



WHO Regional Director visit to Abu-Zur Al Ghafari PHC centers in Damascus

HIGHLIGHTS

- WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean region, Dr Ahmad Al-Mandhari concluded a 4-day mission to Syria during which he met with senior officials and conducted a field visit to Daraa governorate to follow up on the health situation on the ground and provide the needed support, especially within the current context of cholera outbreak in some governorates.
- 2 675 health staff were trained in different intervention areas through 107 capacity-building activities.
- More than 103.79 tonnes of medical, lab, and nutritional supplies, kits, PPEs, ORSs, IV fluids and printing materials were dispatched to 36 MoH facilities, 1 MoHE hospital and 1 central warehouse, MoLAE (Aleppo Directorate of Environment) , 14 NGOs, 6 NGHs, 6 NGPHCs, SARC and an IA convoy (Sarmada 7).

Health Operational Update

Disease Surveillance and Outbreak Response

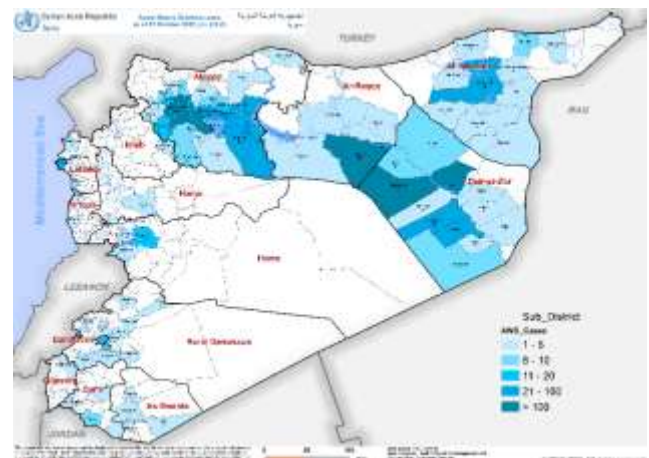
- 1,477 Sentinel sites are reporting weekly with 82% completeness.
- 88% of alerts responded within 72 hours.

Cholera outbreak

- The first cholera case was detected on 22 August 2022 in Aleppo and was confirmed on 25 August 2022.
- On 10 September 2022, the Syrian Ministry of Health declared 15 cholera laboratory-confirmed cases in Aleppo governorate resulting in one death.
- By the end of August, AWD was extended to other governorates; Ar-Raqqa, and Deir-ez-Zor. Later in September, AWD cases were reported from new governorates in Hassakeh, Lattakia, Damascus, Hama, Homs, and Rural Damascus.
- As of week 39, AWD cases were reported in 13 governorates as MoH reported 2,541 AWD cases associated with 36 deaths and confirmed a cholera outbreak in 11 governorates: Aleppo, Hassakeh, Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, Lattakia, Damascus, Hama,

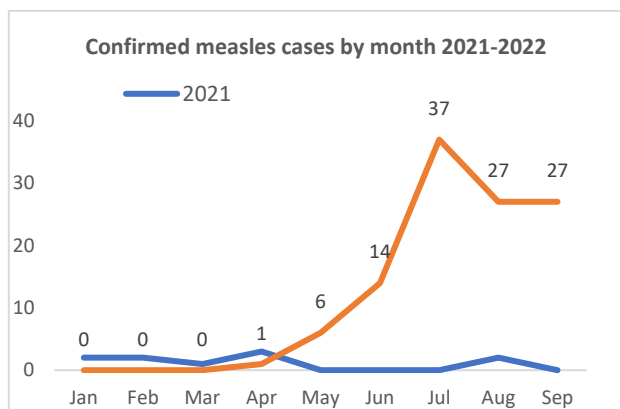
Homs, Daraa, Qunitera, and As-Swieda with a total of 524 cases confirmed by RDTs of which 31 cases confirmed by culture test as well.

- In week 39, cases of AWD were also reported through the WHO-EWARS teams. The total number of AWD was 1,579 cases of which 78 cholera cases were confirmed by the RDTs in Deir Ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, and Hassakeh.



