

**BI-WEEKLY
SITUATION REPORT
WHOLE OF SYRIA**

Issue 12 | 16 – 30 June 2021











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1. COVID-19 Update

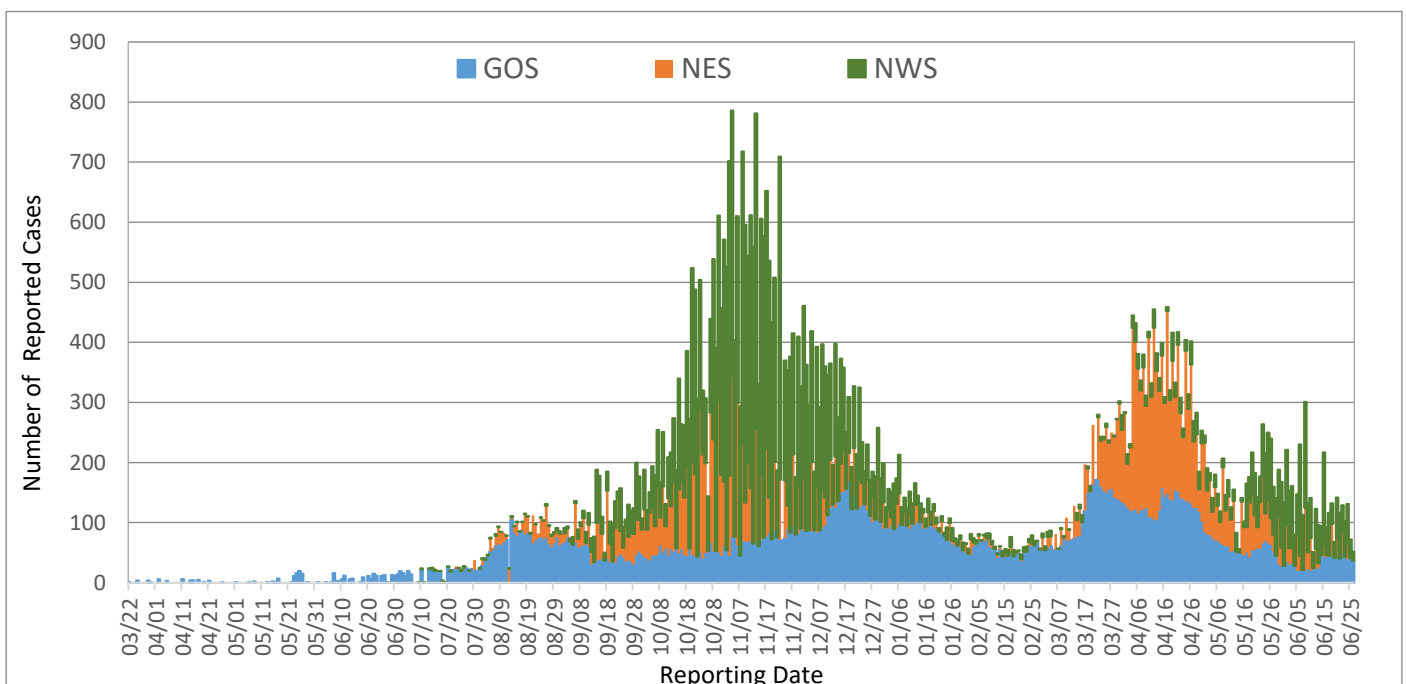
1.1 COVID-19 Statistical Summary at Whole of Syria Level

As of 26 June 2021

	69,305	Total cases (including 4,809 health workers)
	20,083	Active cases
	45,888	Recovered cases
	3,334	Deaths
	4.8%	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
	15	COVID-19 functional laboratories
	286,152	COVID-19 tests done
	1,403	Overall testing rate per 100 000 population
	340	Incidence rate per 100 000 population (highest in Al-Hasakeh; 1068)
	24.2%	Positivity rate

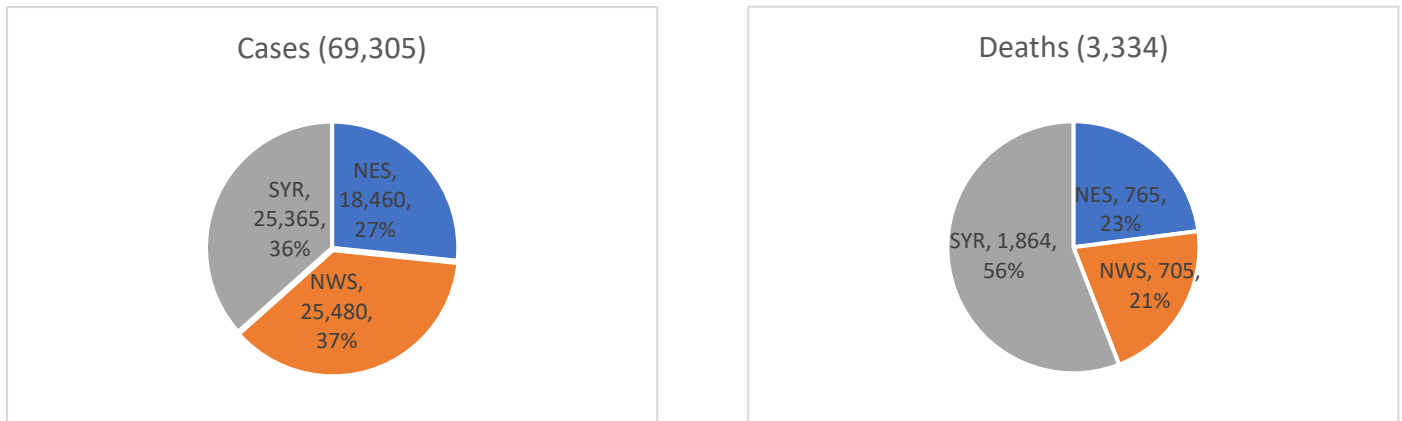
1.2. Daily Distribution of COVID-19 Cases at Whole of Syria Level

