rural Aleppo, 28 from nine districts of Rural Damascus, 50 from Al Bukamal and four subdistricts of Deir-ez-Zor, and 1 242 from NES (Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, and Deir-ez-Zor) including from eight IDPs camps and collective shelters. Sixteen ice blocks at Al-Hol and Areesheh camps in NES were also tested. Contamination was detected in 61 water sources in Rural Aleppo, 24 in Rural Damascus, 19 in Damascus, and 139 in NES, among them 15 ice blocks. Only 36% of the 50 water samples tested in Deir-ez-Zor were found to be safe for drinking. Bacteria culture tests detected e.coli in seven of 11 samples tested.

WHO visited sites in the Basira and Sur subdistricts of Deir-ez-Zor between 13 and 16 July in response to reports of increased cases of acute diarrhoea. The mission visited four drinking water stations (Sabha, Basira, Al-Hereji and Sur) and a number of households; they collected and tested 18 water samples, of which 13, (72.2%) were found to be not safe for drinking. WHO continues to coordinate with authorities and partners to improve the quality of drinking water in those high-risk areas.

In response to the increased risk of water-borne diseases during the summer months among vulnerable populations, WHO continues to run awareness campaigns in Areesheh, Al-Hol and Abu Khashab camps, conducting community sessions and household visits to deliver key messages on handwashing, food safety practice, and water treatment. During the reporting period, individual visits were conducted to 101 households in the three IDP camps, during which IEC materials and chlorine tablets were distributed. The campaign will continue through August to benefit more than 85 000 IDPs.

2.3. Health Sector Coordination

The Syria National Health Sector coordination team:

Finalized the submission of SHF project proposals under the First Standard Allocation in collaboration with the SHF team and the Technical Review Committee members.

Coordinated preparation of health sector inputs to the Situation Assessment in Dara'a al-Balad.

Circulated various documents and updates on humanitarian issues to health sector partners, including HNAP documents, summaries of key indicators, 4Ws snapshots, COVID-19 response monitoring and flash updates.

Attended and provided health sector inputs at the intersectoral coordination meeting on 19 July, during which the COVID-19 Delta variant and water contamination in NES were discussed.

Organized and conducted the regular Health Sector coordination meeting on 27 July, during which COVID-19 and COVAX updates and the prevalence of acute diarrhoea in northeast Syria were discussed.

The Northeast Syria coordination team:

Followed up on action points raised during the Areesheh Health Sector coordination meeting held on 15 July.

Provided input on the updated National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 vaccination.

Provided health sector input during the Al-Hol camp coordination meeting organized by UNHCR (27 July).

Hosted and facilitated the Northeast Syria inter hub meeting on 27 July.

Organized and facilitated the Al-Hol camp health sector coordination meeting on 29 July.

2.4. Routine Immunization

Uptake has been lower over the past couple of years, particularly since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. MOH is adopting all possible tactics to reach unvaccinated children through fixed and mobile vaccination sites and, when possible, targeted campaigns.

EPI activities in Syria are ongoing in accordance with set plans. Fixed and mobile vaccination sites are functioning across areas controlled by GoS and the Self Administration in the northeast. A special EPI activity is currently ongoing in the HRA of Deir-ez-Zor, east of the river. Teams are being mobilized to vaccinate deprived children as part of the periodic intensification of routine immunization (PIRI), which normally results in the immunization of more than 30, 000 children under the age of five with multiantigen vaccines. Results of this drive will be shared once available.

The national immunization technical advisory group has recommended that the EPI national programme target children aged 0-59 months nationwide as part of a polio vaccination drive in October 2021 and children aged 6-59 months as part of a measles campaign to run in 2022, as per GAVI recommendation.

The advisory group also recommended the EPI department run an extra National Immunization Week in Syria in November to boost EPI coverage among children. To support capacity building, WHO hosted a workshop during which low EPI coverage and zero dose children were in focus. Another workshop was held in which an update on the MoH outbreak response capacities were presented to the EPI team.

