

Monthly COVID-19 Bulletin

July 2022

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Epidemiological Overview

Data as of 30 July 2022

Total cases 197 973	Total deaths 7 224	Total recovered 155 794
Case Fatality Ratio 3.7%	Total Tests 650 412	Total Vaccine Doses used 4 194 672

Analysis of epidemiological data for Whole of Syria

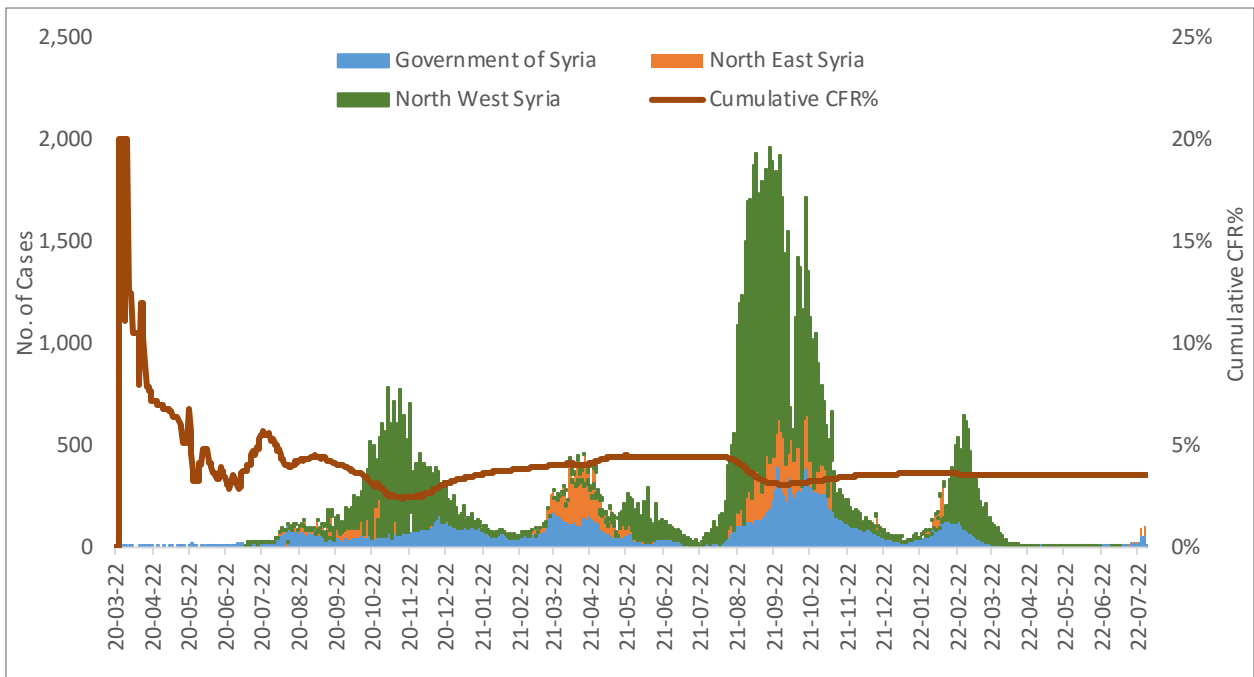
A total of 197 973 confirmed COVID-19 cases were reported in Syria between 22 March 2020 and 30 July 2022 of which 103 004 (52.03%) were reported from north-west Syria (NWS), 56 279 (28.43%) from areas controlled by the government (GoS), and the remaining 38 690 (19.54%) from north-east Syria (NES). During the same period a total of 7 228 related deaths were reported of which 3 150 (43.58%) from GoS, 2 500 (34.59%) from NWS, and 1 578 (21.83%) from NES. The overall Case Fatality Rate (CFR) is 3.7%. The CFR was highest in GoS (5.6%), NES (4.1%) and in NWS the CFR was 2.4%. The high CFR rates in GoS is attributed to the testing strategy for only severe and critical cases admitted to hospital for treatment.

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported in July across the Whole of Syria increased by 469% (n=467) compared with previous month (n=82). A decrease was noticed in NWS by 80% (n=9) compared to June (n=43). Cases reported in GoS increased by 935% (n=352) compared to June (n=34). Moreover, NES reported an increase of new cases by 2020% with

106 new cases compared to five cases in the previous month. The increase of COVID-19 new cases was observed in most Syrian governorates. The number of reported COVID-19 cases and its percentage from the national total across 12 governorates during the month of July is as follows: Damascus 38.33% (n= 179), Al-Hasakeh 24.41% (n= 114), Aleppo 14.13% (n= 66), Rural Damascus 7.07% (n= 33), As-Sweida 3% (n= 14), Homs 2.78% (n= 13), Dar'a 2.36% (n= 11), Lattakia 2.36% (n= 11), Tartous 2.14% (n= 10), Hama 1.5% (n= 7), Idleb 1.07% (n= 5), Quneitra 0.64% (n= 3), Ar-Raqqa 0.21% (n= 1).

