

# Monthly COVID-19 Bulletin

## January 2022

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## Epidemiological Overview

Data as of 29 January 2022



### *Descriptive analysis of epidemiological data for the Whole of Syria (29 January 2022)*

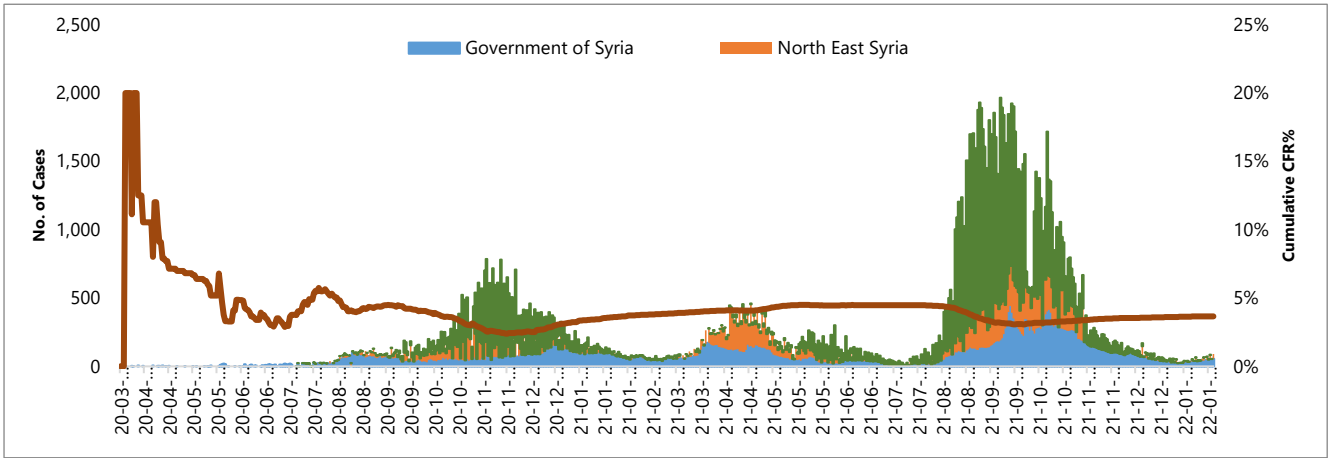
A total of 181,803 confirmed cases of COVID-19 were reported in Syria between 22 March 2020 and 29 January 2022; of which, 93,068 (51.19%) were reported from north-west Syria (NWS), 51,284 (28.21%) from areas of Syria controlled by the government (GoS), and the remaining 37,451 (20.60%) from north-east Syria (NES). During the same period, a total of 6,872 related deaths were reported; of which 2,984 (43.42%) from GoS, 2,363 (34.39%) from NWS, and 1,525 (22.19%) from NES. The overall Case Fatality Rate (CFR) is 3.8%.

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported across the Whole of Syria decreased by 55% in January (n=1,379) compared with previous month (n=3,065). The decrease was sharper in NWS by 84.8% in January 2022 (n=111) compared to December 2021 (n=728). Cases reported in GoS decreased by 52.3% in January 2022 (n=1,006) compared to December 2021 (n=2,108). Conversely, NES reported a slight increase of new cases by 14.41% with 262 new cases in January compared with 229 cases reported in previous month.

The trend in number of cases detected at the WoS is proportional to the trend of lab tests done for the reporting month since testing capacity is still limited to hospitalized patients at GoS and NES due to interruption in laboratory supplies.

The declining trend of COVID-19 new case detection was observed in all governorates of Syria except in Daraa and AL Hassakeh where cases increased by 15.6% in Dara and 120.9% in Al Hassakeh; this increase could be attributed to the resumption of the laboratory testing in Al Hassakeh during January 2022. The number of reported cases of COVID-19, and its percentage from the national total, across all 14 governorates of Syria during the month of January is as follows: Al-Hasakeh 16.82% (n= 232), Lattakia 13.56% (n= 187), Aleppo 11.31% (n= 156), Tartous 11.17% (n= 154), Damascus 9.21% (n= 127), Dar'a 8.05% (n= 111), Homs 6.53% (n= 90), Hama 6.24% (n= 86), As-Sweida 5.22% (n= 72), Rural Damascus 4.71% (n= 65), Idleb 4.21% (n= 58), Ar-Raqqa 1.31% (n= 18), Deir-ez-Zor 1.09% (n= 15), Quneitra 0.58% (n= 8).

