











## COVID-19 Update

### COVID-19 STATISTICAL SUMMARY AT WHOLE OF SYRIA LEVEL

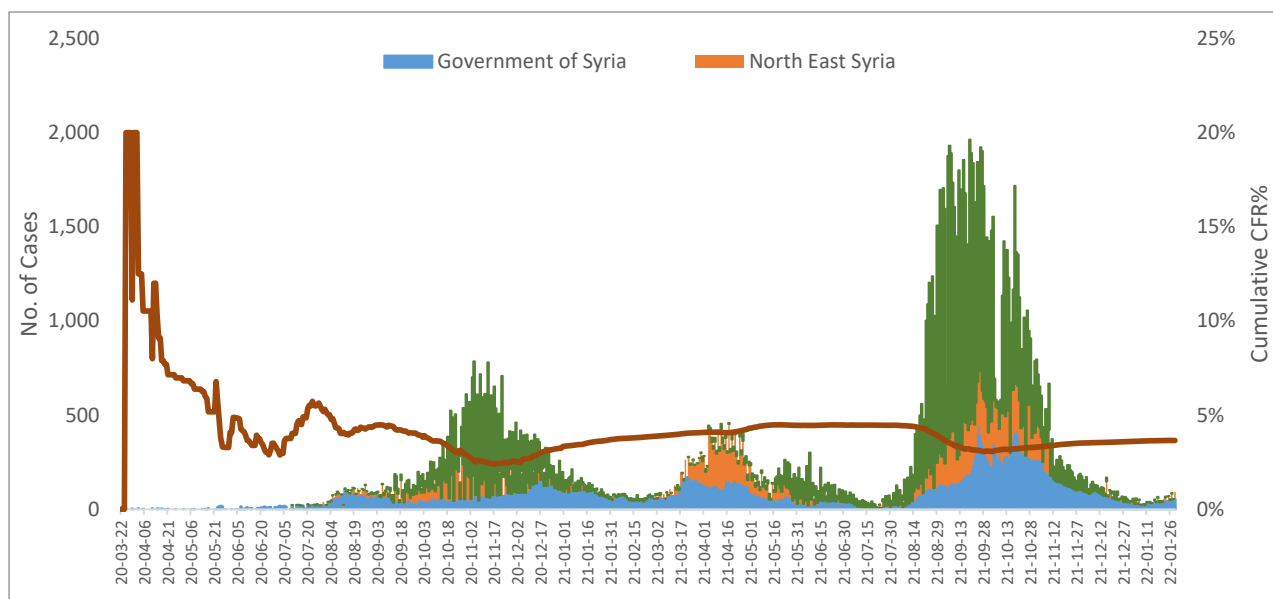
As of 29 January 2022

	181,803	Total cases (including 6756 health workers)
	60,320	Active cases
	114,611	Recovered cases
	6,872	Deaths
	3.8%	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
	15	COVID-19 functional laboratories
	586,340	COVID-19 tests done
	2,708	Overall testing rate per 100 000 population
	840	Incidence rate per 100 000 population (highest in Al-Hasakeh; 2080)
	31%	Positivity rate

### COVID-19 SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

Since the reporting of the first case of COVID-19 on 22 March 2020 until 29 January 2022, a total of 181 803 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Whole of Syria, including 6 872 deaths. The overall case fatality rate (CFR) is 3.8%; the CFR is the highest in Damascus and Deir Ez-Zor (above 8%).

The below chart indicates four waves of COVID-19 in Syria since the start of COVID-19 pandemic. An increase of new cases was noticed in Week 4 of 2022 by 33.7% (n=468) compared with the previous week (n=350). COVID-19 cases were reported mostly in the northwest of Syria - 93 068 (51.19%), while 51 284 (28.21%) of cases reported were by the government of Syria, and 37 451 (20.60%) of cases were reported in the northeast of Syria



## COVID-19 VACCINATION

As of 29 January 2022

- 9.7% of the total population received at least one dose of the vaccine, and only 5% are fully vaccinated.
- A total of 2,769,063 doses of different vaccines was administered, and the total number of vaccinated people reached 1 984 649.

