

## Monthly COVID-19 Bulletin

*September 2022*

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### Epidemiological Overview

Data as of 30 September 2022

<b>Total cases</b> <b>200,056</b>	<b>Total deaths</b> <b>7,246</b>	<b>Total recovered</b> <b>157,560</b>
<b>Case Fatality Ratio</b> <b>3.6%</b>	<b>PCR Tests</b> <b>704,999</b>	<b>Total Vaccine Doses used</b> <b>4,580,641</b>

#### *Analysis of epidemiological data for the Whole of Syria*

A total of 200,056 confirmed COVID-19 cases were reported in Syria between 22 March 2020 and 30 September 2022, of which 103,520 (51.75%) were reported from north-west Syria (NWS), 57,302 (28.64%) from areas controlled by the government (GoS), and the remaining 39,234 (19.61%) from north-east Syria (NES).

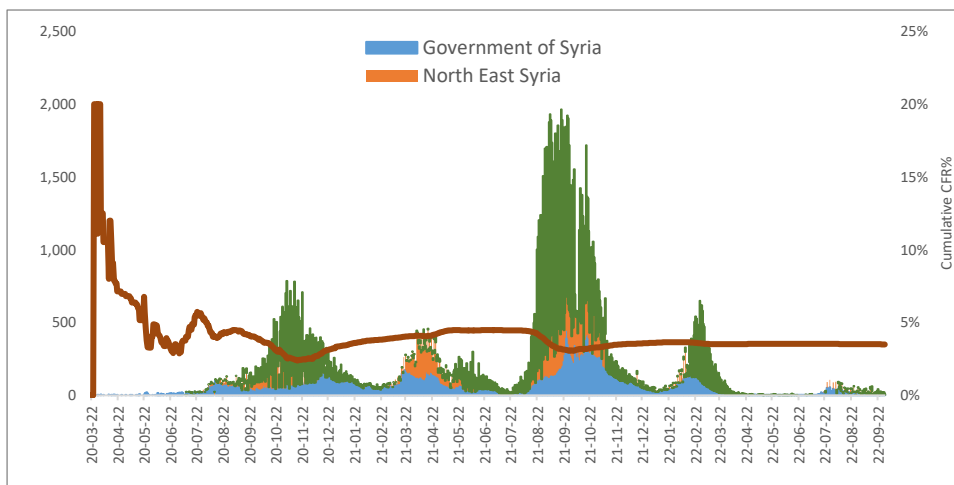
During the same period, a total of 7,246 related deaths were reported, of which 3,163 (43.65%) were from GoS, 2,505 (34.57%) from NWS, and 1,578 (21.78%) from NES. The overall Case Fatality Rate (CFR) is 3.6%. The CFR was highest in GoS (5.5%), NES (4.0%) and in NWS the CFR was 2.4%.

The high CFR rates in GoS are attributed to the testing strategy for only severe and critical cases admitted to the hospital for treatment.

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported in September across the Whole of Syria decreased by 44.6% (n=726) compared with the month of August (n=1,311). Nevertheless, an increase was noticed in NWS by 66% (n=313) compared to the previous month (n=189) and a decrease in the number of reported cases in GoS by 65% (n=259) compared to August (n=735). Moreover, NES reported a decrease of new cases by 60% with 154 new cases compared to 387 in the previous month.

The number of reported COVID-19 cases and its percentage out of the national totals, across 11 governorates during the month of September, is as follows: Hassakeh 26.45% (n= 192), Aleppo 24.52% (n= 178), Idleb 21.07% (n= 153), Damascus 9.09% (n= 66), Homs 4.82% (n= 35), Tartous 4.55% (n= 33), Lattakia 3.03% (n= 22), As-Sweida 2.48% (n= 18), Rural Damascus 2.48% (n= 18), Hama 0.83% (n= 6), Dar'a 0.69% (n= 5).

