



**World Health
Organization**

Syria

WCO SYRIA
BI-WEEKLY
SITUATION REPORT

Issue 2 | 15 - 31 January 2021

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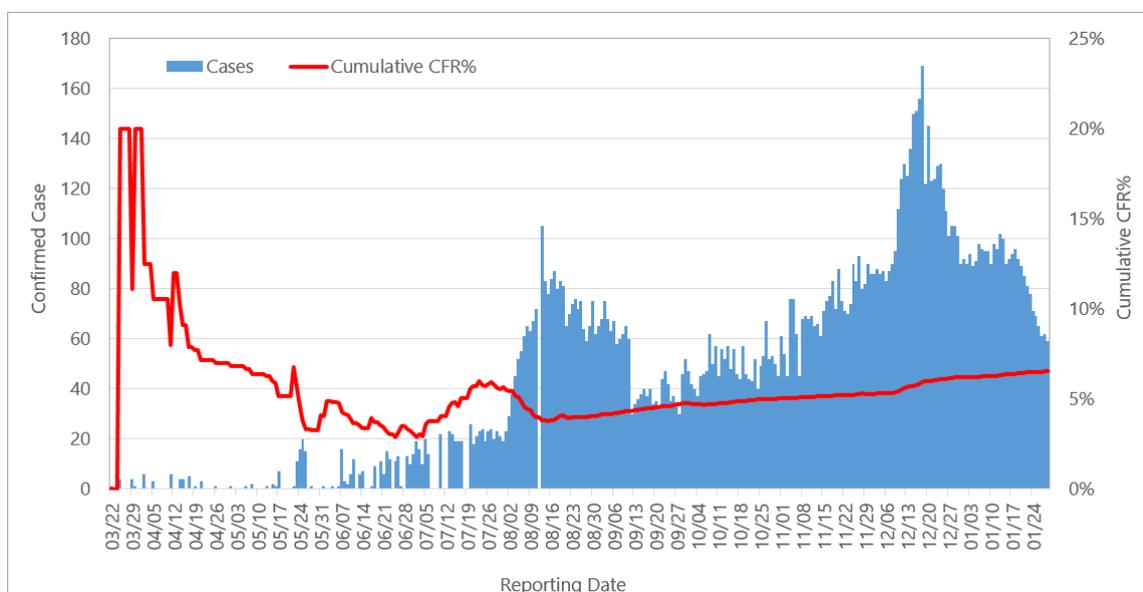
1. COVID-19 Update