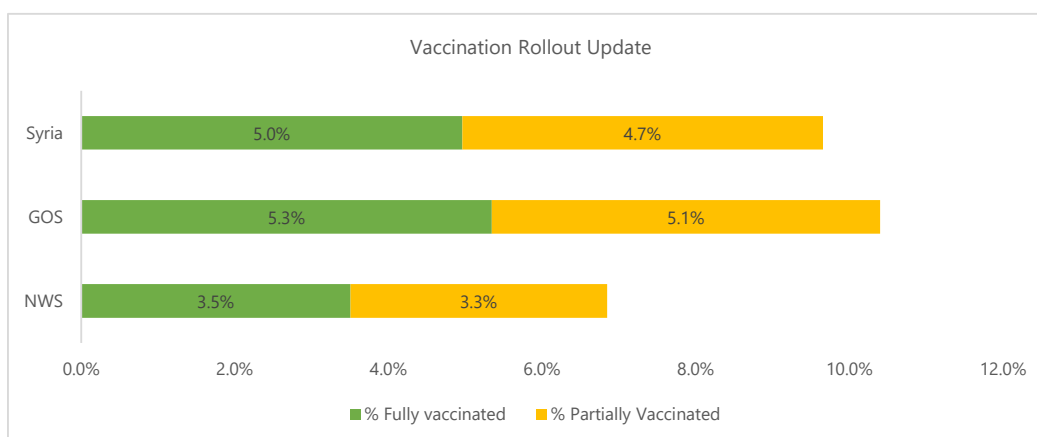
### Vaccines delivered in 2022 through COVAX to the Ministry of Health warehouse:

- 301 600 doses of J&J vaccine donated by Spain.
- 3 155 140 doses of J&J vaccine donated by Italy.
- 832,800 doses of J&J vaccine to NWS donated by Italy.

	Type of Allocation	Manufacturer of vaccine	Quantity
GOS	COVAX	AZ Covishield	203,000
		AZ/AZD1222	1,318,340
		Sinovac	1,356,000
		Janssen	3,458,400
		<b>Total</b>	<b>6,335,740</b>
	Bilateral	AZ/AZD1222	368,640
		Sinopharm	1,995,000
		Sputnik light	250,000
		Sputnik V	100,000
		<b>Total</b>	<b>2,713,640</b>
<b>GOS Total</b>			<b>9,049,380</b>
NWS	COVAX	AZ Covishield	53,800
		AZ/AZD1222	307,200
		Sinovac	823,200
		Janssen	832,800
		<b>Total</b>	<b>2,017,000</b>
<b>WOS Total</b>			<b>11,066,380</b>

Accordingly, the available amount is sufficient to reach up to 38% of the population while the expected allocations will cover additional 18.6%. Hopefully, those amounts will enable Syria reach about 56.6% of the population.

### ADMINISTRATION OF DIFFERENT VACCINES IN SYRIA as of 29 January 2022



## WHO SYRIA RESPONSE

### EPI VACCINATION ACTIVITIES

WHO conducted the first National Certification Committee (NCC) for Polio Eradication meeting to review the 2021 achievements on immunization and surveillance, as well as to discuss the current capacity of the National Polio Laboratory to timely identify the virus. The process of report writing takes a month and will be presented afterwards to the Regional Certification Committee.

The Review of the NDVP is finalized by partners and shall be endorsed by the Minister of Health and shared with the GAVI.

Finalized the proposal of the Measles and Rubella campaign under the GAVI support, expecting the approval in the coming month.

### DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

Last weekly epidemiological COVID-19 update was produced on 31<sup>st</sup> of January. Meeting for central and DoH EWARS officers from seven governorates (Lattakia, Rural Damascus, Qunitera, As-Swieda, Hama, Deir Ez-Zor, and Idleb) was conducted during 30-31<sup>st</sup> of January. The aim of the meeting was to discuss EWARS implementation, gaps, and plans for 2022. In addition to the training on EWARS and COVID-19 performance indicators.

Nine trainings supported for the health staff at MoE/School Health Directorate on the early detection of COVID-19 suspected cases, the use of antigen Rapid Diagnostic Tests Ag-RDTs, the investigation form, and reporting mechanism of positive cases to Ministry of Health (MOH). Ministry of Education (MOE) designated 50 health centers in 14 governorates for testing COVID-19 suspected cases by Ag-RDTs.

### PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

WHO in cooperation with the MOH delivered a two-day training workshop on the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) by parties experiencing complex emergency situations with the participation of Tobacco control coordinators and focal points representing the National Tobacco control Committee in MOH, MOE, Youth Union as well as line ministries. The training focused on the importance of raising awareness among stakeholders on the tobacco control strategic vision, objectives, and framework among the concerned governmental entities and line ministries.



*WHO supported two-day workshop under the tobacco control program in Damascus*

### SECONDARY AND TERTIARY HEALTH CARE (STHC)

To be provided in the following issue.

### COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Regular activities for the HIV program were conducted by the National AIDS programme at MOH. Activities included evaluating the patients' treatment results by the CD4 testing, in addition to testing their partners. 220 cases were evaluated during the reporting period.

### TRAUMA

Over 275 treatments of life-saving medicines, 4 trauma and Emergency Surgery kits (TESK) were delivered to health partners in Aleppo and Hama. In addition, three Cardiac Gating Monitors for 3 computed tomography scans were delivered to the University Cardiac Surgery Hospital in Damascus, Al Basel Cardiac Surgery Hospital in Damascus, and Al Basel Cardiac Surgery Hospital in Lattakia. While 23 Physiologic Patient monitors were delivered to health facilities in Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Damascus, As-Sweida and Lattakia.

Twenty-five doctors, nurses, and anesthesia technicians working in isolation centres and ICU and emergency departments in Tartous received training in Immediate Life Support and Ventilator Management, while 25 health workers from the directorate of emergency and ambulances services in Hama attended training on the Basic and advance Trauma Life Support.

WHO procured four oxygen generators to strengthen the COVID-19 response capacity at the national hospitals. Two generators have been installed, one in Al Mujtahid hospital in Damascus and the other is in The Cardiac Surgery Hospital in Aleppo designated as COVID-19 treating hospital. The third generator is for Al Basel Hospital in Tartous to be installed soon, while the fourth one is allocated for the Children's Hospital in Aleppo. Moreover, 728 oxygen cylinders were procured and distributed to MoH.

## **TUBERCULOSIS (TB)**

The TB mobile clinics providing outreach services in Aleppo and Rural Damascus, ten awareness sessions been delivered during the reporting period were attended by 265 beneficiaries. Of 51 suspected cases tested for TB, four were confirmed.

A three-day online workshop was conducted with the participation of representatives from WCO, EMRO and IOM to review and discuss the new national strategic plan for TB, as well as the national TB Programme in the country.

## **MENTAL HEALTH (MH)**

In coordination with HIV/TB unit, WHO is finalizing the integration protocol for MHPSS in line with the national strategic plan for TB management. Several bilateral coordination meetings conducted with MH partners, including UNHCR, UNICEF, CARITAS, UNFPA, UNHABITAT, and UNDP are to provide technical MHPSS support and explore different joint projects under MHPSS TWG coordination mechanisms.

The national MHPSS mapping survey was disseminated to mental health and psychosocial support technical working group members. This survey prepared and designed in coordination with UNICEF's education sector, and child protection sub sector will assess the MHPSS services provided to children across the country and map the available resources, gaps and needs.

WHO formed the cross-sectoral case management team in Northeast Syria (NES) to follow up on special mental health cases. An essential medical list of psychotropic needs was developed in cooperation with the mental health representatives at MOH.

## **NUTRITION**

In January 2022:

- Under the Newborn Care at Home Programme, 1 538 home visits were conducted in 149 villages.
- Under the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) Programme, 538 health centers that target 91 392 children across the country indicate that 20 000 children received special care for diseases, 234 of whom were referred to hospitals.
- Under the Neonatal Resuscitation Programme, 6 671 services were delivered in 50 hospitals.
- Nutrition surveillance from 968 health centres indicates that a total of 72 791 children under 5 years have been screened, 104 SAM with complication were admitted in stabilization centers across the country.