**Figure 1. The whole of Syria weekly reported COVID-19 cases up to 30 September 2022**

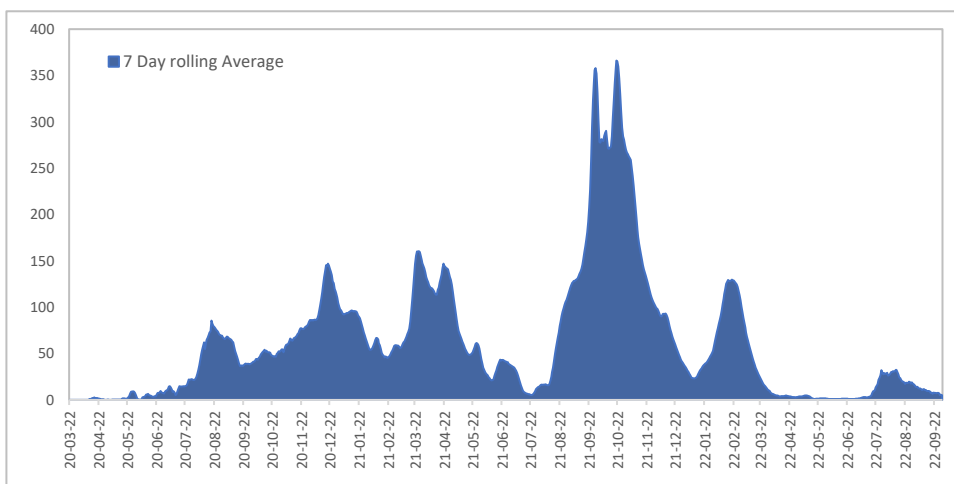


**Analysis per region**

**Government of Syria**

COVID-19 cases in GoS areas continue to decrease during September by 65%, the 7-day average of new cases was 5 compared to 20 cases in August 2022.

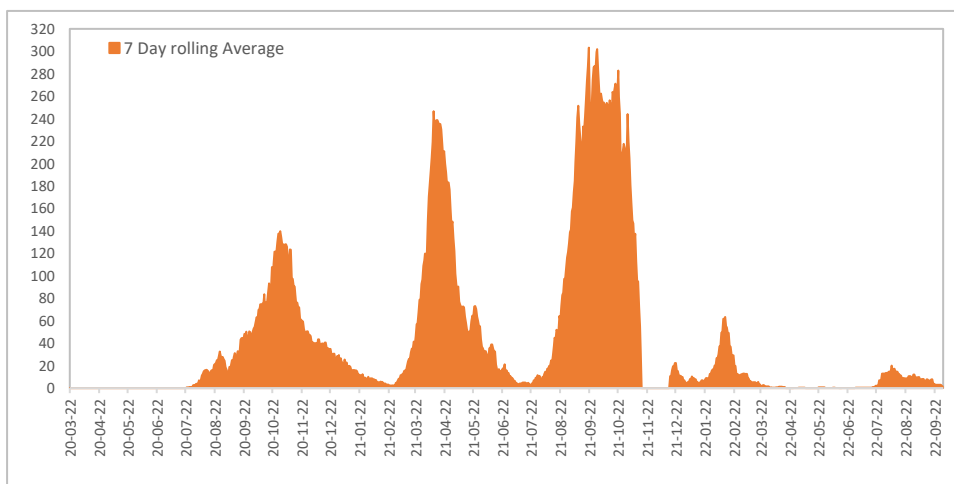
**Figure. 2 The 7-day rolling average of COVID-19 cases in GoS**



**North-east Syria**

There has been a stabilization in the number of reported cases of COVID-19 in NES during September. The current 7-day is 1 case by 30 September 2022.

