

Monthly COVID-19 Bulletin

August 2022

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Epidemiological Overview

Data as of 27 August 2022

Total cases 199,191	Total deaths 7,249	Total recovered 156,479
Case Fatality Ratio 3.6%	PCR Tests 680,560	Total Vaccine Doses used 4,580,641

Analysis of epidemiological data for the Whole of Syria

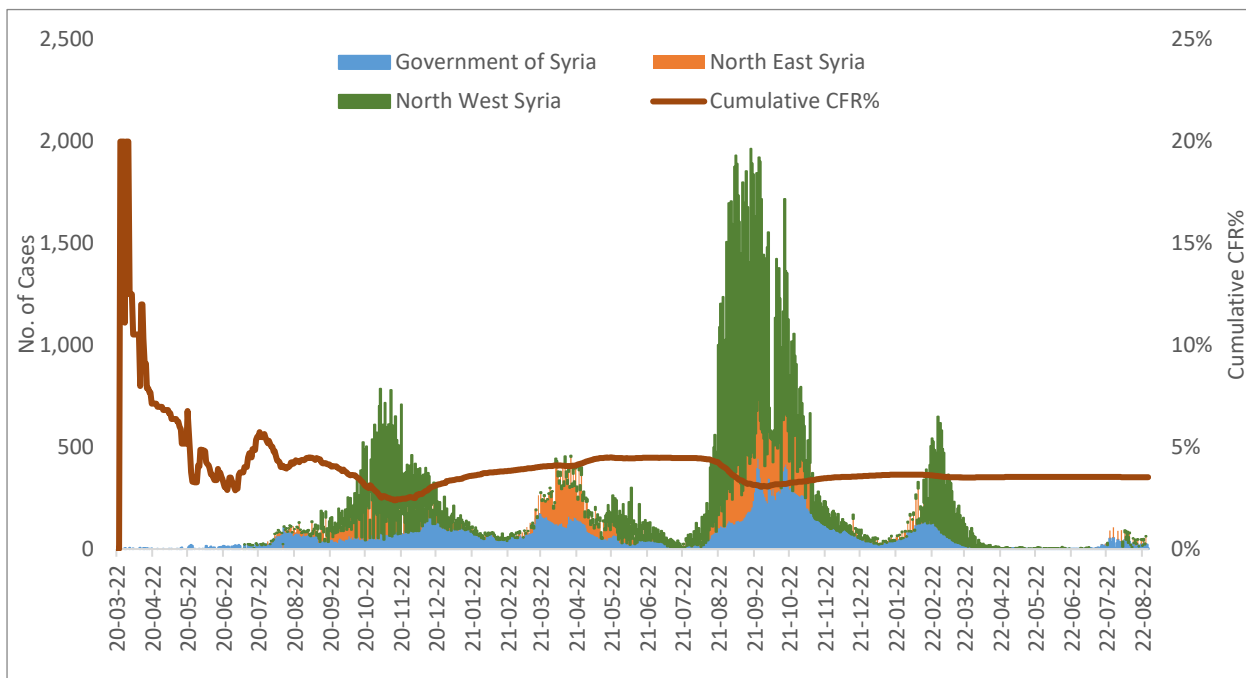
A total of 199,191 confirmed cases of COVID-19 were reported in Syria between 22 March 2020 and 27 August 2022 of which, 103,184 (51.80%) were from north-west Syria (NWS), 56,973 (28.60%) from areas of Syria controlled by the government (GoS), and the remaining 39,034 (19.60%) from north-east Syria (NES). During the same period, a total of 7,249 related deaths were reported: of which 3,163 (43.63%) were from GoS, 2,505 (34.56%) from NWS, and 1,581 (21.81%) from NES. The overall Case Fatality Rate (CFR) is 3.6%. The CFR was highest in GoS (5.6%), NES (4.1%) and in NWS the CFR was 2.4%.

The high CFR rates in GoS are attributed to the strategy of testing only severe and critical cases admitted to the hospitals for treatment. The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported in August across the Whole of Syria increased by 128% (n=1172) compared with the previous month (n=513). An increase was noticed in NWS by 621% (n=166) compared to July (n=23). Cases reported in GoS increased by 75% (n=665) compared to July (n=381). Moreover, NES reported an increase of new cases by 212% with 341 new cases

compared to 109 in the previous month. The increase of COVID-19 new cases was observed in most Syrian governorates. The number of reported COVID-19 cases and its percentage from the national total across 12 governorates during the month of August is as follows: Al-Hasakeh 29.61% (n= 347), Aleppo 18.86% (n= 221), Damascus 15.78% (n= 185), Rural Damascus 13.91% (n= 163), Idlib 6.57% (n= 77), Lattakia 3.84% (n= 45), As-Sweida 2.73% (n= 32), Tartous 2.39% (n= 28), Homs 2.3% (n= 27), Dar'a 1.62% (n= 19), Hama 1.28% (n= 15), Deir-ez-Zor 0.51% (n= 6), Ar-Raqqa 0.34% (n= 4), Quneitra 0.26% (n= 3).

