











## COVID-19 Update

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

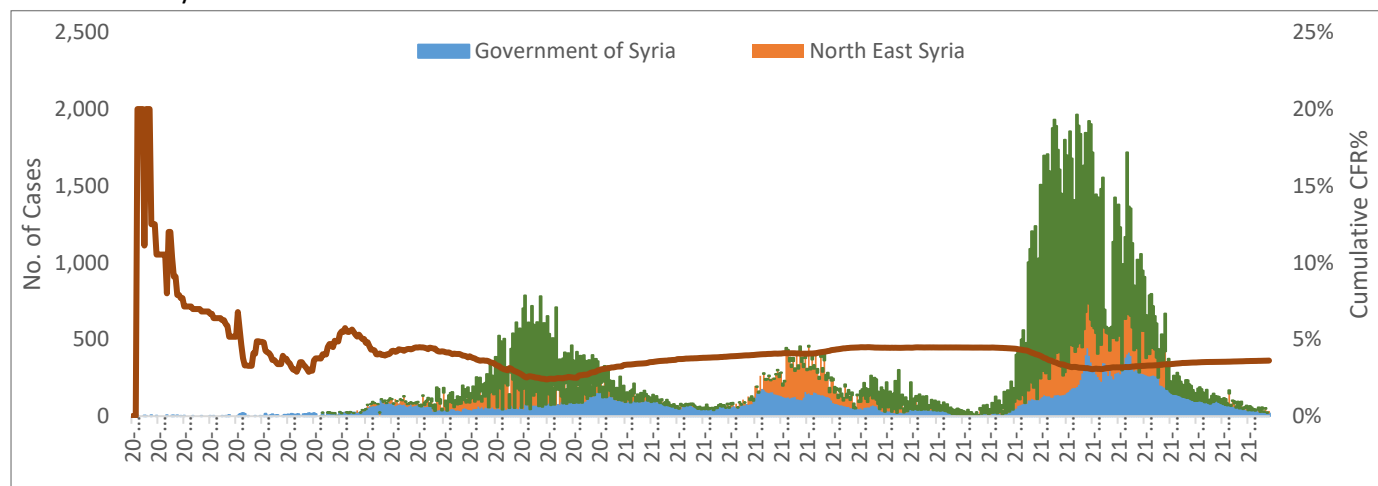
As of 8 January 2022

	180 749	Total cases (including 6 735 health workers)
	69 889	Active cases
	104 087	Recovered cases
	6 773	Deaths
	3.7%	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
	15	COVID-19 functional laboratories
	578 971	COVID-19 tests done
	2 674	Overall testing rate per 100 000 population
	835	Incidence rate per 100 000 population (highest in Al-Hasakeh – 2 064)
	31.2%	Positivity rate

### COVID-19 SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

A total of 180 749 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Whole of Syria, including 6 773 deaths. The overall Case Fatality Rate is 3.7%, the CFR is highest in Damascus, Deir Ez-Zor, and Tartous (above 8%).

COVID-19 cases were reported mostly from the northwest of Syria - 93 006 (51.46%), while 50 482 (27.93%) of cases were reported from government-controlled areas, and 37 261 (20.61%) of cases were reported from the northeast of Syria.