2.5. COVID-19 Vaccination

- All Astra Zeneca (COVISHIELD) vaccines received through the COVAX facility were used by the end of June 2021, by which time a total of 105 417 individuals had received a first dose AZ vaccine.
- Vaccination with Sinopharm began on 20 June 2021.
- Administration of second doses of AZ COVISHIELD began on 13 July 2021.
- The necessary regulatory approvals for additional new vaccines (e.g., J&J, Sinovac, etc....) has been developed.
- The National Deployment Vaccination Plan (NDVP) for new vaccine shipments has been finalized and submitted to COVAX facility
- An additional 204 000 doses of AZ/AZD1222 through the COVAX facility are expected shortly.
- The Ministry of Health has received additional doses of other vaccines from other sources, primarily China and Russia.
- Vaccine hesitancy remains high; a full roll-out is challenging given vaccine shortages and uncertainties.

2.6. COVID-19 Laboratories

Two laboratory training workshops were held during the reporting period. They were the last in a series of five covering COVID-19 PCR testing protocols and the correct usage of PPEs. The emerging diseases laboratories functioned as normal during Eid Al Adha, providing COVID-19 testing.

2.7. Primary Health Care and Non-Communicable Diseases

WHO conducted nine two-day workshops on Legislative Decree No. 62 of 2009 on Tobacco control; targeting two hundred twenty five health care workers and tobacco focal points in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Hama, Aleppo, Dara'a, As-Sweida, Quneitra and Deir-ez-Zor. WHO also conducted a two-day training course on the management of common diseases in the elderly.

A three-day capacity building workshop on cancer registry targeted 50 cancer registrars, oncologist doctors and radiologists from MOH, MOHE and the Medical Military Services. The training included practical group work and covered the following topics: an introduction to the national cancer registry, the role of cancer registry in surveillance and epidemiology of cancer, cancer classification based on ICD-O3 (International Classification of Diseases for Oncology version3), cancer epidemiology and surveillance, the early detection of cancer, and standard cancer registry /SEER and IARC guidelines.

WHO, in coordination with MOH and EMRO and using WHO adopted tools. Began analysing quantitative and qualitative data gathered as part of an assessment of the private sector in the five governorates of Damascus, Homs, Dara'a, Aleppo and Lattakia.

2.8. Secondary and Tertiary Health Care (STHC)

WHO proceeded with the installation of basic medical equipment at Harasta National Hospital in Rural Damascus and the Children's Hospital in Aleppo.

WHO conducted two capacity building workshops on IPC and waste management measures at hospital level, concentrating on patient safety, antimicrobial resistance at health facilities, the role of bacteriological labs in monitoring sterilization standards, surveillance of hospital associated infections, lab quality control and PPE, among other IPC topics. A total of 120 lab technicians from Damascus, Rural Damascus, Tartous and Lattakia attended the workshops.

2.9. Trauma

Over 25 000 treatments of different types of medicine were distributed to public hospitals across the country. Meanwhile 100 oxygen cylinders were delivered to Tartous to enhance the capacity of public health facilities to respond to emergencies in a timely and appropriate manner.

One hundred health workers from Lattakia, Damascus, Deir-ez-Zor, and Aleppo received training in first aid and basic life support and the management of ICU patients. They included doctors, nurses, and anaesthesia technicians working in isolation centres, ICU and emergency departments.

Fifty prosthetics and orthotics technicians, physiotherapists, and physiatrists in Damascus and Homs received training at the MOH centres of prosthetics and rehabilitation. The training focused on the rehabilitation of amputees and the national disability register, its components and stages of preparation.

2.10. Tuberculosis (TB) / HIV

A total of 2 137 participants benefited from 38 awareness sessions on TB during the reporting period. One hundred ninety seven suspected cases were tested for TB, of which twenty four were confirmed as positive.

Regular activities for both TB & HIV programs were conducted as usual by national programs at the Ministry of Health. WHO supported the delivery of samples of suspected cases to the national TB and HIV reference labs in Damascus, in addition to covering the fees of MOH staff needed to conduct monitoring and supervisory visits to the TB and HIV centres in various governorates.

Within the scope of the HIV capacity building plan, a three-day workshop on the prevention of mother to child transmission was held in Damascus on 25-27 July, attended by twenty five participants.