Syria has observed an upward trend in the number of COVID-19 positive cases over the month of August similar to what is observed in the neighboring countries, and the Eastern Mediterranean countries, which predicts a new wave of COVID-19 case circulation in the Region. WHO supports the Ministry of Health in strengthening alertness for timely case detection; and establishing genetic sequencing at CPHL which will function pretty soon.

Figure 1. Whole of Syria weekly reported COVID-19 cases up to 27 August 2022

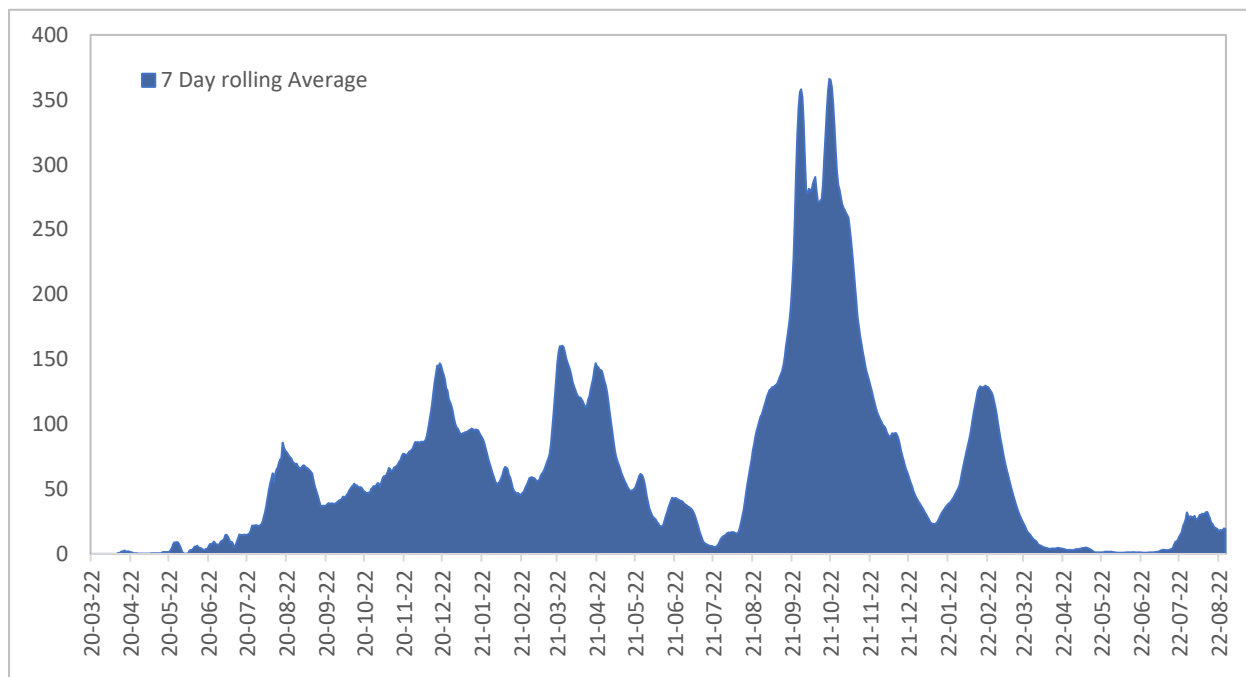


Analysis per region

Government of Syria

COVID-19 cases in GoS areas continue to increase during August. The current 7-day is 20 cases by 27 August 2022.

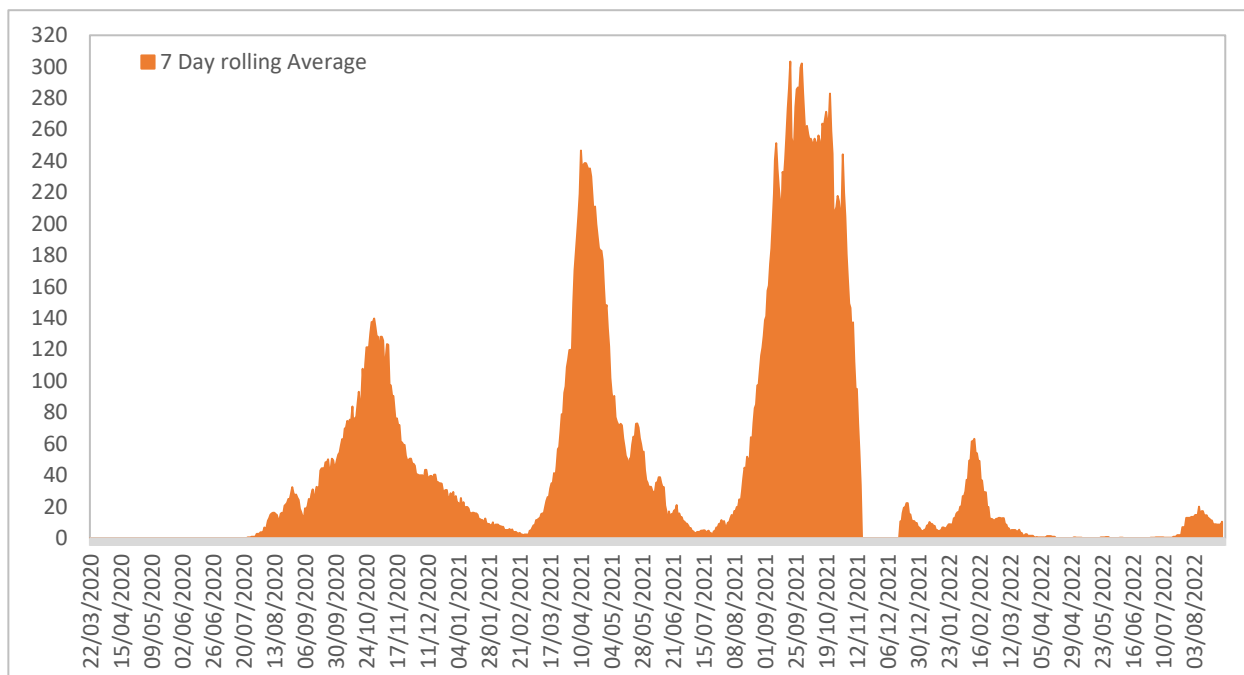
Figure. 2 The 7-day rolling average of COVID-19 cases in GoS