Figure 1. Whole of Syria weekly reported COVID-19 cases up to 29 January 2022

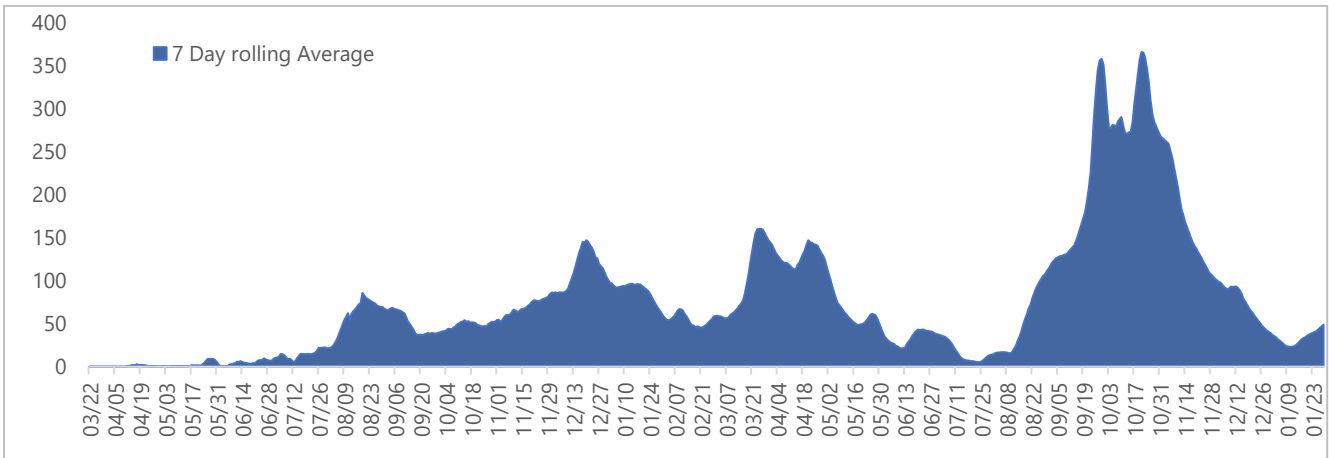


*Descriptive analysis per region*

**Government of Syria**

GoS areas reported four waves of COVID-19 since the start the pandemic. The fourth wave peaked on 21 October 2021 and declined in December 2021 indicating a regression in the COVID-19 fourth wave in GoS areas. However, the trend of COVID-19 cases showed an increase during January 2022, the 7-day moving average of new cases was 49 by the end of January 2022 in line with Regional OMICRON circulation in EMR countries.

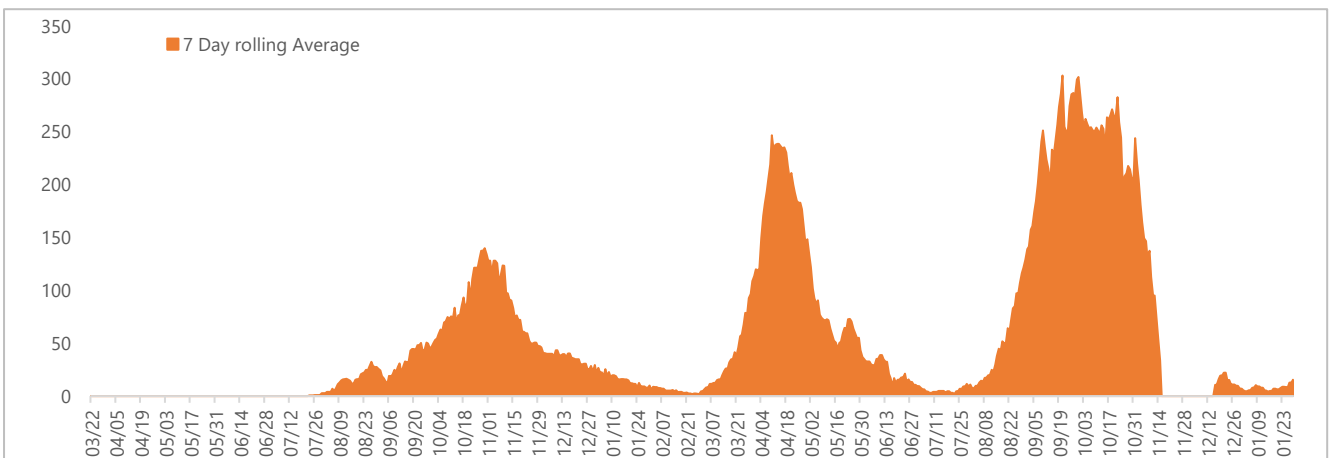
Figure, 2 The 7-days rolling average of COVID-19 cases in GoS



**North-east Syria**

The number of reported cases in NES declined in December 2021, due to interruption of lab testing. Later, resumed in January 2022, but with limited capacity. The current 7-days moving average of new cases increased to 37 cases.