Syria has observed an upward trend in the number of COVID-19 positive cases over the month of July similar to what is observed in the neighboring countries, and the Eastern Mediterranean countries as a whole, which predicts a new wave of COVID-19 case circulation in the Region. WHO supports the Ministry of Health for strengthening alertness for timely case detection; and establishing genetic sequencing at CPHL which will function pretty soon.

Figure 1. Whole of Syria weekly reported COVID-19 cases up to 30 July 2022

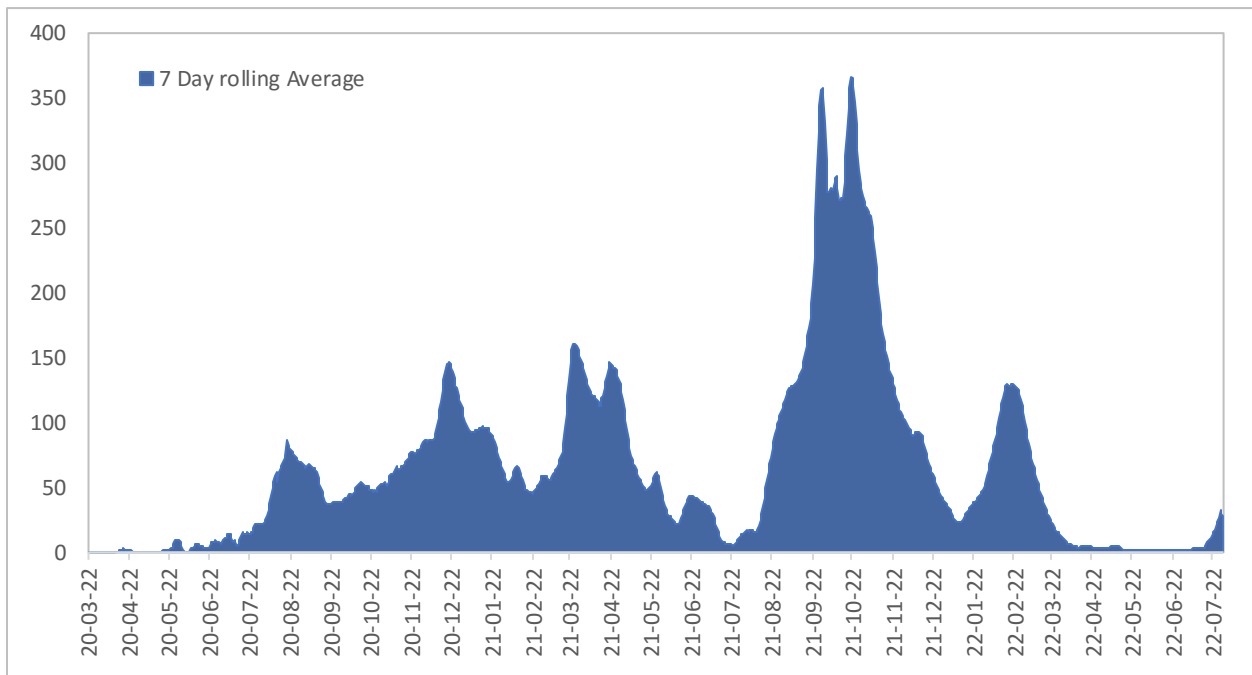


Analysis per region

Government of Syria

COVID-19 cases in GoS areas start to increase during July 2022, the 7-day average of new cases was 28 compared to one average case in June 2022.

