



WHO-MOH joint 4-day workshop to enhance the country's health security

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Ministry of Health of the Syrian Arab Republic and the World Health Organization (WHO) collaborated during a 4-day workshop aimed at enhancing the country's health security through the self-assessment of International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005 core capacities under the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) Framework. Held from 12 to 15 March 2023, the workshop fostered multisectoral collaboration among stakeholders from national and sub-national levels to improve health security in Syria.
- 4,364 health staff were trained in different intervention areas through 177 capacity-building sessions.
- More than 127 tonnes of medical, laboratory supplies; kits; PPEs; and cholera-related response supplies including oral rehydration salts (ORS), IV fluids, haemodialysis sessions, and printed IEC materials were dispatched to 20 MoH facilities, 2 MoHE hospitals, 8 NGOs, and 7 non-governmental hospitals.

Health Operational Update

Disease Surveillance and Outbreak Response

- 1,295 out of 1,549 sentinel sites are reporting weekly with 84% completeness and 90% timeliness.
- 80% of alerts are responded to within 72 hours.

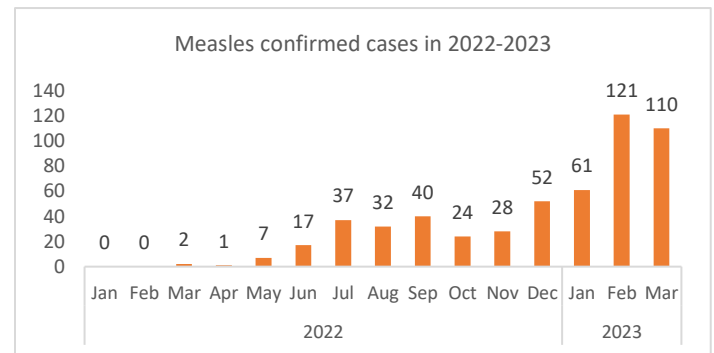
Cholera outbreak at the WoS level

- Between 25 August 2022 and 31 March 2023, 110 698 suspected cases have been reported from all 14 governorates. The most affected governorates to date are Idleb (36,434 cases, 32.9%), Aleppo (28,927 cases, 26.1%), Deir ez-Zor (20,640 cases, 18.6%), and Ar-Raqqa (18,915 cases, 17%).
- The devastating earthquake had a significant impact on the cholera response operations: access to services was negatively affected, partner capacity was reduced, and already-limited funds were diverted. The mental health of the workforce also suffered as a result, while numerous hospitals and primary health care centers have sustained damages with assessments still ongoing.

Measles cases

- During March 2023, a total of 1 842 suspected measles cases were reported through the EWARS system in 11 governorates. Measles-suspected cases increased by 56% in March compared with cases reported in February (1,179¹).

- The number of confirmed measles cases was 110 in March, distributed as follows: Al-Hasakeh (170), Aleppo (57), Deir ez-Zor (56), Damascus (8), Rural Damascus (8), Hama (6), As-Sweida (6), Homs (4), Ar-Raqqa (2), Quneitra (1), and Idleb (1). So far, the total confirmed measles cases in 2023 is 292.



Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI)

- A multi-antigen vaccination campaign was conducted from March 12-16, targeting children with different vaccines in all governorates.
- The Ministry of Health (MoH) conducted a COVID-19 vaccination campaign from March 26-30, targeting adults above 18 years old with a focus on priority groups, including health workers, the elderly, and people with

¹ This number has been updated since WHO WOS February situation report following receipt of additional data.

comorbidities. This campaign was integrated with routine immunization for children under 5 years old.

- Twelve capacity-building workshops were conducted in all governorates to review the district-level EPI coverage achieved in 2022, identify high-risk areas, and plan for future interventions.
- Regular meetings for surveillance, polio, and the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group are ongoing.