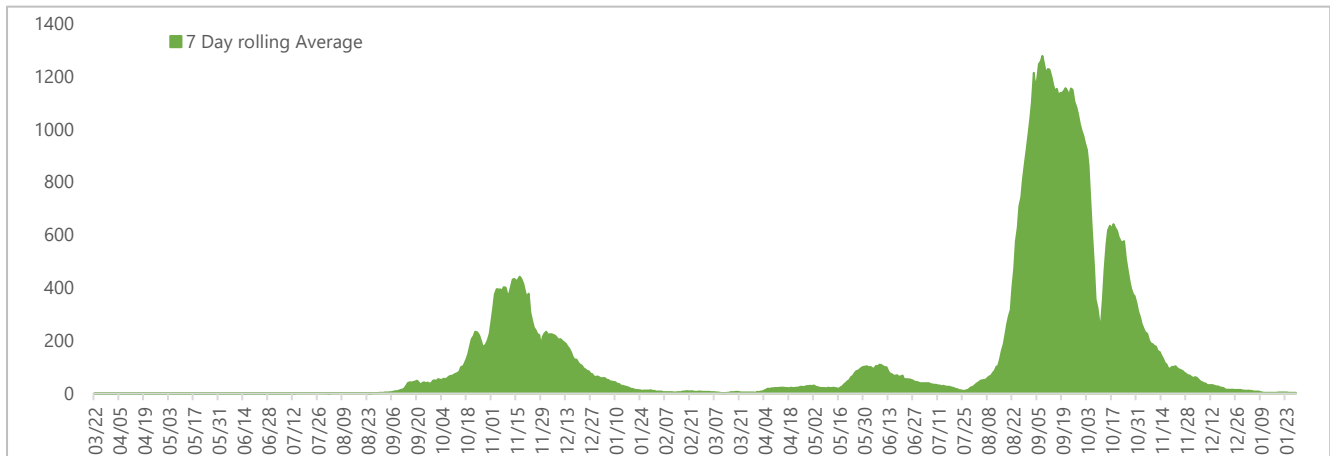
Figure 3 The 7-days rolling average of COVID-19 cases in NES



## North-west Syria

The number of confirmed cases in NWS continued to decline in January 2022, this decrease might be due to a decline in both suspected cases and the demand for testing in the north-west. The 7-day moving average of new cases was 3 cases at the end of January 2022.

Figure 3: The 7-day rolling average of COVID-19 cases in NES



## Deaths

In January, the number of newly reported deaths associated with COVID-19 (n=153) was down by 38.8% compared to December 2021 (n= 250). The cumulative mortality rate has increased to 32 deaths per 100 000 cases. The highest number of COVID-19 associated deaths reported in January was in GoS (n=87) were deaths accounted for 56.9% of the total deaths in WoS. A total of 46 deaths (30%) was reported in NWS, and 20 deaths (13.1%) reported in NES. the cumulative case fatality rate is 3.8%. CFR remained highest in Deir Ez-Zor 8.9%, Damascus 8.86%, and As-Swieda 7.8%. The high CFR is attributed to the current testing strategy, basically testing severe COVID-19 cases admitted to hospitals; mild and moderate cases are not tested as per the current strategy.

Figure 4: The 7-day rolling average of COVID-19 cases in NWS

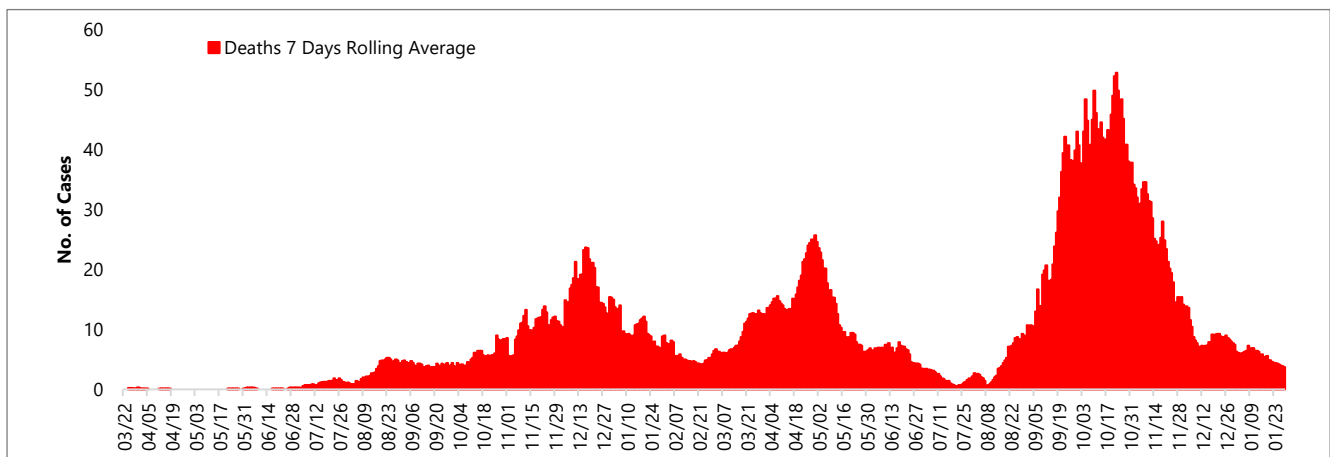


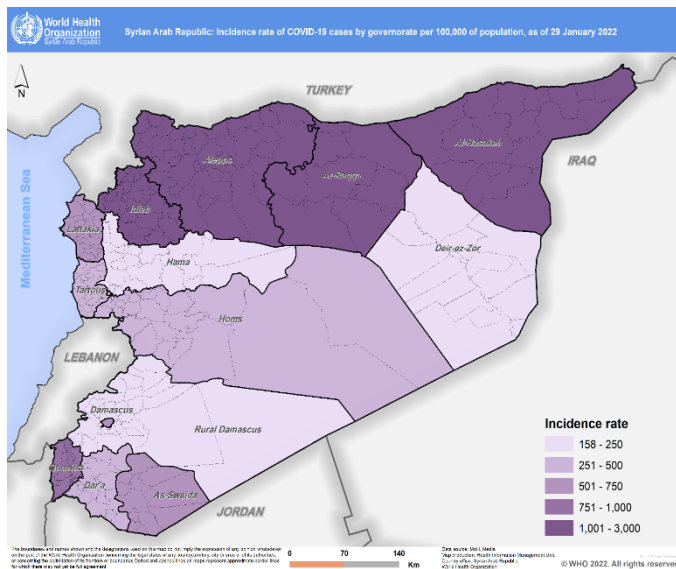
Table 1. Number of deaths increase/decrease since last month (Dec 2022)