1.1. COVID-19 Overall figures

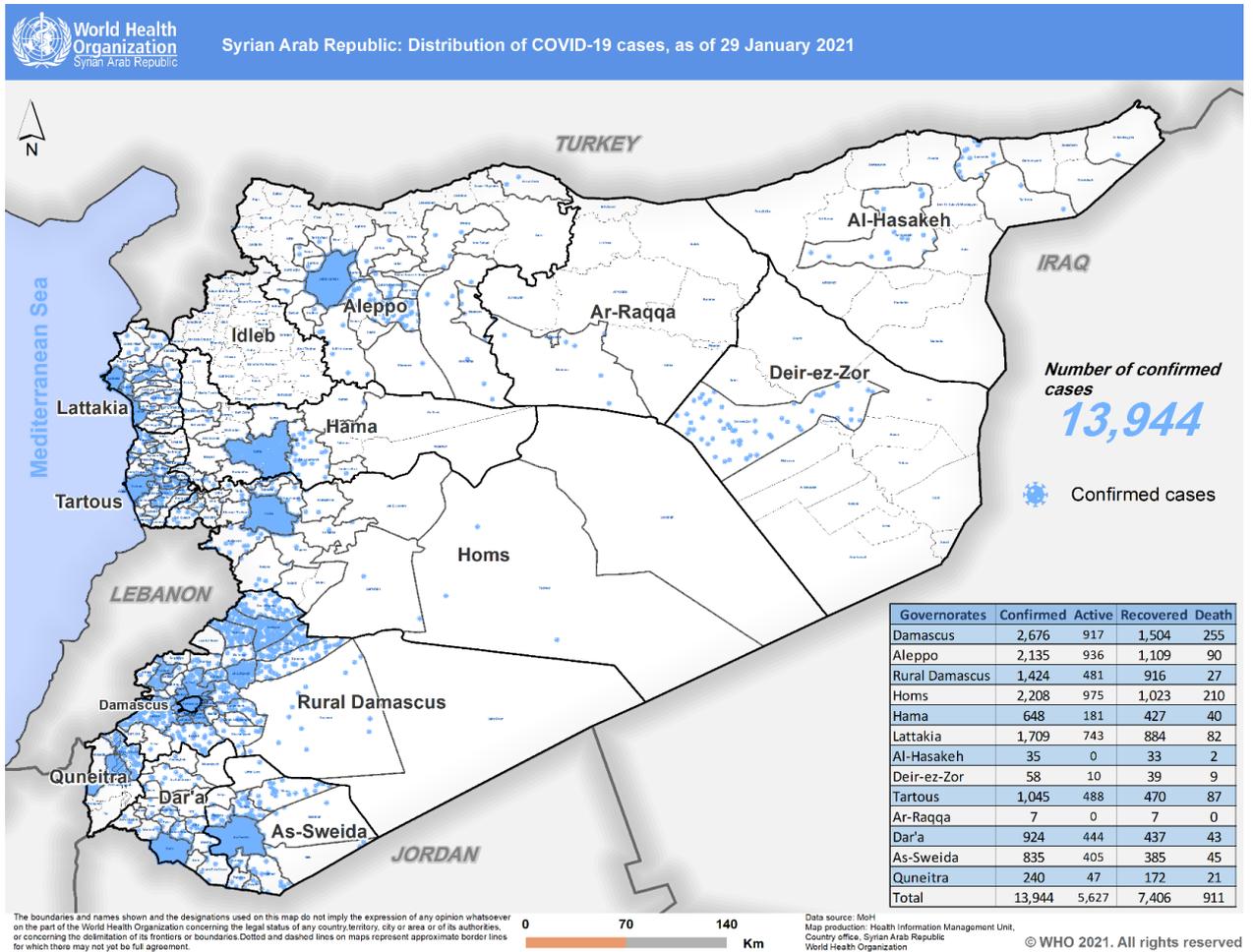
As of 29 January 2021:

	13,944	Total cases (including 459 health workers)
	5,627	Active cases (including 157 health workers)
	7,406	Recovered cases (including 280 health workers)
	911	Deaths (including 22 health workers)
	6.53%	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
	68.1	Attack rate (% of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 of population)
	22	Treatment (isolation) hospitals with 1,131 total beds
	32	Quarantine centers with 5,182 total beds
	6	COVID-19 laboratories
	55,877	Tests done
	289	Overall testing rate / per 100,000 population
	68.4	Incidence rate / per 100,000 population (highest in Quneitra – 221)
	23.7%	Positivity rate / per 100,000 population (highest in As-Sweida – 60%)