North-east Syria

There has been a stabilization in the number of reported COVID-19 cases in NES during August. The current 7-day is 11 cases by 27 August 2022.

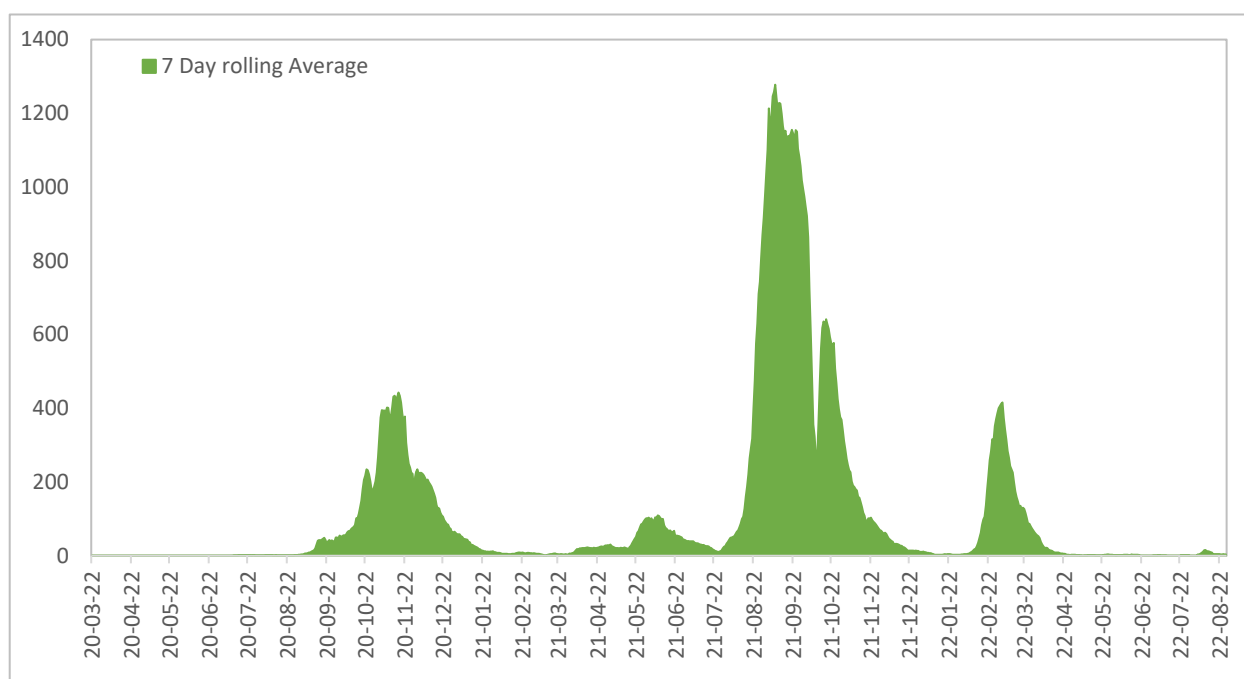
Figure 3. The 7-day rolling average of COVID-19 cases in NES



North-west Syria

The number of confirmed cases in NWS increased in August 2022 by 621%, and the 7-day average of new cases by 27 August is 4 cases.

Figure 4. The 7-day rolling average of COVID-19 cases in NWS



Deaths

In August, the number of newly reported deaths associated with COVID-19 (n=13) was up by 1200% compared to July 2022 (n= 1). The cumulative mortality rate is 33.5 deaths per 100 000 cases. The number of COVID-19-associated deaths reported in July was in GOS (n=13) where deaths accounted for 100% of the total deaths in WoS. The cumulative case fatality rate is 3.6%. CFR remained the highest in Deir-ez-Zor - 8.8%, Damascus - 8.1%, As-Swieda - 8.6%. The high CFR is attributed to testing severe COVID-19 cases admitted to hospitals, while testing of mild and moderate cases Ag-RDTs is available only in some PHCs.