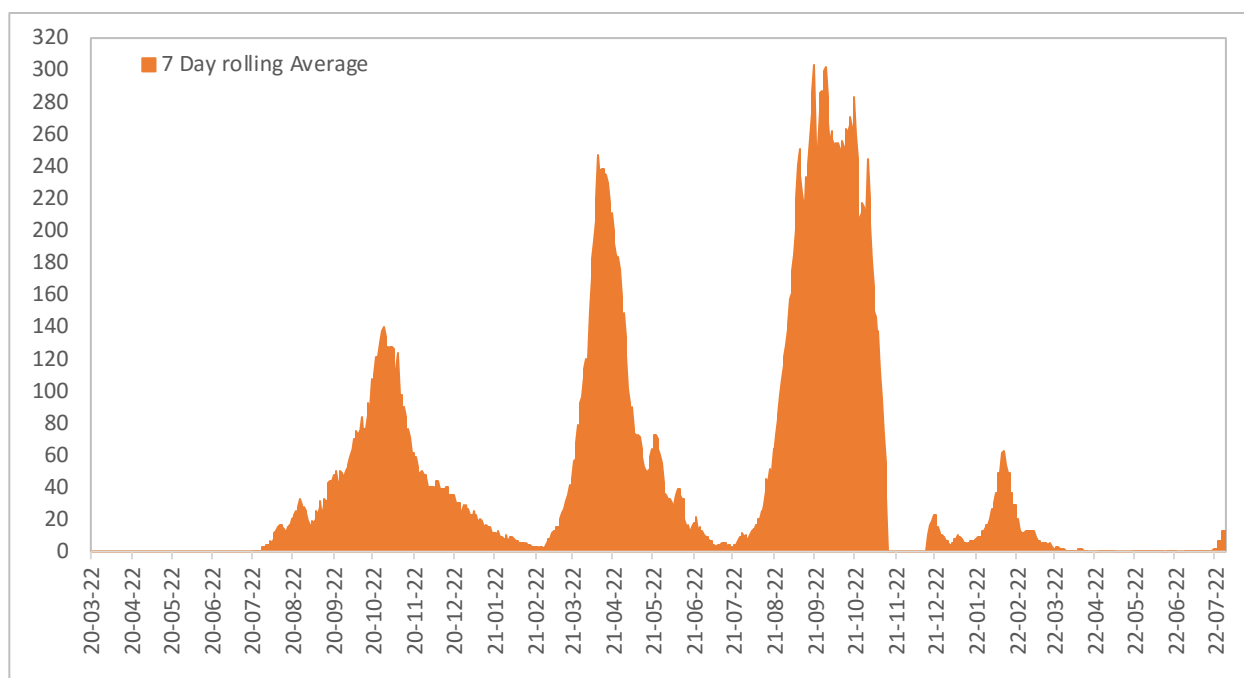
Figure. 2 The 7-day rolling average of COVID-19 cases in GoS



North-east Syria

There has been an increase of COVID-19 in NES during July. The current 7-day average jumped to 12 cases by 30 July 2022.

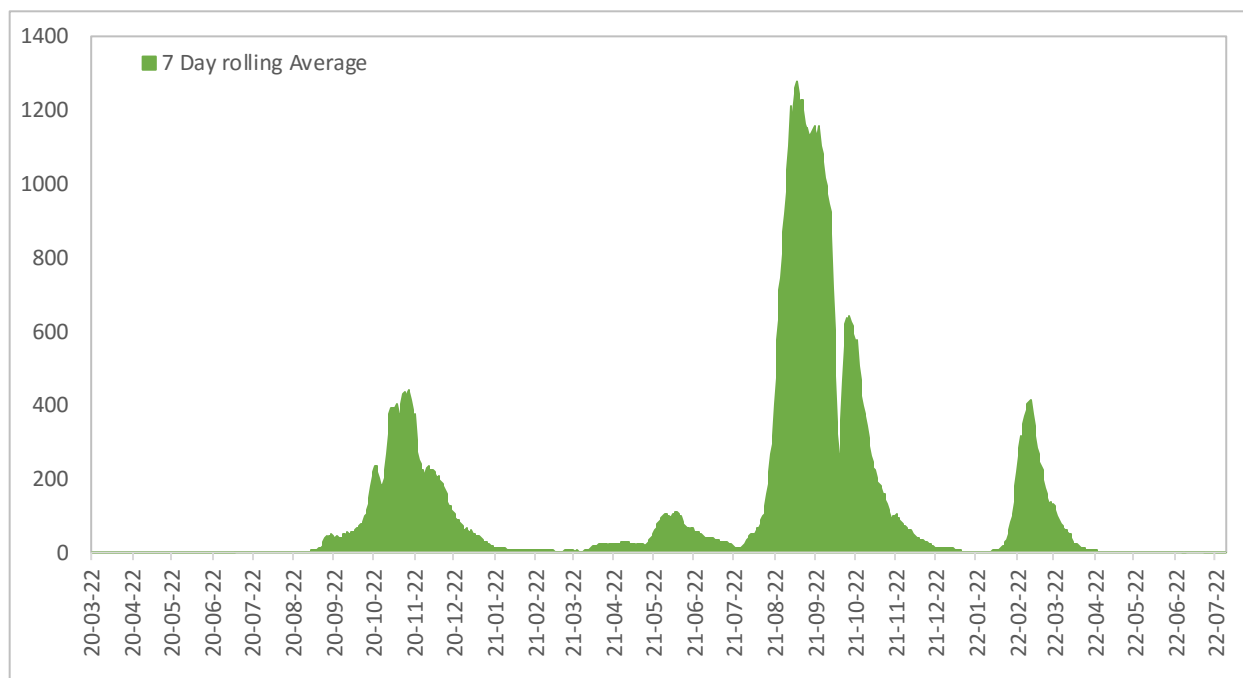
Figure 3. The 7-day rolling average of COVID-19 cases in NES



