

WHO Emergency Appeal – 2021

Syrian Arab Republic


**PEOPLE AFFECTED**

**13 MILLION**  
Estimated people in need across Syria

**10.5 MILLION**  
Estimated people targeted for health response

**6.5 MILLION**  
Internally displaced people (October 2020)

**336 000** Returnees



**HEALTH RISKS**

- Increased risk of outbreaks of communicable diseases due to displacement, overcrowding and poor immunization coverage.
- Continuity of COVID 19 outbreak
- Increased Non-Communicable diseases and related morbidity and mortality
- High levels of disability, trauma and burns related injuries from ongoing and increased hostilities.
- Insecurity and limited access impeding referral of urgent medical cases to hospital.
- Increased mental and psychological conditions
- Weakened health system – Shortages of medicines and medical supplies.

**FUNDING REQUIREMENTS**

**US\$ 266 million**  
Required by WHO to respond to the critical health needs of people in Syria and maintain essential health care

**CURRENT SITUATION**

Syria is experiencing a protracted political and socio-economic crisis that has resulted in a severe deterioration of living conditions. The already fragile health system is overstretched with additional strain from the COVID 19 pandemic.

As the crisis enters its tenth year, 6.1 million people remain internally displaced; 5.6 million people have fled the country as refugees, the vast majority to neighbouring countries. Up to ninety per cent of the population is estimated to live under the poverty line, largely due to the recent severe economic decline. This is a 10% increase compared to previous years. Displacement continues to be heavily concentrated in urban centres – where more than 87 per cent of IDPs now reside, compounding the stress on overstretched resources, infrastructure and services.

At least 10.5 million people are in need of health assistance. The essential health service infrastructure such as hospitals and health centers are in a state of disrepair, requiring extensive maintenance and rehabilitation to provide a minimum level of service delivery.

By the end of June 2020, out of the 113 assessed public hospitals, 50% (56) were reported fully functioning, 26% (30) hospitals were reported partially functioning (i.e. shortage of staff, equipment, medicines or damage of the building in some cases), while 24% (27) were reported non-functioning. Out of 1790 assessed public health centres, 47% (842) were reported fully functioning, 21% (373) partially functioning, 32% (575) non-functioning (completely out of service).

There is chronic shortage of health care staff driven by displacement, death, injury, and flight of health workers particular in northeast Syria.

Up to 50 per cent of the health workforce is estimated to have left the country. These gaps can only be addressed with long-term investment.

[Read the latest situation report](#) **Current situation**

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