

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

Issue 13 | 1 – 15 July 2021











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1. COVID-19 Update

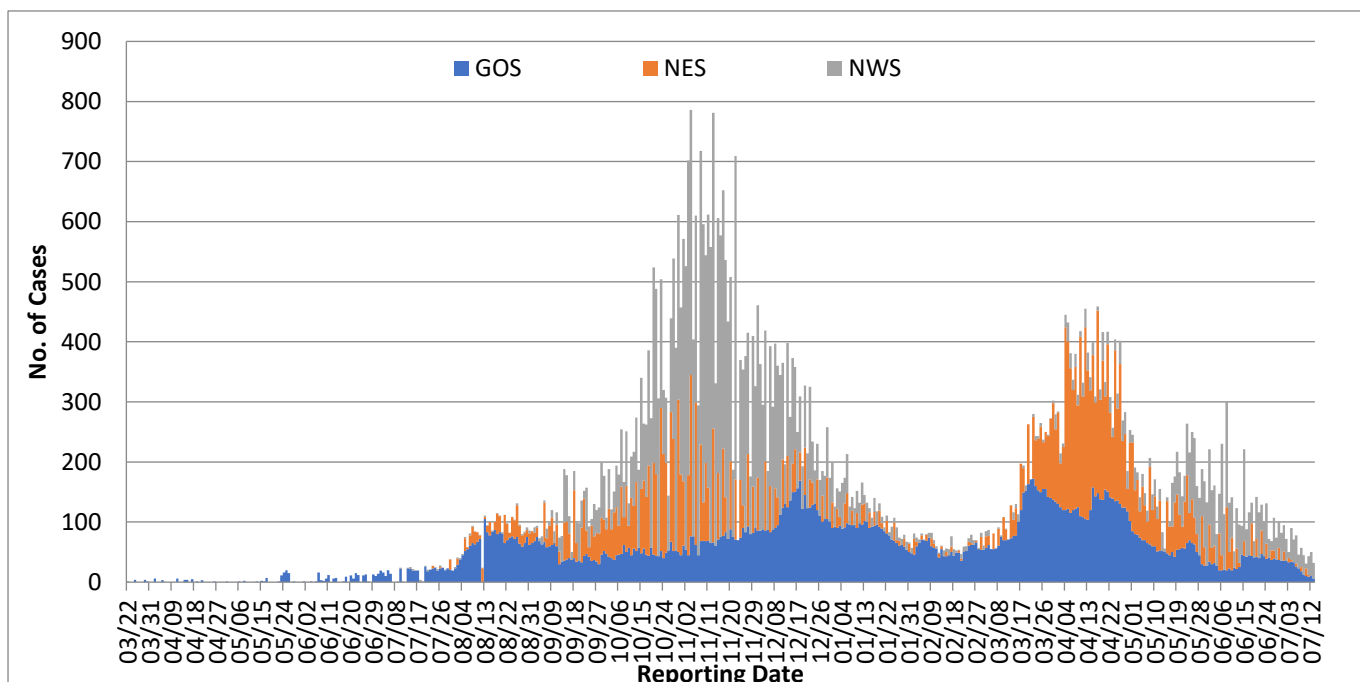
1.1 COVID-19 Statistical Summary at Whole of Syria Level

As of 13 July 2021

	70,446	Total cases (including 4,809 health workers)
	20,355	Active cases
	46,710	Recovered cases
	3,381	Deaths
	4.8%	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
	15	COVID-19 functional laboratories
	296,037	COVID-19 tests done
	1,452	Overall testing rate per 100 000 population
	345	Incidence rate per 100 000 population (highest in Al-Hasakeh; 1073)
	23.8%	Positivity rate

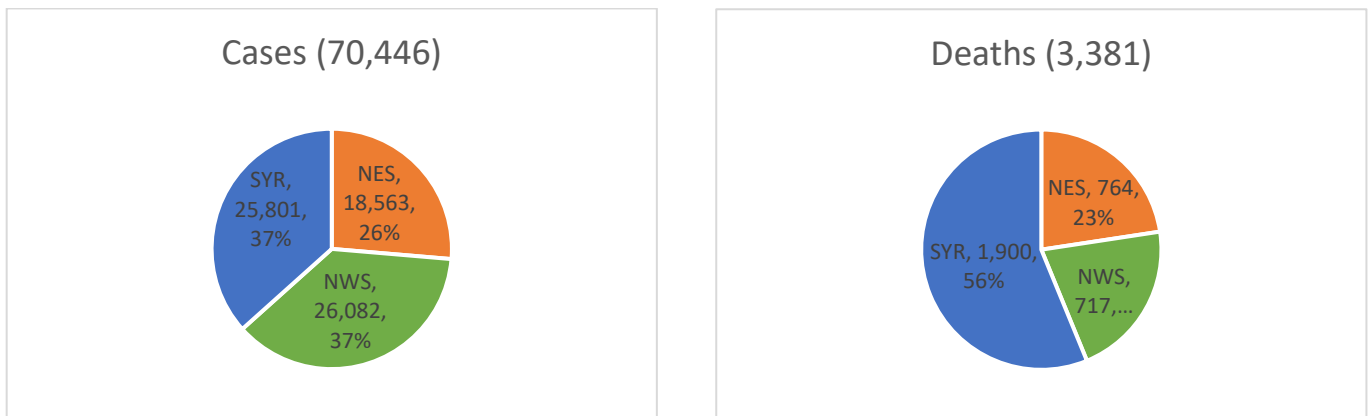
1.2. Daily Distribution of COVID-19 Cases at Whole of Syria Level