North-west Syria

The number of confirmed cases in NWS decreased in July 2022 by 79%, the 7-day average of new cases by 18 July is one case. It worth to mention that there has been a suspension of reporting new cases on NWS COVID-19 dashboard since 18 July which may explain the decrease of July cases.

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



Deaths

In July, the number of newly reported deaths associated with COVID-19 (n=1) was down by 90% compared to June 2022 (n= 10). The cumulative mortality rate is 33.4 deaths per 100 000 cases. The number of COVID-19 associated deaths reported in June was in NWS (n=1) where deaths accounted for 100% of the total deaths in WoS. The cumulative case fatality rate is 3.7%. CFR remained the highest in Deir-ez-Zor - 8.8%, Damascus - 8.4%, As-Swieda - 8.7%. The high CFR is attributed to testing severe COVID-19 cases admitted to hospitals, while testing of mild and moderate cases Ag-RDTs is available only in some PHCs.

Figure 5. The 7-day rolling average of COVID-19 deaths

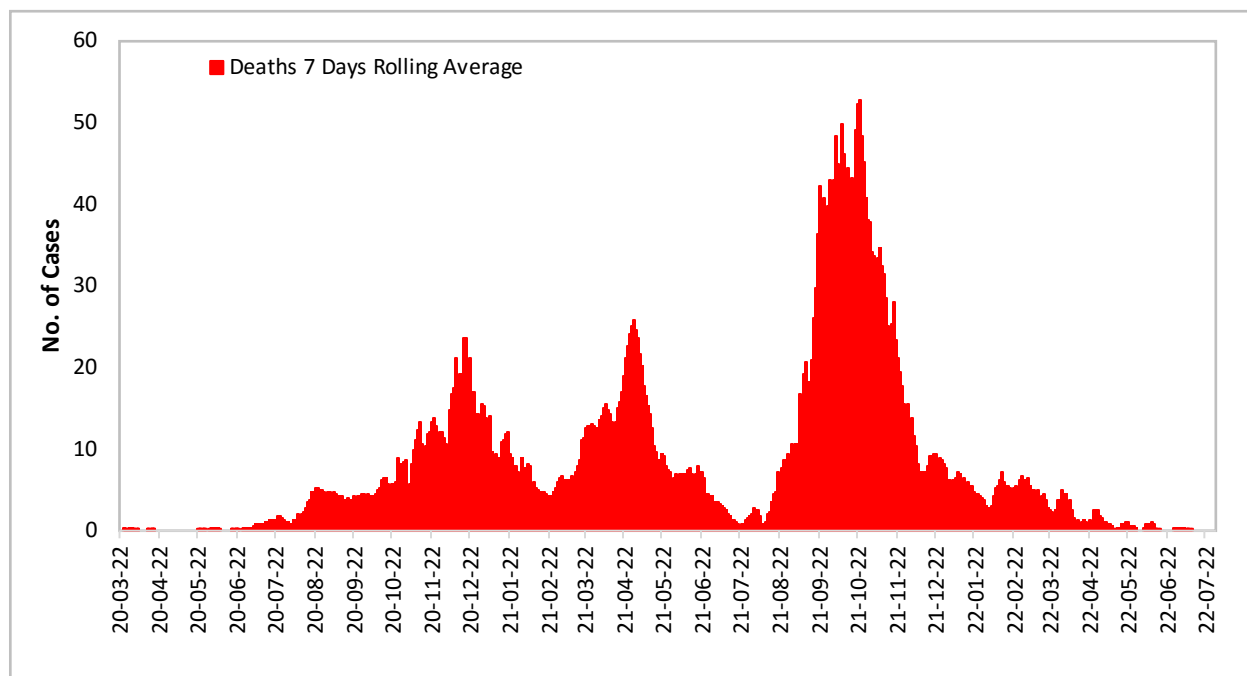


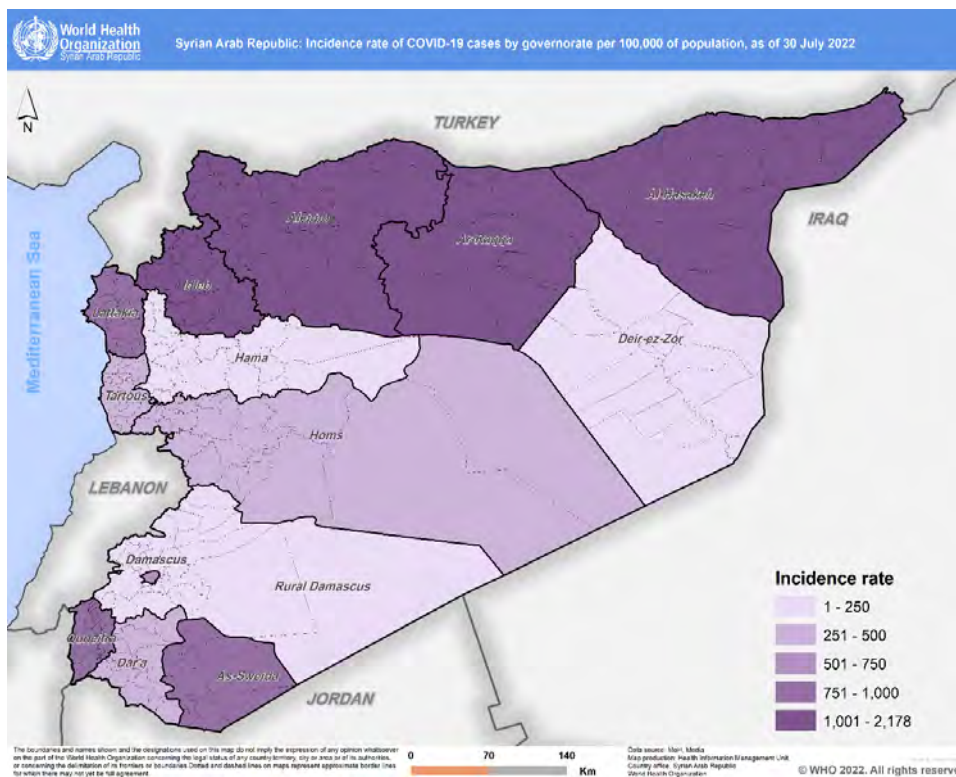
Table 1. Number of deaths increase/decrease since last month

7 228 Total COVID-19 related deaths reported to date	0.17 25-day average number of deaths (during reported month)
0.23 30-day average number of deaths (during previous month)	

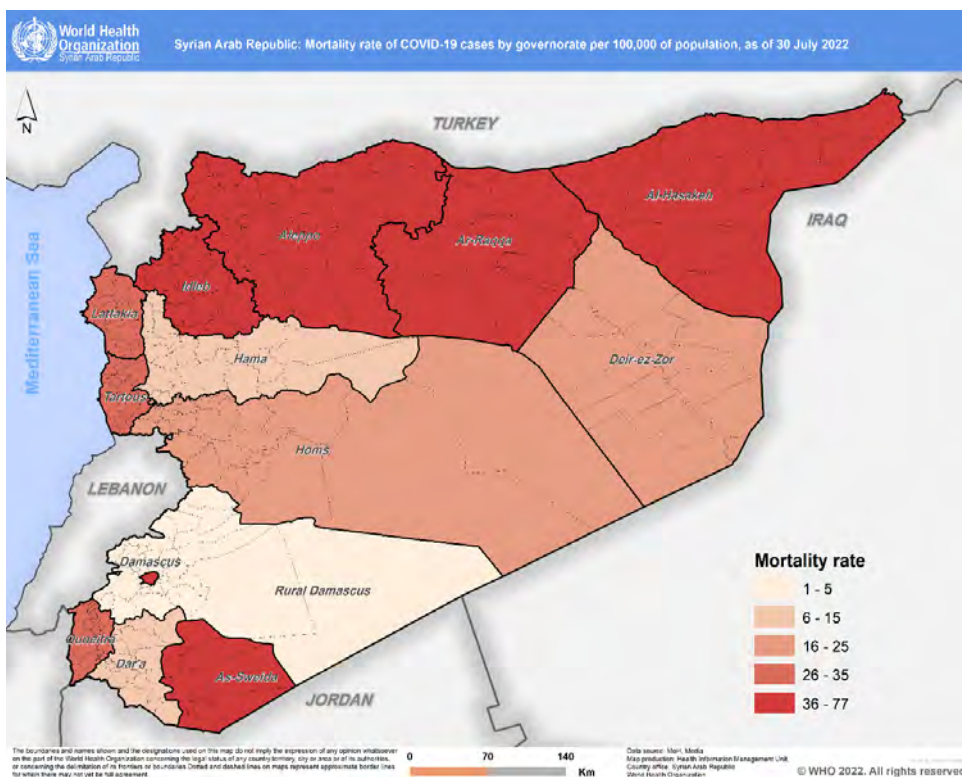
Table 2. Newly reported and cumulative cases of COVID-19 and associated deaths, by region, up to 30 July 2022