Figure 5. The 7-day rolling average of COVID-19 deaths

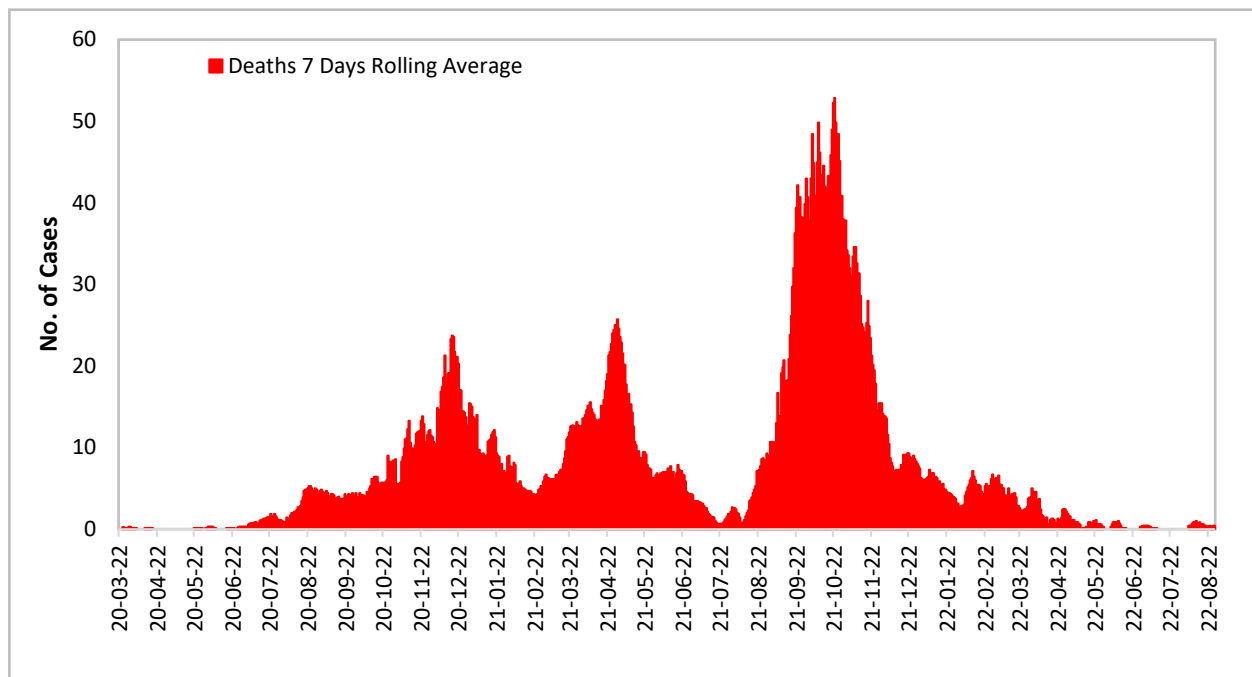


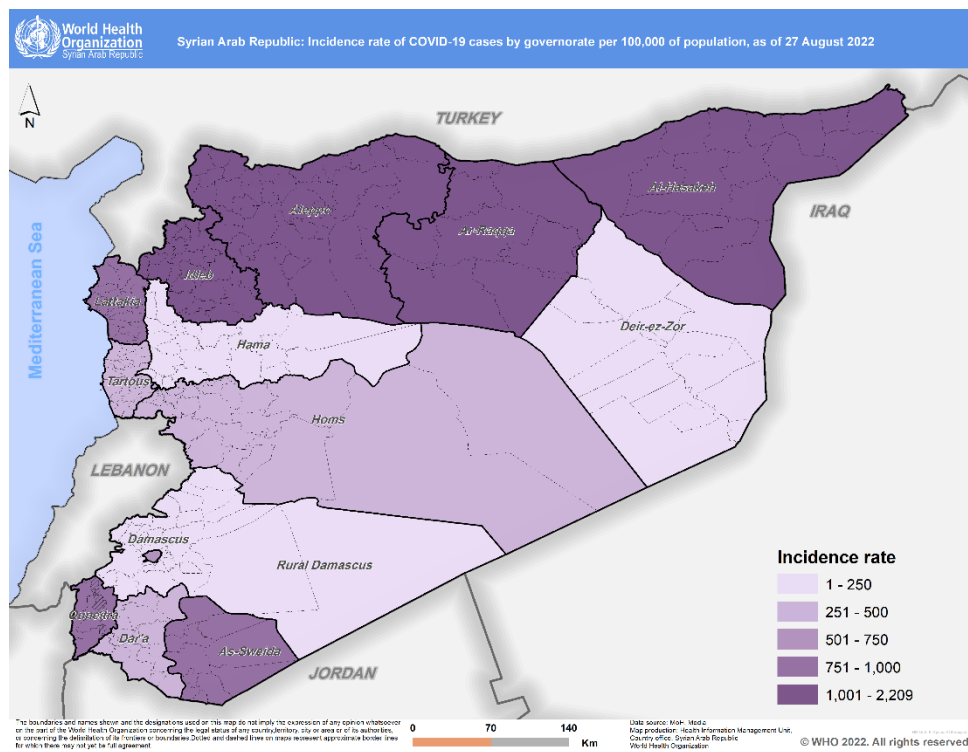
Table 1. Number of deaths increase/decrease since last month