22 March 2020 – 26 June 2021 (n = 69,305)



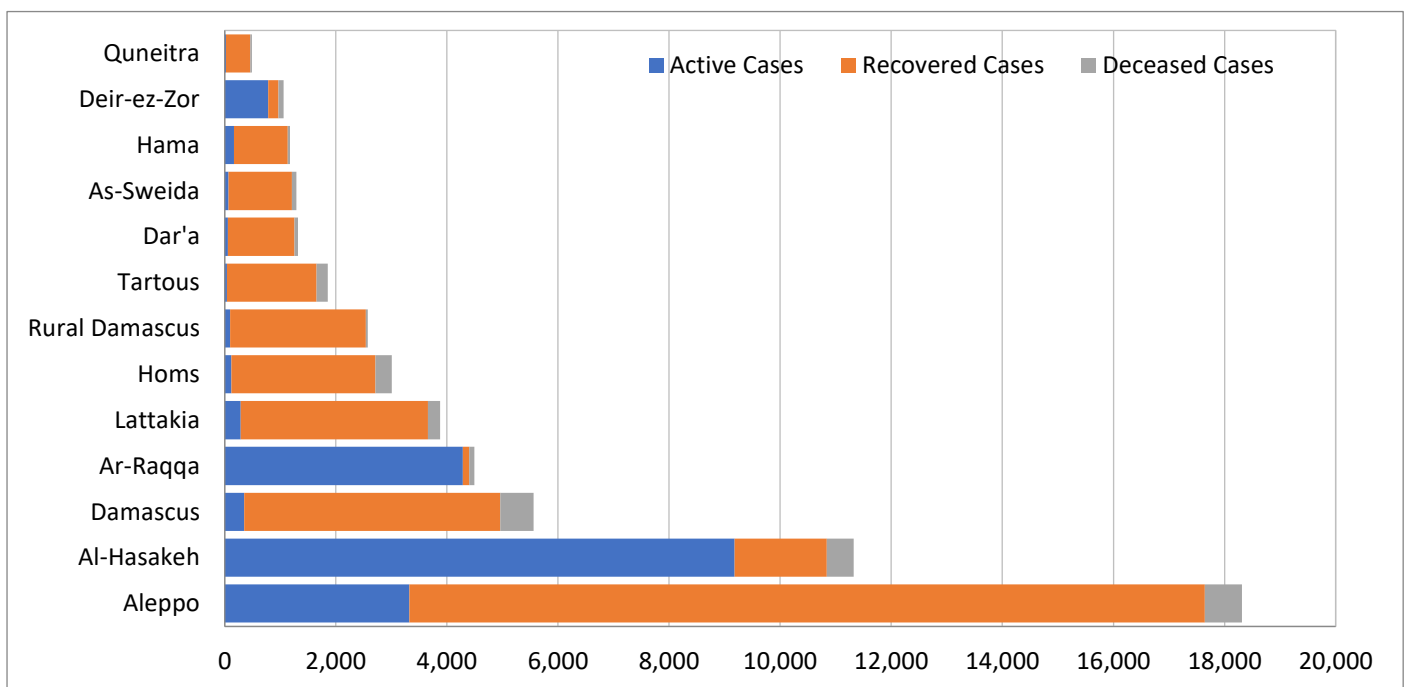
1.3. Distribution of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths at Whole of Syria Level

22 March 2020 – 26 June 2021



1.4. Distribution of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths by Governorate and Outcome

22 March 2020– 26 June 2021



2. WHO-Syria Response

2.1. COVAX Vaccines

The Syrian Arab Republic has been allocated 912 000 doses of the AstraZeneca COVISHIELD SII vaccine, 203 000 doses of which arrived on 21 April 2021 and were distributed across governorates as planned to vaccinate frontline health workers and people aged 55 and older. Vaccination began in Aleppo on 17 May with other governorates following soon after. By 2 June, 46 397 of the vaccines had been administered nationwide. Though priority is now given to the delivery of the AZ vaccines, the MOH had previously been vaccinating health workers with other vaccines. Initial national coverage reports indicate that more than 97 000 individuals have been vaccinated (96% of the vaccine allocated for the 1st dose) as of 20 June.