Area	New cases in July 2022 (%)	Change in new cases Last month	Cumulative cases (%)	New deaths in July	Change in new deaths compared to last month	Cumulative deaths (%)
Government of Syria	352 (75.37%)	935.3%	56,279 (28.43%)	0 (0%)	0%	3,150 (43.58%)
North-east Syria	106 (22.7%)	2020%	38,690 (19.54%)	0 (0%)	0%	1,578 (21.83%)
North-west Syria	9 (1.93%)	-79.1%	103,004 (52.03%)	1 (100%)	-90.0%	2,500 (34.59%)
Whole of Syria	467	469.5%	197,973 (100.0%)	1	-90.0%	7,228 (100.0%)

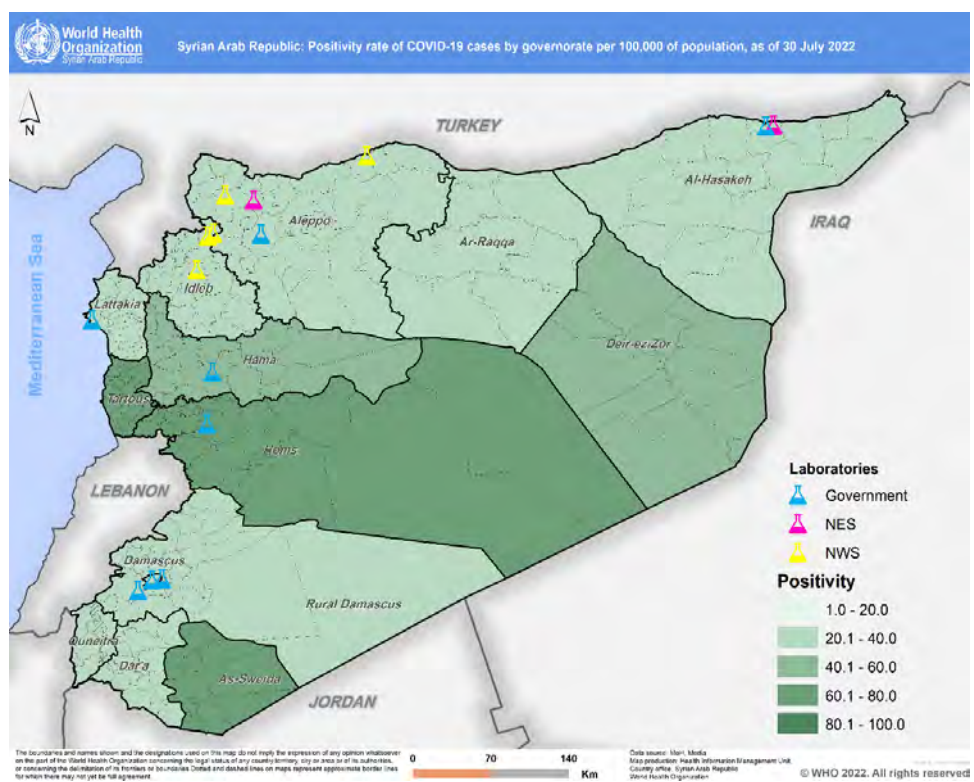
Map 1: Total number of COVID-19 cases per 100 000 of the population reported in each governorate, as of 30 July 2022



Map 2: COVID-19 related deaths per 100 000 of the population reported in each governorate, as of 30 July 2022



Map 3: COVID-19 Laboratory Positivity Rate by governorate, as of 30 July 2022



Syria had a low incidence levels of community transmission with 0.3 cases/100,000 population/month during July. The cumulative incidence rate since the start of the outbreak in WoS is 912/100 000 (as of 30 July 2022). The incidence rates are underestimated due to the low numbers of tested cases.