Total COVID-19 related deaths reported to date	<b>6 872</b>	30-day average number of deaths (January 2022)	<b>6</b>
30-day average number of deaths (December 2021)	<b>9</b>	Decrease in 30-day average since last month	<b>33.3%</b>

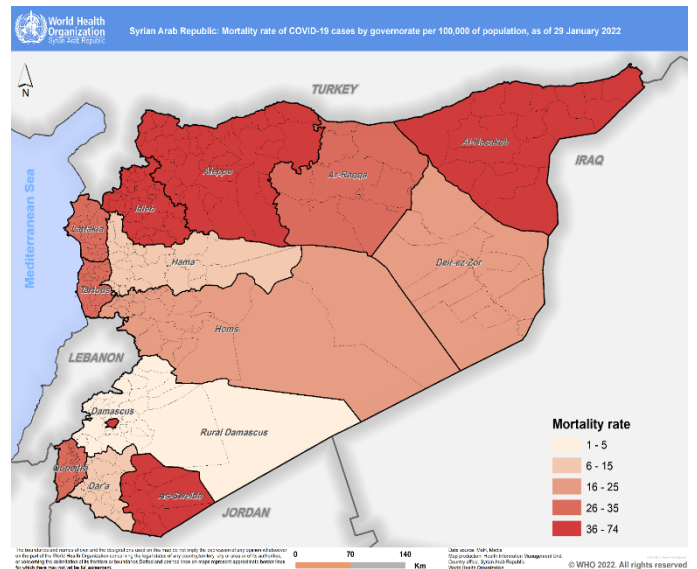
Table 2. Newly reported and cumulative cases of COVID-19 and associated deaths, by region, up to 29 Jan 2022

Area	New cases in January 2021(%)	Change in new cases Last month*	Cumulative cases (%)	New deaths in December	Change in new deaths in last Month *	Cumulative deaths (%)
Government of Syria	1,006 73%	-52.3%	51,284 28.2%	87 56.9%	-41.2%	2,984 43.42%
North-east Syria	262 19%	14.4%	37,451 20.6%	20 13.1%	-25.9%	1,525 22.19%
North-west Syria	111 8%	-84.8%	93,068 51.2%	46 30%	-38.6%	2,363 34.39%
Whole of Syria	1,379	-55%	181,803	153	-38.8%	6,872

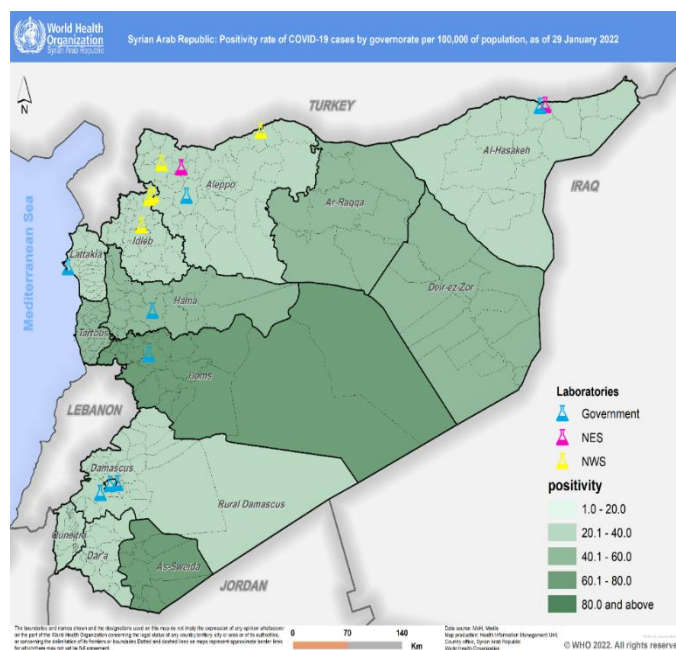
Map 1: Total number of COVID-19 cases per 100 000 of the population reported in each governorate, as of 29 Jan 2022



Map 2: COVID-19 related deaths per 100 000 of the population reported in each governorate, as of 29 Jan 2022



Map 3: COVID-19 Laboratory Positivity Rate by governorate, as of 29 Jan 2022



At the WoS level, Syria had a low incidence levels of community transmission with 6.4 cases/100,000 population/month. However, the incidence rates are underestimated due to low tested numbers. The cumulative incidence rate since the start of the outbreak in WoS is 840/100 000 (as of 29 January 2022).