Primary Health Care (PHC) and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

- WHO facilitated the participation of two focal points from MoH and the Syrian Commission for Specifications Standards in the Regional Meeting on the Implementation of Articles 9 & 10 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, conducted 12-14 March 2023 in Cairo.
- To support infection, prevention, and control (IPC), WHO facilitated a series of meetings to review and update IPC national guidelines, in coordination with the IPC National Committee.
- Preparations are ongoing with WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) for the Global Student Health Survey targeting students ages 13-18 years to be conducted in collaboration with MoH and the Ministry of Education (MoE).

Trauma

- Over 859 450 treatments of life-saving medicines and 102 trauma and surgical kits (TESK) sufficient to cover the needs of 4,050 patients were delivered to health partners in Damascus, Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hasakeh, Deir-ez-Zor, Latakia, and Tartous, in addition to different types of medical equipment including patient monitors, oxygen concentrators, patient beds, and pulse oximeters. These deliveries enhance public health facilities (HFs) capacity to respond to emergencies and provide life-saving interventions and appropriate trauma care management for patients, including those in earthquake-affected areas.
- 250 health workers from the MoH in Latakia, Tartous, Quneitra, Dara'a, Deir ez-Zor, and Damascus were trained on Major Incident Medical Management and Support (MIMMS), Immediate Life Support, Management Plan for COVID-19, and ventilator management.
- In Damascus, WHO conducted a consultative meeting with stakeholders to review the action plan for national road safety.

- 25 healthcare workers from the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) at Damascus University Maternal Hospital were trained on Basic and Immediate Life Support.
- 100 health workers from Damascus – including prosthetics and orthotics technicians, physiotherapists, and psychiatrists – were trained in the MoH Center of Prosthetics and Rehabilitation in Damascus in the field of disability and rehabilitation.
- 240 health professionals working in MoH HFs were trained on cholera standard case definition, case management, and IPC via eight training courses conducted in six governorates: Dara'a, Rural Damascus, Quneitra, As-Sweida, Latakia, Aleppo, and Damascus.

Mental Health (MH)

- On 29 March, the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) Technical Working Group in Syria, co-chaired by the World Health Organization (WHO), convened a meeting to assess the effectiveness of coordination efforts and identify ways to enhance response to meet the evolving needs of crisis-affected populations. The meeting featured a range of informative presentations on MHPSS service packages, such as "My Hero is You" and "Actions for Heroes" programs for children and parents, as well as the "Checking on You" campaign that provides essential psychosocial support skills for emergency response.



MHPSS Technical Working Group meeting co-chaired by WHO.

- WHO disseminated MHPSS key messages developed by EMRO for the holy month of Ramadan to the mosques.
- 626 276 MHPSS interventions have been delivered since the beginning of the earthquake response through 125 outreach teams – 114 operating in directly-affected areas and 9 operating in other parts of the country where

populations are reporting significant distress due to the loss of family members.

- 37 524 MHPSS-focused and specialized services were delivered at the PHC centers, mental health specialized facilities, and outpatient clinics at the MoH level: 19 212 benefited from psychotropic medications and 28 898 benefited from MHPSS services.
- In cooperation with MoE, 16 279 consultations were delivered by mhGAP specialists, and 3 741 focused interventions were delivered through WHO-supported school counselors, in addition to 1 873 basic psychological interventions and 1 366 awareness sessions delivered by MoE health educators.
- Together with MoH and MoI, WHO conducted two workshops to promote MH and psychological awareness during crises and disasters. These workshops were designed specifically for media professionals and focused on capacity-building and providing them with practical skills and strategies to effectively communicate with the public in times of crisis, as well as knowledge and tools to create impactful campaigns that educate, inform, and support affected communities.

Nutrition and Child Health

- In February 2023, 85 944 under-five children were screened for malnutrition in 941 health centers.
- 1 379 cases of global acute malnutrition were detected and referred for treatment: 341 severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 1 056 moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).