2.11. Mental Health (MH)

WHO has been following up with UNHCR health/mental health programme on the agreed plan for the integration of mental health, in cooperation with MoHE, and focusing on two main initiatives: establishing psychiatric wards and outpatient clinics, and mhGAP GUI adaptation for in-service and pre-service.

WHO has also been following up with the MoH/MH and PHC directorates programme managers who attended national consultative workshops in mid-July, in a bid to establish a systematized workflow for integration with different programmes.

The MH team has been finalizing both technical and operational preparations for the 'My Hero is You' campaign that will be expanding its reach to now target the elderly and adults in addition to children and their care givers. The campaign will be conducted in the governorates of Aleppo, Homs, and Hama, and include basic tele-counselling among the services offered.

WHO conducted several bilateral coordination meetings with MH partners UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, ASSLS, Al-Taalouf, SSSD and CARITAS, among other NGOs, to provide technical MHPSS support and explore different joint projects.

WHO conducted 14 capacity-building activities, in cooperation with MoH, MoE and implementing partners, targeting the health care, school health workers and community workers, covering: Mental Health GAP (mhGAP GUI and community toolkit), psychological first aid, basic psychosocial skills for COVID19 responders, and first line support.

2.12. Nutrition

WHO has reviewed data for the first half of 2021 on the 'Integrated Management of Childhood Illness' initiative that supports 420 health centres and 466 155 children. 90 990 received special care for diseases and 1 688 were referred to hospitals.

2.13. Pharmacy

In coordination with the responsible technical officers at the department for drug control, 25 health workers from different governorates were trained in pharmacovigilance.

WHO Supported four MOH technical officers at the pharmacovigilance unit and vaccine programme to attend an online workshop on 'Covid-19 Vaccines Pharmacovigilance' organized by the Rabat Collaborating Center in partnership with the Access and Delivery Partnership and the TDR programme (WHO).

WHO has been following up with MOH on required medicines and medical equipment and to update the national essential medicines list.

2.14. External Relations and Communication

WHO produced a video to enhance the visibility of the 'My Hero is You' initiative that was conducted in Rural Damascus, summarizing the activities that were implemented for children and their care givers with WHO support.

WHO shared with partners the latest updates on COVID-19 as well as materials developed by the regional office and headquarters, which included guidance for safe Eid Aladha practices in the context of COVID-19.

The WHO communication team engaged in the weekly coordination group meeting with UNICEF, Common Thread and Anthological to review developments in the final RCCE strategy, M&E tools, and the RCCE research agenda.

2.15. Community Engagement (NGOs)

WHO is supporting 14 implementing partners to strengthen health responses in areas of Syria with severe health challenges. These include two partners in Damascus, two in Dara'a, three in Rural Damascus, three in Aleppo, three in NES and one in Homs.

Together with NGO partners, WHO has strengthened the provision of lifesaving and life-sustaining referral-based health care services in northeast Syria. 174 recipients benefited from trauma care services, 339 from advanced surgical intervention and 1 716 from primary health care services. Most beneficiaries were living in IDP camps and informal settlements.

WHO also boosted the delivery of primary health care services, including medical consultations and medication for child health, reproductive health and chronic diseases, together with NGOs. 26 904 health services were provided in Damascus and Rural Damascus, Dara'a, Homs and Aleppo, while 603 lifesaving and life-sustaining health services, 5 142 MHPSS services and 423 trauma care services were supported on a referral basis.