## Testing

The percentage of samples testing positive for COVID-19 has decreased by 58.9% in January 2022 compared to December 2021, due to the shortage of lab supplies at GoS and NES. The number of tests conducted in January 2022 was 11 878 down from 28 888 in December 2021

**587 234 is the total number of tests conducted in WoS up to 29 January 2022.**

**Table 3. Positivity Rate increase/decrease since last month (Dec 2021)**

<b>11 878</b> Number of tests conducted in January 2022	<b>11.6 %</b> Testing positivity rate in January 2022
<b>10.6%</b> Previous average positivity rate	<b>9.5%</b> increase in average positivity rate since last month

## COVID-19 Vaccinations

- Vaccination activities continue across Syria at both fixed health facilities and through mobile medical teams in rural areas.
- 648 802 new doses were administered across Syria during January 2022, and 477 964 personnel took their first dose during the same period.
- 3 824 040 doses were received during January 2022 from different sources as listed below:
  - 302 400 doses of J&J vaccine donated from Spain and delivered to MoH through COVAX
  - 3 156 000 doses of J&J vaccine donated from Italy and delivered to MoH through COVAX
  - 368 640 doses of AZ vaccine were delivered to MoH through bilateral donation from Oman.

Finalizing the new NDVP (National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19)

The Vaccination campaigns are ongoing with all currently available vaccines provided through COVAX and Bilateral donations

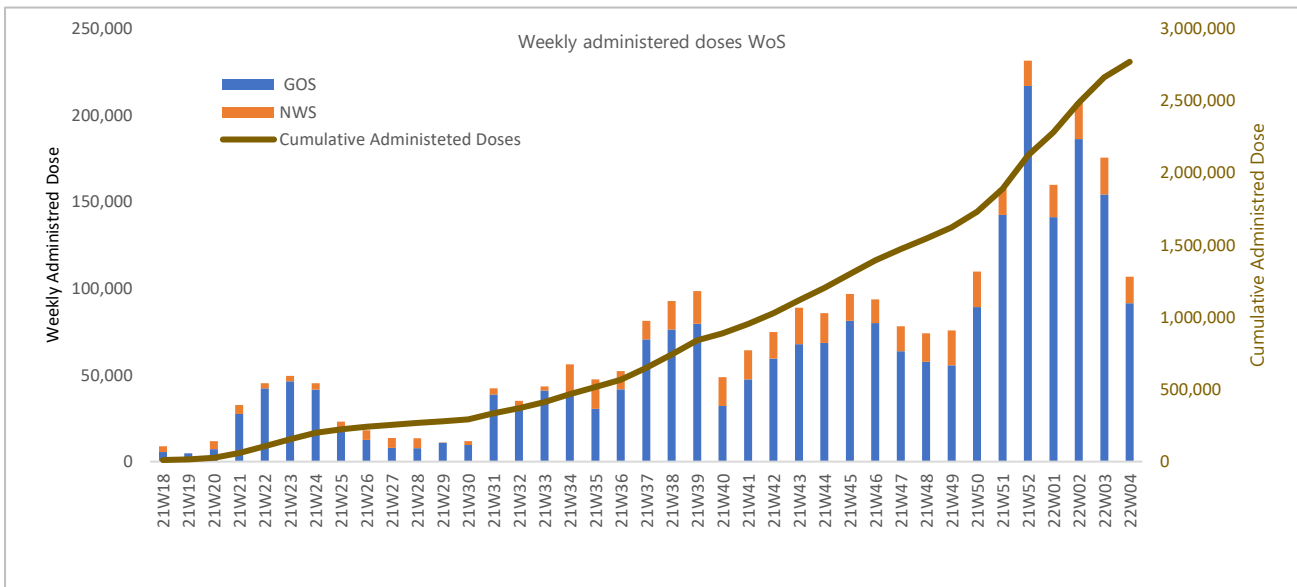
The near target aimed by the MOH is to reach 20% of the population by end of Q1 2022

**Table 4: Overall delivered vaccines since April 2021 till 29 January 2022:**

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

As per the above table, vaccines received from bilateral agreements represent 25% of the total vaccines received, and the rest 75% were delivered through COVAX.

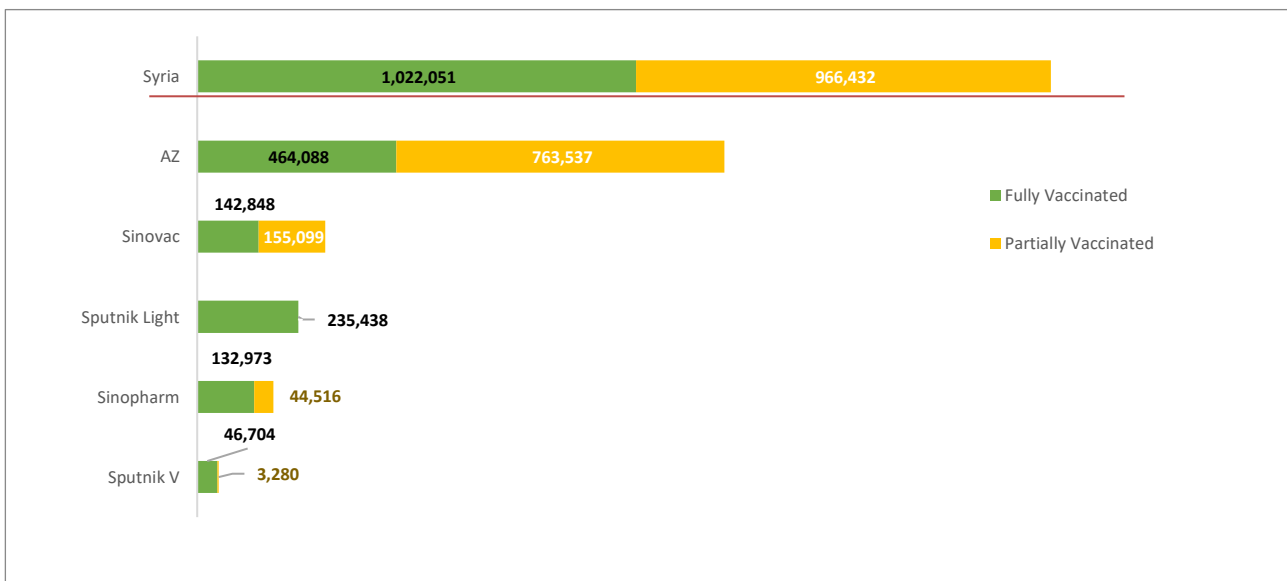
Figure 5: The average weekly administered doses during January 2022 are 162 270 doses per week