7 249 Total COVID-19 related deaths reported to date	0.48 27-day average number of deaths (during reported month)
0.17 30-day average number of deaths (during previous month)	

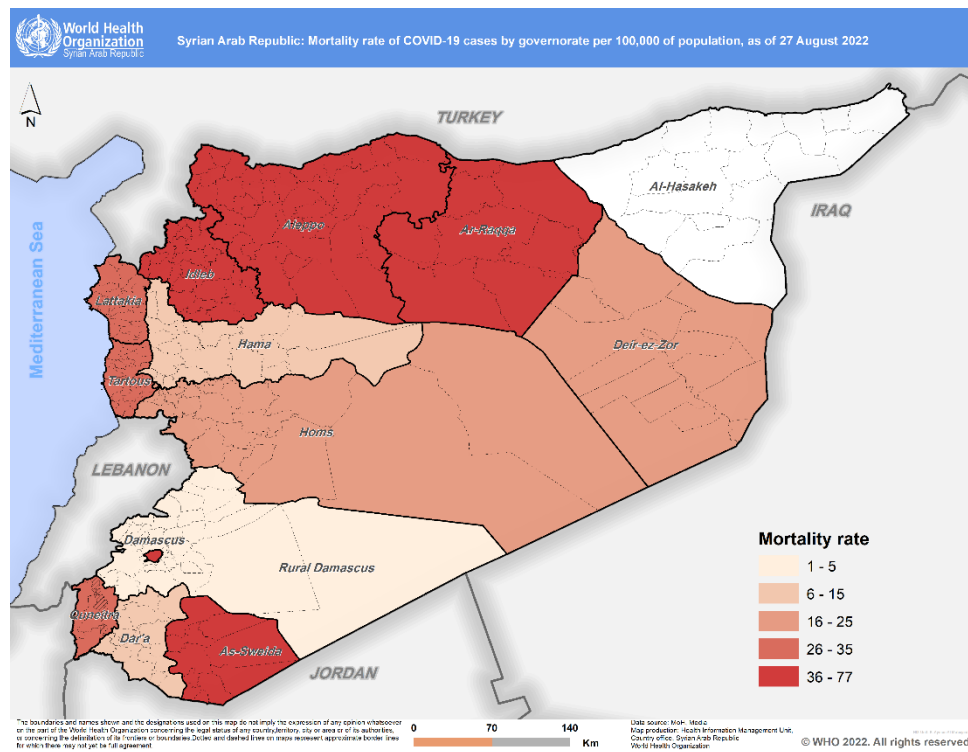
Table 2. Newly reported and cumulative cases of COVID-19 and associated deaths, by region, up to 27 August 2022

Area	New cases in August 2022 (%)	Change in new cases Last month	Cumulative cases (%)	New deaths in August	Change in new deaths compared to last month	Cumulative deaths (%)
Government of Syria	665 (56.74%)	74.5%	56,973 (28.60%)	13 (100%)	0%	3,163 (43.63%)
North-east Syria	341 (29.1%)	212.8%	39,034 (19.60%)	0 (0%)	0%	1,581 (21.81%)
North-west Syria	166 (14.16%)	621.7%	103,184 (51.80%)	0 (0%)	-100.0%	2,505 (34.56%)
Whole of Syria	1,172	128.5%	199,191 (100.0%)	13	1200.0%	7,249 (100.0%)

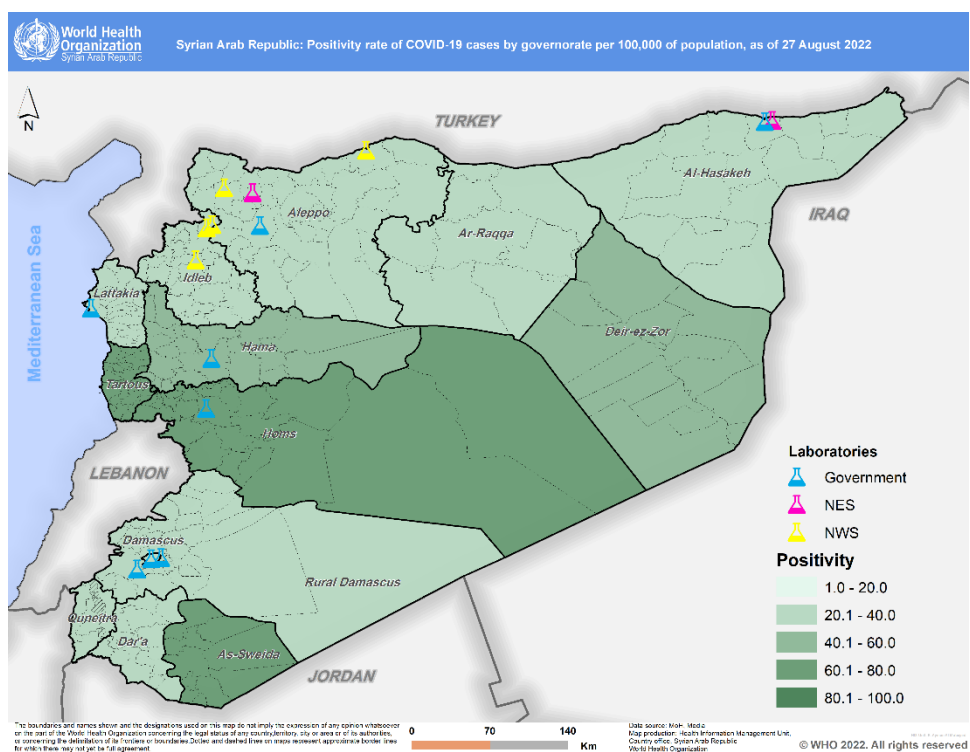
Map 1: Total number of COVID-19 cases per 100 000 of the population reported in each governorate, as of 27 August 2022