Testing

The number of PCR tests conducted in July 2022 increased by 11.4% (n= 9,295) compared to 8 345 tests in June 2022. 659 707 is the total number of PCR tests conducted in WoS up to 30 July 2022. During July 2022, a total of 579 Ag-RDTs were performed at MoH/PHCs, MoE/school health directorate centers and NGOs medical points. The total number of PCR and Ag-RDTs tests in July was 9 874 and the monthly testing positivity rate was 1% which is like the positivity rate in June.

Table 3. Positivity Rate increase/decrease since last month

9,874 Number of tests conducted during the reporting month (PCR and Ag-RDTs)	5% Testing positivity rate in the reporting month
1% Previous average positivity rate	

COVID-19 Vaccinations

Vaccination activities continue across Syria at both fixed health facilities and through mobile medical teams in rural areas. 205 918 new doses were administered across Syria during July 2022, and 123 791 individuals took their first dose during the same period.

MoH concluded the second round of COVID-19 vaccination campaign on the 30 June 2022 with 147 770 (6%) of the targeted population being vaccinated.

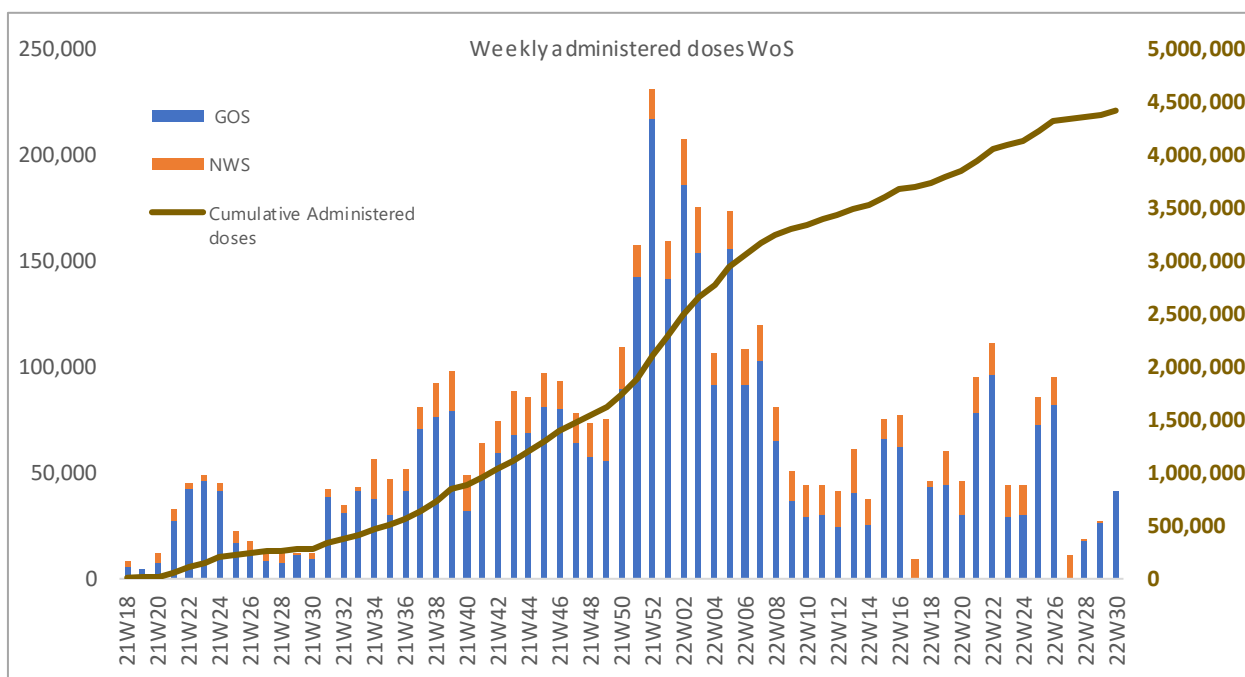
The campaign targeted 2.5 million population above 18 years in all governorates. Different available vaccines (Sinovac, Sinopharm, AZ and J&J) were offered in the campaign. WHO provided technical and financial support to the community-based organizations mobilized in some governorates.