Measles cases

- During September, a total of 146 suspected measles cases were reported through the EWARS system in 7 governorates, most of the cases were from Ar-Raqqa 60.27% (n=88), and Aleppo 17.81% (n=26).
- During 2022, there was an increase in measles cases with a total of 112 confirmed cases. The cases were distributed as follows: Ar-Raqqa (44), Aleppo (27), Deir-ez-Zor (20), Homs (7), Damascus (3), Hama (3) Hassakeh (2), Rural Damascus (2), and one case in each of Daraa, Qunitera, Tartous, and As-Sweida.



- In September 2022, there is an increase in measles cases in Ar-Raqqa with 8 new confirmed cases. The total number of positive measles cases in Ar-Raqqa in 2022 is 44 cases out of 51 tested samples. DOH teams conducted localized immunization activities with the MMR vaccine vaccinating more than 1,000 children.

Trauma

- Follow up closely with MOH to prepare for October Breast Cancer Awareness national campaign. Around 24 meetings were conducted at the governorate levels targeting females between 20-65 years old. The activities aim to raise awareness on the importance of early detection in terms of treatment and prognosis; teaching women the techniques of breast self-examination and requesting mammogram imaging for women over 40 years of age.
- 125 health workers from Damascus received training in the MOH centre of prosthetics and rehabilitation in Damascus in the field of disability and rehabilitation.

Routine Immunization

- 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 2.6 million children aged 6-59 months in all governorates.

Primary Health Care

- Facilitated RD's visit to Daraa governorate during which a series of meetings were conducted with high-ranking officials to follow up on the current situation, challenges, and the needed support. The field mission included visiting Nawa Hospital - rehabilitated through WHO support, Daraa National Hospital, and Al-Nour Foundation which provides PHC and STHC services to people in need.
- Received a total of 20,000 vials of Insulin MIX which were delivered to NES, MOH, NGOs, and SARC.

Secondary Health Care

- Facilitated RD's visit to Damascus hospital, and Al-Zahira Hospital to follow up on the health services provided and the needed support.

Nutrition and Child Health

- In August 2022, 78,220 under-five children were screened for malnutrition in 968 health centres across the country.
- 2,836 global acute malnutrition were detected (736 severe and 2,100 moderate).

Mental Health (MH)

- Trained 114 health and community workers on different MHPSS programs and interventions.
- # of mental health services provided by WHO partners is 27,580
- # of women, men, girls, and boys reached by GBV awareness and empowerment activities through WHO partners are 7,986
- # of women, men, girls, and boys reached through MHPSS raising awareness activities including sessions and campaigns through WHO partners are 6,711.

- On 26 September, 35 partners representing different sectors from across the country participated in the MHPSS MSP orientation session which was mediated by MH developers in UNICEF and WHO.

Communicable Diseases

- In line with integrating the programmes of TB and HIV with mental health activities, WHO conducted two consultative workshops at the governmental and central levels. Discussions focused on how to integrate MHPSS services with TB at three levels: 14 TB centres, 695 health facilities, and at the community level through 542 volunteers.
- TB mobile clinics are still functioning in three governorates (Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, and Rural Damascus). 1,564 beneficiaries benefited from 36 awareness sessions on TB. In addition, 98 suspected cases were tested for TB, of which 17 were confirmed.
- The Leishmaniasis activities are ongoing in Hassakeh governorate with 12 awareness-raising sessions attended by 515 participants from the northern areas.
- Under the Leishmaniasis vector control campaign in Aleppo, sprayed 10 districts with an estimated 3.8 km² targeting 76,136 population.
- 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.

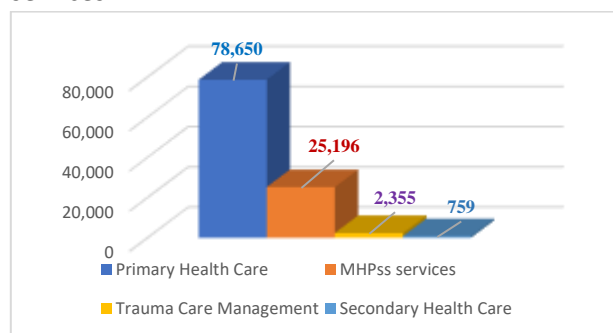
Communication

- Published a video showcasing WHO support for health service provision at Al-Qamishli National hospital by supplying the hospital with medical kits, dialysis sessions, equipment, supplies, and other essential medicines.
- Published a video on WHO response to the current cholera outbreak in Syria, where, concurrently with the Regional Director's visit to Syria.
- Developed [Cholera Social Media Cards](#) to raise awareness about the current cholera outbreak which were disseminated over WHO social media platforms as well as to partners and stakeholders.