Map 2: COVID-19 related deaths per 100 000 of the population reported in each governorate, as of 27 August 2022



Map 3: COVID-19 Laboratory Positivity Rate by governorate, as of 27 August 2022



Syria had a low incidence level of community transmission with 0.3 cases/100,000 population/month during August. The cumulative incidence rate since the start of the outbreak in WoS is 912/100 000 (as of 27 August 2022). The incidence rates are underestimated due to the low numbers of tested cases.

Testing

The number of PCR tests conducted in August 2022 increased by 124%% (n= 20,853) compared to 9,2958 tests in August 2022. 680,560 is the total number of PCR tests conducted in WoS up to 27 August 2022. In August 2022, a total of 3,214 Ag-RDTs were performed at MoH/PHCs, MoE/school health directorate centers, and NGOs medical points. The total number of PCR and AG-RDTs tests in August was 24,067 and the monthly testing positivity rate was 4.8% which is like the positivity rate in August.

Table 3. Positivity Rate increase/decrease since last month

<p>24,067 Number of tests conducted during the reporting month (PCR and Ag-RDTs)</p>	<p>4.8% Testing positivity rate in the reporting month</p>
<p>5% The previous average positivity rate</p>	

COVID-19 Vaccinations

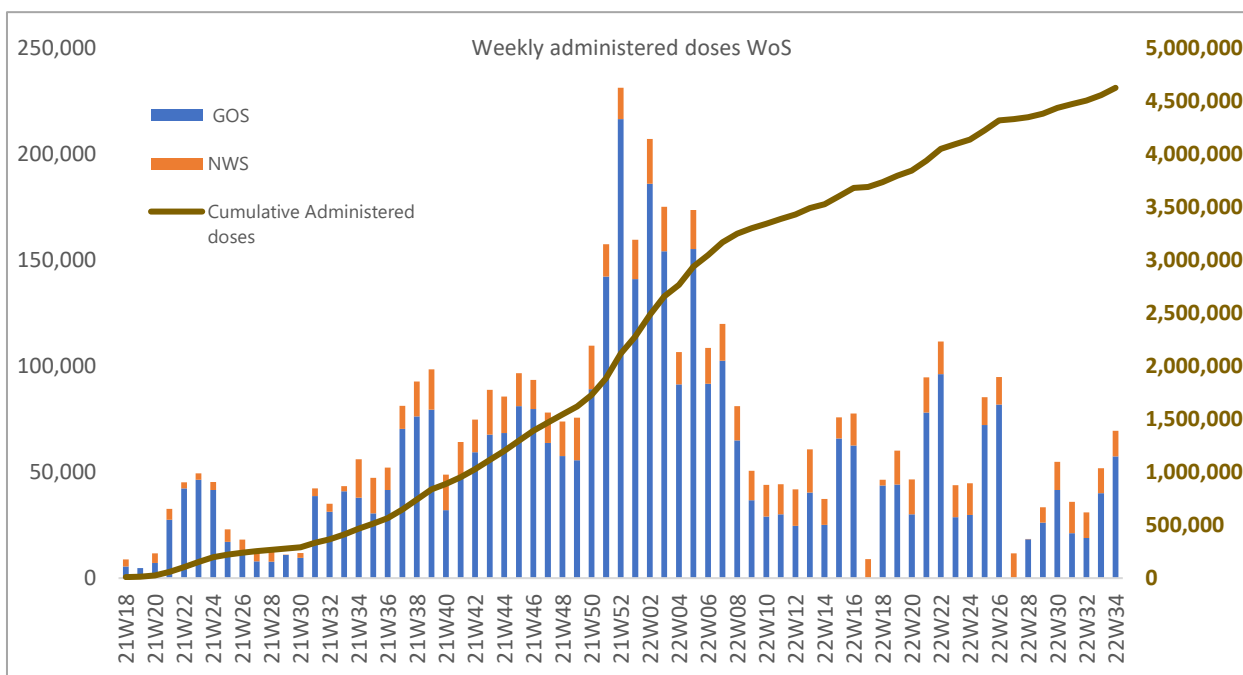
Vaccination activities continue across Syria at both fixed health facilities and through mobile medical teams in rural areas. 180,051 new doses were administered across Syria during August 2022, and 105,256 individuals took their first dose during the same period.

