Al Hol camp profile

In the complex context of Northeast Syria (NES), camps and camp-like settings are the most vulnerable and fragile for morbidities and subsequent mortalities. Al Hol camp is the largest camp in NES hosting over 56,000 Syrian IDPs, Iraqi refugees and 60 different nationalities from the third countries (TCNs). Camp residents, 90% of whom are women and children, are spread over 9 phases. WHO has started tracking the mortality in Al Hol camp in December 2018. The security situation in the camp remains volatile with frequent violence incidents. This attributes to crime-derived cases as a leading cause of death in the camp.

Highlights from 2021 mortality data analysis

- The mortality rate is below the threshold rank for emergency context
- Under-5 mortality rate is below 0.5 per 10,000 population
- 56% of death cases were males
- Crimes are the leading cause of death
- No evidence is available on deaths related to infectious diseases
- Avoidable death cases were reported

Mortality surveillance objectives

- Monitor death rates in the camp and highlight any potential risks
- Advocate for preventing avoidable deaths
- Mark any unusual death events
- Inform the decisions of health and other sectors partners

WHO-produced monthly reports

WHO reports demonstrated:
- Incidence and mortality rates
- Statistical analysis (age, gender, location, cause)
- Unusual events
- Recommendations
WHO-supported team providing health services in Al Hol ©WHO Syria

**Mortality trend in 2021 vs 2020**

- Case Fatality Ratio (CFR): 5.7%
- All cases died in COVID-19 treatment facilities

**Death cases by locations**

- 61% of deaths happened in tents/camp
- 32% of deaths occurred while on external referral
- 8% of deaths happened in health facilities inside the camp

**Mortality by gender**

- 56% of death cases were males
- 90% of camps residents are females and children

**Death cases with reference to COVID-19 cases**

- 35% of deaths occurred among 25-60 years old
- 27% of deaths are among children under 5 years old
- 14% of deaths are attributed to newborns

**Death cases by locations**

- Al-Hikma H: 46
- CADUS H: 2
- Camp: 12
- CTF *: 11
- CTF Tweina: 1
- Al-Hassakeh NH: 5
- ITFC *: 1
- KRC *: 0
- MSJM H *: 8
- N/A: 1
- Tent: 1

**Mortality by age**

- 0 - 1 m: 27
- 1 m - 1 yr: 32
- 1 - 4 yrs: 11
- 5 - 15 yrs: 18
- 16 - 24 yrs: 18
- 25 - 60 yrs: 79
- > 60 yrs: 41

*ITFC: Inpatient Therapeutic Feeding Centre
KRC: Kurdish Red Cross
CTF: COVID-19 Treatment Facility
MSJM H: The Monastery of Saint James Mutilated Hospital*
Death cases by cause

- 85 cases due to Crime
- 18 cases due to Cardiac Arrest
- 12 cases due to COVID-19
- 6 cases due to Shock
- 6 cases due to Premature newborn
- 5 cases due to Burn
- 4 cases due to Stillbirth
- 2 cases due to Miscarriage
- 2 cases due to Injury
- 2 cases due to Other causes

Crime-derived death in 2021

- Crime-derived deaths spiked in March 2021 (17 cases) and significantly decreased after the tight security operation in the camp. However, crime-derived cases continued with 5 death cases in December 2021.

Alarming Facts

- Increased number of deaths inside tents
- Crime-derived deaths continue to increase
- Antenatal deaths noticed
- Increased trauma cases, including car accidents
- Repeated burn incidents and casualties

226 deaths reported in 2021

Recommendations

- Enhance Primary Healthcare and overnight health services availability
- Ensure timely internal and external referral pathways
- Enhance antenatal care and minimal initial service package
- Prevent avoidable car accidents
- Enhance preparedness and response for fire incidents, especially in winter

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Children talking to the WHO-supported health team in Al Hol ©WHO Syria
Mine explosion victim treated in Al Hol ©WHO Syria