	PHC	SEC	Trauma care	Assistive devices	Rehabilitation services	MH	vocational training	Total
Southern area	13,032	227	265	92	246	755		14,617
NWS	10,110	227	3	18	1209	3866	23	15,456
Central area	3,762	149	155	0	3	521		4,590
NES	1,716	339	174	0	0	0		2,229
Total	28,620	942	597	110	1,458	5,142	23	36,892

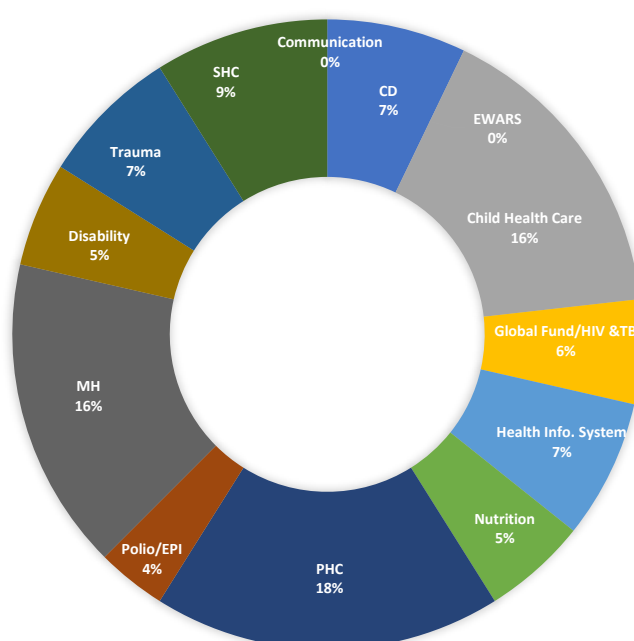
2.16. Information Products and Related Activities

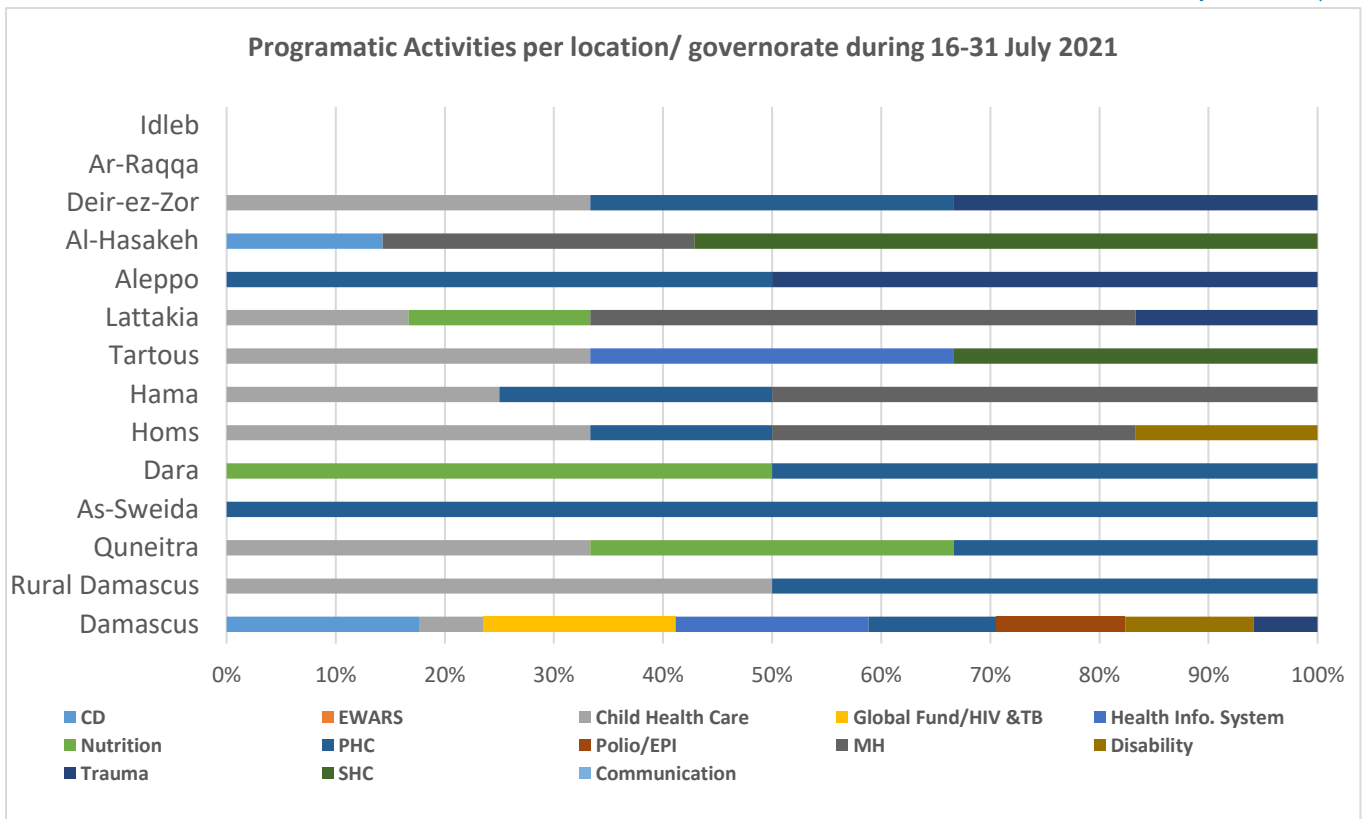
Information products and activities delivered include:

- WHO Syria Summary of key performance indicators for May 2021.
- WoS Summary of WHO key performance indicators for May 2021.
- Flash Update # 52 relating to recent incidents against DoH ambulance in As-Sweida (18 Jul 2021).
- COVID-19 M&E report (Jan to May 2021), submitted to EMRO platform.
- Updated COVID-19 Dynamic Infographic Dashboard for Syria.
- Updated the online item tracking system for COVID-19 in Syria.
- Provided key information on health facilities based on HeRAMS data.
- Updated maps for health sector interventions.

2.17. Capacity Building

WHO supported 56 activities for overall 1450 participants during 16-31 July 2021





2.18. Operations Support and Logistics

WHO dispatched 39 344 tons of medical, lab, WASH and ICT supplies, kits, equipment, haemodialysis sessions, and printing materials to six governorates to facilitate 79 934 treatments.

Recipients included six MoH facilities, six MoHE hospitals, one NGO and SARC.

3. WHO Syria Sub-Office Response

3.1. Aleppo Hub

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported daily decreased during the reported period. On the other hand, COVID-19 public isolation centres reported occupancy rates of between 30 and 40%

WHO followed up with eight physiotherapists at the NGO Yadan BeYad, the Organization's implementing partner in Aleppo governorate, to review trauma and disability services provided in Deir-ez-Zor governorate.

A coordination meeting with UNHCR and implementing partners in Aleppo governorate aimed at enhancing accessibility of patients in Rural Aleppo who are unable to afford the cost of travel to trauma and rehabilitation centres.

WHO has been following up with four implementing partners in different MHPSS projects in a bid to update MH interventions based on WHO and IASC guidelines.

Two WHO-supported mobile medical team specialists in trauma and rehabilitation began their activities in the south of rural Aleppo (Tall El-Daman, Al-Wdehi and Al-Hader), screening people with disabilities in need of physical rehabilitation and developing treatment plans at each location. 85 people with disabilities will benefit from these services every month.



WHO-supported mobile medical teams provide health care services in the south of rural Aleppo

3.2. Lattakia Hub

With WHO support, DOH in Tartous completed the serological-epidemiological survey of human infection with the SARS-CoV-2, collecting 1 200 samples from across age groups.

WHO conducted a refresher workshop in MH-GAP in Lattakia and Tartous targeting 25 doctors from DoH in both governorates.

WHO supported a workshop on first aid for emergency referral attended by 25 physicians at the Lattakia directorate of health.

WHO supported a training workshop for 25 paediatricians in Lattakia on the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) programme.



WHO supports training on Mh-GAP for participants from Lattakia and Tartous governorates

3.3. Homs Hub

Rukban returnees

As of 14 July 2021, 15 of the 29 people from Rukban who had been hosted at the Mahmoud Othman shelter left the shelter, bringing the total number of people who are still at the shelter to 14 people. A total of 20 082 people have left Rukban and arrived in Homs.

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, have been providing primary and secondary health care services and mental health and psychosocial support for people suffering from psychological distress and domestic violence. 3 762 beneficiaries received medical consultations, of which 149 were secondary, 155 for trauma and 521 were MHPSS services.