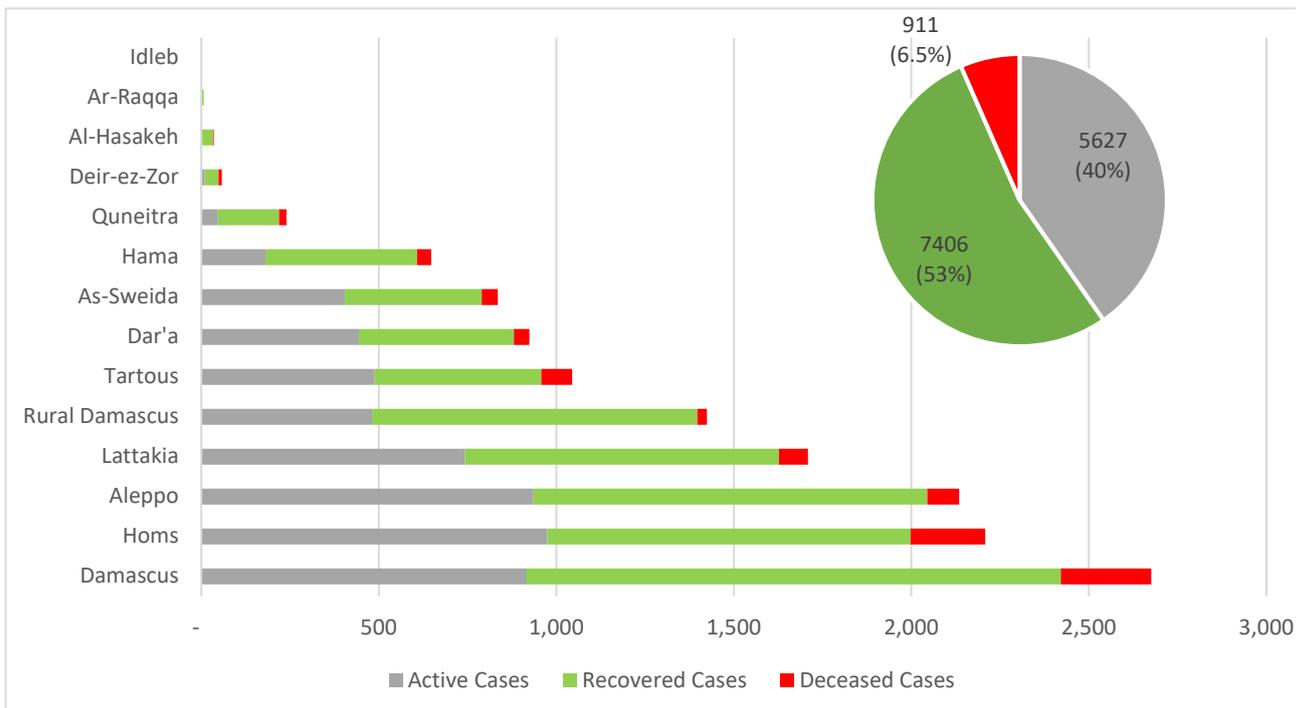
1.2. Epidemiological Curve for COVID-19 confirmed cases and CFR%



1.3. Distribution of COVID-19 cases



1.4. Distribution of COVID-19 cases by governorate and outcome



2. Situation on Health Facilities and Attacks on Healthcare System

2.1. Situation of Health Facilities

According to the **Health Resources and Services Availability Monitoring System (HeRAMS)** by the third quarter of 2020 (data updated quarterly) :

50.4% of public hospitals are partially functioning or non-functioning

53% of public health centers are partially functioning or non-functioning



2.2. Attacks on Healthcare (at WoS level, January – October 2020) (data updated quarterly)



25 Total Attacks



13 Killed (of which 0 healthcare providers)



41 Injured (of which 6 healthcare providers)



16 Attacks impacted health facilities (*This does not equate to the number of health facilities attacked as repeat incidents can occur or one attack incident could impact multiple health facilities*)



51% Of attacks over the past 12 months (1 Nov 2019 – 31 Oct 2020) were reported as violence with heavy weapons

3. WHO Key Achievements

By end 2020, the WHO key achievements were as follows:

484,828 number of delivered treatment courses provided

36.79 total weight (in tons) of regular deliveries across the country including IA

65% of sentinel sites submitting weekly surveillance reports



4. WHO Response

4.1. Non-Communicable Diseases and Primary Health Care

- Provided support to nine NGOs working in Damascus, Rural-Damascus, Homs and Daraa with medicines for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) including 4500 Insulin vials.
- Conducted field visits to the governorate of Tartous to follow up on the primary health care, NCD programmes and the status of the PHC health information system at Ayham Abbas PHC in Al-Kadmoos health district.