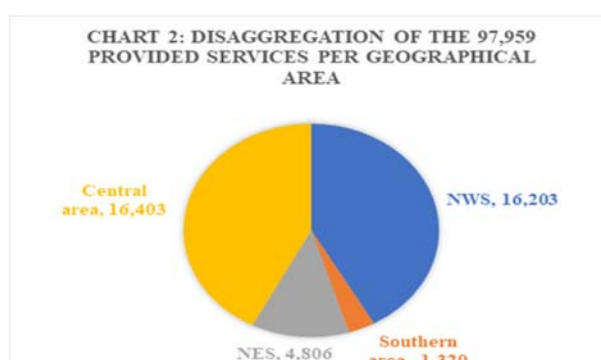
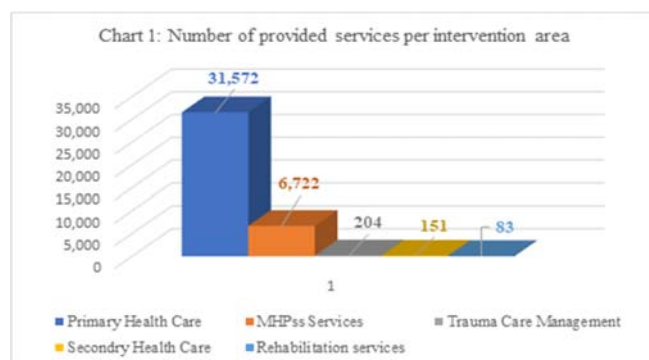
## **HEALTH SYSTEMS**

Comprehensive assessment of national cancer control capacities and needs was conducted under WHO facilitation within the framework of impACT Review Syria, which is a joint effort between WHO, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).

On 18-19 January 2022, WHO supported the implementation of a two-day workshop of the Ministry of Health carried out for all Programme Directors at the Primary Health Care Directorate to review the national guideline on the continuity of essential health services during COVID-19 pandemic. The participants reviewed the draft guideline and aligned the national experience with the WHO technical guidance on maintaining essential health services.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (NGOs)

6 local NGOs contracted to provide PHC and Secondary Health Care in under-served areas in Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, Hama, and two in NES.



## COORDINATION

### Under 'National Health Sector Coordination':

- Monthly health sector bulletin was produced.
- 20 health sector projects of Syria hub were submitted as part of 2022-2023 HRP, in addition to WoS projects by 3 agencies.
- National health sector coordination meeting was conducted in Damascus (25 January).
- Schedule of health sector coordination groups (national, sub-national, technical) for the first quarter of 2022 was produced.
- 2022 health sector Syria hub workplan was produced.
- Quarterly overview of health sector assistance on physical rehabilitation and reconstruction of health facilities in Syria for 2021 and 2022 was prepared.
- Health sector assessment registry for 2021 was developed.
- Two Flash Updates on attacks on health care were distributed.
- One detailed operational update on key health sector developments was produced.
- WHO Syria COVID-19 Special Report was disseminated to the health sector.
- 2021 Annual Humanitarian Coordination Mapping was completed.
- Developed an overview of impact of underfunding on WHO response in 2022.

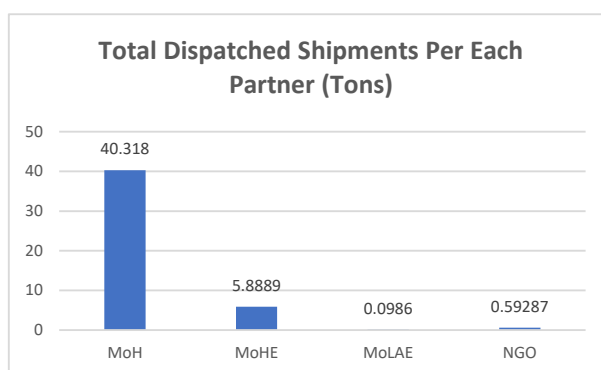
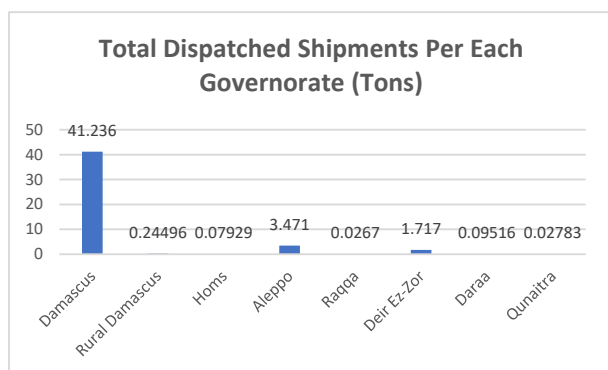
### Under 'Northeast Syria (NES) Health Sector Coordination':