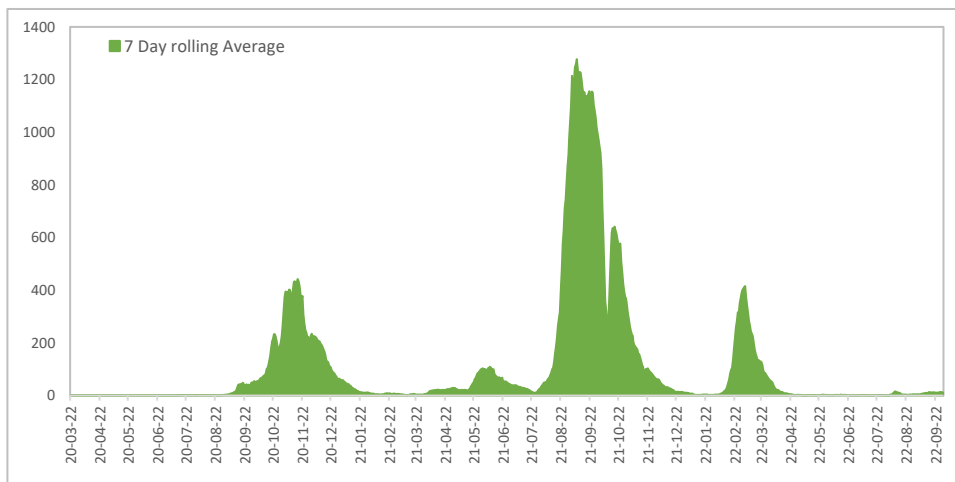
**Figure 3. The 7-day rolling average of COVID-19 cases in NES**



## North-west Syria

The number of confirmed cases in NWS increased in September 2022 by 65.5%, the 7-day average of new cases by 30 September is 12 cases.

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



## Deaths

In September, there is no newly reported deaths associated with COVID-19 compared to August 2022 (n= 13). The cumulative mortality rate is 33.5 deaths per 100 000 cases. The cumulative case fatality rate is 3.6%. CFR remained the highest in Deir-ez-Zor - 8.8%, Damascus - 8.1%, As-Sweida - 8.5%. The high CFR is attributed to testing severe COVID-19 cases admitted to hospitals, while testing of mild and moderate cases through the Ag-RDTs is only available in some PHCs.