Vaccination with AstraZeneca vaccine is ongoing in Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa governorates, while vaccination with the Sinopharm vaccine re-started in the remaining governorates on 20 June (initially carried out in April for ICU health workers only).

An additional allocation of 203 000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine are expected to be delivered to Syria soon. Syria may yet receive further allocations, as COVAX is expected to announce another round of dose allocations in late June. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health is developing a regulatory approval framework for additional vaccines (J&J, Sinovac, etc.) in order to increase the likelihood of being allocated additional vaccines. One of the requirements for receiving new shipments is an update to the National Deployment Vaccination Plan (NDVP).

2.2. Points of Entry (PoE)

MoH and WHO are working to equip the medical point at the Abu Kamal crossing in Deir-ez-Zor with medical devices and furniture to enable the provision of health access to travellers. In addition, WHO is working on establishing medical point at Jubousiya ground-crossing in Homs and Judeidet Yabous in Rural Damascus, which involve both rehabilitation and the provision of required medical devices.

WHO supported MOH to conduct a total of three three-day workshops between 19 and 30 June. Two focused on the epidemiological situation in the country and globally, as well as the development of the pandemic in terms of priorities, interests and operations in response to real-time developments. The second workshop focused on preventive measures against COVID-19 and response operations based on severity scales. 25 officials from the Directorates of Health in nine governorates (Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, Tartous, Latakia, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs and Dar'a) participated in each workshop.

2.3. Environmental Health

WHO continues to monitor the water quality, checking for chemical and biological contamination in different water sources, such as water networks, ground wells, reservoirs, water tanks, jerry cans, and running culture tests to identify pathogens. During the reporting period, 101 tests were conducted in five villages in the north and east of Rural Aleppo, and 1 161 tests in NES (Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, and Deir-ez-Zor) including at eight IDPs camps and collective shelters. Among them, 89 water sources in Rural Aleppo, and 92 sources (mainly jerry cans) in NES were found to be contaminated and sterilized.



WHO promotes enhanced personal hygiene and environmental sanitation among camp residents in NES

In response to the increasing risks of water-borne diseases during the summer months among vulnerable populations, WHO conducted awareness campaigns at Abu Khashab camp, Areesheh camp, and Al-Hol camp. During the campaigns, a total of 60 community volunteers were trained on handwashing, food safety practice, and water treatment. They will now visit households one by one to deliver key messages and distribute brochures and chlorine tablets. The campaign will continue until August at all three camps, benefiting a total of over 85 000 IDPs.

WHO delivered 20 000 NaDCC water disinfectant (purification) tablets to partners at Al-Hol camp during the reporting period. They will help ensure water safety for the most vulnerable people for a period of six months, between June and December 2021.

2.4. Health Sector Coordination

THE SYRIA NATIONAL HEALTH SECTOR COORDINATION TEAM:

- Arranged and facilitated a meeting on health referrals from Al-Hol camp that was attended by health partners operating field hospitals within the camp.

- Attended several regular and ad-hoc meetings, including the Whole-of-Syria regular weekly calls (16 June, 30 June), ad-hoc inter-sector coordination meeting devoted to response planning concerning the Euphrates crisis, and a joint meeting of WASH and health sectors on the impact of the water crisis in NES.
- Contributed health sector inputs to Al-Hol camp coordination meetings.
- Attended several meetings addressing RCCE issues in NES, including a RCCE/COVAX working group meeting and a meeting with EMRO RCCE experts to discuss RCCE support for essential health services.
- Conducted an information session for local NGOs based in NES about the application procedure for the first standard allocation under the Syria Humanitarian Fund.
- Contributed to the organization of the mission of the WHO EPI Team Lead to Northeast Syria and organised a meeting with UNICEF to discuss RCCE and demand generation.
- Hosted a regular bi-weekly inter-hub meeting involving NES Forum partners, WHO, UNICEF and OCHA.

2.5. COVID-19 Laboratories

Central public health laboratory trainings on biosafety, biosecurity, and good laboratory practice is underway. Three workshops were held in Lattakia, Tartous and Homs during the reporting period, at which a total of 75 participants were trained.

6 vertical steam sterilizers, 5 hot air ovens, 14 centrifuges and other supplies and consumables for COVID-19 testing were delivered by WHO during the reporting period to newly established public health laboratories.

2.6. Communicable Diseases

In preparation for communicable diseases prevalent during the summer months, WHO delivered contingency stock to MoH, 6 MoHE hospitals in Aleppo, Damascus, and Homs, and several NGOs in Qamishli. The deliveries included 37 cholera kits, 132 000 pouches of sodium chloride 0.9% with IV sets, 50 000 vials of ceftrixone (typhoid medicines), 115 000 oral rehydration salts, 8 290 bottles of antibiotics for children, and 910 vials of immunoglobulin.

2.7. Routine Immunization

WHO supports the implementation of routine vaccination activities including supervisory visits and surveillance activities in all Syrian governorates and the collection of samples from all governorates for measles and polio testing at the referral lab in Damascus. The Organization also supports the regular distribution of vaccines to all governorates, including those in NES.