- Health sector preparedness and response plan for NES was prepared.
- WHO Syria Flash Appeal for NES was produced and disseminated.
- Al Hol camp mortality update for December was circulated among partners.
- Health sector inputs were shared with OCHA to compile the Situation Report on Al-Hassakeh (21-30 January 2022).
- Provided health sector inputs for two OCHA Flash Updates on displacement of IDPs in Al-Hassakeh (23 and 27 January).
- Conducted Al-Hol camp health sector coordination meetings (20 and 27 January).
- Shared operational updates on health situation, needs and response to Al-Hassakeh.
- Attended two Area HCT meetings on 17 and 23 January to discuss the AHCT response to evolving humanitarian situation (e.g., recent displacement from Abu Rasin areas, security situation in Hassakeh city).
- Combined the funding requirements for Al-Hol camp under the health sector based on health partners inputs.

- Arranged a joint meeting with MHPSS focal points from WHO and ICRC as well as GBV and Child Protection sector focal points involving a complicated MH patient from Al-Hol camp.
- Compiled and provided health sector inputs during the Al-Hol camp coordination meeting arranged by UNHCR (18 January).
- Provided inputs to the Interim report to the Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) project report “Sustaining and expanding priority, life-saving interventions, through the holistic and integrated Whole of Syria approach”.
- Provided NES health sector inputs on challenges in intra- and inter-sector coordination in preparation for the OCHA ISC retreat.
- Maintained daily updates on availability of health services in Al-Hol camp since the onset of clashes in Hassakeh city.
- Drafted an information note to support the request for identifying potential funding for COVID-19 Treatment Facilities in Al-Hol and Aresha camps (submitted to OCHA/SHF).
- Hosted the Sub-national health sector meeting for Qamishli (30 January).

### OPERATIONS SUPPORT AND LOGISTICS

WHO dispatched 46.9 tonnes of medical and lab supplies, kits, and equipment to eight governorates. They were received by 12 MoH facilities, 4 MoHE facilities, MOLA, and 9 NGOs.



## WHO Syria Suboffice Response

### Aleppo

The sub-national health sector meeting held on 24 January 2022 was attended by health sector partners, including UN agencies, NGOs and INGOs, as well as SARC and ICRC.

WHO continues to support, through the provision of grants, the work of implementing partners operating at two PHCs, three MMTs and one static team. A total of 11 260 health care services were delivered during the reporting period, in addition to 20 referral cases.

TB and HIV active case finding at the central prison of Aleppo governorate is ongoing. By the end of 2021 dozens of prisoners had attended 6 awareness sessions, and suspected cases were screened.

The TB mobile clinic in Aleppo remains functional and hosted 140 beneficiaries who attended one of five awareness sessions held during the reporting period. Three of 10 suspected cases tested for TB came back positive.

The country office conducted a field visit to Kady Askar health facility for elderlies and MH patients. The facility has expanded its capacity with opening a new department for MH patients through which 20 patients out of 170 in total will receive mental health treatment. During the visit a list of the main needs was shared with WHO team and Health sector partners.

## Latakia

WHO conducted a meeting with Latakia governor and briefed him on the ongoing health interventions in Latakia, including WHO operations and response to COVID-19 outbreak and top priorities in 2022.

Delivered two workshops in Latakia and Tartous in collaboration with MoE and the school health directorates to activate COVID-19 screening at schools for suspected cases and the use of antigen rapid tests in school health clinics. WHO delivered the first batch of medical equipment to the newly rehabilitated national hospital in Latakia. The delivered items included ventilators, monitors and other health.



*Delivering the first batch of medical equipment to the national hospital in Latakia*

## Homs

The first health working group meeting with Idleb health partners was held on 17 January 2022 where the planned health activities in the new accessible area of south Idleb district, as well as the gaps and the urgent needs were discussed.

WHO is supporting the non-governmental organization Building Community Association for Development (BCAD), in Hama through one static point, one community center in Al Haydarea, and one Mobile Clinic in the northern countryside to deliver primary and secondary health care services and mental health and psychosocial support to people suffering from psychological distress and domestic violence. During the reporting period, medical consultations were attended by 2 733 beneficiaries, of which 2 190 were for MHPSS.