22 March 2020 – 13 July 2021 (n = 70,466)



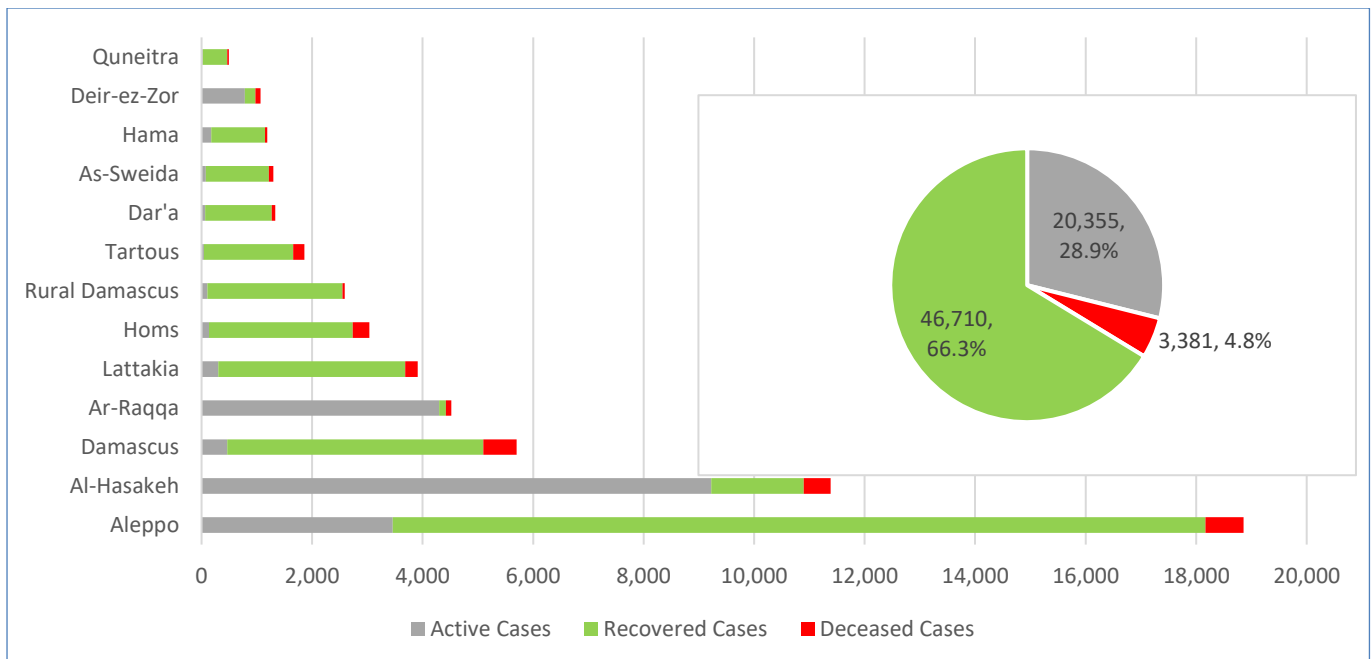
1.3. Distribution of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths at Whole of Syria Level

22 March 2020 – 13 July 2021



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

22 March 2020 – 13 July 2021



2. WHO-Syria Response

2.1. COVID-19 Vaccination

Syria received the first batch of vaccines supplied through the COVAX initiative on 21 April 2021. In total, 256 800 doses of AstraZeneca SII COVIDSHILD were received and distributed to Government-controlled areas and northeast Syria, as well as to northwest Syria.

The vaccination campaign in Syria started on 17 May 2021. Of total doses provided to Syria, 53 800 doses were delivered through Gaziantep for use in northwest Syria and 203 000 doses to Damascus for use in a national campaign implemented by the Ministry of Health across all other parts of the country, including northeast Syria.

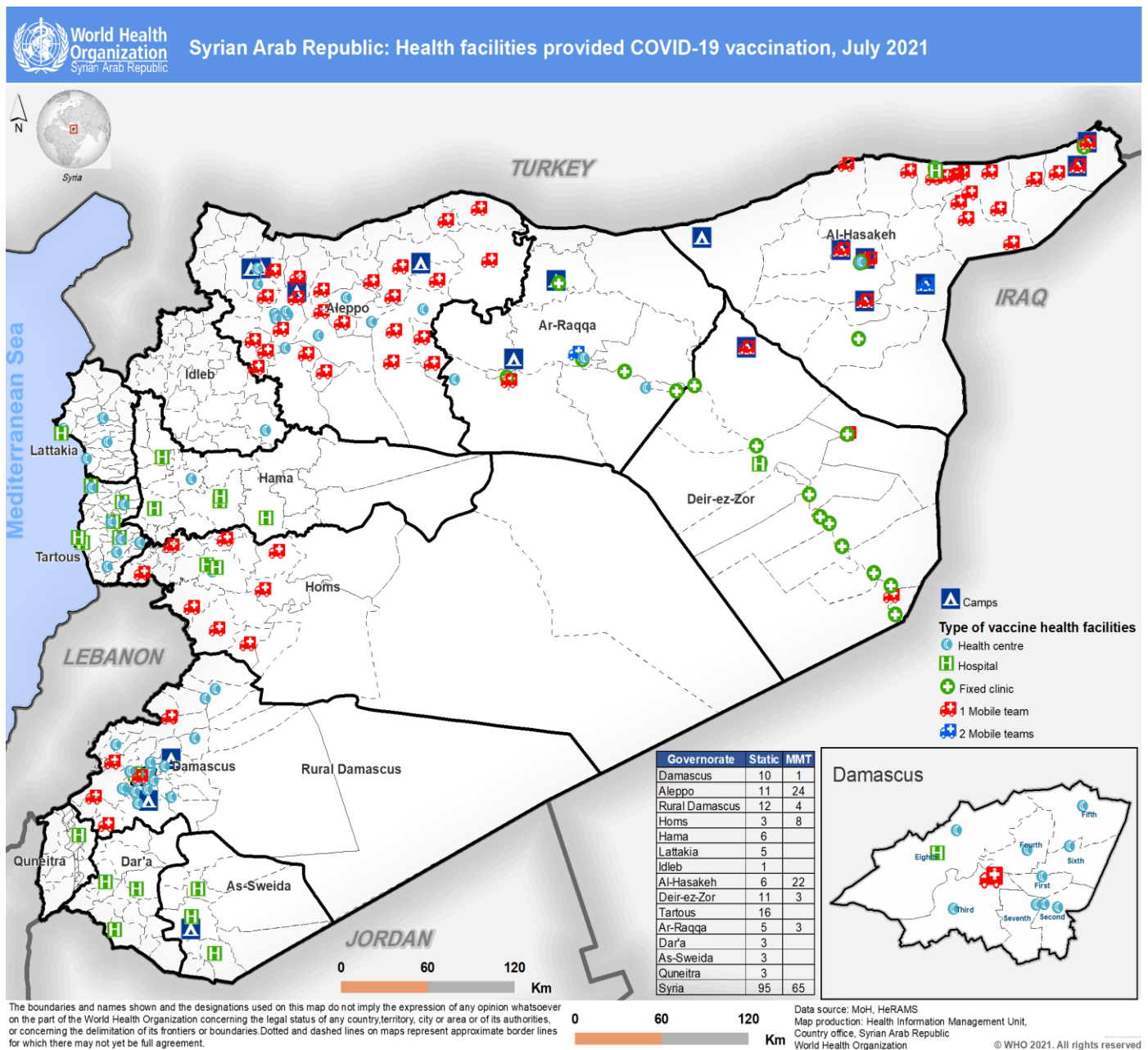
Health workers, the elderly and people with comorbidities are the high-risk priority groups as per the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan. The 2 different vaccination strategies are applied: in northwest Syria – all

currently available vaccine quantities are dedicated for first dose vaccination, while the national immunization programme split the total quantity available into 2 and has administered first dose vaccines only, keeping the second dose in stocks for later vaccination.