4.2. Trauma

- As part of enhancing the capacity of the isolation hospitals and other public hospitals for timely and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases, 75 health workers were trained on *Immediate Life Support and Ventilator Management, Managing the Emergency Plan for COVID 19* and *First Aid and Basic Life Support* in Damascus and Homs governorates.
- Supported isolation hospitals under the MOH, MOHE with anesthesia medicines; in addition to 10 000 vials of methylergometrine, 20 000 ampoules of atracurium were distributed to the MOH for management of postpartum hemorrhage.
- Supported the MOH, MOHE and hospitals in NES with dialysis supplies and medicines; a total of 121,606 vials of erythropoietin were distributed.

4.3. Secondary Health Care

- Provided training to 100 HCWs from Directorates of Health in Damascus, Aleppo, Lattakia and Tartous on Infection Prevention and Control as well as waste management standards.
- Conducted capacity building training, in cooperation with the Ministry of Higher Education, targeting 110 cancer registers from university hospitals in the governorates of Damascus, Aleppo and Lattakia. The training aimed at strengthening the participants' capacity on WHO/IARC accredited cancer registry software (CanReg5), international classification of cancer (ICD) and oncology terms. In addition, trainees were informed about the clinical and pathological classification of cancer based on WHO guidelines to unify data entry mechanisms, improve the quality of the cancer database and, thus, the cancer reporting system.
- Visited the National Hospital and Al-Kadmoos Hospital in Tartous governorate to monitor the IPC/PPE measures, as well as to take note of the current needs of dialysis sessions.

4.4. Mental Health

- The total number of MHPSS services provided through implementing partners in 2020 is 221 951.
- The total number of treatment courses in 2020 is 149 058.
- WHO delivered newly received psychotropic shipment to partners, mainly the MoH as well as NES and NWS hubs.
- Launched the national mhGAP operation core team to harmonize efforts within the main players at the national level for mhGAP programme umbrella.
- **With regards to COVID-19:** in coordination with the communication units at WHO and UNICEF, IASC MHPSS RG; released the [Syrian adaptation of "My Hero is YOU" as a coloring book](#) for children, in both, Arabic and English.



The cover of the Syrian-adapted English version of "My Hero is You" coloring book

4.5. Nutrition

4.5.1. Nutrition surveillance:

- A total of 928 Health centers and 175 private clinics are activated; 1 249 654 services were provided (20% more than 2019), 27 455 global acute malnutrition cases were detected (vs 15121 in 2019: with an increase in MAM case rate from 1.1% to 1.9 %).

4.5.2. Stabilization centers (SC):

- 25 stabilization centers have been activated across the country, with a total of 1507 admissions in all SC. The highest number of admissions was in Aleppo (395), Al-Hassakeh (277), then Deir-ez-Zor (211).

4.6. Information and Planning

- Developed the following products:
 - WoS Summary of key performance indicators for November 2020
 - Syria COVID-19 Response Monitoring Framework, April – December 2020
 - Data collection tool of HeRAMS COVID-19 module for isolation facilities
- Shared HeRAMS figures with WoS for the 3rd quarter 2020
- Conducted site visits to Tartous governorate to evaluate and monitor the health information systems supported by WHO
- Updated COVID-19 Dynamic Infographic Dashboard for Syria
- Updated the online item tracking system for COVID-19 in Syria
- Updated Maps for health sector interventions

4.7. External Relations and Communication

- Conducted a meeting with the Director of Educational Media at MOI and Communication Department of the MOH to discuss strengthening the WHO-MOI-MOH partnership and carry out new joint activities in 2021. Discussed RCCE, combating rumors and COVID-19 response.
- The WHO Syria website is regularly updated and has more data and information resources.
- On 11 January 2021, MOI shared the results of the COVID-19 RCCE assessment. Consequently, the results and findings are being translated and a thorough analysis will follow.
- Supported by WHO and partners, COVID-19 awareness-raising campaigns at schools and communities in Lattakia and Tartous governorates were completed, during which IEC materials and fabric masks were distributed.