2.8. Primary Health Care and Non-Communicable Diseases

WHO conducted a three-day capacity building workshop on cancer registry that targeted 25 cancer registrars, oncologist doctors and radiologists from MOH, MOHE and the Medical Military Services. The workshops included practical group work and focused on the national cancer registry; types and TORs; the role of cancer registry in surveillance and epidemiology of cancer; cancer classification based on ICD-O3 (International Classification of Diseases for Oncology version); early detection; cancer registry standards (SEER); and IARC guidelines.

The Organization also conducted a two-day training workshop, in coordination with EMRO, on data collection for teams in Homs and Dar'a using WHO adopted tools for private sector assessment study.

2.9. Secondary and Tertiary Health Care (STHC)

14 pieces of basic medical equipment are being installed at Harsata National Hospital in Rural Damascus. They include a C-arm x-ray unit for the operation theatre, 7 suction devices, an electrosurgical (cutary) device, a mortuary cold chamber, and 4 nursing instrument tables.

76 pieces of medical equipment are also currently being installed at the children's hospital in Aleppo, including an automated enzyme immunoassay analyser, 4 paediatric wheelchairs, 20 infusion stands, 20 bed separation screens,

10 patient beds, 6 nursing instrument tables, 11 dressing tables, 3 blood drawing chairs, and a water treatment machine for haemodialysis.

Four capacity building workshops on IPC were conducted targeting health care workers from NES. 100 trainees from Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor and Idleb received training on IPC measures at PHC level in the context of COVID-19, hand hygiene, environmental cleaning and referral pathways for suspected cases of COVID-19.

2.10. Trauma

563 933 treatments of life-saving medicines and supplementary kits, and 60 first aid kits for 6 000 trauma cases were delivered to health partners in Aleppo, Damascus and Lattakia with the aim of enhancing the capacity of public health facilities to deliver timely and appropriate responses in emergency cases, including in response to cases of COVID-19.

150 health workers from As-Sweida, Ar-Raqqa, Damascus, and Dar'a were trained in advanced life support for children and adults, burn management, immediate life support and ventilator management, management of the emergency plan, war wounded injuries management, and major incident medical management and support at hospitals. The targeted groups for these courses were health professionals (doctors, nurses, and anaesthesia technicians) working in isolation centres and ICU and emergency departments.

125 health workers from Damascus and Rural Damascus (prosthetic and orthotic technicians, physiotherapists, and psychiatrists) attended training sessions related to disability and rehabilitation at the MOH centre of prosthetics and rehabilitation in Damascus. Skills covered include the manufacturing of spinal orthosis (scoliosis); development of intellectual skills for children with cerebral palsy (2 sessions); manufacturing upper limbs prosthesis (2 sessions); and management of phantom pain.

2.11. Tuberculosis (TB) / HIV

A total of 2 095 participants benefited from 43 awareness sessions on TB during the reporting period. 973 suspected cases were tested for TB, of which 14 were confirmed as positive.

To date, a total of 12 678 prisoners have attended awareness sessions on TB. 1 290 suspected cases have been tested for TB, of which 13 were confirmed as positive.

2.12. Mental Health (MH)

The 20-day campaign titled 'My Hero is You' has been ongoing, run in collaboration with the WHO communication and community engagement units and two NGOs in Rural Damascus (Al-Tal, Al-Qutaifa). The campaign aims to raise awareness around COVID-19 and mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS), coping skills, combating stigma, and facilitating social listening, with a focus on children and their caregivers. More than 2 746 services have to date been delivered throughout the campaign through different focus group discussions and other social listening activities.

WHO attended several bilateral coordination meetings with MH partners, including UNHCR, UNICEF, ACF, Agha Khan, SSSD, CARITAS, and a number of other NGOs, to provide technical MHPSS support and explore different joint projects under MHPSS TWG coordination mechanisms.

Students attending exams in Aleppo governorate benefited from 518 integrated MHPSS services provided by trained health and schools workers, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

Ten capacity-building activities were conducted, in cooperation with MoH and MoE, to train health workers, school health workers and community workers on the Mental Health GAP (mhGAP) programme, Psychosocial First Aid (PFA), Basic Psychosocial skills (BPS), first line support and MH-FGD techniques.

2.13. Nutrition

WHO staff attended meetings with the Regional Office (EMRO) focusing on youth multi-stakeholder consultation aimed at promoting adolescent well-being in the Eastern Mediterranean region, and on the inclusion of Syria in the regional obesity programme.

May 2021 data collected as part of the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) programme - 354 health centres that target 63 559 children across the country - indicates that 9 981 children received special care for diseases, 232 of whom were referred to hospitals.

Data collected from 21 stabilization centres across the country points to 95 admissions in May 2021, with the highest number of admissions, 16, in Aleppo.

2.14. Pharmacy

In coordination with technical officers at the department for drug control at the Ministry of Health, 60 health workers from different governorates were trained on Pharmacovigilance and reporting on adverse drug reactions. Trainees were pharmacovigilance representatives at public health units.