WHO and partners reached out to health care workers at health facilities and through medical syndicates to promote vaccine uptake.

As the vaccines expire in August 2021 and doses must be taken at least 8 weeks apart, the campaign was time sensitive and therefore, vaccines were offered to other groups in order to avoid waste.

Vaccine uptake was initially low across all governorates, but coverage grew as more people took the vaccine without experiencing side-effects, thus building confidence in the vaccine.



Vaccination Facts

100 321	Total number of people vaccinated in government-controlled areas and northeast Syria [the campaign for the first dose was completed by the end of June]
< 1%	The wastage rate in government-controlled areas and northeast Syria
35 021	Total number in northwest Syria until the end of June [vaccination campaign continues]

Vaccination in Northeast Syria

Northeast Syria received 22 500 doses of vaccines from the batch that was delivered to the Government of Syria under the COVAX Facility (i.e. 203 000 doses), airlifted to Qamishli airport for Hassakeh, Der-Ez-Zor governorates and by road for Raqqa governorate.

The national campaign aimed to reach people in all regions of northeast Syria, irrespective of areas of control.

As of 27 June, a total of 11 012 people in northwest Syria received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine under COVAX, including 2222 health workers and 8790 people aged 55+ and people with co-morbidities.

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 governorate with medical devices and furniture to enable the provision of health services to travelers. WHO is also working on establishing two medical points at the Jubousiya ground-crossing in Homs and the Judeidet Yabous crossing in Rural Damascus, rehabilitating sites and equipping them with medical devices.

2.3. Environmental Health

WHO continues to monitor water quality, checking for different types of contamination in different water sources, including water networks, ground wells, reservoirs, water tanks, and jerry cans; and running culture tests to identify pathogens. During the reporting period, 68 tests were conducted in four villages in the east of Rural Aleppo and 1 233 in NES (Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, and Deir-ez-Zor), including at eight IDPs camps and collective shelters. Some ice blocks provided to Al-Hol and Areesheh camps in NES were also tested. They were among the 138 sources in NES found to be contaminated, as were 61 in Rural Aleppo and 19 in Rural Damascus. All were sterilized.

A WHO mission, executed between 3 to 6 July, to Basira and Sur subdistricts in Deir-ez-Zor, where an increase in cases of acute diarrhea have been reported, included visits to households and four drinking water stations (Sabha, Basira, Al-Hereji, Sur ad Sabha). 13 water samples were tested, of which six (46.1%) were found to be unsafe for drinking. WHO will coordinate with authorities and partners to improve the quality of drinking water in those high risk areas.

In response to the increased risk of water-borne disease among vulnerable populations during the summer months, WHO conducted awareness campaigns at Areesheh camp (3-4 July), Al-Hol camp (5-6 July), Abu Khashab camp (7-8 July), targeting a total of 29 community workers who were trained in handwashing, food safety, and water treatment. WHO representatives visited a total of 144 households at the camps, offering advice brochures and chlorine tablets. The campaign will continue at all three camps until August, benefiting more than 85,000 IDPs.



WHO field visit to the drinking water stations in Deir ez Zor governorate

2.4. Health Sector Coordination

The Syria National Health Sector coordination team:

- Attended the inter-sectoral coordination meeting and provided health sector inputs during discussions about Euphrates drought response planning.
- Disseminated various documents and updates on humanitarian issues to health sector partners (HNAP documents, summaries of key indicators, 4Ws snapshots, COVID-19 response monitoring, etc.)
- Organized and conducted regular Health Sector coordination meeting on 13 July 2021, with COVID-19 and COVAX updates provided as standing agenda items.

The Northeast Syria coordination team:

- Attended and provided health sector updates during Al-Hol camp coordination meetings (6 and 13 July) and a formal and informal camps coordination meeting (4 July).
- Hosted and facilitated Al-Hol camp health sector coordination meetings (1, 8 and 15 July) and a Northeast Syria inter-hub meeting on 13 July
- Contributed to the organization of the AHCT meeting for the UN Quamishli Hub, attended and co-led by WHO Representative to Syria (6 July)
- Organized the meeting of WHO Representative with main health partners working at Al-Hol camp and with camp administration.
- Attended the AHCT meeting to discuss joint inter-agency needs assessment of Washokani camp (8 July).
- Attended the Whole of Syria monthly partners call (12 July) and contributed to the preparation of the slide-deck.

2.5. COVID-19 Laboratories

The Central Public Health Laboratory continues to run training workshops on biosafety, biosecurity, and good laboratory practice, with 7 of 9 planned workshops completed to date, the last of which, held in Hama governorate, was attended by 13 trainees.

WHO is in the process of delivering rapid diagnostic tests and 10 000 COVID-19 sampling Kits to NES.

2.6. Communicable Diseases

Ten thousand blood samples were collected from healthy volunteers as part of a survey run in collaboration with MoH. The serological epidemiological laboratory survey aims to detect SARS-CoV-2 antibodies are currently undergoing laboratory analysis. 20 public health centers in four governorates - Damascus, Tartous, Hama, and Aleppo – are engaged in the initiative.

2.7. Primary Health Care and Non-Communicable Diseases

WHO, in coordination with the Ministry of Education, supported the delivery of oral health services at schools in Eastern Ghouta. Phase two of the initiative, which had been suspended due to COVID-19 measures, took place between mid-April and June 2021. 6 085 students benefited from 27 140 dental services including: clinical examination, therapeutic services, and preventive and health promotions sessions, which were also attended by 230 teachers.

WHO conducted two 3-day capacity building workshops on cancer registry, targeting 50 registrars, oncologist doctors and radiologists from MOH, MOHE and Medical Military Services. Training modules included: an introduction to national cancer registry; types and TOR; the role of cancer registry in surveillance and epidemiology of cancer; cancer classification based on ICD-O3 (International Classification of Diseases for Oncology version3);

epidemiology and surveillance; early detection; and standard cancer registry /SEER and IARC guidelines. Training was complemented by practical group work on cancer registry.