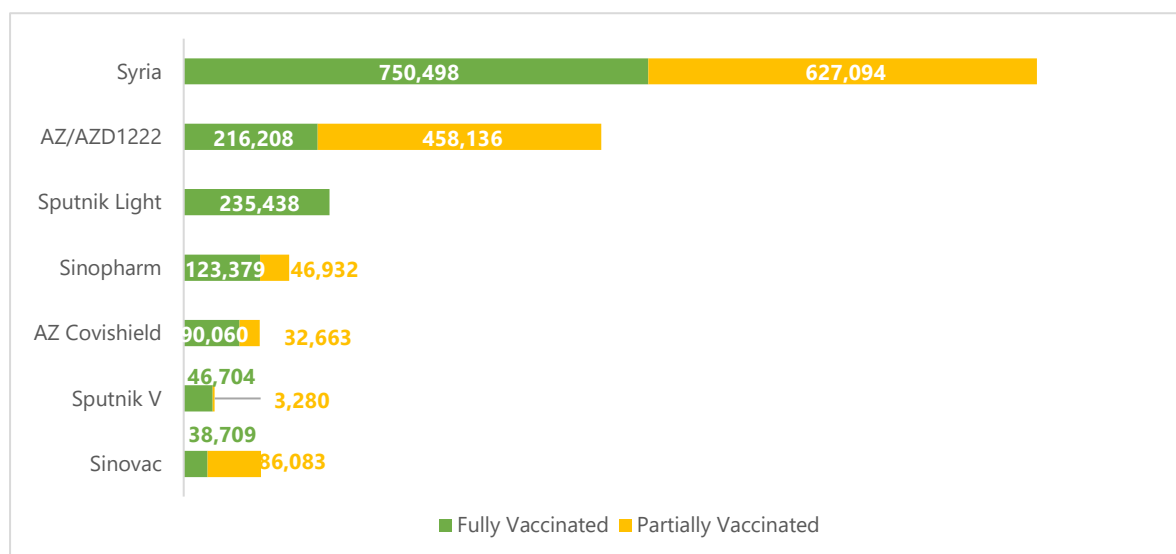


## COVID-19 VACCINATION

- a. As of 8 January 2022:
  - **8.5%** of the total population have received at least one dose of the vaccine, and only **4.6%** are fully vaccinated.
  - A total of 1 892 652 doses of vaccines (of all types) have been administered to a total of 1 377 592 people.
- b. WHO supported the delivery of the following batches of vaccines through COVAX:
  - 21 April 2021: 203 000 doses of AZ COVISHILD
  - 15 August 2021: 138 240 doses of AZ/AZD1222, donated by Sweden
  - 23 September 2021: 170 400 doses of AZ/AZD1222, donated by Sweden
  - 5 November 2021: 1 356 000 doses of Sinovac
  - 5 November 2021: 500 000 doses of Sinopharm through bilateral agreement
  - 6 November 2021: 115 200 doses of AZ/AZD1222, donated by Sweden
  - 1 December 2021: 313 700 doses of AZ/AZD1222, of which 112 800 donated by Greece
  - 3 December 2021: 204 000 doses of AZ/AZD1222
  - 16 December 2021: 129 600 doses of AZ/AZD1222
  - 31 December 2021: 1 000 000 doses of Sinopharm through bilateral agreement (China)
  - 7 January 2022: 368 000 AZ through bilateral agreement (Oman).

In northwest Syria: a total of 262 123 people (6.1 % of the NWS population) have received one dose of the vaccine, of which 132 980 (3.1%) are fully vaccinated.

## ADMINISTRATION OF DIFFERENT VACCINES IN SYRIA



## WHO-SYRIA RESPONSE

### EPI VACCINATION ACTIVITIES

WHO participated in the preparatory meetings on the measles vaccination campaign planned for October 2022 together with MOH and UNICEF. The meetings aimed at finalizing the proposal documents for GAVI.

A preparatory meeting for the finalization of the updated National Deployment and Vaccination Plan (NDVP) for the COVAX 2022 together with MOH and UNICEF also took place.

### PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AND NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

In cooperation with the MOH Tobacco Control Program WHO finalized the work plan on the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control by parties experiencing complex emergency situations. The plan

supported by EMRO will continue raising awareness on the importance of tobacco control through a series of six meetings to discuss the strategic vision, objectives, and framework among the concerned governmental entities and line ministries. The plan will also focus on activating the role of the Tobacco Control Committee at the national level.

## SECONDARY AND TERTIARY HEALTH CARE (STHC)

WHO followed up with the regional office concerning the participation of MOH at the virtual training on “Virtualization of Hospital Emergency Preparedness and Response to Infectious Diseases Outbreaks (HEPRIDO) planned from 30 January till 7 February 2022.

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

During the winter season increase in Leishmania cases is usually observed. The WHO team conducted a field visit to Aleppo, the second ranking governorate in leishmaniasis incidences. With WHO support provided to MoH in providing treatment and case management to an expanded catchment area, the severity of lesion and increase in cases were moderate. The same applies to Deir-Ez-Zor governorates as the number of cases are still within the range, which reflects the impact of the vector control activities in those areas. As for Al Hassakeh governorate, the cases have severely raised. Deliveries of treatment services and case findings were made through WHO, MoH, RCRC and INGOs.