WHO followed up with MOH on the implementation of a MoH Supply-Chain Management System at the national level; and developed a plan to raise awareness among NGOs of gender equality within project implementation.

2.15. External Relations and Communication

In the reporting period, the WHO regional senior expert on risk communication and community engagement visited WHO Country Office to strengthen the skills of health care communication professionals at the national level. A set of meetings were conducted with WHO counterparts and UN sister agencies to enhance RCCE capacities, address gaps and challenges, and discuss the way forward.

WHO, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, ran an information session, attended by 30 representatives from key Syrian national media outlets, on the critical role of media engagement in contributing to effective risk communication and community engagement with regards to promoting the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines. The session aimed at strengthening the media's capacity to help address rumours and misinformation in order to increase demand for and uptake of the vaccine. Participants also discussed the importance of informed coverage and responsible reporting, key to improving compliance with public health and preventive measures and reducing transmission.

Another information session was run in parallel for the Syrian Ministry of Health senior technical staff. It aimed to strengthen their skills in risk communication and community engagement, and to promote COVID-19 public health measures and vaccine roll out.

2.16. Community Engagement (NGOs)

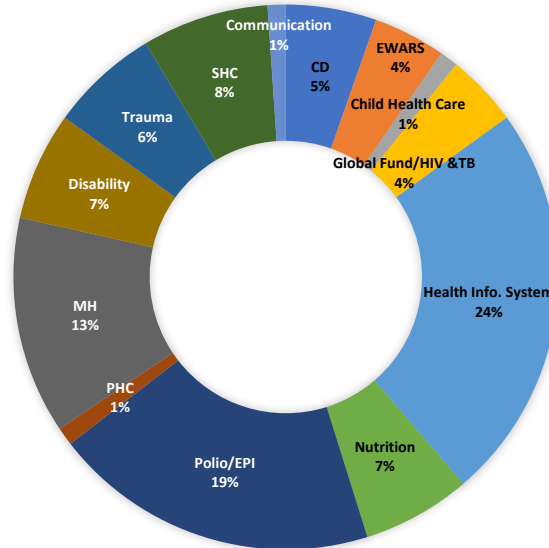
Together with NGO partners, WHO has strengthened the provision of lifesaving and life-sustaining referral-based health care services in northeast Syria. 150 recipients benefited from trauma care services and 95 from advanced surgical intervention. Most beneficiaries were from IDP camps and informal settlements.

WHO also boosted the delivery of primary health care services, including medical consultations and medication for child health, reproductive health and chronic diseases together with NGOs. 1 500 health services were provided in Damascus and Rural Damascus, while 67 life-saving and life-sustaining health care services were supported on a referral basis and 100 MHPSS services were delivered.



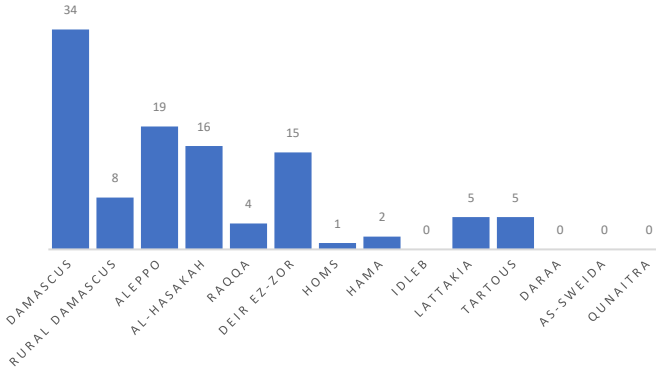
WHO runs a capacity building workshop for media professionals, in cooperation with MOH, on risk communication and community engagement.

Overall Estimated No. Of Participants In WHO Supported 93 Activities For Overall 2 390 Participant During 16-30 June 2021

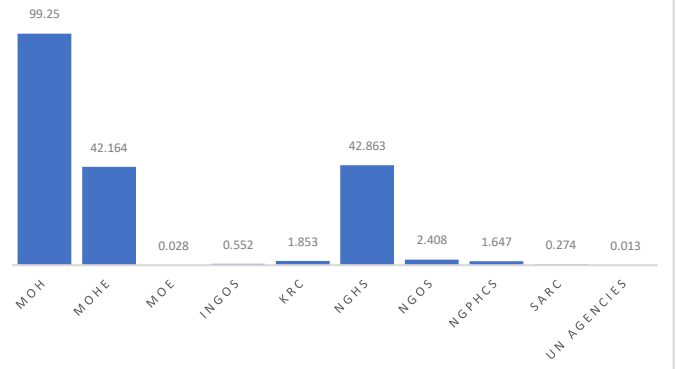


2.19. Operations Support and Logistics

Total Dispatched Shipments Per Each Governorate



Total Dispatched Shipments (Tons) Per Each Partner



WHO dispatched 191 052 tons of medical supplies, lab, WASH, and ICT supplies, including kits, equipment, haemodialysis sessions, mosquito nets and printing materials to all but four* of Syria's governorates (*Idleb, Dar'a, Quneitra and As-Sweida). Recipients included 26 MoH facilities, 5 MoHE hospitals, MoE, 5 INGOs, 13 NGOs, 15 NGHS, 2 NGPHCs, SARC, KRC and UNRWA.