**Vaccination coverage:**

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

Figure 6: Vaccination status in Whole of Syria as of 29 January 2022



**Vaccination coverage per region:**

**Government of Syria**

2 324 533 Vaccines Administered	
1 690 668 People who received at least one dose	869 303 People who are fully vaccinated*
10.4 % Percentage of the population that has received at least one dose	5.3% Percentage of the population that has been fully vaccinated*
2.6% Percentage point increase from last month	0.8% Percentage point increase from last month

### North-west Syria:

444 530 Vaccines Administered	
293 981 People who received at least one dose	150 549 People who are fully vaccinated*
6.8% Percentage of the population that has received at least one dose	3.5% Percentage of the population that has been fully vaccinated*
1.1% Percentage point increase from last month	0.6% Percentage point increase from last month

### Whole of Syria:

2 769 063 Vaccines Administered	
1 984 649 People who received at least one dose	1 019 852 People who are fully vaccinated*
9.7% Percentage of the population that has received at least one dose	5% Percentage of the population that has been fully vaccinated*
2.7% Percentage increase from last month	0.9% Percentage increase from last month

## WHO Syria operational updates by other pillars

### Pillar One: Coordination

- Health sector has been updating contingency plans for north-west Syria focusing that any immediate reduction of operational footprint in NWS will result in the increase of acute humanitarian needs, including COVID-19.
- Health sector priorities for COVID-19, possible CERF grant: Provisional CERF grant of \$25m to the Syria crisis as part of an 'Underfunded Emergency' global allocation in 2022 were developed.
- Under 2022-2023 HRP WoS WHO funding requirement for COVID-19 response is estimated at 101,414,978, including 28 million USD – COVAX and 73 million USD – COVID-19.
- One of the continuous advocacy lines under the Humanitarian Task Force (HTF) has remained as “call on Member States support to ensure vaccination priority is given to Syria and the timely delivery of COVID-19 vaccines to Syria using all access modalities”.
- Health sector preparedness and response plan for Al-Hassakeh governorate (January 27) factored in the impact of the recent conflict on disruption of COVID-19 response.
- Earlier developed COVID-19 strategic preparedness and response plan 2021-2023 was endorsed by the Ministry of Health of Syria
- Regular updates have been provided on COVID-19 vaccination in NES during Al-Hol health sector coordination meeting (organized by WHO), Al-hol camp coordination meeting (organized by UNHCR) and Qamishli Sub-national health sector meeting.
- Short justification paper was developed and submitted to OCHA/SHF to support in mobilizing additional resources to continue the operation of COVID-19 Treatment Facilities in Al-Hol and Aresha camps.
- List of mandatory COVID-19 IM deliverables in 2022:

Category	Name	Frequency
COVID-19	COVID-19 interactive dashboard (English version)	Daily
	COVID-19 interactive dashboard (Arabic version)	Daily
	WoS COVID-19 Update	
	COVID-19 WHO and health sector response monitoring infographic	Monthly
	COVID-19 EPI Bulletin	Weekly
	COVID-19 EPI monthly	Monthly

### **Pillar Two: Risk communication and community engagement**

- The recent donations of COVID-19 vaccines, through COVAX, from Italy (3,996,000 doses), Spain (381,600 doses) and Japan (151,200 doses) were highlighted and press releases were shared with the regional office: Italy increases pledge of COVID-19 vaccines to Syria and COVID-19 vaccines donated by Japan arrive in Syria.
- Updated and credible information about COVID-19 variants and vaccines is continuously being shared with the Ministry of Health to amplify through their Facebook page reaching around 470K people.
- Online communication, including videos and infographics, about precautionary measures, and the importance of getting vaccinated, were shared on WHO social media targeting more than 24,000 people across all platforms.
- In cooperation with WHO, MOH continued to step up its vaccination efforts providing vaccination services at pop-up clinics in shopping centers, mosques, churches as well as different public service institutions. Those efforts, implemented in parallel with regular vaccination campaigns at health centres, are being highlighted in upcoming news articles.
- Two hundred 20 posters on “Safety at the workplace” were developed, printed, and distributed at WHO offices across Syria. Soft copies were sent to INGOs for further printing and distribution