WHO facilitated the participation of a MOH focal point in a high-level side event to the 2021 United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) High Level Political Forum held in New York. The event, held on 6 July, was entitled: ‘Target 3.A of the SDGs - WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control: Key to Recovery from COVID-19 and Building Back Better.

WHO initiated a private sector assessment study, in coordination with MOH and EMRO and using WHO adopted tools, in five governorates: Damascus, Homs, Dar’a, Aleppo and Lattakia.

In the context of a signed agreement between WHO and Arab Board of Health Specializations on Family Medicine Practice in EMRO countries, a joint meeting was held with MOH counterparts to discuss the status of family medicine in Syria at the national level, multisectoral coordination mechanisms, and best practices.

2.8. Secondary and Tertiary Health Care (STHC)

WHO has continued to support the installation of basic medical equipment at Harasta National Hospital in Rural Damascus and at the children’s hospital in Aleppo.

WHO conducted four IPC capacity building workshops, of which two were held virtually, on theoretical and practical aspects of: waste management measures at hospital level; patient’s safety; AMR at health facilities; the role of bacteriological labs in monitoring sterilization standards; surveillance for hospital associated infections; lab quality control; and PPE, among other relevant topics. A total of 120 lab staff from Damascus, Rural Damascus, Tartous and Lattakia attended the workshops.

2.9. Trauma

WHO trauma team joined WR on a mission to North East Syria, met with the Director of Health of Al Hasakeh governorate, private and public health providers and associations, to discuss health responses in NES, the implementation of the first phase of the COVID-19 vaccination in the region, and the way forward. The WHO team also met with members of the UN Area Humanitarian Coordination Team (AHCT) in Quamishli and discussed a range of humanitarian challenges in Northeast Syria, many of which are complex and span across sectors.

One hundred doctors, nurses, and anaesthesia technicians working in isolation centres and ICU and emergency departments in Al-Hasakeh, Damascus, and Tartous received training in management of war wounded and ICU patients, while 50 prosthetics & orthotics technician, physiotherapist, and physiatrists in Damascus and Rural Damascus attending training sessions at the MOH centre of prosthetics and rehabilitation in Damascus in the field of disability and rehabilitation, specifically principles of orthoses use on patients with lower limb deformities and rehabilitation of diabetic foot.

Over 200 surgical kits of different types were distributed to health partners in Aleppo, Lattakia, Damascus, and Homs, and 250 oxygen cylinders to Tartous, Lattakia and Damascus as part of an initiative to enhance the capacity of public health facilities in timely and appropriate emergency response.

2.10. Tuberculosis (TB) / HIV

A total of 1 462 participants benefited from 28 awareness sessions on TB during the reporting period. 973 suspected cases were tested for TB, of which 16 were confirmed as positive.

To date, a total of 12 678 prisoners have attended awareness sessions on TB. 1 888 suspected cases were tested for TB, of which 13 came back positive.

Regular activities for both TB & HIV programs were conducted as usual by national programs at the Ministry of Health. WHO provided support for the shipping of samples of suspected cases to the national TB and HIV reference

labs in Damascus, in addition to covering the fees of MOH staff needed to conduct monitoring and supervisory visits to the TB and HIV centers in various governorates.

2.11. Mental Health (MH)

MHPSS services delivery

Five hundred thirty three integrated MHPSS services were delivered by trained health and schools professionals at the level of MoE during the reporting period, and 5 569 mental health consultations were conducted by Ips through the Aleppo hub during the same period. A consultative meeting was held with the minister of higher education, the deputy for health, and the medical and academic research director, together with the UNHCR health/mental health program lead. Integration of MH in university hospitals through the establishment of a psychiatric ward and outpatient clinics was discussed, as well as mhGAP adaptation for in-service and pre-service care, with the aim of developing an action plan for implementation. The timeframe suggested for achieving the first phase of systemized integration is six months.

MHPSS prevention and promotion at the community level:

The 'My Hero is You' campaign was completed in rural of Damascus, in Al-Tal, Al-Qutaifa. It has been implemented by community workers from two local NGOs.

A technical review of two draft proposals sought to scale up the 'My Hero is You' campaign in order to target the elderly, adults and their care givers in Aleppo, Homs, Hama, and Rural Idleb.

Equipment and psychotropic

- To date 159 886 treatment courses have been delivered to partners across the country, including in the emergency response areas of northeast and northwest Syria.
- Two hematology machines were installed and are operational at Ibn Sina Hospital in Damascus and Ibn Khaldoon hospital in Aleppo during the first half of the year. Three biochemistry systems are to be shipped to Syria following approval by MoFA.

2.12. Nutrition

WHO team began the process of data collection as part of the neonatal resuscitation program. 5 237 deliveries took place at 51 hospitals in 12 governorates during the month of May 2021. In the same month, 1 779 home visits were conducted, resulting in the referral of 20 cases for specialized care.

In addition, the team started monitoring the management of complicated severe acute malnutrition at the MOHE Tishreen Hospital in Lattakia from 24-26 June 2021.

2.13. External Relations and Communication

The communication team provided media coverage for 3-day WHO field visit to Al-Hasakeh governorate headed by WHO Representative to Syria, Dr Akjemal Magtymova. The WHO team met with senior officials and visited private and public sector health providers and associations to discuss the implementation of the first phase of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign in northeast Syria. The mission concluded with a visit to Al-Hol Camp, home to a population of about 60 000, mainly women and children who are in need of continued health services, especially within the context of the pandemic and water shortages during extremely hot temperatures.

WHO, in close cooperation with UNICEF, finalized an update to the risk communication and demand generation sections of the National Deployment Vaccination Plan (NDVP). They will be shared with MOH for final endorsement.

Four new stories were developed and posted on the WHO Syria web page <https://bit.ly/3zQlnsK>, topics addressed were:

- Nutrition stabilization centres in NES
- People with disabilities in Aleppo

- World No Tobacco Day 2021
- The “My Hero is You” regional initiative

2.14. Community Engagement (NGOs)

WHO is supporting 14 implementing partners to strengthen health responses in severe health areas in Syria.

Together with NGO partners, WHO has strengthened the provision of lifesaving and life-sustaining referral-based health care services in northeast Syria. 86 recipients benefited from trauma care services and 88 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. 16 353 health services were provided in Damascus and Rural Damascus, while 264 lifesaving and life-sustaining health services were supported on a referral basis and 3 111 MHPSS services were delivered.