4.8. Community Engagement (NGOs)

- Strengthened life-saving and life-sustaining health care services on a referral basis in NES, where 94 patients benefited from trauma care services and 47 others benefited from advanced surgical interventions, mainly from IDP camps and informal settlement.
- Boosted delivery of primary health care services including medical consultation and services related to child health, reproductive health and chronic diseases to reach those in need. 4 812 health services were provided in Damascus and Homs governorates through WHO-supported mobile teams.
- Provided awareness-raising sessions, through WHO-supported mobile medical teams, on HIV/AIDS as well as Mental Health Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS) to the most at-risk population in 7 governorates (Damascus, Rural-Damascus, Aleppo, Hama, Deir-Ez-Zor, Lattakia and Tartous).



WHO-supported medical mobile teams delivering primary health care services in Hsieh-al-Sinayeh

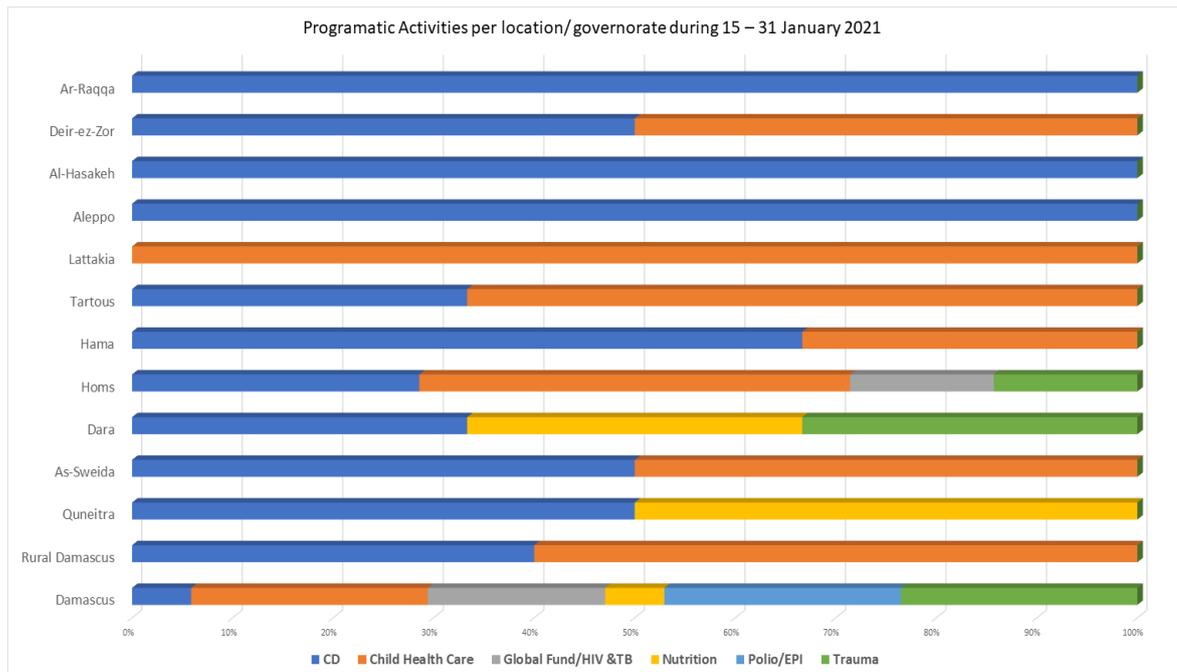
4.9. Points of Entry

- On 11 January, the Higher Defense Council of Lebanon declared a “Health Emergency State” as well as a complete lockdown and curfew starting from 14 – 25 January and then extended till 8 Feb. Exemptions apply to UN Personnel carrying out critical programme deliveries and operational activities - based on a memo to be issued by the UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon.
- Passengers traveling through Lebanon should hold a negative PCR test with a 96-hour validity before boarding; without such a test, no travel to Lebanon can take place. Also, passengers coming to Syria