WHO facilitated the training of 15 doctors from Homs DoH on Mental Health GAP. The Main topics discussed were depression, psychosis, bipolar disorder, suicide, stress disorders, epilepsy, psychopharmacological treatments, self-care and psychological first aid.

A workshop on tobacco control was conducted in Homs for MOH programme officers and various other local representatives. The focus was on the dangerous effects of smoking, the presentation of global statistics and a review of the law on smoking in public places.

Four medical mobile teams supported by WHO started providing primary health services and medicines for the most vulnerable people in areas within the South Hama district: Hur benefseh, Zara, Taqsisi, Tulef, Labeh; six slum neighbourhoods in Hama's East Salamiya district: Alsaan, Abo Dali, Sheikh Helal, Eqerbaat villages and Sahl Alghb in northwest Hama: Shatha, Orzelat, Naorat Joreen, Rasm bet Gazi. 3 298 beneficiaries have been reached to date, with 600 gynaecology services, 602 internal, 674 paediatric, 588 PSS, and 714 health awareness delivered.

3.4. Deir-Ez-Zor Hub

WHO supported a two-day training workshop on 13-14 July on basic psychological skills for COVID-19 responders. This training targeted 23 health workers and assistants from the directorate of education in Deir-ez-Zor. Participants also benefited from an RCCE session presented by the WHO Deir-ez-Zor suboffice.

WHO also supported an interactive workshop held on 13 July concerning an initiative to strengthen new born care at home. 25 community leaders and influencers attended to promote and provide the support needed to strengthen the programme. Participants also benefited from an RCCE session presented by the WHO Deir-ez-Zor suboffice.

WHO has supported the training of 20 health workers from Al Furat Hospital and its emergency unit on the management of ICU patients. Participants also benefited from an RCCE session presented by the WHO Deir-ez-Zor suboffice.

A WHO team visited Deir-ez-Zor governorate from 15 to 17 July to assess the prevalence of cases of acute diarrhoea and the capacity of the health system, and to strengthen the health response to outbreaks of waterborne diseases. The team visited the hospitals compound and PHCs in the rural areas of the governorate and met with local households and private doctors. A team from the environmental directorate at MOH accompanied the WHO team as they conduct tests on water samples.



A WHO team testing water quality in Deir ez Zor governorate

3.5. Qamishli Hub / Northeast Syria (NES)

A WHO team visited Al-Hasakeh governorate to assess the capacity of four NGOs operating as implementing partners in the governorate. With WHO support, St. Afram Association is still providing health services at Al-Hasakeh PHC and mobile medical teams are supporting the collective shelters and Deir-ez-Zor PHC.

WHO focal points continue to follow up on COVID-19 case management at Al-Hol camp and the functionality of the CTF inside the camp, providing needed technical support.

WHO supported the referral and treatment of 510 cases from the camps to Al Hikma Hospital, in addition to providing secondary health care services to 336 patients, including deliveries, 147 trauma cases, and surgeries.

Regular visits to eight camps and 20 collective shelters have been conducted to monitor water quality. 1 195 samples were tested, of which 9.8% were found to be contaminated on the jerry can level.

With WHO support, six children living in camps and suffering from malnutrition were admitted to the malnutrition treatment centre Al Hikma hospital. Meanwhile, 12 cases were discharged following recovery and 11 cases continue to receive treatment.

A WHO team has been assessing the situation of environmental health in the eastern part of DZ, monitoring the increase in cases of diarrhoea, reporting suspected cases of typhoid fever, and providing needed interventions. The mission included visits to nine areas in NES (Al Hessian, Sfeera, Mhameda, Alhwaej, Al Sgheer, Al Sawah, Homar Alali, Al kobar, and Jazrat Al Melaj, all of them are sub-districts of western line).



WHO team visiting one of the NGOs supported by WHO to assess the current situation and provide the needed support

4. Northwest Syria

4.1. Primary Health Care (PHC)

Through three networks, WHO is supporting a total of 77 PHCs, covering gaps in salaries, operational costs, and supporting an additional 13 PHCs indirectly through activities such as training. 23 of the 77 PHCs are completely covered through integrated service delivery networks, while others are partially supported. In addition to the networks, eight PHCs are supported as a last resort coverage.