With WHO support, NGOs conducted 130 hearing evaluation tests, delivered 367 speech and language therapy sessions, and provided 30 hearing aids to beneficiaries in Damascus, Rural Damascus and Lattakia.

2.15. Information Products and Related Activities

With the participation of the regional office expert, WHO conducted capacity building training for MOH and other health partners on mortality data analysis to assess progression of the COVID-19 pandemic and develop the national death registration strategy.

Information products and activities delivered include:

Updated COVID-19 Dynamic Infographic Dashboard for Syria

Updated the online item tracking system for COVID-19 in Syria

Provided key information on health facilities, based on HeRAMS data

Updated maps for health sector interventions

(Health Sector & WHO) 4Ws snapshots, for May 2021

WoS summary of WHO key performance indicators, for April 2021

Snapshots on attacks on health care, for 2020 annual and 2021 Q1 at WoS level

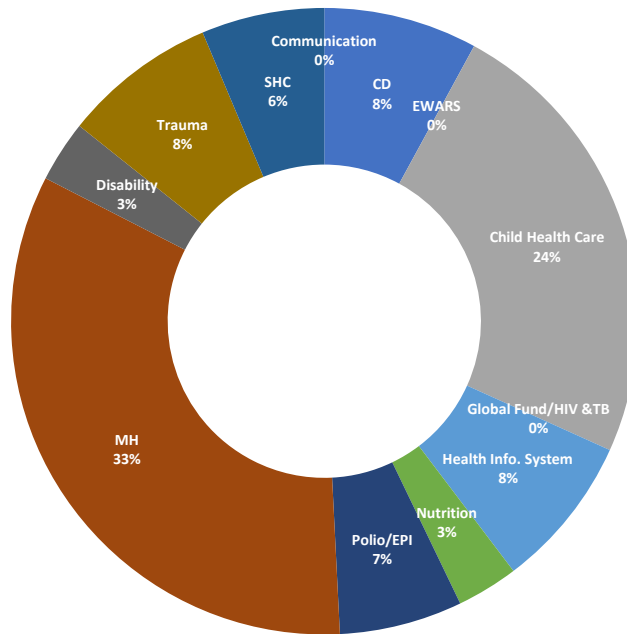
Health Sector COVID-19 response monitoring for the period from 1 January to 31 May 2021

2.16. Operations Support and Logistics

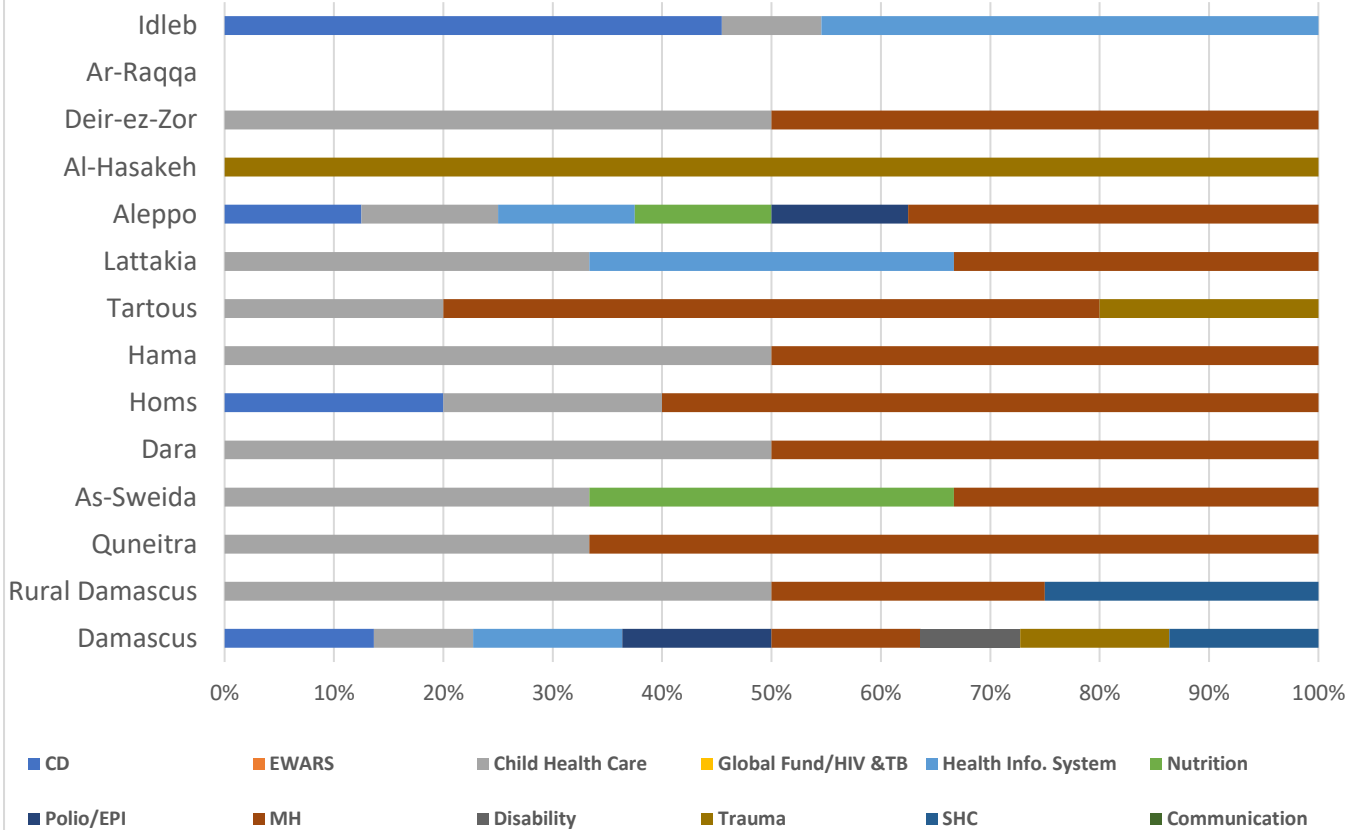
WHO dispatched 189 918 tons of medical, lab, WASH, and ICT supplies, kits, equipment, haemodialysis sessions, mosquito nets and printing materials to 15 MoH facilities, 3 MoHE hospitals, MoE, INGOs, 12 NGOs, 1 NGHs, 2 NGPHCs, SARC, KRC and UNRWA in 6 governorates.