Table 4. Overall delivered vaccines from April 2021 till 27 August 2022:

	Type of Allocation	Manufacturer of vaccine	Quantity
GOS	COVAX	AZ Covishield	1 203 500
		AZ/AZD1222	1 318 340
		Sinovac	3 307 200
		Janssen	3 458 400
		Total	9 287 440
	Bilateral	AZ/AZD1222	368,640
		Sinopharm	1 995,000
		Sputnik light	250 000
		Sputnik V	100 000
		Soberana	120 000
		Abdala	120 000
		Total	2 953 640
	GOS Total		
NWS	COVAX	AZ Covishield	53 800
		AZ/AZD1222	350 400
		Sinovac	823 200
		Janssen	832 800
		Total	2 060 200
WOS Total			14 311 280

The available vaccines are sufficient to reach 45.8% of the population. As per the above table, vaccines received from bilateral agreements represent 20% of the total received, and the remaining 80% were delivered through COVAX. More intensification of COVID-19 vaccination is sought through vigorous RCCE and mobile vaccination teams.

Figure 5. The average weekly administered doses

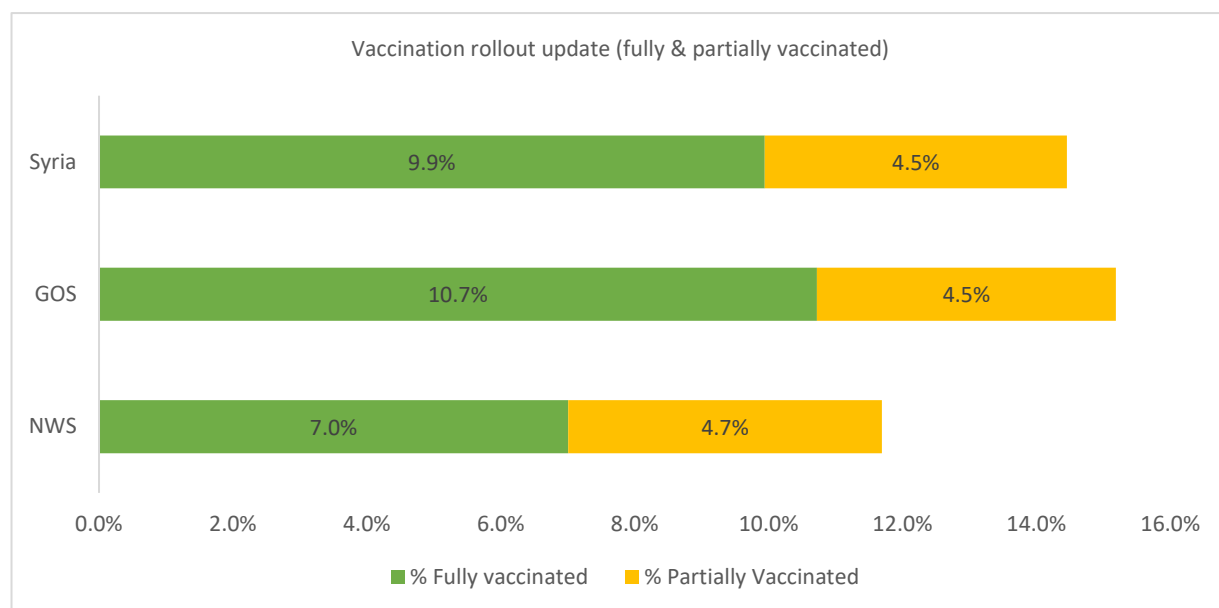


There is a 12.6% decrease in the administered doses of vaccines during July (n= 180,051) compared to the previous month (n= 205,918).

Vaccination coverage as of 27 August 2022:

- 14.5% of the total population received at least one dose of the vaccine, and only 9.9% are fully vaccinated.
- A total of 4,580,641 doses of different vaccines were administered and the total number of vaccinated people is 2,972,593.

Figure 6. Vaccination status in the Whole of Syria as of 27 August 2022



Vaccination coverage per region since April 2021:

Government of Syria

3,777,287 Vaccines administered	
2,470,283 People who received at least one dose	1,743,785 People who are fully vaccinated
14.7% Percentage of the population who received at least one dose	10.2% Percentage of the fully vaccinated population
0.5% Percentage point increase from the last month	0.5% Percentage point increase from the last month

North-west Syria

803,354 Vaccines administered	
502,310 People who received at least one dose	301,044 People who are fully vaccinated
11.7% Percentage of the population that received at least one dose	7.0% Percentage of the fully vaccinated population
0.7% Percentage point increase from the last month	0.4% Percentage point increase from the last month

Whole of Syria:

4,580,641 Vaccines administered	
2,972,593 People who received at least one dose	2,044,829 People who are fully vaccinated

14.5% Percentage of the population that received at least one dose	9.9% Percentage of the fully vaccinated population
0.5% Percentage increase from the last month	0.4% Percentage increase from the last month

Pillar One: Coordination

- WHO continued updating the health sector (as well as UNCT, HCT, etc.) on the situation with COVID-19 and related vaccination. Advocated at all levels on remaining increasing risks of COVID-19 transmission (including NES) and priorities for the response. COVID-19 is one of the standing risks as reflected by the ongoing strategic risk assessment under the WoS modality. Separate technical consultations are carried out on case management and COVID-19 vaccination in camps of NES. COVID-19 updates are regularly updated at the site: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/syria/health>