The significant increase is due to the initiation of the Afrin network, where WHO supports 16 PHCs and mobile clinics. Afrin network also covers TB activities and aims to integrate TB centre activities, such as monitoring, into the PHC network. Afrin network also covers IPC activities. 50 health facilities will be rolled out to provide COVID-19 related IPC activities.

4.2. Referral System

The Referral System in North Aleppo, Afrin and Idleb is almost fully functional. Several meetings were held to harmonize the work of all partners supporting the System.

COVID-19 referral and the POEs are functional as well, with some gaps and partial functionality in IDA covered areas. A meeting was held with partners to ensure proper functionality during the Eid holidays and visits ahead of an increase in movement anticipated at POEs.

4.3. Non-Communicable Disease (NCD)

PHC Network- NCD/PEN training was held for 40 doctors and 80 nurses. WHO trained 465- perinatal depression.

NCD TWG has been cooperating with SIG to create messaging specific to the COVAX campaign to boost demand among NCD patients and health workers for the Astra Zeneca vaccination. The draft messages were shared during the TWG meeting:

- Updating the WHO Explainer about COVAX- Astra Zeneca
- COVAX messages for Health Workers
- COVAX Messages for NCD patients
- Benefits of COVAX to those fully vaccinated
- Q&A about COVAX

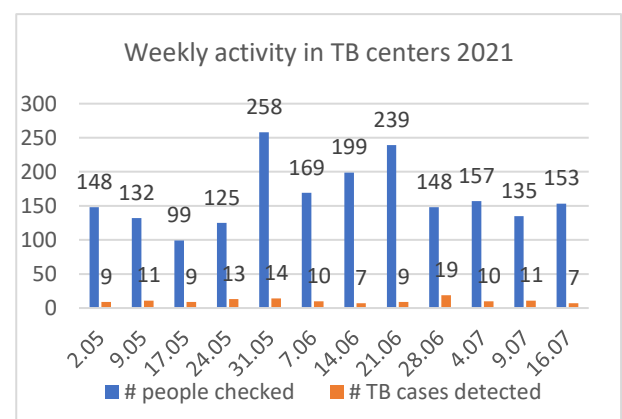
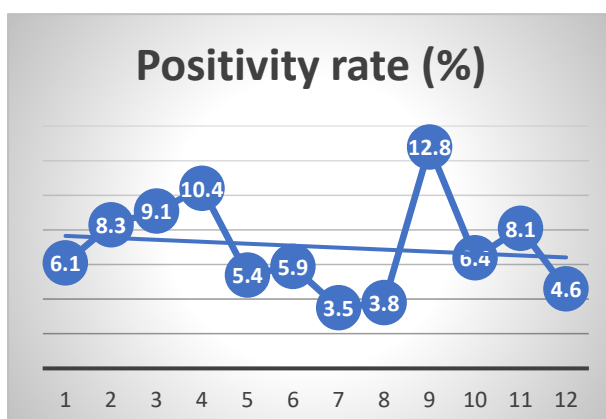
The Thalassemia International Federation (TIF) delivered training workshops in June for clinicians working at the eight thalassemia centres in NWS, during which recommendations were made to improve the quality of care for the 997 thalassemia patients. Among their 11 recommendations were: *developing a patient registry of all Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Disease; establishment of a central blood bank in NWS; centralizing the distribution of Thalassemia medications and supplies; annual examination of patients by a cardiologist; preceptorships for healthcare professionals; continuous provision of psychosocial support; creating a reference laboratory.* The Thalassemia Ad-Hoc Task Force will meet to prioritize which recommendations can be actioned within the next six months.

4.4. Tuberculosis

A procurement request for SLD TB drugs was submitted last week and the medication, which includes 25 MDR / SLD courses + TPT, is expected to be delivered within 4 months .

A total of 153 beneficiaries visited the three TB centres during the last week, seven of whom were diagnosed with TB, and 31 GeneXpert tests were sent to Antakya, five of which came back positive.

The sixth virtual consortium was successfully held on 15 July .