## TRAUMA

To be provided in the following issue.

## HIV/TB

The TB mobile clinics in Rural Damascus remains functional. 14 awareness sessions delivered during the reporting period were attended by 421 beneficiaries. Of 190 suspected cases tested for TB, 9 were confirmed.

Work is ongoing to supporting HIV-positive people within the National AIDS programme. The program includes evaluating the patient’s treatment outcomes by CD4 testing for the suspected cases and their partners. During the reporting period, 200 patients were evaluated, as well as one new suspected case from Aleppo and five new cases from Damascus were identified.

HIV active case finding in Aleppo central prison is continuing; 900 prisoners have benefited from awareness raising sessions and conducted rapid HIV tests with no confirmed cases.

WHO also supported the delivery of TB medicines enough to cover the treatment of 160 children.

## MENTAL HEALTH (MH)

WHO concluded three campaigns that were launched in October in Homs, Hama, Latakia and Aleppo governorates to address women’s health and gender-based violence (GBV) during the campaign on 16 days of activism. The campaign also covered risk communication and community engagement on COVID-19 and mental health issues. The campaigns were conducted by 298 health and community workers who underwent training with the support of WHO technical team. In the framework of the campaigns, over 100 724 services were delivered through 6 690 different type of sessions and activities.



*WHO supported women’s health and mental health awareness raising session in rural Homs.*

WHO's Mental Health team conducted a series of meetings with health partners including UNHCR, IMC, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP to discuss updating the MHPSS TWG ToRs for 2022, action plan, and priorities. In NES, the team followed up with key partners to create an "ad-hoc cross-sectoral case management team" that would consist of key players from each sector and sub-sector with the aim to better coordinate and manage complicated mental health cases.

## IHR

To be provided in the following issue.

## NUTRITION

November 2021 data collected as part of the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) programme through 540 health centres targeting 107 071 children across the country indicates that 20 000 children have received special care for diseases, 242 of whom were referred to hospitals.

Nutrition surveillance data collected from 968 health centres indicates that a total of 133 947 nutrition related services were delivered in the month of November. Data from 21 stabilization centres for the same month indicates that 134 patients were admitted for nutrition related treatments, of which 32 in Aleppo.

## HEALTH SYSTEMS

As part of the joint work with MoH on the implementation of the activities of the National plan for COVID-19 preparedness and Response, coordination with the PHC directorate continued to review and finalize the national guideline on the continuity of essential health services during COVID-19 pandemic. The product will be discussed with all programme managers at the MOH in a workshop planned in January.

As part of EMRO exercise to prepare the Humanitarian-development-peace nexus for health profile for Syria as well as the country profile for health and migration programme, review and comments were provided on both draft documents.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (NGOs)

WHO supports 5 implementing partners to strengthen health response across Syria: one in Rural Damascus, one in Homs, one in Hama and two in NES. During the reporting period 12 858 health services were provided.

## COORDINATION

WHO Syria continues to engage in coordination efforts nationwide. During the reporting period, the CO:

- Developed a project sheet on strengthening the coordination under 2022-2023 HRP, including dissemination of related HRP materials to the health sector.
- Conducted national health sector coordination meeting in Damascus. The minutes and related materials were disseminated.
- First quarter Health Sector Field Directory was produced and disseminated.
- An update of operational issues was shared with the sector.
- Preparations are in place to streamline coordination on physical rehabilitation/reconstruction of health facilities supported by health sector.
- Reviewed and updated <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/syria/health>
- Conducted technical discussions with the Regional Office teams to enhance areas of support for Syria on trauma care, emergency operations centres, emergency medical teams, IHR, etc.
- Technical consultations are in place to enhance health information management functions. Surge support from the Regional Office.
- Disseminated all regular IM products developed by HIS and other technical teams.