- Developed [Cholera Flyers](#) on cholera sources of infection, as well as instructions to health workers and food handlers on precautionary procedures during the cholera outbreak.
- Conducted many capacity-building workshops across different Syrian governorates to acquaint community members with the cholera bacteria, means of transmission, and protection measures; as well as to strengthen their knowledge of healthy behaviours to mitigate the spread of cholera.

Community Engagement (NGOs)

- Nine contracted NGOs are providing Primary and Secondary Healthcare services to people in need in under-served areas. NGOs are supporting 14 fixed health facilities, one hospital, and 14 mobile medical teams in 7 governorates including Aleppo, Daraa, Homs, Hama, Lattakia, Deir-ez-Zor, and Al-Hassakeh.
- WHO partners provided 106,960 healthcare services:



Health Systems

- Supported the development of the national guideline for the continuity of health services during COVID-19. The guidelines were disseminated to all PHCs. It aims to support the health system that is still facing significant challenges in providing essential health services during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PRSEAH) focal points at the WHO Country office conducted raising awareness sessions targeting 176 participants from NGOs; both staff and volunteers on PRSEAH in the governorates of Homs and Lattakia. This awareness-raising is part of WHO policy on abusive conduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse, and it represents an essential action of it. A special focus on victims' assistance was highlighted.

Health Sector Coordination

As cluster lead agency, key coordination-related issues included:

- Conducted national and sub-national health sector coordination meetings across the country.
- Daily follow-up on AWD/cholera response at all levels: WoS health sector updates are produced weekly. Sub-national task-force groups are formed. Support was provided to WHO Syria IM (incident management) team and relevant situation reports. Provided necessary updates to the WoS health cluster team. Conducted bilateral and online meetings with Damascus and XB partners. Finalized inputs for Emergency SHF Allocation. Followed up on key points raised during donors' briefings. Detailed coordination-related updates are available. Finalized AWD/cholera health sector (including WASH/RCCE) sector response plan for Syria with a funding requirement of 19.5 million USD. Sub-national operational micro plans are developed.
- SHF allocation approved: Under priority 1, 2 multi-sector projects were recommended for 692,156 USD. Under priority 2, 3 multi-sector and 10 projects were recommended for 5,780,777 USD. A total of 19 projects were not recommended.

- Issued 2 Flash Updates on Attacks on Health Care in NES in September 2022.
- Reproductive and MHPSS sub-sector working groups conducted their regular meetings and shared materials.
- Coordinated health supplies' transportation as part of regular XL (Sarmada 7) convoy to Idleb governorate.
- Provided health sector-related inputs on inter-sector winterization planning.
- NES-related coordination: camps' meeting continued; mapping of health service provision updated, including referral pathway.
- Fifteen national and sub-national health sector coordination meetings were conducted (Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, Deir-ez-Zor, Qamishli).

Health sector partners' distribution is as follows:

- Damascus – 38; Homs – 18; Hama – 16; Lattakia – 28; Idleb – 15; Aleppo – 29; Deir-ez-Zor – 20; Qamishli – 29.
- Health sector response reaches 71% of all sub-districts (194 out of 272).
- The health sector supports monthly more than 700,000 medical procedures and distributes 400,000 treatment courses among other multiple assistance.

WHO Syria sub-offices

Aleppo

- Conducted three AWD/Cholera Aleppo task force meetings to identify challenges and mobilize resources to provide the needed support.
- Started a series of awareness-raising campaigns targeting 135 healthcare workers and outreach volunteers who will deliver key messages on cholera and AWD to communities in high-risk areas. In addition, conducted awareness sessions for nine UNHCR implementing partners on AWD/Cholera.
- Presented the health sector in an ad-hoc AHCT meeting with ECHO.
- The Leishmaniasis campaign in Aleppo is ongoing and supported by 140 health workers. During the reporting period, 10 districts were sprayed in addition to spraying 3.8 km² in Aleppo governorate targeting around 76,136 population.