### **Pillar Three: surveillance**

- Weekly epidemiological COVID-19 bulletin is regularly produced and shared with partners.
- Two trainings on discussing EWARS implementation, gaps, and plans for 2022A meeting and EWARS and COVID-19 performance indicators conducted for central and DoH EWARS officers at seven governorates (Lattakia, Rural Damascus, Qunitera, As-Swieda, Hama, Deir Ez-Zor, and Idleb).
- Before the launch of the Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs) usage in Syria, WHO facilitated two TOT trainings on the SOPs for the use of RDTs for mild and moderate cases for 50 technical personnel from MOH and school health directorate affiliated to MOE. The trainings covered case definition, newly updated testing strategy, and practical work.
- MoE has designated 50 health centers in 14 governorates for testing COVID-19 suspected cases by Ag-RDTs. Accordingly, nine peripheral trainings also have been conducted for the health staff at MoE-school health directorate on the early detection of COVID-19 suspected cases, the use of antigen Rapid Diagnostic Tests Ag-RDTs, the investigation form, and reporting mechanism of positive cases to MoH.
- To enhance the early detection of mild and moderate COVID-19 cases, WHO distributed 50 000 Ag RDTs for PHCs in the 14 Syrian governorates, in addition to 90 000 Ag RDTs distributed to the health centers at school health directorate. Moreover, 6 500 RDTs are distributed to NGO partners for the same purpose.

### **Pillar Four: Points of entry, international travel, and transport**

- To strengthen the entry and exit screening measures for preventing spread of diseases and public health events of international concern, including COVID-19, at the points of entry WHO supported the establishment of 3 medical points in Abu Kamal in Deir-ez-Zor, Judeidet Yabous in Rural Damascus, and Jousiya in Homs.
- WHO is collaborating with UNHCR to support the establishment and equipping of five additional medical points in Jisr Al Qamar and Dabousiya in Homs, Areeda in Tartous, Kasab in Lattakia, in Nasib in Daraa PoEs.
- Following the high-level workshop on developing public health emergency contingency plans for PoEs in December 2021, MOH developed national plans for emergency preparedness and implementation of IHR at airports and seaports and in the process to finalize the plan for ground crossing.

### **Pillar Five: Laboratories and diagnostics**

- WHO have delivered 322 RNA extraction kits, and 452 800 filter tips to COVID-19 laboratories. In addition to 27 500 COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Tests which were mainly delivered to MoE.

### **Pillar Six: Infection prevention and control**

- WHO facilitated participation of Five MOH medical officers and heads of hospital units in the online course on Hospital Emergency Preparedness and Response for Infectious Disease Outbreaks (HEPRIDO). The main objective of the course was to build the capacity of
- Dispatched 533 950 PPE supplies namely 430 000 surgical face masks, 13 000 Respirator N 95, 1 725 face shield, 1 525 goggles protective, 87 700 Gown size M, L & XL. The targeted personnel are health care workers and front liners responding to COVID-19 at Deir ez Zor directorate of health, MOHE central warehouse, Latakia



DOH (National Hospital, Pediatric Hospital, Al-Haffeh Hospital), and Tartous DOH (AL-Qadmous Hospital, AL-Basel Hospital) and as a contingency stock at Aleppo hub.

#### **Pillar Seven: Case management, clinical operations, and therapeutics**

- To strengthen the capacity of hospitals in responding to COVID-19 pandemic and to fill the shortage of oxygen supplements in public hospitals designated to treat COVID-19 patients, WHO has procured 4 oxygen generators out of which two are installed in Al Mujtahid hospital in Damascus and the Cardiac Surgery Hospital in Aleppo (designated as COVID-19 treating hospital). The remaining two generators will be installed shortly in Al Basel Hospital and newly rehabilitated Children Hospital in Aleppo. Furthermore, 728 oxygen cylinders (40 L) were delivered to MOH.
- In addition 41 physiologic Patient monitors, two Center Station with seven Monitors, 15 Hospital Beds, 11 000 Endotracheal Tubes different sizes, 15 Blood pressure devices /w stethoscopes, 12 Mercurial blood pressure devices with stethoscope, 5000 Nasal Oxygen Cannula, and 28 000 Peripheral Venous Catheter have been distributed to health facilities in Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Damascus, As-Sweida and Lattakia.
- Over 1 490 treatments of life saving medicines were delivered to health facilities in Aleppo and Hama.
- Three gating monitors for three computed tomography scans were delivered to the University Cardiac Surgery Hospital in Damascus, Al Basel Cardiac Surgery hospital in Damascus and Al Basel Cardiac Surgery Hospital in Lattakia.
- Twenty-five health workers from the directorate of emergency and ambulances services in Hama are trained on Basic and advanced life Support
- Twenty-five health workers from Tartous DoH were trained on Immediate Life Support and Ventilator Management. The targeted participants were health professionals (doctors, nurses, and anaesthesia technicians) working in isolation centres, ICU and emergency departments.