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

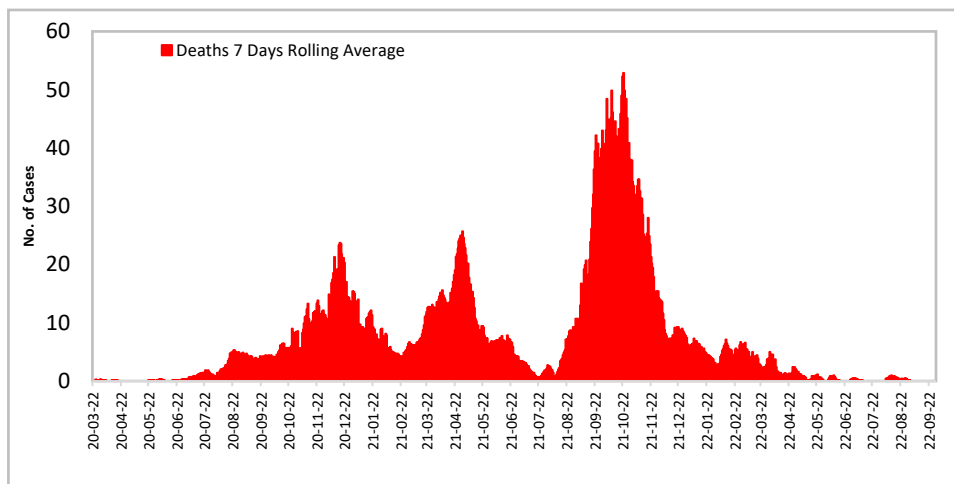


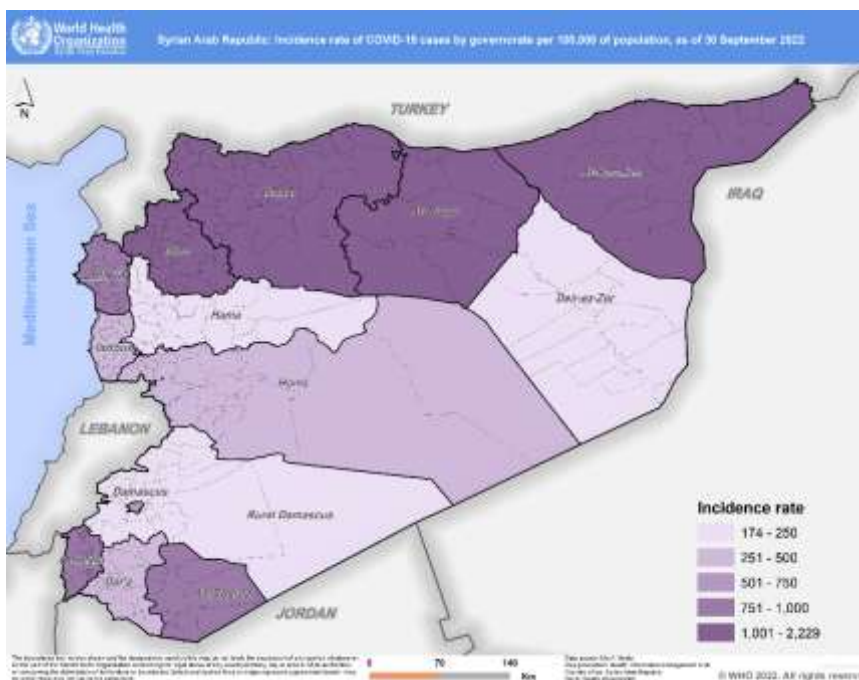
Table 1. Number of deaths increase/decrease since last month

<b>7 249</b>	<b>0</b> The 30-day average number of deaths (during the reported month)
Total COVID-19-related deaths reported up to date	
<b>0.4</b>	
The 30-day average number of deaths (during the previous month)	

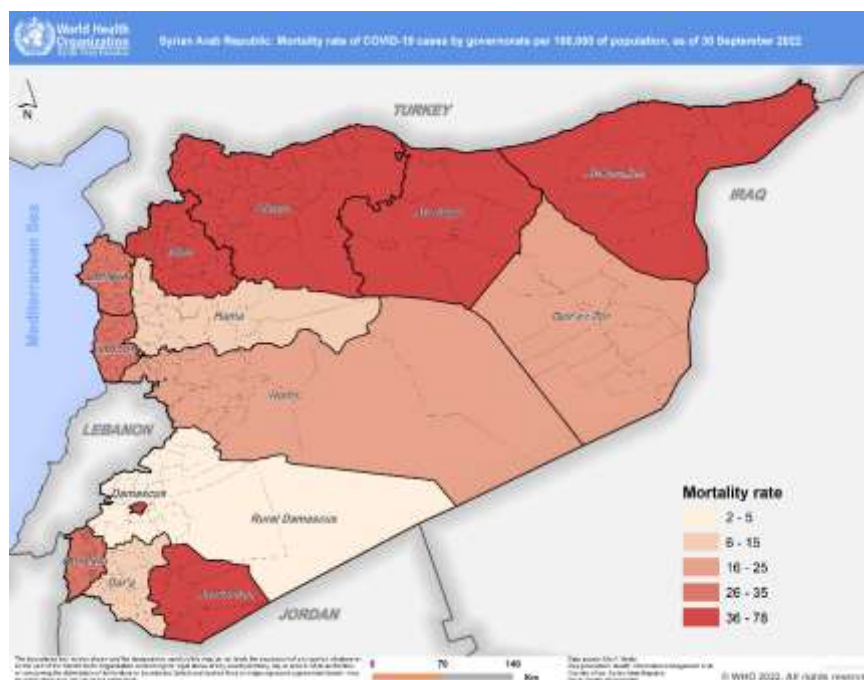
Table 2. Newly reported and cumulative cases of COVID-19 and associated deaths, by region, up to 30 September 2022

Area	New cases in September 2022 (%)	Change in new cases Last month	Cumulative cases (%)	New deaths in the reported month	Change in new deaths compared to last month	Cumulative deaths (%)
Government of Syria	259 (35.67%)	-64.8%	57,302 (28.64%)	0	-100.0%	3,163 (43.65%)
North-east Syria	154 (21.21%)	-60.2%	39,234 (19.61%)	0	0%	1,578 (21.78%)
North-west Syria	313 (43.11%)	65.6%	103,520 (51.75%)	0	0%	2,505 (34.57%)
Whole of Syria	726	-44.6%	200,056 (100.0%)	0	-100.0%	7,246 (100.0%)