WHO is supporting two organizations, Alber and Social Services Association, to deliver services in Homs, at three static points in northern rural Homs (Ar-Rastan, Talbiseh and Taldu) and through two mobile medical clinics in rural areas in the north, south-east and south-west. Both primary and secondary health care services are being delivered, as is mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to people suffering from psychological distress and domestic violence. During the reporting period, medical consultations were attended by 6 815 beneficiaries, of which 503 were for MHPSS.

The sub-office delivered two workshops in Homs & Hama in collaboration with MoE and the school health directorates to activate COVID-19 screening at schools for suspected cases and the use of antigen rapid tests in school health clinics.

## Deir-ez-Zor

The COVID-19 vaccination campaign started in Deir-ez-Zor on 16 January 2022, and it will continue till the end of the month through 15 mobile teams and 11 fixed centers.

Conducted a field visit to the WHO supported NGOs as well as hospitals in the city of Deir-ez-Zor to assess the health needs and provide the needed support and set the work plan for 2022.

## Quamishli Hub / Northeast Syria (NES)

In response to security escalation in Hassakeh city (which started on 20 January), WHO implemented the following activities:



*Monitoring the ongoing COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Deir ez Zor governorate*

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 and trauma healthcare. The sub-office also visited Al -Hikmah Hospital and Hassakeh National Hospital to assess the health needs within the current situation. Three cases from a collective shelter were referred to WHO-supported Hikma hospital, including one C-section, one SAM and one complicated medical case admitted which was admitted to ICU.

Three WHO-donated mobile clinics have been mobilized by local partners to provide health services to IDPs in different locations of Hassakeh city.

EWARS reporting has been activated by WHO among health partners. Based on the reports received from five health partners covering collective shelters, no unusual trends were noticed.

Due to the urgent need of pharmaceuticals as a response to IDPs movement and number of injuries reported to the Hassakah National hospital, WHO prepared more than 13 tons of emergency supplies targeting 6 partners.

Distribution of supplies will be arranged in early-February once movement restrictions in Hassakeh are lifted.

Other activities implemented by WHO Sub-office in Qamishli during the reporting period include: WHO conducted a meeting with DoH Al Hassakeh (Director General, EPI manager, CD, and Public Health program managers) to discuss cross-cutting issues, including the new LSH team, COVID-19 vaccination, and RDTs).

WHO conducted a meeting with the UN doctor in Damascus on 23 January 2022 to discuss ways of support for UN staff in Qamishli against COVID-19 and ways forward considering the limited medical service availability and referral options.

COVID-19 vaccination campaign is ongoing in Hassakeh and Raqqa, while for Eastern DEZ it was resumed on 17 January.

WHO is negotiating with DOH Hassakeh the resumption of COVID-19 vaccination campaign in Hassakeh city, which has been interrupted in some centers/mobile teams due to the current evolving situation in Hassakeh.

As of 17<sup>th</sup> of January, WHO supported LSH mobile team in cooperation with DoH/ Al Hassakah started to provide treatment and awareness sessions to the most affected population in the western rural of Hassakeh, targeting the communities of Rafraf, Tawq Al-Meleh, Om Hujera, Tal Majdal, Qaber Hajji, Tal Sakher, Tal Hermez, Tal Nasri, Tal Rumman, Maghnogeh, Khareta, Al-Fweida, Qaber Shamieh, Tal Tamer, and Western Nashwa.



*WHO supported mobile medical teams provide support in Al Hassakeh*

## Northwest Syria

### Primary Health Care (PHC)

All three integrated health service delivery networks in Harim, Afrin and North Aleppo are fully functional.

WHO supports 20 PHCs in Idlib and west Aleppo as part of last resort coverage.

It was agreed on an amendment to integrate the DHIS component into Harim Network; Afrin Network phase 4 is under processing.



## Secondary and Tertiary Health Care (STHC)

Follow-up the process of supporting Afaaq – Salqin and SDI-Harem MNCH hospitals.

Working with partner on preparation for anesthesia, ICU, thalassemia, and Trauma training which will take place between February and March 2022.

## TB

Working to resume our activities with Gaziantep University; the agreement will be finalized with Bahar to continue sending the sputum samples from NWS.

With HIH: re-submitted the project to support the Idlib TB center to the standard allocation and hope will resume the support for this center soon.