2.17. Capacity Building

WHO supported 60 activities for overall 1510 participants during 01-15 July 2021



Programatic activities per location/ governorate during 01-15 July 2021



3. WHO Syria Sub-Office Response

3.1. Aleppo Hub

Despite the steady decrease in the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Syria, Aleppo continues to report the highest number - 397 in June 2021 – of all governorates.

The first phase of the Astra/Zeneca Vaccination campaign was concluded after 97% of the target group received their first dose.

WHO supported a two-week on-the-job training initiative in Aleppo for eight trauma and rehabilitation technicians visiting from Deir-ez-Zor as part of an ongoing grant agreement with Yadan Biyad NGO that targets both governorates.

A WHO team visited Dar Al-Safaa centre for the elderly in eastern Aleppo, a facility that hosts 146 residents, of whom 83 are male and 63 female, 5 children and 22 MH patients. Hospital management plans to expand its capacity with a new MH unit for which new medical equipment is needed and has been requested from WHO.

Several coordination meetings were held with UNHCR, SARC and WHO partners regarding trauma and rehabilitation services in rural areas, at which the following points were agreed:

- The main concern is to enhance accessibility for patients unable to afford transportation cost
- Available data of PWDs in the targeted areas (Tall Ed-daman district south rural Aleppo) will be checked and share
- WHO is supporting 2 MMT specialized in trauma and rehabilitation (mainly through provision of physical rehabilitation sessions and distribution of mobile aids)
- WHO supported teams will be connected to UNHCR community centers in some villages where PHCs are not available.



WHO team field visit to Dar Al-Safaa elderly center in Aleppo governorate.

A WHO team conducted a field visit to follow up on work being done as part of the nationwide serological-epidemiological survey of human infection with the SARS-CoV-2.

- Six centres in Aleppo were engaged in the survey (New Aleppo, Khalid ben Alwalid, Hamdanieh, Shuhada'a, AlMalek Aldhafer and Maysalon).
- 4 273 participants were randomly targeted among the general population in Aleppo.
- Endorsed informed consent was received by each participant before their inclusion in the study.
- Each participant registered with a special code.
- DoH collected two samples, sending one to the Aleppo laboratory and the second, for confirmation, to the national laboratory in Damascus.
- Participants returned to centre after two weeks to receive their result.

A workshop was conducted at the central level in Aleppo governorate to: discuss how the stigma and discrimination for people living with HIV (PLHIV) and people affected by HIV significantly contributes to the slow national HIV response; re-coordinate with all decision-makers and develop national policies in the fight against AIDS; and promote the exchange of knowledge and experiences among decision-makers. 25 participants attended the workshop.

3.2. Lattakia Hub

The number of cases of COVID-19 continues to decrease in the coastal area. Lattakia reported 16 new cases and 3 deaths and Tartous 3 new cases and one death during the two-week reporting period. The latest occupation rates at isolation units in Lattakia & Tartous are as follows:

GOV	Isolation Facility	# of Patients	# Total	# Of Patients	# Total
		in Isolation	Isolation Beds	in ICU	ICU Beds
Latakia	Lattakia National Hospital	0	40	6	12
	Al-Heffeh hospital	5	30	2	6
	Al-Kornesh Center	0	80	0	0
	Tishreen university hospital	9	29	5	14
Tartous	Al-Basel hospital	7	120	0	14

WHO conducted a site visit to the main public hospitals in Latakia - National hospital, Al-Haffeh hospital, Tishreen University Hospital - along with a team from STHC unit in WCO, to assess and prioritize the needs of said hospitals and include them in the next procurement plan for health supplies.

Within the context of a nationwide study, WHO began a serological-epidemiological survey of human infection with the SARS-CoV-2 in Tartous governorate, aiming to study the characteristics of antibody positive cases by history, exposure, clinical manifestation, and history of PCR testing.

A CT scanner provided by WHO has been installed at Lattakia's Basel Cardiovascular Hospital. WHO visited the hospital to supervise the process.

WHO supported capacity building workshops under different intervention areas, including mental health, health information system, and nutrition programs, for health workers at the Lattakia DOH.

3.3. Homs Hub

Rukban returnees

One hundred ten people from Rukban, who had been hosted at the Dwier reception center, arrived in Homs Governorate on 30 June, bringing the total number of people who have left Rukban and arrived in Homs to 20 087, of whom 19 975 have transited through Homs shelters, and 329 had left Rukban supported by UN/SARC. SARC reported that 109 of them had settled in Mahin and one in Al Zohouryeh without passing through shelters in Homs.

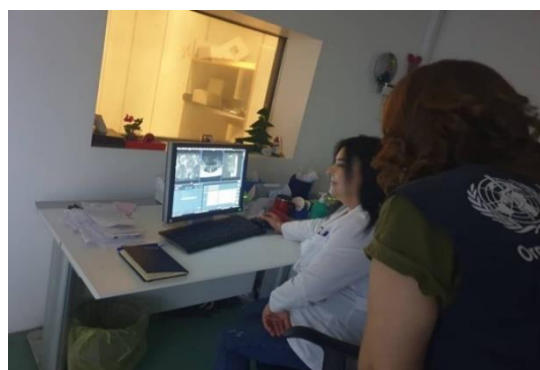
According to data confirmed by Damascus and SARC, only 76 people left Dwier reception center to areas of their choice in Homs (mainly to Mahin and Qryatin), while 34 individuals remain at the centre, among them 15 Syrians deported from Jordan via Rukban. Two individuals continue to receive necessary medical attention in hospital.

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Homs during the reporting period was 26, taking the total in the governorate to 3 030; and 16 in Hama, taking the total there to 1 182. The case fatality rates in Homs and Hama are 9.8 % and 3.0% respectively, while COVID-19 occupancy rates at all hospitals around 18 and 15 % respectively.

Collection of samples began in Hama for a study that aims to estimate the sero-prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 infection in some governorates of Syria among the general population according to age group and gender. The study includes



WHO team visiting the National hospital in Lattakia governorate



WHO provided Al-Basel Hospital in Lattakia governorate with a new CT scanner and visited to follow up on its installation

a review of the characteristics of antibody positive cases by history, exposure, clinical manifestation, and history of PCR testing. 2 240 samples were collected across age groups at PCHs in Hama.

WHO participated in a workshop, run by UNICEF in Homs, that addressed the coverage equity assessment of immunization across governorates, and the different ways in which to reach children who have not been vaccinated. A survey of 1 800 families in Homs governorate was conducted in 2019 that sought to identify the vaccination coverage rate for children between 12-23 months and women of childbearing age. The rate in Homs governorate was found to be approximately 99,1%.