Lattakia

- Activated inter-sectoral and inter-agency task force for cholera/AWD coordination and response in Latakia including WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNDP, OCHA, and ICRC.
- Under the cholera outbreak response, strengthened surveillance activities and site visits through three rapid response teams in Lattakia and two RRTs in Tartous; followed up with the WASH sector to enhance water quality by providing over 200,000 aqua tabs to water resources directorates; supported the isolation centers in Lattakia and Tartous with 20 cholera kits and enhanced the lab capacity for testing AWD cases with 180 RDTs both in Tartous and Lattakia.

- Conducted RCCE awareness session on cholera for 75 community workers from different NGOs in Lattakia and Tartous. In addition, IEC materials were distributed to partners and stakeholders.
- Supported Al-Bassel Hospital with 40 adult body bags and 100 absorbent sheets as a response to the boat accident in Tartous.
- The support to the outreach communities in Al-Haffeh and Al-Qurdaha sub-district is ongoing. During the reporting period, 5,970 health consultations were provided in addition to 766 MHPSS consultations.

Homs

- The medical consultations provided through the WHO-supported Al-Bir Hama Afia Fund NGO were 8,004 medical consultations including 2,244 in south Idleb, of which 6,659 were on MHPSS.
- Two mobile medical teams are providing primary health services in Hom's governorate and the north and east districts of Hama governorate for Rukban returnees. 2,435 services were provided, in addition to 337 MHPSS services, as well as delivering awareness sessions.
- Jad Charitable Society NGO in Hama governorate started a health project to strengthen the provision of integrated healthcare services to the most vulnerable groups in Masyaf and its countryside. The total number of health services provided is 3,310 Trauma, 4,401 psychosocial support, 4,853 primary health services, and 570 assistive devices.

Deir-ez-Zor

- Launched a one-month AWD awareness-raising campaign in collaboration with DOH and local NGOs, including conducting RCCE activities and distributing 800,000 aqua tabs. Around 132 volunteers are participating in the campaign targeting 35% of Deir-ez-Zor population and focusing on high-risk areas.
- During the cholera outbreak, more than 415 volunteers were trained on WHO guidelines and health-related messages to contain the spread of the bacterium.
- In partnership with the Syria Pulse Association, 23,399 beneficiaries benefited from the services provided by WHO-supported NGOs, including medical consultations, psycho-social support, health referrals, and awareness-raising sessions.

Qamishli Hub / Northeast Syria (NES)

- Conducted a series of meetings in Hassakeh with the director of health and the director of EPI programme to follow up on the preparation for the upcoming MR nationwide campaign (9-20 October 2022). The meetings focused on enhancing the response to the cholera outbreak, especially in terms of conducting awareness-raising activities at the community level.
- Through an agreement with Al-Hikmeh Hospital, WHO is providing the needed support to the most vulnerable groups across NES, covering the gap in secondary healthcare. Within the reporting period, 974 cases were referred to WHO-supported Hikmeh hospital (520 trauma cases and 310 secondary cases).
- In partnership with the (Syrian Society to Cure Children with Cancer (CCS NGO) in NES, WHO provided essential medical services (PHC, STHC, Trauma, and mental health) in 4 PHCs to the most affected population in 4 locations in NES.
- Health awareness sessions were delivered to more than 142 beneficiaries in Al-Hol and Talhamis camps on defining cholera, its causes, symptoms, methods of prevention, and treatment.
- Routine vaccination activities are ongoing according to the regular schedule. In Hassakeh, the services are provided through 41 fixed centres and 20 mobile teams.
- Distributed Kits of TESK infusion modules and medical consumables, sufficient to provide 500 treatment courses, to Hassakeh National Hospital and DOH. Additionally, 1,000,000 chlorine tablets were distributed to EPDC-UNICEF/SBS partner and Syria Al-Yamama in Ar-Raqqa governorate as a response to AWD cases in NES.
- 11 tonnes of NCD, paediatric medication, COVID-19 testing kits, case management equipment and consumables, as well as nutrition supplies were delivered to 7 hospitals in NES, 3 NGOs, Hassakeh DoH, and other health partners in NES.
- The WHO-supported centres for malnutrition treatment received 57 new cases in both Al-Hikmeh and Al-Tabqa hospitals. 58 cases were discharged after being recovered.

- WHO continues to monitor the quality of drinking water within 11 main camps in NES, 33 collective shelters in Al-Hassakeh, 15 drinking water stations in rural Deir-ez-Zor, and 23 collective shelters in Al-Tabqa city, 37 house tanks, and 25 boreholes with a total number of 1,329, 347 beneficiaries.