Pillar Two: Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Through its social media channels, WHO continued to highlight the impact of WHO partnerships in providing medical consultations to vulnerable people in Syria, in addition to underlining the adequate behaviours for staying healthy and mitigating the spread of COVID-19.
- Developed social media cards on COVID-19 vaccination and disseminated them amongst partners and stakeholders; [Vaccines Work](#)

Pillar Four: Points of entry, international travel, and transport

- On 4 June, MoH disseminated a circular regarding the multi-country monkeypox outbreak to activate vigilance and surveillance against this disease. Up to date, no monkeypox cases were detected in Syria.

Pillar Five: Laboratories and diagnostics

- Delivered 4 extraction machines to MOH to be distributed in 4 labs in Damascus, Lattakia, Aleppo and Rural Damascus governorate Four trainings on COVID-19 PCR testing were conducted at the central COVID-19 laboratory in Damascus as a refresher training for 60 technicians from the governorates of Lattakia, Homs, Aleppo, Rural Damascus, Tartous, Al Hassakeh, Hama, and Damascus.

Pillar Six: Infection prevention and control

- Held two workshops to improve IPC organizational national structure based on WHO multimodal strategy, develop plans, and agree on the updated chapters of the IPC national guideline in the context of SARS-CoV 2 and emerging diseases. The workshop was attended by the national multisectoral IPC committee in cooperation with the EMRO IPC consultant.
- To sustain safe health care service delivery, dispatched 1500 pairs of surgical latex gloves to the Pediatric Hospital at Damascus university, and 94,100 gloves to MOH & MOHE central warehouses.
- As a rapid response to urgent hospital needs due to recent development in As-Sweida, dispatched lifesaving medicines to As-Sweida DoH including trauma kits (TESK 2019 module); 3 kits of anesthesia basic materials, 1 kit of sutures, 1 kit of bandages, 2 kits of Gloves / QTY 3000 of different sizes, 10,000 gowns and 20,500 mask surgical. In addition to 50 devices of pulse oximeters and 10 Oxygen Cylinders 50 L.

Pillar Seven: Case management, clinical operations, and therapeutics

- Over 191,020 treatments of life-saving medicines, 23 different types of trauma kits, and 69 medical equipment (42 ICU beds, 10 Oxygen cylinders, 17 oxygen concentrators, 18 pulse oximeters) were delivered to health partners in Damascus, Aleppo, As-Sweida, Al-Hassakeh, and Deir-ez-Zor. These deliveries are part of enhancing the capacity of public health facilities for a timely and appropriate response for life-saving interventions including the treatment of COVID-19 cases.
- 125 health workers from Damascus received training in the MOH centre of prosthetics and rehabilitation in Damascus in the field of disability and rehabilitation.
- Provided technical support to the National Committee for the Improvement of Disability Legislation to be in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, CRPD.

Pillar Eight: Logistics and operations

- In August 2022, WHO provided approximately 58.93 tonnes of medical and lab supplies, kits, and equipment to 13 governorates with a total value exceeding USD 1,523,263. They were distributed to the Ministry of Health directorates of health in different governorates, Ministry of Higher Education and Ministry of Education-affiliated health facilities, 8 INGOs, 5 NGOs, 11 NGHs, 5 NGPHCs, SARC, KRC, and 2 camps.
- One crossline shipment (one road convoy with one truck) has been delivered to northeast Syria with a total weight (of 20,000 kgs). It included different types of medicines in favour of Qamishli National Hospital.

Pillar Nine: Maintaining essential health services and systems

- To maintain essential health services to the best quality of care, WCO through the global fund has delivered full treatment packages for 3,500 Tuberculosis patients in addition to the pediatric new formulation for 250 affected children, delivered through PHC centres and TB specialized centres.
- Coordination with EMRO and MoH has been conducted to move forward and adopt key changes to the treatments of drug-resistant tuberculosis initiated in May 2022 using the novel treatment BPaL; those key changes can enable all patients with MDR/RR-TB, including those with additional resistance to fluoroquinolones, stand to benefit from effective all-oral treatment regimens, either shorter or longer, implemented under programmatic conditions.

SYRIA COVID-19

Travel Updates and Requirements (as of March 2022, Source MOH)

TESTING	QUARANTINE	VACCINES
<p>All passengers arriving in Syria, <i>except children under 12 years,</i> must have <i>a negative PCR test result,</i> performed in a Lab accredited by the country's local authorities, and approved by the Syrian Health Ministry, <i>at the latest 96 hours.</i></p>	<p>Quarantine: Passengers arriving in Syria with negative PCR tests <i>do not request Quarantine</i></p>	<p>Exception from mandatory testing: Syrians and foreigners arriving in Syria will be exempted from presenting a PCR test if they are <i>fully vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine,</i> in addition to adhering to all health requirements.</p>

COVID-19 key performance indicators for July 2022



COVID-19 key performance indicators

July 2022



COVID-19 key performance indicators

July 2022