3. WHO Syria Sub-Office Response

3.1. Aleppo Hub

Despite a steady decline in the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Syria, Aleppo continues to report the highest number among Syrian governorates. 323 cases were reported from Aleppo between 1-18 June 2021. 97% of targeted individuals in the governorate have now received the first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine. 4 687 students arrived in Aleppo governorate from hard to reach places to have their national exams (2 602 boys

and 2 085 girls). 27 accommodation sites were identified by DoE in Jabal Saman district in four main sub districts (Hanano, Halab Al-Jedidiah, Salah Al-Deen, and Hamdani). WHO supported 9 static medical points to cover all accommodation sites. Each point includes a specialist doctor, a nurse, an admin assistant and a MHPSS service provider covering two shifts of 10 hours each. The students received a total of 3 343 outpatient consultations and 2 866 treatment courses. Coordination between WHO, SARC and DoH enabled coverage of emergency cases, 180 of which were transported for advance health care services at the DoHE hospital.

18 community psychosocial support workers trained in WHO guidelines, tools, and other evidence-based protocols provided the students with more than 1 850 MHPSS services, including: group psychological intervention sessions that addressed exam stress management. DoH health workers also ran COVID-19 awareness sessions. Suspected cases were tested and came back negative.

A WHO team in Aleppo visited the Fafin camp for IDPs, meeting with camp management to assess the health sector response for IDPs in rural areas in the north, especially in the Tall Rifaat enclave and Fafin camp. They followed up on the activities of the WHO-supported mobile medical teams in Fafin and surrounding areas, and updated target locations based on need.



WHO team field visit to Fafin IDPs camp

3.2. Lattakia Hub

As of 24 June 2021, the total reported number of COVID-19 cases in Lattakia was 3 880. 223 resulted in death (CRF 6%). In Tartous, the total number of cases was 1 850, resulting in 201 deaths (CRF 10.85%). Reported cases continue to be low in number in the coastal area, with an average daily rate of 2 in Lattakia, and 0 in Tartous, and the occupancy rate at isolation units remaining below 25%.

DOH completed the administration of AZ vaccine at public centres, vaccinating a total of 8 797 people in Lattakia and 8 591 in Tartous.

WHO conducted a joint field visit with UNDP to the COVID-19 laboratory in Tartous to check on the progress of rehabilitation works at the lab. WHO has delivered some medical equipment to DOH and will make another delivery within weeks.

WHO distributed 400 bottles of anti-lice and scabies medication to the national prison in Lattakia, in collaboration with the Syrian Society for Special Development NGO.

WHO participated in a workshop, run by UNDP in Lattakia, on context sensitivity and area analysis. The focus of discussions was the multi-sectoral approach and risks and opportunities for advancing more context-sensitive programs in Lattakia to help strengthen social cohesion.



WHO and UNDP conducted a joint field visit to the COVID-19 laboratory in Tartous.

The Lattakia hub office also held a training workshop for 25 paediatric doctors at Tishreen University Hospital on malnutrition identification and screening.

In a bid to strengthen the capacity of national labs and enhance their management quality of IPC, GLP and STISD systems, WHO conducted a workshop on biosafety and biosecurity for 25 lab technicians in Lattakia and Tartous. WHO also ran a training workshop for community workers and health providers in Lattakia on emergency psychosocial support and first aid for the most vulnerable, including women experiencing GBV, in a bid to strengthen the quality of MHPSS activities at community level.

WHO supplied six hospitals in Lattakia & Tartous with ICT equipment to support the atomization of hospitals (Al-Basel Cardio Hospital, Qurdaha, Haffeh, Shiekh Bader, Qadmous, Paediatrics, and Al-Basel Hospital in Tartous).



WHO supported a capacity building workshop for lab technicians in Lattakia governorate.

3.3. Homs Hub

WHO participated in an inter-sectoral joint assessment mission to Helfaya village in Northern Hama to assess the health situation, identify challenges and provide needed support.

The Homs team also attended a meeting with OCHA, SARC, and other sub-sector focal points (WASH, health, protection and education) to discuss the gaps, needs and response plans in second destination locations of families returning from Rukban, with special focus on the informal camps (Zhorriya, Fruglus and Shamseen).

During the reporting period, the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases was 52 in Homs (raising the total number of confirmed cases to 3 004) and 79 in Hama (raising the total number of confirmed cases to 1 166), indicating a CFR of 9,6% and 3.4% respectively. Occupancy rates for COVID-19 patients at all hospitals in Homs and Hama are around 30 and 25 % respectively. 8 782 have been vaccinated in Homs and 7 882 in Hama. DOH continues to administrate AZ vaccine for people aged 55 years and older in both governorates.