The following was achieved in the reporting period:

- Number of beneficiaries visited all 3 TB centers: 104
- Number of TB patients diagnosed in all 3 TB centers: 12
- Number of GeneXpert tests sent to Antakya: 19
- Number of GeneXpert positive tests: 7
- Collaboration with IOM colleagues and submission of a procurement request for first-line TB medications to cover 500 TB patients. This request was submitted by IOM colleagues and the medications are expected to arrive in April 2022.

## COVID-19

The number of daily confirmed cases is still below 10 per day. No deaths were reported during the reporting period. One of the positive cases with travel history was reported with the suspicion of omicron. 11 out of 100 contacts tested positive. Contact tracing teams are closely following this cluster. Positive samples of confirmed cases of the cluster are included in the batch for genomic sequencing.

Current test kit stocks can cover 1-2 months if the low transmission level is sustained. However, in the case of a surge in the number of suspected cases, tests kit stock will exhaust in less than a month. There is an urgent need to increase the stock of test kits in NWS to sustain PCR testing.

The confirmed cases of COVID-19 were 93 057 (36 849 in Aleppo and 56 208 in Idlib). The PCR tests were 339 265 (173 994 in Aleppo and 165 271 in Idlib). The recovered cases are 72 097 (28 932 in Aleppo and 43 165 in Idlib). The daily positivity rate was (0.48%) and the total confirmed death cases related to COVID-19 in NWS is 2 359. For the vaccination, a total of 290 588 people received at least one dose of the vaccine, of which 147 004 received only two doses, and 1 553 received the booster dose. 6.76% of the total population is vaccinated. 3.45% of the total population is fully vaccinated. 16.89% of the targeted population (>18 years) is vaccinated. 8.64% of the targeted population (>18 years) is fully vaccinated.

## MH

On 18 January, a global level MHPSS advocacy event was organized for presenting finding of QMU MHPSS research. 59 participants from different countries attended to the event. Suicide Prevention Task Force was conducted with 16 members, and the action tracker updated.

## EPI

The current weather condition partially affects the functionality of EPI centres specially in Afrin district. 93 routine vaccination centres continue working as usual with more emphasis on intensive outreach activities ensuring children are vaccinated against measles.

The Measles vaccination campaign micro-plan is being developed. The campaign targets children 6 month-10 years old. Currently, six vaccination teams will cover Al Bab city.

WHO, SIG, UNICEF, and health partners are working on finalizing the preparation phase for the upcoming polio vaccination campaign. The office received, reviewed, and finalized the campaign micro-plan and shared for endorsement. Moreover, this week the field team facilitated a polio campaign training targeting supervisors, vaccinators, and mobilizers in addition to the verification of cold chain and mobilization of logistics and supplies required for the campaign.

## SUPPLY CHAIN AND LOGISTIC

Conducted a stock assessment of supplies based on the inventories of Syria warehouses that oversee the supplies status for future distributions. The mental health supplies consumption report has been updated and WHO will collect consumption data from the partners and distribute supplies accordingly.

WHO has distributed approximately 85 tons of medical and lab supplies, kits, and equipment's to 12 governorates as of January 31<sup>st</sup> to the central warehouse of Ministry of Health, governorates (DOH), MOHE-MOE-affiliated Health Facilities, non-governmental HF, NOGs, INGOs, and SARC.

Two crossline shipments have been delivered to Northeast Syria: one airlift and one road convoy (three trucks in total) in January 2022. Crossline supplies delivered through airlifting in January 2022 included COVID-19 vaccines (with a total weight of 2 778 kg). The content of crossline road convoy delivered in January 2022 (with a total weight of 32 242 kgs) includes different types of insulin, rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) for visceral leishmaniasis, autoclaves, oxygen concentrators, BiPAP devices, infusion pumps, choline tablets, PPEs, and different types of medicines.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of January part of Sarmada2 XL shipment, and IPC items have been distributed to Salqin Central Hospital (MSF) and Salqin Isolation center (MSF) in Edlib.

## Vaccine Updates

For COVID-19 vaccine updates, please visit: [Update on COVID-19 Vaccination in Syria](#)

## Useful Links

- [Syria Interactive Dashboards](#)
- [Syria Page in Health Cluster Site](#)
- [WHO Syria Site](#)
- [EMRO Dashboard](#)
- [COVID-19 Situation in EMRO Region Reports](#)

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