International Health Regulations (IHR)

- MoH and WHO collaborated during a 4-day workshop aimed at enhancing the country's health security through the self-assessment of International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005 core capacities under the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) Framework. Held from 12 to 15 March 2023, the workshop fostered multisectoral collaboration among stakeholders from national and sub-national levels. Over 90 public health professionals worked together to identify strengths and gaps to ensure minimum capacity for early detection, investigation, and response to public health threats. The discussions were open, and all participants were keen to improve the health situation and pursue global health security.

Environment Health / WASH:

- In response to the earthquake, WHO continues its support to monitor drinking water quality in the

emergency shelters. A total of 138 shelters have been visited, and 1 362 samples were tested of which 13.2% showed bacterial contamination.

- Out of 229 samples tested from reservoirs, 3% showed contamination, among 1 073 tested households, 16% had bacterial contamination in drinking water, while 52 samples from taps and eight samples from tankers showed no contamination.

Communicable Diseases - TB & HIV

- On 14 March, the Tuberculosis (TB) National Committee, comprising representatives from MoH, MoHE, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Information (MoI), NGOs, and the private sector, held a meeting to discuss gaps, challenges, strengths, and opportunities in TB management. The committee also discussed selected TB cases in detail – specifically, follow-up strategies to maintain the success of 93% cure rate and how to address the challenge of low detection rate of multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB.
- TB mobile clinics are functioning in three governorates (Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, and Rural Damascus). 1 590 beneficiaries benefited from 40 TB awareness sessions while 115 suspected cases were tested for TB, 20 of which were confirmed.
- Supported by the global fund, WHO and the National AIDS Program are updating the national HIV guidelines based on the updated WHO global guidelines and innovative treatments and are developing a monitoring and evaluation system for the program.

Pharmacy

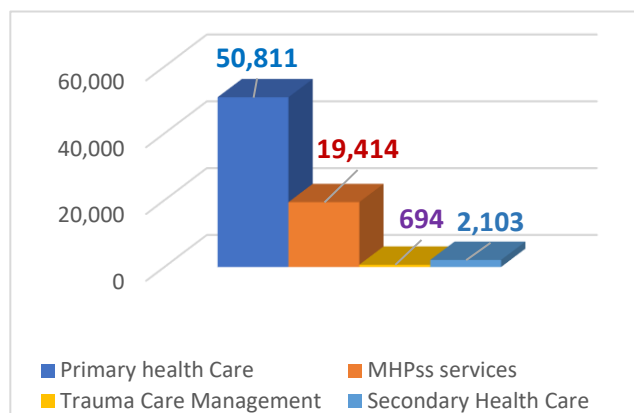
- An assessment of the national medical supply chain (NMSC), including the development of a Logistics Management Information System (LMIS), was launched in January in collaboration with MoH. This activity aims to provide high-level strategic support; review key NMSC functional processes; analyze network design, warehousing, and distribution mechanisms; and advise on the potential implementation of a national LMIS.
- The rehabilitation of the Medicine Quality Control Lab, the sole reference lab in the country, was initiated.
- Together with MoH, WHO's biomedical engineer initiated the field visits phase of oxygen scale-up activities which aim to enhance oxygen availability in HFs through oxygen data collection (Live Oxygen Platform).
- In cooperation with MoH, WHO finalized the priority list of required medications for the next two quarters.

Communications

- WHO's Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) team, in partnership with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), conducted a 2-day "Integrated Community Health Responders Toolkit Training" for SARC's community health volunteers responding to the health impacts of the Syria earthquake. The training aimed to enhance health and risk communication skills. [Link](#)
- WHO developed different visibility products and coverage for the following events and activities:
 - To mark the 12th anniversary of the Syria crisis. [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#), [Link 3](#)
 - The self-assessment of the International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005 workshop. [Link](#)
 - The World TB Day. [Link](#)

Community Engagement (NGOs)

- 12 implementing partners are providing primary, secondary, trauma, rehabilitation, and MHPSS services to people in need in underserved areas. Seven fixed health points, one hospital, and 24 mobile medical teams are supported in five governorates: Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Aleppo, and Al-Hasakeh.