WHO launched a health initiative in cooperation with Lamsa Shifa NGO on 20 June that aims to strengthen the provision of the essential package of health care services to the most vulnerable groups in the governorate of Homs through the Family Wellbeing Centre in Dar Al Kabera and two mobile medical teams in Northern and Eastern Rural Homs.

WHO visited the Aldar Alkabira Family Wellbeing Centre to follow up the provision of health services (paediatric, gynaecology and internal clinics), physiotherapy sessions, psychological support, and individual and group psychological counseling.

37 professionals at Homs and Hama DOH received follow-up training on the automated system for recording medical certificates of births and deaths to record demographic shifts. Topics discussed include statistical collection of mortality, objectives and methods of filling medical certificates of births and deaths, fertility and reproductive health measures, and coding the cause of death.

3.4. Deir-Ez-Zor Hub

WHO attended an ad-hoc ISC meeting on inter-sectoral response planning in response to the Euphrates crisis during which the current drought and planning for the WASH, FSA, ERL and health responses were discussed.

The Deir-ez-Zor hub also participated in a WASH subnational sector coordination meeting, at which the following were discussed:

- Updates and a contingency plan regarding the Euphrates crisis;

- A summary update from Sub Sector WASH partner's interventions in 2021, both those being implemented and planned;
- Planning for the activation of a hygiene working group;
- The need to strengthen the surveillance system and support the monitoring of drinking water quality and provision of chlorine tablets at the community level.

With WHO's support, the directorate of health in Deir-ez-Zor launched a leishmaniasis vector control campaign that included indoor insecticide spraying, awareness raising, and the distribution of insecticide treated nets. At the beginning of June, and in line with preparations for the campaign, WHO supported training for 50 workers from DoH and local municipalities in the most affected communities. A WHO shipment of 39 960 nets arrived on 23 June and was offloaded in a DoH warehouse. The campaign targets around 20 000 households in seven highly affected communities in the east of rural Deir-ez-Zor.



WHO supports the leishmaniasis campaign in Deir ez Zor governorate

WHO supported a new initiative to monitor the quality of drinking water in Deir-ez-Zor. Ten workers from the Directorate of Environment, in coordination with DoH and the Directorate of Water Resources, conducted field visits to collect water sample from household tanks, jerry cans, water tankers, and water networks. The samples will be tested in the field and then sent to the lab for further bacterial and physiochemical tests. Of the 54 samples collected over the past week, 11 were found to be contaminated with E. coli. 14 field visits to rural areas in Al Mayadin and Al Ashara sub districts have been conducted since 5 June. Of the 102 samples collected, only 38 sample were found safe for drinking. 64 samples were contaminated biologically. In response, tanks have been cleaned and chlorine tablets distributed to households.

3.5. Qamishli Hub / Northeast Syria (NES)

The COVID-19 vaccination campaign is ongoing in NES and will continue until all allocated first dose vaccines are administered. The Qamishli hub team, in close coordination with DoH and partners, continues to monitor vaccination, prioritising targeted beneficiaries and conducting daily field visits to vaccination centres across NES.

Within the framework of RCCE, interactive sessions were conducted by a WHO team at Al-Hol camp in cooperation with UNICEF. They targeted health workers at several health facilities in the camp. The WHO team discussed the reasons behind the low intake of the COVID-19 vaccination, answered questions related to hesitancy, and provided technical support to clarify the value, working mechanism, availability, target groups, and side effects of the vaccine, as well as the challenges in sourcing the vaccine through COVAX. WHO focal points continue to follow up on case management of COVID-19 cases at Al-Hol camp and the functionality of the COVID-19 Treatment Facility (CTF) at the camp. The number of cases admitted to CTF was 32, 15 of which were negative, 14 positive, and 3 suspected.



WHO continues to monitor the COVID-19 vaccination campaign at Al-Hol camp in NES

WHO also follows up on referrals to Al-Hikma Hospital from the camps, of which there were 475 from medical investigation services to the neonatal department, deliveries, trauma, and surgeries.

The WHO MH focal point has received referrals for specialised consultations and services from ICRC and other NGOs. 22 patients received consultations, either remotely or face to face. In addition, the MH focal point delivered remote training in child and adolescent mental health to NGOs operating in Deir-ez-Zor.

WHO supports an awareness-raising campaign and hygiene promotion at camps in NES

The process of monitoring the quality of drinking water process is ongoing, through regular visits to 8 camps and 20 collective shelters, using bacterial, F.R.C, T.D.S, EC, PH, and Turb tests. 1 091 samples have been tested, 10.7% of which were found to be contaminated at the jerry can level. In addition, a two and a half month awareness-raising campaign is underway (15 June - 31 August 2021) that will in total target 85 599 beneficiaries. The campaign is being run in cooperation with 80 volunteers (20 at Abu Khashab camp, 20 at Areesheh camp, and 40 at Al-Hol camp) and aims to enhance and promote concepts of personal hygiene and environmental sanitation and to raise the awareness of camp residents in NES about the importance of hygiene and rational and safe use of drinking water, and to reduce the number of cases of diarrhoea over the summer.