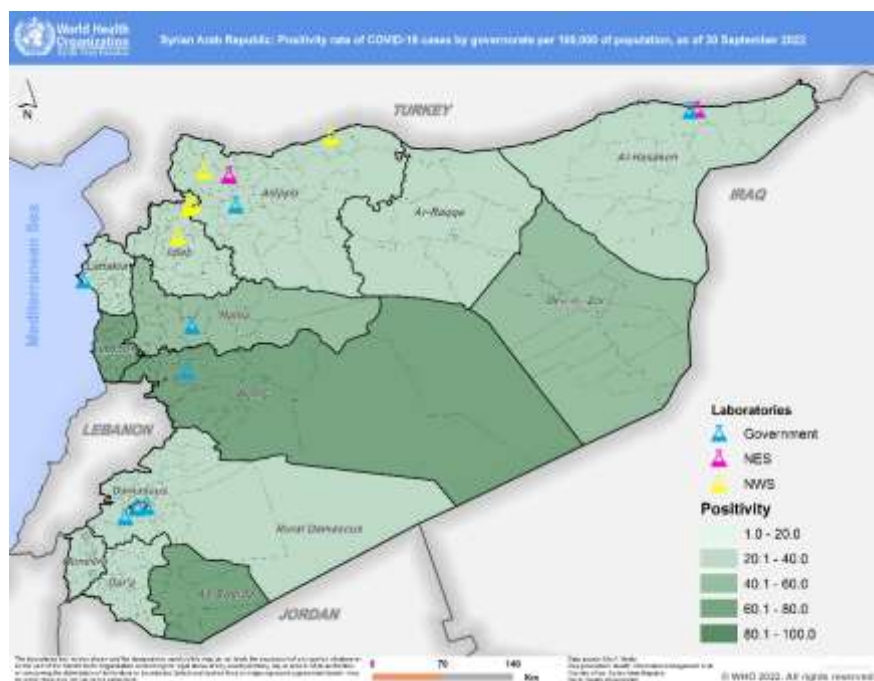
Map 1: Total number of COVID-19 cases per 100 000 of the population reported in each governorate, as of 30 September 2022



Map 2: COVID-19-related deaths per 100 000 of the population reported in each governorate, as of 30 September 2022



**Map 3: COVID-19 Laboratory Positivity Rate by governorate, as of 30 September 2022**



Syria had a low incidence level of community transmission with 3.4 cases/per 100,000 population/month during September 2022. The cumulative incidence rate since the start of the outbreak in WoS is 924/100 000 (as of 30 September 2022). The incidence rates are underestimated due to the low number of tested cases.

### Testing

The number of PCR tests conducted in September 2022 increased by 17% (n= 25,926) compared to 20,853 tests in August 2022. The total number of PCR tests conducted in WoS up to 30 September 2022 is 704,999. During September 2022, a total of 1,487 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 September was 25,926 and the monthly testing positivity rate was 2.8%.

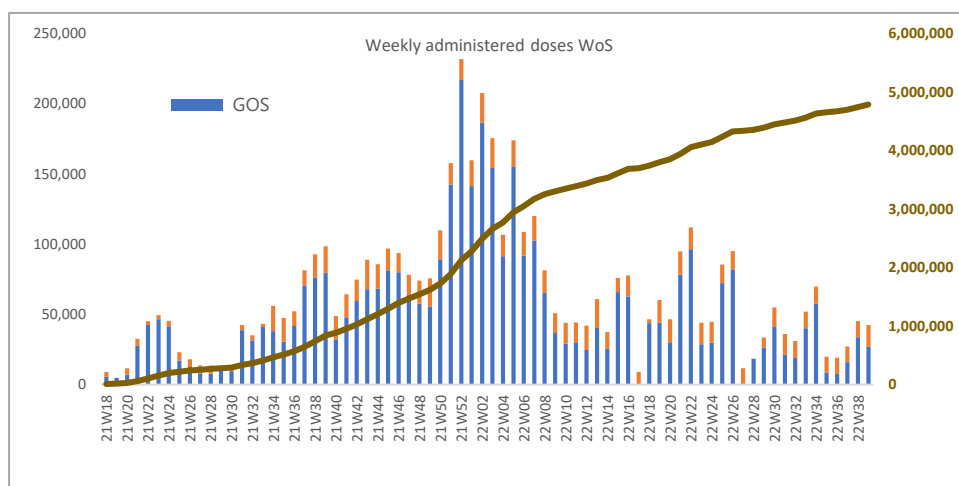
**Table 3. Positivity Rate increase/decrease since last month**