Health services delivered by WHO-supported NGOs in March

- A total of 73 022 healthcare services were supported.

Health Systems

- WHO provided support for capacity-building activities at the Centre of Strategic Studies and Health Training on various themes including health economics, train-the-trainer programs during the COVID-19 pandemic, occupational health, and health safety during pandemics. The program targeted over one hundred participants from Damascus and other governorates.

- WHO also facilitated a series of workshops as part of the preparation of the National Primary Health Care Strategy for the period of 2023-2027. The workshops included stakeholder mapping and analysis, as well as a review of the essential health service package.
- WHO participated in the regional meeting on the International Health Regulations (IHR) held in EMRO from March 18-21, 2023, with a focus on the preparatory steps for the Pandemic Fund Proposal.

Health Sector Coordination

- Conducted four national-level health sector coordination meetings (7, 14, 21, and 28 March).
- Produced four weekly health sector Syria earthquake response situation reports.
- Provided inputs for four weekly inter-sector OCHA situation reports as well as 4Ws.
- Produced three monthly health sector bulletins (January, February, and March 2023).
- Developed 2023 Health Sector Syria Annual Priority Workplan.
- Finalized health sector strategy for Syrian Humanitarian Fund 2nd Reserve Allocation for a potential envelope of 5 million USD.
- Updated health sector on WHO undertaken activities on PSEA in 2023.
- Developed and shared a list of ten follow-up operational points for WASH and RCCE sectors for Northeast Syria (NES).
- Prepared one update on key operational issues on Northeast Syria (NES), including the measles outbreak.
- Initiated quarterly updates of health sector assistance with medical equipment and with rehabilitation and reconstruction of HFs.
- Updated health sector coordination priorities for earthquake response for May – December 2023.

WHO Syria Sub-Offices

Aleppo

- In response to the devastating earthquake, the coordination mechanism has been enhanced among sub-national level health sector partners to ensure the effective and efficient provision of healthcare services to the affected population. WHO has organized several meetings with partners to share information and coordinate activities, which have helped to ensure that the response efforts are well-coordinated.
- Health assistance supported by WHO has covered 181 collective shelters, and surveillance has been enhanced to prepare for outbreaks in the aftermath of the earthquake. Water quality monitoring activities are also ongoing.
- Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) interventions related to Physiological First Aid/First Line Support, individual psychological counseling sessions, and raising awareness sessions on MHPSS were provided throughout the deployment of 33 teams.
- Essential services have been maintained, especially for people requiring essential NCD treatments. WHO has delivered medications to cover more than 10 000 treatments to 15 HFs in the affected areas.
- WHO is actively supporting TB and HIV services through the implementation of TB active case-finding activities that specifically target vulnerable populations living in collective shelters to detect and treat both suspected and confirmed cases. Through the WHO-supported TB mobile clinic, the Directorate of Health (DoH) has reached 2 813 beneficiaries through awareness sessions and identified 486 suspected cases, of which 17 were confirmed.
- 20 236 beneficiaries were reached with RCCE activities, in addition to 2 588 individuals that received awareness sessions on gender-based violence topics.

Latakia

- WHO continues to strengthen coordination mechanisms with local authorities, including the High Relief Committee, the earthquake operation room, and directorates of health, education, water resources, and social affairs to identify health needs, facilitate delivery of services, and enhance the overall response to the earthquake-affected areas.
- WHO is providing MHPSS services through the deployment of 35 mobile teams in the collective shelters and areas affected by the EQ, targeting the most vulnerable groups, especially the elderly, women,

children, and people with disabilities, and establishing referral pathways to secondary facilities for treatment.

- WHO conducts regular site assessment visits to the main collective shelters in Latakia, Jaleh, and Qurdaha districts to assess the health needs, population movement, and overall humanitarian situation.
- Active surveillance is ongoing in the collective shelters through the deployment of 2 rapid response teams (RRTs) targeting all twenty-four shelters, in addition to the deployment of 8 RRTs in the areas affected by the EQ, particularly areas with continuous movement/displacement.
- Two shipments of essential health supplies were delivered to the main hospitals in Latakia and Tartous governorates.
- WHO is supporting the operating cost of 27 DoH immunization teams targeting areas with low coverage and areas with population movements due to earthquake.
- A Trauma and Rehabilitation Working Group has been activated in the coastal area to assist the people affected by the earthquake.