### Under Northeast Syria Health Sector Coordination:

- Al-Hol camp health sector coordination meetings were organized, bringing together main health partners working in the camp (6 and 13 January).
- Health sector inputs were provided during the camp coordination meeting for formal and informal camps in NES (9 January) and the Al-Hol camp coordination meeting (4 and 11 January) organized by UNHCR.
- Health assessment report disseminated among health partners following the inter-agency rapid need assessment of Abu-Rasien IDPs and host community.
- Followed up with partners on issues related to health sector activities in the camps in NES.
- Contributed to regular updates (November-December 2021) on monitoring of water crisis response in Northeast Syria.
- Disseminated a statement on the killing of a humanitarian aid worker in Al Hol camp.
- Updated sector with levels of health service delivery in Al Hol camp, including referrals and current challenges.

### EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATION

To highlight the importance of following public health and social measures at the workplace, 200 posters on “Staying Safe at the Workplace” were printed and are in the process of being allocated at the WHO main office in Damascus, WHO sub-offices and warehouses. In addition, soft copies are being distributed to some NGOs.

To augment its RCCE messaging reach on COVID-19 vaccine safety and effectiveness as well as the importance of adhering to public health and social measures (PHSM), the WHO country office created an explanatory video about the new variant of concern, “Omicron”, in both English and Arabic and posted on its social media platforms. In addition, infographic videos and posts about precautionary measures, developed by the regional office, were shared to raise awareness among target audiences.



A meeting with a health-related NGO “Akimha” was held to discuss means of cooperation in capacity building, technical information sharing, and misinformation reporting mechanisms.

To support the Tobacco Control Program at the Ministry of Health targeting university students, WHO printed 400 posters on “committing to quit”, as well as 1000 brochures raising awareness about tobacco, its social and economic consequences, and means of quitting. These posters and brochures will be distributed at universities in Damascus and rural Damascus. Also, WHO has supported the MOH with promotional items with tobacco prevention messages, which were distributed among university students.

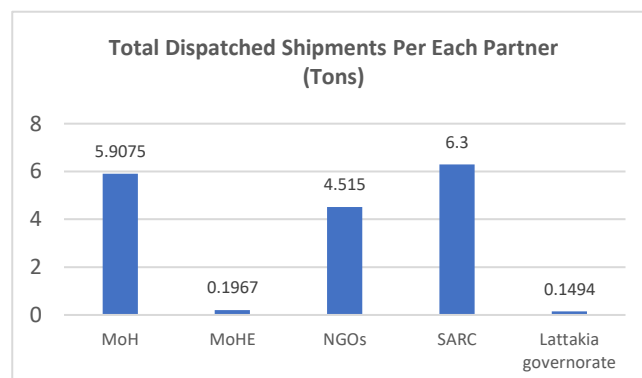
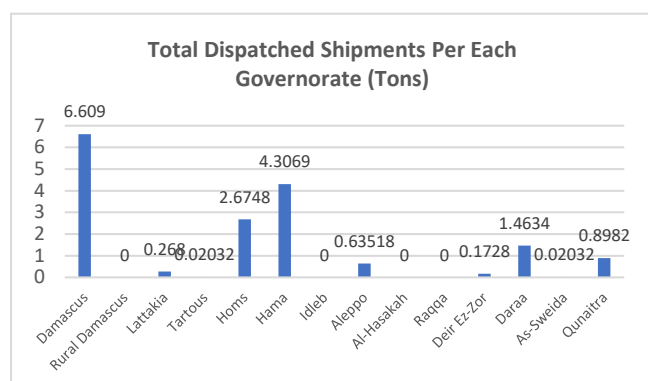
### INFORMATION PRODUCTS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

During the reporting period, WHO produced and shared:

- WHO Syria KPI for August 2021 at (Across Syria; North-east Syria; North-west Syria; Southern Syria) levels.
- WHO Syria KPI for September 2021 at (Across Syria; North-east Syria; North-west Syria; Southern Syria) levels.
- WHO Syria KPI for October 2021 at (Across Syria; North-east Syria; North-west Syria; Southern Syria) levels.
- WHO Syria KPI for November 2021 at (Across Syria; North-east Syria; North-west Syria; Southern Syria) levels.
- WHO Syria KPI for January to November 2021 at (Across Syria; North-east Syria; North-west Syria; Southern Syria) levels.
- Health Sector COVID-19 Response Monitoring for January - November 2021.
- (Health Sector) 4Ws snapshot across Syria for Nov 2021.
- (WHO) 4Ws snapshot across Syria for Nov 2021.
- Updated COVID-19 dashboard and online item tracking system.
- Provided key information on health facilities based on HeRAMS.
- Updated maps for health sector interventions.