<b>25,926</b> Number of tests conducted during the reporting month (PCR and Ag-RDTs)	<b>2.8%</b> Testing positivity rate in the reporting month
<b>4.8%</b> The previous average positivity rate	

### COVID-19 Vaccinations

Vaccination activities continue across Syria at both fixed health facilities and through mobile medical teams in rural areas. 122,544 new doses were administered across Syria during September 2022, and 97,844 individuals took their first dose during the same period.

MoH is planning to conduct a mass vaccination campaign from 30 October – 3 November 2022 targeting the population above 18 years old.



**Table 4. Overall delivered vaccines from April 2021 till 30 September 2022:**

	Type of Allocation	Manufacturer of vaccine	Quantity
<b>GOS</b>	<b>COVAX</b>	AZ Covishield	1 203 500
		AZ/AZD1222	1 318 340
		Sinovac	3 307 200
		Janssen	3 458 400
		<b>Total</b>	<b>9 287 440</b>
	<b>Bilateral</b>	AZ/AZD1222	368,640
		Sinopharm	1 995,000
		Sputnik light	250 000
		Sputnik V	100 000
		Soberana	120 000
		Abdala	120 000
		<b>Total</b>	<b>2 953 640</b>
<b>GOS Total</b>			<b>12,241,080</b>
<b>NWS</b>	<b>COVAX</b>	AZ Covishield	53 800
		AZ/AZD1222	350 400
		Sinovac	823 200
		Janssen	832 800
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2 060 200</b>	
<b>WOS Total</b>			<b>14,311,280</b>

The available vaccines are sufficient to reach 38.7% 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.

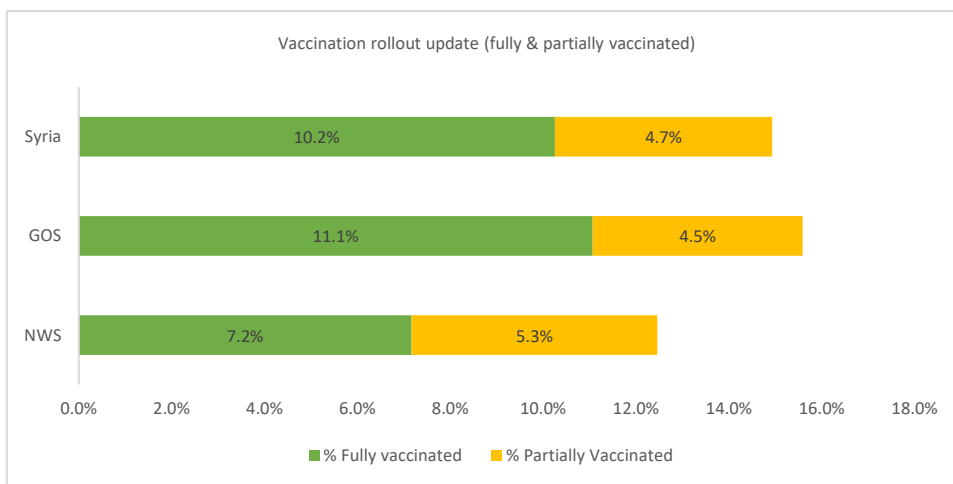
**Figure 5. The average weekly administered doses**

There is a 31.9% decrease in the administered doses of vaccines during September (n= 122,544) compared to the previous month (n= 180,051).