Homs

- In response to the earthquake, seven Mobile Medical Teams (MMTs) were deployed to provide essential health and psychosocial support services to the affected population for 15 days.
- More than 5 677 primary health care services, 4 899 treatment courses, and 6 890 MHPSS services were provided to the internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the affected population.
- 14 MHPSS teams (10 in Hama, 2 in Idlib, and 2 in Homs) were deployed; 8 450 PSS services were provided.
- In cooperation with MoE, 23 WHO-supported MHPSS teams (12 in Hama and 11 in Homs) provided 75 825 MHPSS services to both students and teachers.
- In collaboration with the WHO-supported Alafia Fund NGO in Homs, 1 200 kidney dialysis sessions were provided to people in need.

Deir-ez-Zor

- To enhance the case management capacities at Al-Assad Hospital for trauma cases due to the high rate of unexploded ordnance / explosive remnants of war (UXO/ERW) incidents, WHO delivered trauma kits and medical consumables, conducted training on Immediate Life Support and Ventilator Management for pandemic patients for 25 health workers from the ambulance



WHO-supported shipment of trauma kits and medical consumables

- department.
- WHO conducted regular field visits to supervise the process of collecting water samples and developed a distribution plan for water disinfection tablets.
- Eighty samples were taken from different water resources in Deir-ez-Zor and Al-Mayadeen districts for testing in the reference labs.
- In collaboration with the DoH and DoE, WHO supported the operational cost of seven medical mobile teams to deliver MHPSS services, particularly to address distress experienced by communities whose loved ones were affected by the earthquake. 3 600 beneficiaries benefited from the services provided, as well as 30 schools with 1 750 students.
- Regular meetings were conducted with the DoH immunization team to discuss the plans and strategies needed to increase the measles mumps rubella vaccine (both MMR and MR) coverage in areas that witnessed an increase in reported cases.

Qamishli Hub / Northeast Syria (NES)

Coordination:

- On 20 March, WHO attended the Area Humanitarian Coordination Team (AHCT) meeting held in Qamishli to discuss the planned joint crossline mission to Tal Abyad.

- On 22 March, WHO attended and conducted the health sub-national sector meeting. The epidemiological situation in NES was presented and different health issues/gaps were discussed.
- WHO Qamishli hub participated effectively in the newly established WoS MHPSS forum. NES MHPSS updates, lessons learned, and experiences were shared and exchanged.
- On 30 March, WHO convened and co-chaired the NES MHPSS sub-technical workgroup meeting.

MHPSS services:

- More than 11 000 low-intensity psychological interventions and 1740 MH consultations (including PFA, raising awareness sessions, and recreational activities) were provided by DoH MHPSS teams during March 2023.
- More than 20 000 beneficiaries, including students and their caregivers, benefited from MHPSS services (including psychosocial first aid (PFA), awareness-raising sessions, and MH consultations).

Pharmaceuticals:

- WHO distributed 8.2 tons of essential medicines, medical equipment, trauma, and cholera kits, and consumables to 5 partners and 5 hospitals in NES.

EWARS:

- Follow-up of suspected acute watery diarrhea cases in Al-Hasakeh governorate, field visits to private and public hospitals with EWARS focal points, and update of the line list. AWD cases amounted to 660.
- Follow-up continues for suspected cases of measles in Al-Hasakeh governorate.
- Based on the EWARS analysis, the top five morbidities in NES, as compared to the previous month, are:
 - Influenza-like illness\COVID-like illness (ILI/CLI) decreased from 3,553 to 4,142.
 - Acute diarrhea decreased from 1,495 to 1,629.
 - Leishmaniasis decreased from 208 to 387.
 - Worms decreased from 170 to 220.
 - Scabies increased from 93 to 69.