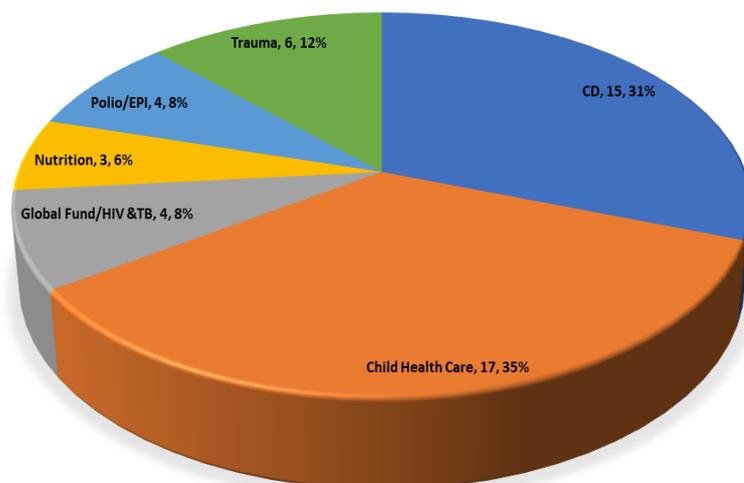
through Lebanon can stay for a maximum period of 3 hours before crossing the POE to Syria, with a valid PCR test.

- Incoming passengers who will stay in Lebanon for more than 3 hours should, in addition to holding a negative PCR test issued within the last 96 hours prior to their arrival at the border, quarantine at one of the hotels mentioned in the attached circular № 1 / 2; repeat the PCR test 72 hours later. However, as of 27 January, the hotel quarantine has been replaced by home quarantine.

4.10. Training and Capacity Building

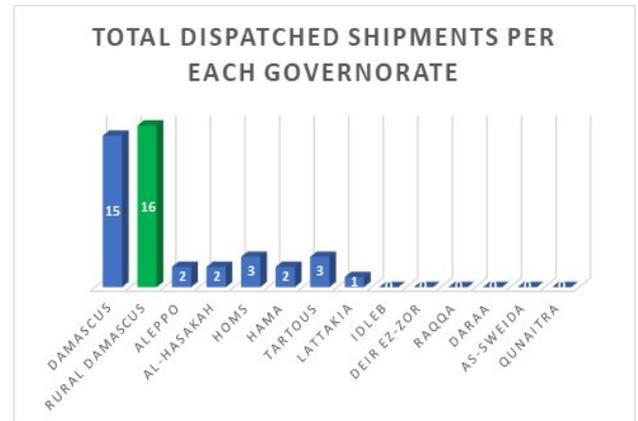
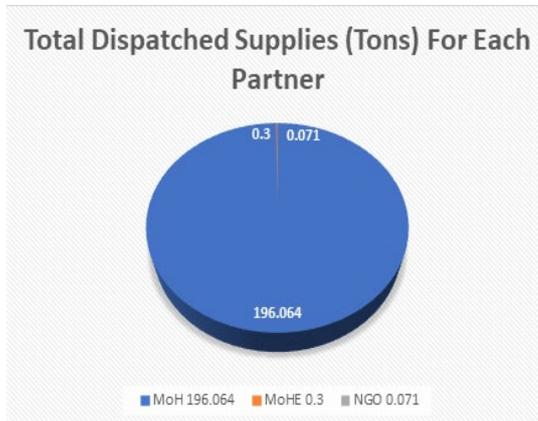


Overall estimated participants in WHO supported activities (n=1,1230), 15-30 January 2021



4.11. Operation Support and Logistics

- Dispatched 196.44 tons of medical, lab and ICT supplies, kits, equipment, and printing materials covering 8 governorates (except Daraa, As-Sweida, Quneitra, Idleb, Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa). Recipients included 17 MoH and MoHE facilities and NGOs.