4.5. Dialysis Services

In collaboration with QC, the taskforce finalized the distribution process of basic medications for dialysis sessions to cover the needs of the coming three months.

HAI has informed the taskforce that they would like to donate a dialysis machine.

An agreement has been signed with Johns Hopkins University detailing plans for their evaluation mission to Gaziantep, which is now expected to take place during the first half of August.

4.6. EENC

A contract with the IP to finalize the logistic preparations for the first training course will be submitted soon.

The process for procurement of medical equipment and supplies for the training was completed and materials have been received at the Gaziantep office.

4.7. EWARS

WHO met with colleagues at ACU to discuss operations and immediate and surge plans for surveillance, lab and contact sampling training.

4.8. COVID-19

WHO is working on the initiation of external quality assurance for COVID-19 PCR laboratories in NWS and a pilot phase will engage the Jarablus PCR laboratory. The company is providing quality assurance services to the Ministry of Health of Turkey and Gaziantep Health Directorate expressed willingness to cooperate and development of modalities is ongoing.

As of 26 July, 26 264 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in NWS since the start of the pandemic. Of them, 23 157 recovered, while 722 resulted in death.

A COVAX vaccination campaign began on 1 May. By 26 July, 47 425 front line health and community workers had been vaccinated, of which 86 in the last 24 hours. 13 409 (28.27%) of those vaccinated are female while 34 016 (71.73%) are male. 41 225 (86.9%) of those vaccinated are between 30 and 60 years old.

4.9. Mental Health & Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS)

WHO approached donors for support to ensure continuity of capacity building in suicide prevention, mhGAP supervision, school mental health (ToT), group interpersonal therapy, child mental health and substance abuse.

WHO is preparing to offer three months support to Azzaz Asylum Hospital after their SCHF funding expired on 7 July. Two of the 79 patients suffering from chronic mental health illnesses died from other medical illnesses. An updated list of the chronic mental health patients in need of transfer to Ibn Khaldoun Hospital has been shared with HQ, EMRO and WHO Damascus.

There is a funding gaps on MHPSS related to Funding for Sarmada Mental Health Centre is due to expire on 30 September 2021 while funding for mental health mobile clinics and non-specialised MHPSS facilities that are integrated into PHCs is due to expire by August 2021.

4.10. Immunization

Routine Immunization

A total of 93 EPI centres have been initiated in northwest Syria, all of which are functional. All 134 working teams are in operation and the estimated monthly targets for children under the age of one is 13 578. A total of 621 vaccination sessions were conducted during the past week with an average of 4.6 sessions/team.

All 622 members of the working teams received training by SIG on COVID-19 awareness, physical distancing & protective measures. A monitoring tool was developed to measure compliance of teams to WHO guidelines

regarding physical distancing, use of PPEs and promotion of COVID-19 awareness. Governorate and district supervisors submit regular reports that are discussed in the virtual regular meetings.

The immunization team participates regularly in comprehensive dialogues with UNICEF Gaziantep, WHO EMRO, UNICEF regional office and GAVI to ensure sustained delivery of EPI services in NW Syria. The final draft of the programme support rationale, budget and planning documents and the grant performance framework were submitted to IRC, following which a discussion resulted in a number of action points and requests that are now being reviewed.

The COVAX TA plan was finalized and submitted, and processed and approved by GAVI. The COVAX Vaccine Request was also finalized and submitted on time. NWS cannot share the cost, but this will not hinder access to fully subsidized donor-funded doses provided through the COVAX AMC.

WHO & partners finalized the development of the National Vaccination & Deployment Plan (NVDP) for NWS and submitted it on time to EMRO. It has been approved by a Regional Review Committee after their initial feedback was addressed.

A Targeted Country Assistance plan was developed and shared with regional office for further discussions then submitted to and approved by GAVI.

WHO has developed different formats for the collection of data related to the COVID-19 vaccination campaign and finalized related registers and SOPs..

The polio campaign continues, with a total target of 815 242 children under five in NWS. The campaign will use bOPV with 1 384 teams, 452 supervisors and 9 central supervisors.

5. Vaccine Updates

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

6. 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](#)

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