#### **Pillar Eight: Logistics and operations**

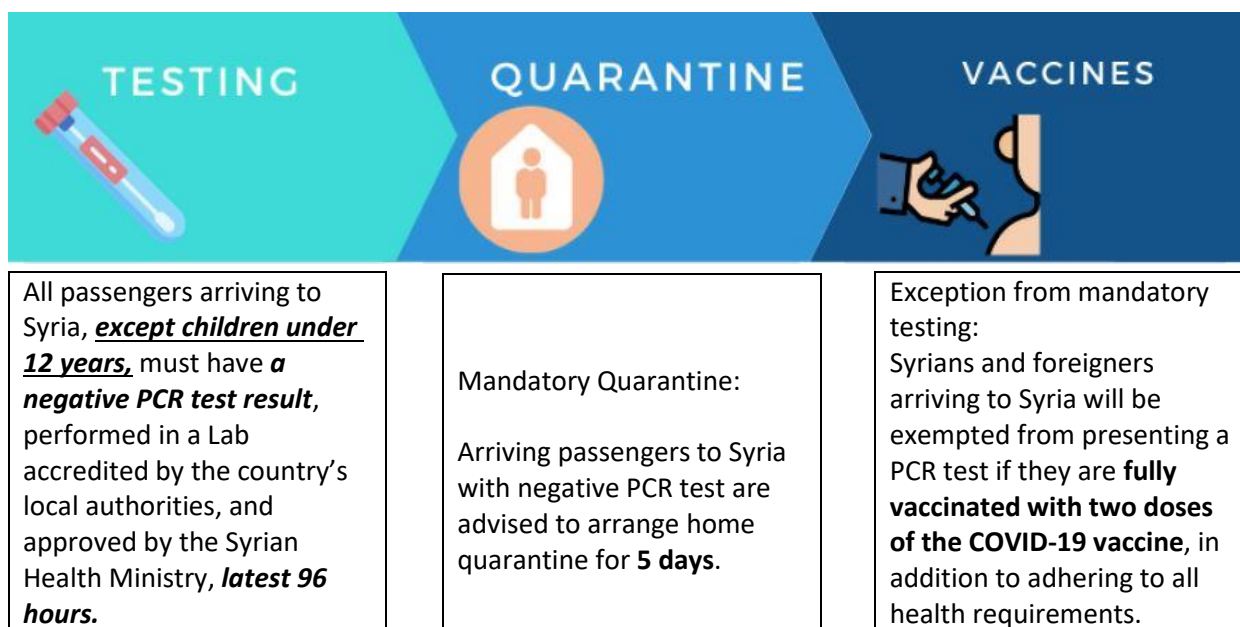
- WHO has provided approximately 85 tons of medical and lab supplies, kits, and equipment's to 12 governorates as of 31 January 2022. They were distributed to the ministry of health, governorates (DOH), MOHE-MOE-affiliated health facilities, non-governmental health facilities, NOGs, INGOs, and SARC.
- Two crossline shipments, one airlift and one road convoy (three trucks in total), have been delivered to northeast Syria, in January 2022. Crossline supplies delivered through airlifting in January 2022 included COVID-19 vaccines (with a total weight of 2 778 kg). While the content of crossline road convoy delivered in January 2022 (with a total weight of 32 242 kgs) included different types of insulin, rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) for visceral leishmaniasis, autoclaves, oxygen concentrators, BiPAP devices, infusion pumps, choline tablets, PPEs, and different types of medicines.
- In January 2022, WHO has prepositioned basic PPE supplies (of around 7 tons) in its Qamishli warehouse as part of the crossline operations to Ras Al Ain and Tal Abyad (RAATA).
- On the 27<sup>th</sup> of January MSF has received PPEs supported from Sarmada warehouse provided previously by WHO Syria in order to be distributed later to Salqin Central Hospital (MSF), Salqin Isolation center (MSF) and support the NWS.

#### **Pillar Nine: Marinating essential health services and Systems**

- A workshop conducted with the participation of PHC directorate to review the draft national guideline on maintaining essential health service in the primary health centres. The participants discussed the indicators to monitor the essential health services and agreed on the feasibility of PHC services data collection
- Colleagues at the MoH were introduced to the health services Learning Hub (HLH) which is a new knowledge platform to support cross country learning in maintaining essential health services and encouraged to make a submission.

## SYRIA COVID-19

Travel Updates & Requirements (as of Jan 2022, Source MOH)



### Technical guidance and other resources

- [WHO Syria Site](#)
- [WHO technical guidance](#)
- [WHO COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
- [WHO Weekly Operational Updates on COVID-19](#)
- [WHO COVID-19 case definitions](#)
- [COVID-19 Supply Chain Inter-Agency Coordination Cell Weekly Situational Update](#)
- [Research and Development](#)
- [OpenWHO courses on COVID-19](#) in official UN languages and in [additional national languages](#)
- [WHO Academy COVID-19 mobile learning app](#)
- [The Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan \(SPRP\)](#) outlining the support the international community can provide to all countries to prepare and respond to the virus

### Recommendations and advice for the public:

- [Protect yourself](#)
- [Questions and answers](#)
- [Travel advice](#)
- [EPI-WIN: tailored information for individuals, organizations, and communities](#)

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