**Vaccination coverage as of 30 September 2022:**

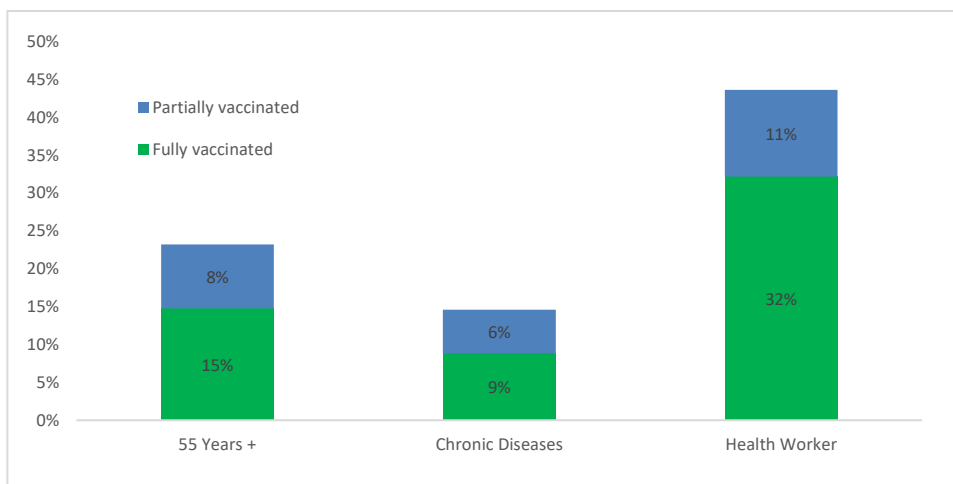
- 14.9% of the total population received at least one dose of the vaccine, and only 10.2% are fully vaccinated.
- A total of 4,703,185 doses of different vaccines were administered and the total number of vaccinated people is 3,070,437.

Figure 6. Vaccination status in the Whole of Syria as of 30 September 2022



**Vaccination coverage in priority groups:**

The vaccination in priority groups is low in WoS. Only 32% of health workers, 15% of the elderly, and 9% of people with comorbidities are fully vaccinated.



**Vaccination coverage per region since April 2021:**

**Government of Syria**

3,860,190 Vaccines administered	
2,535,134 People who received at least one dose	1,799,585 People who are fully vaccinated
15.59% Percentage of the population who received at least one dose	11.07% Percentage of the fully vaccinated population
0.40% Percentage point increase from last month	0.34% Percentage point increase from last month

**North-west Syria**

842,995 Vaccines administered	
535,303 People who received at least one dose	307,692 People who are fully vaccinated
12.46%	7.16%

Percentage of the population who received at least one dose	Percentage of the fully vaccinated population
0.77%	0.15%
Percentage point increase from the month	Percentage point increase from the month

### Whole of Syria

4,703,185 Vaccines administered	
3,070,437 People who received at least one dose	2,107,277 People who are fully vaccinated
12.46% Percentage of the population who received at least one dose	7.16% Percentage of the fully vaccinated population
0.48% Percentage point increase from last month	0.30% Percentage point increase from last month

### Pillar One: Coordination

- WHO continued updating the health sector on the situation of COVID-19 and related vaccination.
- During a field visit to NES (Qamishli, Hassakeh, and Al Hol camp) to assess the governorate's health needs, key findings were shared with the health sector, including enhancement of COVID-19 activities in camps' settings. The 2022 Public Health Situation Analysis for Syria was produced with COVID-19 reflected and highlighted.
- Technical feedback was provided to Global Health Cluster Study on COVID-19 vaccination in humanitarian settings (Syria case study), and the Global Health Cluster Study on coordination of COVID-19 response in humanitarian settings (Syria case study).
- Fifteen national and sub-national health sector coordination meetings were conducted (Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, Deir-ez-Zor, and Qamishli) addressing COVID-19 among other issues. In addition, COVID-19 updates are regularly updated at the site: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/syria/health>.

### Pillar Two: Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Follow up closely with MOH and health partners to prepare for the upcoming national COVID-19 vaccination campaign which will take place towards the end of October 2022.
- Community health workers continued to convey messages on the importance of adhering to COVID-19 public health and social measures to maintain a low count of COVID-19 infections and mitigate further virus mutations.