Nutrition:

- WHO-supported centers for malnutrition treatment received 45 new cases in both Al Hikmeh and Al-Tabqa hospitals.

Secondary healthcare:

- Through WHO support to Al Hikmeh Hospital, 836 beneficiaries were referred to receive necessary secondary and trauma services.
- Conducted three orientation sessions in Al-Hol, Roj, and Newroz camps on WHO criteria for supporting referrals to Al Hikmeh Hospital.
- The capacity of COVID-19 isolation centers in NES was updated during March 2023 in coordination with HeRAMS focal points.
- The capacity of the COVID-19 treatment facility in NES was updated.

Immunization

- In cooperation with DoH Al-Hasakeh, an immunization campaign was conducted in the Areesha camp. Due to effective awareness-raising activities, the campaign succeeded in raising the coverage rate with the measles-rubella (MR) vaccine from 30% to 85%, aiming to control the measles outbreak.
- A joint meeting with UNICEF and UNHCR was held to prepare for the upcoming special MR response campaign in Al-Hol camp.



WHO supported immunization campaign in the Areesha camp in NES

WASH:

- Water quality monitoring was conducted in 11 IDP camps, 39 collective shelters, and 36 drinking water stations in NES, where 529 samples were tested, and no contamination was detected.

Northwest Syria (NWS)

Rapid Response to the Earthquake and Early Recovery Activities in Northwest Syria

- As UN agencies scale up the operational presence in Northwest Syria, the UN is conducting a program criticality exercise to ensure that activities are balanced against UN personnel security risks.
- TB service provision in NWS is available at four TB centers that diagnose, on average, 10 new cases per week, the majority at Idleb center. WHO has trained lab technicians at these centers on using the Truenat system, recently installed after the earthquake made the GeneXpert system unavailable. Before this training, only Idleb center was able to deliver TB test results.
- At the SHC level, WHO operationally supported 4 hospitals to provide 10 000 outpatient consultations and inpatient care for 1 000 patients in March.
- At PHC level, operationally and technically, WHO supports the integrated health service delivery networks in Afrin and Northern Aleppo. A total of 26 PHC facilities received operational support. These networks provide an average of 150 000 consultations per month. In addition,

WHO supports 7 PHC facilities as last resort coverage, which provided 18 000 PHC consultations in March.

Delivery of Essential Medicines Supplies into Northwest Syria

- Since the earthquake, WHO has distributed essential medicines as line items and as kits for communicable and non-communicable diseases, in addition to life-saving consumables, intensive care unit (ICU) medicines, and trauma interventions for 2 974 166 treatment courses and 1 880 lab diagnostic tests. Supplies were distributed to 64 hospitals and 234 primary health care and specialized centers.
- In March, 22 trucks crossed the border from Türkiye into NWS, carrying health humanitarian supplies with a volume of over 850 cubic meters and weighing close to 150 metric tons. These supplies are valued at nearly 2.5 million USD and will be enough to provide close to 900 000 treatments for people that need the most, including 25 000 trauma cases.

- In March, a charter flight carrying trauma and emergency surgery kits (TESK), cholera response and NCD kits, and interagency emergency health kits valued at 193 000 USD arrived in Türkiye and most supplies were dispatched (IEHKs) to Northwest Syria. Since the onset of the earthquake, four charter flights carrying emergency health materials valued at more than 750 000 USD arrived in Türkiye to benefit population in need in Northwest Syria.