4.12. Aleppo Sub-Office

- As the reported number of COVID-19 cases is decreasing, according to MoH, the occupation at COVID-19 public isolation centers has gone down to 50-60%.
- Field missions were conducted, between 25 and 28 January, to follow up on EWARS, TB and COVID-19 at isolation centers, laboratories and health centers in Aleppo.
- Followed up with partner NGOs to implement an MHPSS component for integration within all activities.
- Strengthened the partnership with Action Against Hunger (AAH), as they are becoming an important player in the field of MHPSS, at Aleppo level, in terms of capacity building and integration of MHPSS at the PHC level through rehabilitation of counseling spaces at selected centers.
- Arranged the transportation of HIV medicine to 3 PLHIV in NWS through the WHO focal point in full coordination with the National AIDS Programme.
- TB mobile clinics attended 420 beneficiaries through their awareness sessions in Aleppo; during which 2 TB cases were confirmed out of the 128 suspected cases.
- Followed-up on WHO engagement with four implementing partners in NWS; which would ensure the delivery of essential health care services under primary, secondary, trauma and MHPSS services.
- Assessed the medication needs for 23 primary health centers affiliated with NSAs in NWS
- Followed up with the installation of 6 artificial limbs, as in-kind donation support from WHO to YBY NSA, all the beneficiaries were war wounded (4 lower limb and 2 lower limb amputations).

4.13. Homs Sub-Office

4.13.1. Al-Rukban returnees:

- The total number of people who left Al-Rukban camp, through Homs shelters, remains at 19,977 people, of whom 329 left Al-Rukban supported by UN/SARC.
- On 21 January, 44 people (19 males, 9 females, 12 children and 4 infants) left the Abdul-Rahman-Shatter shelter; 40 of whom left towards areas of their choice but 4 males were transferred to court. Thus, the total number of people still in the shelter is 8 persons; one of whom, along with his wife, is in Bab Seba'a Hospital.

4.13.2. COVID-19 related activity:

- **In Hama:**

- A new PCR lab was put online in Hama; the Agha-Khan Foundation delivered a PCR device to Hama DOH and provided training for lab technicians.
- WHO supported three medical mobile teams to cover the health needs in north-east and south-west Hama. The total number of medical consultations provided was 980 consultations as well as 43 PSS services.
- **In Homs:**
 - WHO supported a health project in Homs, with the cooperation of Lamset-Shefa LNGO. Its family wellbeing center in Dar-Al-Kabeera and its two medical mobile teams in Northern and Eastern Rural Homs provided primary and secondary healthcare services as well as management of mental health and psychosocial conditions for people suffering from psychological distress and domestic and gender-based violence at the community level.
 - The total number of medical consultations provided was 1980; of these are 499 consultations on acute and chronic diseases, 1106 consultations on child health, and 375 consultations on gynecology and Reproductive Health.



WHO-supported medical mobile teams providing health support to people-in-need in Rural Homs

4.14. Al-Qamishli Sub-Office – NES Response

- A field assessment joint mission between WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, IRC, RI, UPP & KRC was conducted to investigate the mortality cases in Al-Areesha camp. Health facilities were assessed on the 10 and 11 January 2021. The following is to be noted:
 - No epidemiological link was detected among the reported deaths during November and December 2020.
 - The total number of deaths is within the normal emergency average, with no associated clustering.
 - A limitation in medical services including referral mechanisms was observed in several health facilities.
 - On 7 January, Al-Hassakeh National Hospital was assessed in terms of infrastructure, staffing and services to identify the gaps for potential future WHO support.
 - The following cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) were referred to hospitals:



Assessment of mortality cases in Al-Areesha camp

	New Admissions	Recoveries	Active
Al-Hikma Hospital	8	9	3
Al-Tabqa National Hospital	3	4	1

- In collaboration with other partners, A COVID-19 Treatment Facility (CTF) assessment was conducted at Al-Hol camp to evaluate terms of service, staffing and infrastructure, to improve the services.
- Coordinated with the Directorate of Health to prepare for the Polio campaign next February.
- An evaluation of PHC centers in Ar-Raqqa and Eastern Deir-ez-Zor was conducted by HIS for Q4, 2020.
- Continued to monitor drinking water-quality through regular visits to 8 camps and 31 collective shelters. 707 samples were tested, 7.5% of which were contaminated on the jerry can level; also, 18 boreholes were tested and none were contaminated.

- HIS continued its data collection (Q4-2020) for NGOs, Private hospitals, and Al-Hol camp.
- Conducted training for 5 water monitors at Al-Hol camp on terms of definition, using equipment, sampling and data registration.
- Since the beginning of 2021, a total of 5 677 kilograms of medical supplies was delivered to different health facilities in NES (hospitals and PHC centers). The medical supplies delivered provided 210,400 treatment courses.