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

- Thirty health officers at points of entry received training to strengthen their capacities in the areas of surveillance, case definition, and referral pathway for different diseases including cholera, monkeypox, and hemorrhagic fever.

### Pillar Five: Laboratories and diagnostics

- Four training 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 Latakia, Homs, Aleppo, Rural Damascus, Tartous, Al Hassakeh, Hama, and Damascus.

### Pillar Six: Infection prevention and control

- To sustain safe health care service delivery, WHO dispatched 1,828,520 face masks, 1,033,050 Aprons, 41,800 face shields, 8,000,000 examination gloves, 100 bottles of alcohol-based hand rub solution, and 2000 Gowns. The IPC/PPE supplies were distributed to health partners in southwest, northwest, and northeast Syria, as well as MOH and MOHE central warehouse in Damascus, in addition to AWD treatments for hospitals in rural Damascus and Qunitera, and the CPHL in Damascus, and health centers and local NGOs in Aleppo, Hama, Latakia, Tartous, and Deir-ez-Zor.
- Trained 25 lab technicians from public hospitals in rural Damascus, Damascus, and Latakia on patient safety, IPC standards, and sterilization measures to prevent health-associated infections.



### Pillar Seven: Case management, clinical operations, and therapeutics

- 125 health workers from the isolation centers, Directorate of Emergency and Ambulance Services, ICU, and Emergency Departments from the governorates of Tartous, Damascus, Rural Damascus, As-Sweida, Daraa, and Qunitera received training on “Immediate Life Support and Ventilator Management for COVID-19 patients and Management plan for COVID-19 patient/ treatment of respiratory infections”.
- 125 health workers from Damascus received training in the MOH centre of prosthetics and rehabilitation in Damascus in the field of disability and rehabilitation.

### Pillar Eight: Logistics and operations

- In Sep 2022, WHO provided approximately 104 tonnes of medical and lab supplies, kits, and equipment to 13 governorates with a total value exceeding USD 1,277,736. 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, INGOs, NGOs, NGHs, NGPHCs, SARC, KRC, and camps.
- One crossline shipment (road convoy consisting of one truck) has been delivered to Qamishli National Hospital including medical supplies with a total weight of 20,000 kgs.
- Two local procurements of medical supplies (Meningitis medicine and kits, NCD, and pediatric medication) have been received in WHO warehouse in northeast Syria during August and September 2022 with a total volume of 12 tonnes, sufficient to provide 133,000 treatment courses.
- On 15 September 2022, the Sarmada-7 convoy took place. WHO delivered around 2.8 tonnes of medical supplies, sufficient to provide 43,912 treatment courses and 40 trauma cases.
- WHO and UNICEF are planning to conduct the first crossline convoy to Ras Al Ain city in northeastern Syria during the second week of Oct 2022. The convoy will include cholera kits, treatment for leishmaniasis, and other supplies.

### Pillar Nine: Maintaining essential health services and systems

- COVID-19 has contributed to a reduction in vaccination coverage, routine vaccination coverage is still below the targeted coverage (DPT3 at 68% during the first half of 2022). WHO, supported by GAVI, is enhancing the routine vaccination outreach activities monthly, in addition to covering the delivery cost of vaccines and medical supplies. Moreover, a national MR, Polio campaign is planned between 9-20 October targeting about 2.4 million children aged 6-59 months in all governorates.

## SYRIA COVID-19

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

TESTING	QUARANTINE	VACCINES
All passengers arriving in Syria, <b><i>except children under 12 years</i></b> , must have <b><i>a negative PCR test result</i></b> , performed in a Lab accredited by the country’s local authorities, and approved by the Syrian Health Ministry, <b><i>at the latest 96 hours</i></b> .	<b>On 29 September 2022</b> , MoH released new entry measures for Syrian and Lebanese nationals entering Syria, as no PCR or vaccination certificates are required.	Exception from mandatory testing: Syrians and foreigners arriving in Syria will be exempted from presenting a PCR test if they are <b>fully vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine</b> .

# COVID-19 key performance indicators for August 2022