Water quality monitoring in NES

- On EWARS, WHO is following up with the alerts reported by health partners, taking samples, provide technical guidance and recommendations. Based on the analysis, the top five morbidities are:
 - AD decreased by 3421 vs.4700
 - ILI\covid decreased by 3039 vs.4105
 - Worms decreased by 243 vs.600
 - Scabies decreased by 38 Vs.68
 - Leishmaniasis increased by 132 vs.91

Northwest Syria

Operational Update

- Delivered 41 trucks of medical supplies to northwest Syria with an estimated provision of 2,109,400 treatments from January until September 2022.

Primary Health Care Services

- During August, 158 out of 165 health facilities applied the WHO referral system (79 HFs in Idlib), (35 HFs in Afrin) and (44 HFs in North Aleppo) with a total of 9,513 referrals provided, out of which 2,844 were emergency referrals and 6,669 were non-emergency referrals (for internal, paediatrics, X-rays, laboratory, and a further level of care).
- WHO supported the provision of PHC services through 39 PHCs and mobile teams, out of which 14 are in Idlib and West Aleppo, 21 in Afrin, and 4 in Azzaz and Albab.

Mental Health

- As part of the multisectoral intervention approach, an MHPSS referral pathway tool was launched in September 2022 to facilitate referrals to MHPSS services. The tool includes information about 27 active organizations and will be updated quarterly by MHPSS technical working group. In addition, the northwest Syria mental health referral pathway online tool is developed and was launched in September – including 27 active organizations of those providing MHPSS in 28 sub-districts of Aleppo and Idlib governorates.

EPI

- Immunization: a total of 92 EPI centers provided all routine immunization activities including BCG 14,318 (112%), Hep B 11,126 (87%) and a total of 14,012 (110%) OPV1, 14,048 (110%) OPV2, and 12,795 (100%) OPV3 doses for children under one years old, while 14,011 (110%) doses of Penta 1 and 12,795 (100%) of Penta 3 were provided for children under one year old. In addition, a total of 14,188 (111%) doses of MMR1 and 14,604 (114%) doses of MMR2 were provided for children aged 12-23 months.

Communicable Disease

- As part of supporting the MR vaccination campaign for the vulnerable, 2,689 individuals (1,846 Males and 843 Females) were provided with MR campaign training to decrease morbidity and mortality related to measles in northwest Syria.
- On 12 September 2022, WHO opened a tuberculosis (TB) centre in northwest Syria's Al-Bab city in collaboration with a local Syrian non-governmental organization. This facility is the fourth in the region and it covers a catchment population of 318,330. The overall project aims to strengthen TB control in Al-Bab district and the surrounding areas of Aleppo governorate and improve access to comprehensive TB services, which include case management as well as treatment support and outreach services.



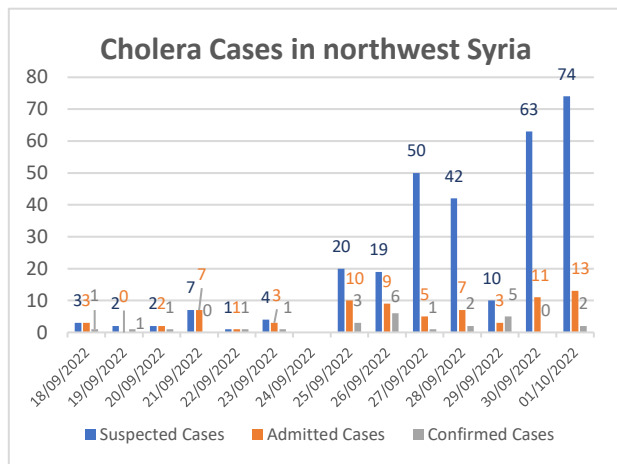
The new TB centre has been fully equipped and will provide quality services for TB patients, including early diagnosis, radiography, laboratory tests, free medicines, monitoring, and raising awareness through the community support team, house follow-up visits, and psychosocial support.

community search, and through Early Warning, Alert, and Response Network of sentinel surveillance sites; out of 115 sampled cases (34% of suspected cases) 24 cases were found to be positive by culture test.