Disease Surveillance and Outbreak Response

- **EWARN:** The functionality of the surveillance system has been restored to pre-earthquake level. All three EWARN labs are functional and administered over 5000 diagnostic tests for measles, hepatitis, cholera, rotavirus and adenovirus. 225 sentinel sites achieved 97% of completeness and timeliness of reporting in Northern Aleppo and 96% in Idleb.
- WHO trained 150 health workers on early detection and rapid response to communicable diseases alerts and outbreak at the emergency shelters.
- **OCV:** Under the coordination of the Syria Immunization Group (SIG), 1 470 teams of vaccinators have reached 1 669 298 Syrians above one-year old against cholera in a 10-day house-to-house campaign that ended on 18 March. The campaign reached 95% of the target coverage in Sarmada, Maaret Tamsrin, Dana, and Atmeh districts in Idleb and A'zaz district in Northern Aleppo. Details on the campaign are available at SIG Oral Cholera Vaccine campaign.



WHO supported OCV campaign in NWS

Health Information Systems

- As a follow-up to the rapid Health Resources and Services Availability Monitoring System (HeRAMS) assessment conducted in February, WHO Gaziantep completed a

comprehensive HeRAMS in March. The findings revealed that 67 HF's were damaged by the earthquakes and aftershocks, of which six were completely destroyed.

- Analysis of health information revealed that access to rehabilitation services in Northwest Syria is fragmented. Reportedly, in the Turkish-controlled area of Afrin, there is one rehabilitation center every 43 000 people, while in Jandairis – where the 19% of injuries of the earthquake in Northwest Syria were reported – there is only one every 104 000. To support a coordinated response on rehabilitation, WHO developed a [dashboard presenting available rehab services and gaps](#). The dashboard shows that there are only 28 rehabilitation centers in 31 communities in Northwest Syria.
- The 4Ws for the month of February were finalized. Results show that partners in NWS have delivered 766 844 outpatient consultations and 399 058 trauma cases. Compared to January and due to the earthquake, there was an increment of 30% in the trauma cases supported.
- WHO maintains available the data portal to monitor the health response to the earthquake for each health technical area. The data hub supports health stakeholders in making informed decisions and can be accessed [here](#).

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) activities

- Most RCCE activities resumed and were increased to tackle and prevent further health catastrophes. WHO partners reached all emergency shelters (reception centers) through face-to-face awareness sessions conducted by over 1 200 Community Health Workers (CHWs) and social mobilizers. Since the earthquake, 300 000 Syrians have been reached with awareness sessions. Face-to-face sessions focused on MHPSS, cholera awareness, and other communicable diseases, such as COVID-19, measles and scabies, and PFA.
- RCCE activities involved 29 partners that covered 89 sub-districts. Social mobilizers and CHWs performed over 7 000 referrals since the onset of the earthquake, including more than 600 suspected cholera cases. Other referred patients required reproductive health, child health, internal medicines, and malnutrition treatments.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

- WHO estimates that close to 1 million people in Northwest Syria have MH disorders and approximately 230 000 have severe MH disorders. Therefore, WHO is leading the expansion of the MHPSS response in NWS.





Currently, MH services are available at 381 sites, including 84 camps and 26 emergency shelters. Since the earthquake, WHO partners have provided over 140 000 MH activities in different forms, from psycho-education to psychiatric care and awareness sessions.

- WHO chairs the MHPSS Technical Working Group in Gaziantep, covering MHPSS operations and partners in

NWS, with 36 member agencies. The group is engaged in scaling up MHPSS support following the earthquake and the development of a multisectoral MHPSS operational plan, led by WHO in coordination with Education, Protection, and Nutrition Clusters. WHO developed a [mental health and psychosocial support interactive dashboard](#) to map the existing response and identify gaps and needs in Northwest Syria.

Useful links Follow WHO Syria

- [HeRAMS public hospitals](#)
- [HeRAMS public health centres](#)
- [WHO-Syria Summary of HRP indicators reported through the 4Ws](#)
- [WoS key performance indicators](#)
- [MHPSS dashboard](#)

-  [Facebook](#)
-  [Twitter](#)
-  [Instagram](#)
-  [YouTube](#)

Contact Us

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| Dr. Iman Shankiti | Acting WHO Syria Representative | shankitii@who.int |
| Dr. Elrasheed Idris | WHO Health Emergencies (WHE)
Team Lead - OIC in Gaziantep | idrise@who.int |