WHO supported a health project in Homs with the NGO Lamset Shefa and the family wellbeing center in Dar Al Kabera, assisting in the provision of two medical mobile teams in northern and eastern Rural Homs providing primary health services, secondary health services, and management of mental health and psychosocial conditions among people suffering from psychological distress and survivors of domestic violence/GBV at the community level. Medical consultations were provided to 3 738 beneficiaries, of which 1 098 consultations were for child health, 399 for gynecology and RH, 117 for trauma and 126 for MH PSS services.

WHO facilitated training on Mental Health GAP stage 1 for 25 doctors from Homs and Aleppo DOE. The main topics addressed were depression, psychosis, bipolar disorder, suicide, stress disorders, epilepsy, psychopharmacological treatments, self-care and psychological first aid. Special attention was given to psychological conditions among school students.

Four medical mobile teams supported by WHO were initiated on 9 July to provide primary health services and free medicines for the most vulnerable people in: south Hama, specifically Hur Benafseh, Zara, Taqsis, Tulef, Labeh, and six slum neighborhoods; East Salamiya district (the villages of Alsaan, Abo Dali, Sheikh Helal, and Egerbaat); and Sahl Alghb district in northwest Hama (Shatha, Orzelat, Naorat Joreen, Rasm bet Gazi). The targeted population includes 370 000 individuals.

3.4. Deir-Ez-Zor Hub

Of the seven hospitals in Deir ez Zor governorate, four are nonfunctional and three are functional. The three functional hospitals operate within one hospital compound. This compound comprises three hospitals covering internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics, and surgery. The only CT scanner in the compound was installed in 2010 and has since undergone several maintenance procedures and has been out of service since the beginning of 2021. WHO sub office in Deir-ez-Zor has received approval for the procurement of a CT scanner for the compound. The equipment is critically needed and will support diagnostic services for COVID-19, NCDs, and trauma.

A field visit conducted with the engineering office at Al Assad hospital on 20 June 2021, exposed many deficits in WASH facilities. WHO is planning to carry out minor rehabilitation for defective WASH facilities and to provide the hospital with a medical waste management system.

WHO supported Deir-ez-Zor DoH through the provision of 10 central cholera kits: 3 logistics kits, 3 document/stationaries kits, 3 drugs kits, and one renewable supplies kit. These supplies will increase the capacity of Deir ez Zor DoH being to prepare for and respond to water borne diseases at a time when the water levels of the Euphrates river are decreasing.

WHO participated in focus group discussions with UN agencies in Deir-ez-Zor Hub to discuss the monitoring of access severity and determine perceptions of access difficulties in the sub-districts of the governorate. Multiple questions assisted in scoring access constraint levels, and the categorization of sub districts into three level of accessibility.

WHO continues to support monitoring of water quality with the directorate of environment in Deir-ez-Zor. Between 19 and 29 July, environment directorate teams conducted field trips to rural areas in Al Tebni and Khasham sub districts. 100 samples of water were collected and tested, of which only 23 were safe for drinking and 77 were biologically contaminated. The cleaning of tanks and distribution of chlorine tablets to households was

recommended. In parallel, DoH is disseminating chlorine disinfecting tablets, previously donated by WHO, to PHCs to be distributed among households.

With WHO support, Deir-ez-Zor DOH launched a leishmaniasis vector control campaign that includes insecticide spraying indoors, awareness raising, and the distribution of insecticide treated nets. At the beginning of this month and in line with preparations for the campaign, WHO supported training of 50 workers from DoH and local municipalities in the most affect communities. On 23 June, a WHO shipment of 39 960 nets arrived and was offloaded to a DoH warehouse. The campaign is targeting about 20 000 households in seven highly affected communities in eastern rural Deir-ez-Zor. As of 1 July, 13 941 households have been sprayed with insecticide.



WHO supports the leishmaniasis vector control campaign in Deir-ez-Zor governorate

3.5. Qamishli Hub / Northeast Syria (NES)

A WHO team headed by the WHO representative conducted a field visit to the Qamishli sub office between 4 and 7 July. Among the various activities undertaken were visits to Qamishli National Hospital and WHO warehouse, a meeting with UN agencies representatives in QAM, a meet with the director of health and the governor of Al-Hasakeh with health interlocutors, a field visit to Al Hikma Hospital, and a meeting with technical staff in Qamishli. A field visit to Al Hol camp and a meeting with the health focal points helped increase understand of gaps, challenges and needs in the provision of health support.

With WHO support, St. Afram association began operation of a primary health care center in Al-Hasakeh and another PHC in Deir-ez-Zor on 15 June.

A WHO team visited Ain Al Arab health center on 4 and 5 July to supervise the ongoing COVID-19 vaccination campaign. The AZ vaccination campaign was finalized in NES, after 11 128 people were , achieving 103.5% of the target (10,750). 13,320 AZ vaccines had been received for administration as first doses, indicating a wastage rate of 1.95%.

WHO focal points are following up the process of COVID-19 case management at Al Hol camp and the functionality of the CTF inside the camp, and providing technical support. Six cases were admitted to CTF (1 confirmed COVID-19 case and five suspected cases).

WHO supported the referral of 174 cases from the camps to Al Hikma Hospital for treatment in the neonatal department, and for deliveries, trauma, and surgeries as needed.

The WHO Mental Health focal point followed up on suspected cases of COVID-19 and supported beneficiaries with specialized services, providing 16 MH consultations during the reporting period.

The monitoring of water quality is ongoing through regular visits to eight camps and 20 collective shelters using bacterial, F.R.C, T.D.S, EC, PH, and turb tests. 1 201 samples were tested, 9.6% of which were found to be contaminated on the jerry can level.

The WHO Qamishli sub-office is conducting a COVID-19 awareness-raising campaign in camps in cooperation with 80 volunteers (20 at Abu Khashab camp, 20 at Areeshah camp, and 40 at Al- Hol camp). The campaign aims at enhancing and promoting best practices for personal hygiene and environmental sanitation, and rational and safe usage of drinking water, in a bid to reduce the prevalence of water borne diseases over the summer.



Monitoring of waterquality in the camps

4. North West Syria

4.1. Primary Health Care (PHC)

WHO continues to support two integrated health service delivery networks in Harim and North Aleppo, while the Afrin Network is currently being developed.

WHO continues to support 18 PHCs and MTs in NWS, eight of which through integrated service delivery networks and 10 as a last resort coverage.

WHO is able to continue or start supporting seven PHCs. The funding for four of them will expire by the end of September (OFDA 71001).