- To date, Jarablus shows the highest number of suspected cases (205), followed by Harim (57) and Afrin (12). Ariha, Idlib, and Jisr Ash-Shugur show the least number of suspected cases (1.2 and 2).
- The gender distribution of the suspected cases is 53% male, and 47% female, while the gender distribution of confirmed cases is 38% Male, and 62% Female.
- Affected governorates are Aleppo (235 suspected and 15 confirmed), and Idlib (62 suspected and 9 confirmed); investigated cases are distributed across 9 districts.

EWARN

- On 19 September 2022, the Early Warning, Alert, and Response Network (EWARN) laboratory in Jarablus confirmed the first cholera-positive case by culture test in northwest Syria (NWS).

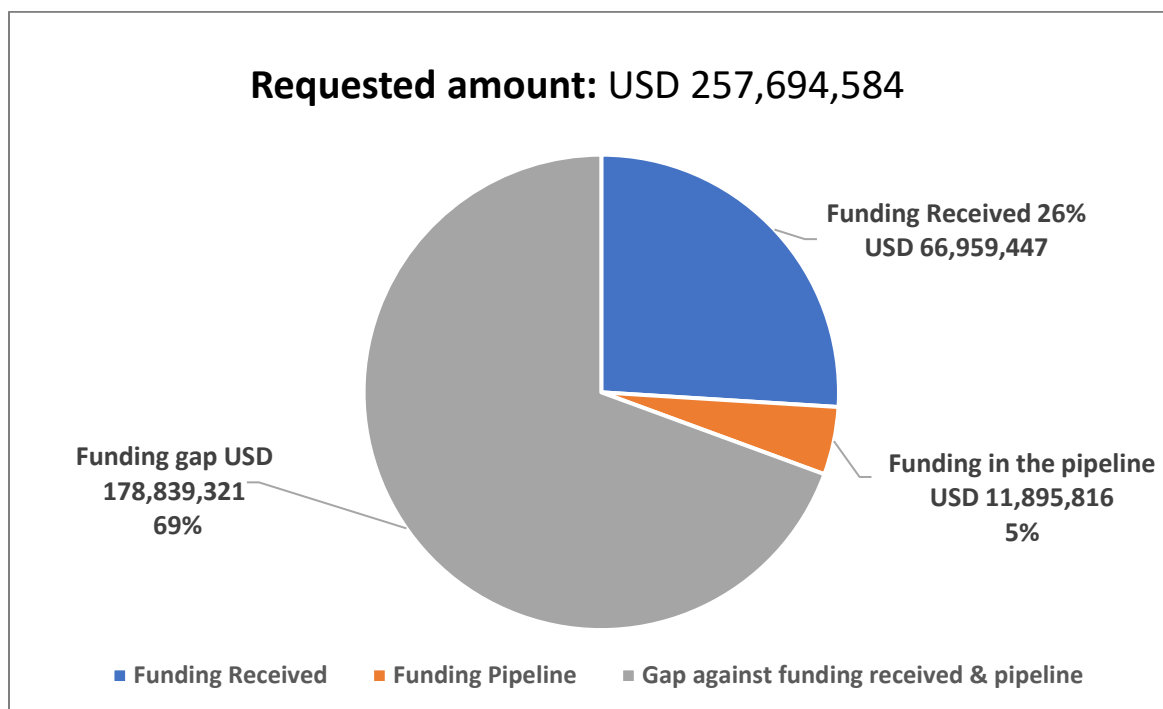


- Following the detection of the index case and up till 1 October 2022; 297 suspected cholera cases have been detected through active case finding,

Capacity Building Training

- 60 participants were provided with mhGAP training with a focus on suicides and addiction for further integration of mental health services into primary and secondary healthcare.
- 153 individual supervision sessions and 12 group sessions were provided to the trained doctors. Only 43 incidents of self-harm/suicide cases were reported during the supervision sessions.
- A Mental Health Gap Action Program training for 100 general practitioners was provided. The training focused on suicide prevention and substance use disorder/ addiction.
- 74 health workers including doctors and psychologists received suicide prevention training in northwest Syria.
- As part of supporting the MR vaccination campaign for vulnerable people, 2,689 individuals (1,846 Males and 843 Females) were trained





WoS Funding Status



Useful links

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

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Contact Us

Dr Iman Shankiti

Acting WHO Syria Representative

shankitii@who.int

Dr Mahmoud Daher

WHO Health Emergencies (WHE)
Team Lead in GZT

daherm@who.int