4.15. Lattakia Sub-Office

- Conducted a field visit to the main isolation facility in Al-Haffeh Hospital, where the team assessed the essential needs and shortages at the hospital.
- Conducted, in cooperation with the Health Directorate, a health working group (HWG) meeting to review the 2021 health priorities, the health situation within the context of COVID-19 and the way forward.
- Conducted site assessment visits to Al-Basel Hospital, the main isolation facility in Tartous governorate, Al-Qadmous and Dreikish Hospitals.
- Conducted field visits to the main primary healthcare centers in Tartous Governorate to check the availability and continuity of PHC services in light of COVID-19.



During the WHO field assessment visit to Al-Haffeh Isolation Hospital

4.16. Deir-ez-Zor Sub-Office

- Conducted a meeting with the Rector of Al-Furat University on 16 January. Topics discussed included: the current situation of education during the crisis, the possibility of WHO supporting the nursing school which would positively strengthen the capacity of nursing students and eventually contributes to enhancing the capacity of health workers.
- Participated in an inter-agency mission to Ar-Raqqa governorate, in cooperation with other UN agencies. During the mission, the sub-districts of Al-Sabkha and Maadan were visited. Meetings were conducted with the Governor's Representative and Head of Municipalities, as well as the Health Director of Ar-Raqqa governorate to overview humanitarian needs in both districts. An on-site assessment of Maadan PHC and Maadan Maternal Delivery Center was carried out.
- Supported, with the cooperation of the MOH and MOI, a training of 25 health workers from the School Health Directorate in Deir-Ez-Zor. The training aimed to raise the capacity of the School Health Directorate and health supervisors at schools to deal with and identify COVID-19 suspected cases, use the referral and notification pathway, and improve the IPC measures undertaken at schools. Trainees were presented with an RCCE session to complement their training.
- Conducted a coordination meeting with DoH officials to prepare for a campaign against cutaneous leishmania on river ferries; the campaign is set to start on the first of February.



Inter-Agency assessment mission to Ar-Raqqa Governorate

- Conducted a meeting to prepare the list of needs and estimated budget for the rehabilitation and equipping of Al-Mayadeen National Hospital.
- Conducted, in cooperation with the DoH Nutrition Programme Coordinator, a field visit to the National Hospital in Deir-ez-Zor on 25 January 2020. A follow-up with the stabilization center for complicated SAM cases was carried out, then a discussion on the nutrition department 2021 plan was held while addressing challenges and opportunities.

5. Annexes

5.1. [Update on COVID-19 Vaccination in Syria in English](#)

5.2. [Update on COVID-19 Vaccination in Syria in Arabic](#)

6. Useful links

- [Syria Interactive Dashboards](#)
- [Syria Page In Health Cluster Site](#)
- [Syria Page In EMRO Site](#)
- [EMRO Dashboard](#)
- [COVID-19 Situation In EMRO Region Reports](#)
- [Latest Global WHO Weekly Update On COVID-19](#)
- [WHO COVID-19 Country And Technical Guidance](#)
- [United Nations Office For The Coordination Of Humanitarian Affairs](#)

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جائحة كوفيد-19 COVID-19 Pandemic

If you have symptoms of fever & cough, self-isolate yourself & quickly seek medical care if you have trouble breathing

إذا ظهرت عليك أعراض الحمى والسعال، يادر بعزل نفسك، وسارع بالتماس الرعاية الطبية إذا شعرت بصعوبة في التنفس

Wash your hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub

اغسل يديك بانتظام بالماء والصابون أو بمطهر يحتوي على الكحول

Cough or sneeze into your bended arm or use disposable tissue

عند السعال أو العطس احم ذواتك بنقي ذراعك أو استخدم منديل أحادي الاستعمال



World Health Organization
Eastern Mediterranean

For more information: للمزيد من المعلومات
www.emro.who.int/COVID19