The referral system in north Aleppo, Afrin and Idlib is functional.

4.2. Non-Communicable Disease (NCD)

The NCD TWG has formed a collaboration with SIG-C4D to review HP messages about the benefits of COVAX immunization. IEC messages have been created and are under review.

The TIF (Thalassemia Int Federation) is developing recommendations related to gaps identified during a four-day training workshop on Thalassemia Guidelines for NWS. Once received, WHO will host an online meeting with clinicians and the Ad Hoc Thalassemia Task Force.

The NCD TWG shared a presentation about online Thal Training and the Blood Bank Campaign at HC meeting.

4.3. Tuberculosis

Service provision is ongoing at the three TB centres, which are facing challenges due to interrupted financial support. Current projects are due to come to an end on 5 July, after which there will be a gap of between 5 and 10 days before the new phase of support for TB centres in Afrin and Idlib, and at the Azaz center will begin.

SRD will continue to support the TB center financially while WHO will provide technical support with TB first and second-line medications.

148 beneficiaries visited the three TB centres in the past week, 19 of whom were diagnosed. In the same week, 29 samples were sent to Antakya for GeneXpert testing, of which 6 came back positive. A new batch of samples have been sent to Gaziantep.

4.4. Dialysis services

The dialysis task force led by WHO is coordinating with colleagues from Qatar Charity to complete the second round of distribution of basic dialysis medications to cover the needs of around 700 hemodialysis patients for three months.

Following some administrative challenges, preparations are almost complete for a visit by colleagues from Johns Hopkins University that will take place in the second half of July.

4.5. EWARS

The continued support of leishmaniasis activities through MENTOR is in progress. Work this week has focused on the distribution plan of Glucantime through MENTOR.

An initiative to support labs, surveillance and contact tracing with WV- ACU (phase 4) is also in progress.

4.6. COVID-19

As of 9 JULY, there have been 25 913 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in northwest Syria since the start of the pandemic. Of these, 22 731 are recovered and 714 have resulted in death.

The COVOX vaccination campaign began on 1 May, 2021 and to date 40 525 front line health, community workers and people with comorbidities and/or aged 60+ have received a first dose. 11 455 (28%) of those vaccinated are women and 29 070 (72%) are men. 35 134 (87%) of those vaccinated are between the ages of 30 and 60.

The number of those vaccinated to date:

- HCW: 12,913 (32%)
- Social & humanitarian workers: 10,870 (27%)
- Patients with co-morbidities: 16,468 (40%)
- Elderly aged 60+: 274 (1%)

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

NGOs reported three specialized MHPSS facilities (inpatient/outpatient) and 189 outpatient non-specialized MHPSS facilities in 72 communities and 28 subdistricts across NWS.

WHO HQ and WHO EURO were able to offer support to the Azaz Asylum Hospital for three months. Discussions with WHO-HQ, WHO-Gaziantep with WHO-Damascus have addressed the transfer of 79 patients with chronic mental health needs who were originally being treated at Ibn Khaldoun Hospital in Aleppo city, under GoS control.

Following an attack on Al Shifa Hospital in Afrin, the TWG, under the leadership of the MHPSS coordinator from SAMS, and NGOs working in Afrin-Azaz mobilized to provide PFA and PSS counselling to the families of those who died and all hospital staff, including those who were injured and their families.

UOSSM Turkey has been running a special needs rehabilitation centre in Idlib City for children with mental, hearing, and speech disabilities. A promotional poster has recently been created and shared.

The MHPSS TWG plans to conduct a needs assessment on cases of substance and drug abuse. 88 such cases have presented between January and March 2021.

WHO continues to support the provision of MHPSS services to the 997 thalassemia patients and related capacity building for thalassemia clinicians.

The WHO MHPSS TWG is prioritizing suicide prevention following a mapping of MHPSS needs and services. A total of 31 persons committed suicide, 142 attempted it and 186 considered it. WHO is waiting on donors (esp. ECHO) to provide financial support for capacity building on MHPSS to address suicide prevention, group IPT, supervision on PM Plus, child mental health, ToT in school mental health, and other related needs). Capacity building activities for WHO-supported MHPSS workers has been on hold for six months.

4.8. Immunization

93 EPI centres have been initiated in northwest Syria (NWS), all of which are functional. All 134 teams are functional and have conducted 539 sessions over the past week, at an average of 4 sessions per team. The monthly target for children under the 12 months old is 13 578. In the month of May, 2 682 vaccination sessions were planned, of which 2 225 were conducted (83%), 1 054 by teams at fixed sites (47%) and 1 171 by mobile teams (53%).

All 622 EPI team members have been trained by SIG on COVID-19 awareness, physical distancing and protective measures. A monitoring tool was developed to measure adherence of teams to WHO guidelines regarding physical distancing, use of PPEs and delivery of COVID-19 awareness. Governorate and district supervisors submit regular reports that are discussed at regular online meetings.

The immunisation team regularly participates in comprehensive dialogues with UNICEF/Gaziantep, WHO EMRO, UNICEF regional office and GAVI to ensure sustained EPI services in NWS. The final draft of the programme support rationale, budget, planning document and grant performance framework have been submitted to and reviewed by IRC. Suggested action points and suggestions were received along with requests for further information.

The COVAX TA plan has been finalized, submitted, processed and approved by GAVI. The COVAX vaccine request has also been finalized and was submitted on time. Though NWS is not able to do cost sharing of vaccine procurement, this will not hinder the ability to access fully subsidized donor-funded doses through the COVAX AMC.

WHO and partners finalized the development of the National Vaccination & Deployment Plan (NVDP) for NWS, submitted it to EMRO on time, and had it approved by a regional review committee. All feedback received from RRC have been addressed.

A targeted country assistance (TCA) plan was developed and shared with EMRO before submission to GAVI, which then approved it.

Eight hundred fifteen thousand and two hundred forty two children under 5 years old in NWS were targeted for immunisation. 862 737 children (106%) were vaccinated. Independent monitoring conducted following the campaign using bOPV with 1 384 teams, 452 supervisors and nine central supervisors, suggested a coverage rate of 93.1%.

4.9. Cross -border

On 8 and 10 July, WHO Gaziantep filled 22 trucks with PPEs, COVID-19 diagnostic kits, NCD kits, trauma and surgical kits, interagency emergency health kits (supplementary and basic modules), and insulin. The supplies, valued at 3.4 million USD, had been prepared for pre-positioning inside northwest Syria.

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](#)

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