A training workshop focused on nutrition was conducted by a WHO focal point at Areesheh camp on 16 June, targeting 14 health workers. The training covered several topics, including treatment protocols for the malnourished, supplies used, and referral pathways to WHO-supported health facility in Al-Hasakeh.



WHO runs a nutrition training workshop for health workers at Areesheh camp in NES

Training workshops focused on SAM were conducted by WHO between 22-24 June 2021 at Al-Hikma Hospital in Al-Hasakeh, targeting 25 health workers (4 paediatricians and 21 nurses) in order to strengthen the treatment of complex cases of acute malnutrition and to clarify the assessment process, supplies and treatment protocols.

4. North West Syria

4.1. Primary Health Care (PHC)

During the reporting period, WHO continued to support 20 primary health care facilities and mobile teams in NWS. Of these, 9 HFs were supported through integrated service delivery networks and 11 were supported as a last resort coverage for people living in camps and hard to reach settings.

Two months into implementation, a routine assessment of the Harim network was conducted. It included a review of expenditure status, procurement, coordination, trainings, and a pilot project for CHW referrals and continuation of operations. The Afrin network continues to be suspended, and work is ongoing to implement the project in cooperation with the International Rescue Committee.



A boy receives treatment at the WHO-supported Kafr Nash PHC in Kafr Naseh

The WHO Gaziantep Office provided technical support to NES partners in Erbil between 2-4 June, running a three-day in person workshop at which the primary health care Essential Health Service Package (EHSP) was introduced.

4.2. Non-Communicable Disease (NCD)

A four-day online training workshop on Thalassemia related guidelines for NWS began on 15 June with support from the Thalassemia International Federation. It engaged 19 clinical trainees from 8 Thalassemia centres who are supporting 997 patients with the Thalassemia blood disorder. 12 Thalassemia experts from across the globe engaged in the training, offered at two training venues in the cities of Idleb and Azzaz, at no cost.

4.3. Tuberculosis

368 visitors sought medical assistance at WHO-supported TB centres in NWS during the reporting period. 17 patients were diagnosed with TB and 96 tests were sent to GeneXpert in Antakya, of which 15 was tested positive for TB.

4.4. Dialysis services

WHO is collaborating with colleagues from John Hopkins University to assess the quality of service provided by dialysis centres in NWS. The assessment team is expected in Gaziantep in early July 2021.

4.5. EWARS

During the reporting period, the WHO-GZT office collaborated with the INGO 'World Vision International' to ensure continuation of support to laboratory and surveillance initiatives.

4.6. COVID-19

As of 26 June, 25 434 confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported in northwest Syria since the start of the pandemic. Of these, 22 243 have recovered and 707 have resulted in death. The COVAX vaccination campaign started on 1 May, and thus far 29 192 frontline health and community workers have been vaccinated. The Health Directorate in Gaziantep has requested support for Variant of Concern (VoC) squeezing in NWS.

4.7. Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS)

WHO mobilized NGOs working on MHPSS in Afrin following airstrikes to Afrin hospital and surrounding areas, to ensure provision of necessary psychological first aid and PSS counselling for the families of those who died (18) and the 23 injured with families.

WHO-supported MHPSS helplines offered 153 psycho-social support counselling sessions via phone, of which 122 were from community members complaining on mental health problems, 25 from COVID-19 patients, and 6 from COVID-19 frontline workers. 10 callers were referred for upper level care and support.

4.8. Immunization

97% (90/93 EPI centres in NWS are presently functional. 96% (129/134) teams are working and have conducted 562 sessions in the past week, at an average of 4.3 sessions per team. The estimated monthly target for child under the age of one year is currently 13 578. During the month of May, 2 682 vaccination sessions were planned while 2 225 were conducted (83%), of which 1 054 vaccines were given by fixed medical teams (47%) and 1 171 by mobile teams (53%).

4.9. Procurement

WHO procured PCR test kits and COVID-19 related supplies to the value of USD 700 000 from the local market, as well as N95 FFP2 respiratory masks and interagency emergency health kits and TESK kits/modules from the Dubai Hub. All supplies were funded by SCHF (760 000) and ECHO (200 000).

4.10. Cross-border Deliveries

WHO conducted three cross border deliveries (24 trucks in total) to NWS over the past week, including (on 8 June) the delivery of 7 truckloads to the warehouse managed by implementing partner NGO 'Hand in Hand for AID and Development'; (on 9 June) 3 truckloads to the implementing partner NGO 'IDA'; and (on 10 June) 14 truckloads to MSF, through the implementing partner NGO 'Hand in Hand for AID and Development'.

5. Vaccine Updates

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

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](#)

7. Contact Us

DR AKJEMAL MAGTYMOVA

Head of Mission and WHO Representative
Syrian Arab Republic

Tel: +963 11 3353265 / 3353284
email: emwrosyr@who.int
Twitter: [@DrAkjemal](https://twitter.com/DrAkjemal)

- [Gaziantep Field Presence:](#)

DR MAHMOUD DAHER

WHO Health Emergencies (WHE) Lead

Tel: +970 598 944650 / +970 82822033
email: daherm@who.int

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