## OPERATIONS SUPPORT AND LOGISTICS

WHO dispatched 17.1 tonnes of medical and lab supplies, equipment and printing materials to 10 governorates. They were received by 24 MoH facilities, 5 MoHE facilities, 3 NGOs, and SARC.



## CAPACITY BUILDING

To be provided in the following issue.

## WHO Syria Suboffice Response

### Aleppo

WHO Syria joined WHO Libya team in its official field visit to Aleppo. The visit was an opportunity for WHO staff in both Libya and Syria offices to share experiences and knowledge in responding to health emergencies and learn from each other.

WHO-ECHO team paid a visit to the COVID-19 public health laboratory in Aleppo to monitor the implementation of work and address the needs to enhance the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The TB mobile clinic in Aleppo conducted a TB active case finding at the central prison of Aleppo governorate. Suspected cases were screened, and awareness sessions were delivered.

WHO continues to support, through the provision of grants, the work of implementing partners operating at two PHCs and three MMTs with a total of 4 262 health care services delivered during the reporting period.



*A joint WHO-ECHO team pay a visit to the public health laboratory in Aleppo governorate*

### Latakia

WHO conducted a coordination meeting with the Director of Health in Latakia to review the 2022 national health plan including priority areas.

Conducted a coordination meeting with GOPPA Chief Director in the coastal area to strengthen the joint cooperation and discuss GOPPA's health activities in 2022 while ensuring its alignment with the health sector priorities in 2022.

Conducted a needs assessment visit to the rehabilitated units at the National hospital in Latakia (ICU and ER units) which will be put on service in 2022.

To further expand GBV activities in the coastal area, WHO conducted a coordination meeting with Ayadina, Al-Mada and Syrian Association for Breast Tumors NGOs in Latakia to plan awareness raising activities on domestic violence, gender-based violence and other forms of psychosocial distress.

## Homs

Alber & Social Services Association Homs NGO, with WHO's support and in cooperation with 3 static points in northern rural Homs (Ar-Rastan, Talbiseh and Taldu), and 2 mobile clinics in the northern countryside, southern east and southern west countryside has been providing primary and secondary health care services and mental health and psychosocial support to people suffering from psychological distress and domestic violence. Medical consultations were attended by 6 288 beneficiaries, of which 722 were mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services and 198 health awareness sessions.

The same services have been rendered through Building Community Association for Development in Hama NGO, with the support of WHO in Sahl Alghab district in Hama governorate and one static point, one community center in Al Haydarea and one mobile clinic in the northern countryside. By the reporting period, 2 480 MHPSS services were delivered to 1 392 beneficiaries.

## Deir-ez-Zor

A shipment of medical devices, furniture, solar panels was delivered to the medical point at the crossing border in Albukamal area in Deir-ez-Zor governorate.

Six oxygen generators were delivered in addition to an ECG and DC shock machine/ defibrillator to the health directorate in Deir-ez-Zor governorate.

## Quamishli Hub / North-east Syria (NES)

To assess the humanitarian needs for the IDPs who were affected by the last clashes in Abu Raseen's area, a rapid health assessment report has been finalized and shared with partners. The assessment was conducted by WHO team on 29 December 2021 jointly with other UN agencies.

Through an agreement with Al-Hikmeh Hospital, WHO continuously provides life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable people across NES. During the reporting period 451 secondary and trauma cases were admitted.

Based on EWARS data, the top four morbidities are: (1) COVID-19, of which 4 308 cases were reported in the last two weeks; (2) leishmaniasis - 2 266 and 2 070 cases in each of the last two weeks respectively; (3) acute diarrhoea, 1 260 versus 1 273; and (4) worms, 473 and 371 cases.

WHO is providing life-saving treatment for cases of malnutrition identified within camps and local communities. During the reporting period, 15 patients were admitted to the malnutrition treatment centres at Al-Hikmeh Hospital and Ar-Raqqa Treatment Centre, while 11 cases were discharged after full recovery. With WHO an immediate treatment for 73 leishmaniasis cases were provided in December 2021 in both Al-Hol and Al-Areasha camps.

## 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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