Table 4. Overall delivered vaccines since April 2021 till 30 July 2022:

	Type of Allocation	Manufacturer of vaccine	Quantity
GOS	COVAX	AZ Covishield	1 203 500
		AZ/AZD1222	1 318 340
		Sinovac	3 307 200
		Janssen	3 458 400
		Total	9 287 440
	Bilateral	AZ/AZD1222	368,640
		Sinopharm	1 995,000
		Sputnik light	250 000
		Sputnik V	100 000
		Soberana	120 000
		Abdala	120 000
		Total	2 953 640
	GOS Total		
NWS	COVAX	AZ Covishield	53 800
		AZ/AZD1222	350 400
		Sinovac	823 200
		Janssen	832 800
		Total	2 060 200
WOS Total			14 311 280

The available vaccines are sufficient to reach 45.8% of the population. As per the above table, vaccines received from bilateral agreements represent 20% of the total received, and the remaining 80% were delivered through COVAX. More intensification of COVID-19 vaccination is sought through vigorous RCCE and mobile vaccination teams.

Figure 5. The average weekly administered doses

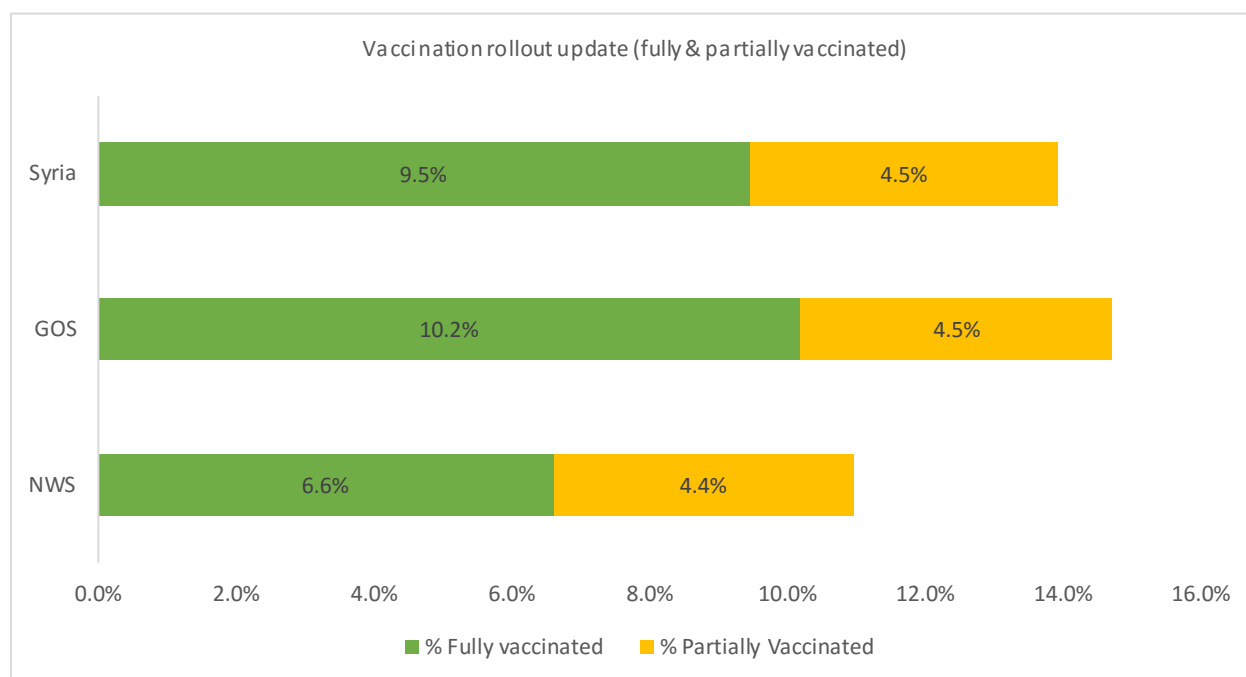


There is 25.6% decrease in the administered doses of vaccines during June (n= 205,918) compared to the previous month (n= 276,858).

Vaccination coverage as of 30 July 2022:

- 13.9% of the total population received at least one dose of the vaccine, and only 9.5% are fully vaccinated.
- A total of 4 400 590 doses of different vaccines was administered and the total number of vaccinated people 2 867 337.

Figure 6. Vaccination status in Whole of Syria as of 30 July 2022



Vaccination coverage per region:

Government of Syria

3 645 352 Vaccines administered	
2 396 071 People who received at least one dose	1 659 793 People who are fully vaccinated
14.7% Percentage of the population who received at least one dose	10.2% Percentage of the fully vaccinated population
0.6 % Percentage point increase from the last month	0.6% Percentage point increase from the last month

North-west Syria

755 238 Vaccines administered	
471 266 People who received at least one dose	283 972 People who are fully vaccinated
11% Percentage of the population that received at least one dose	6.6% Percentage of the fully vaccinated population
0.5% Percentage point increase from the last month	0.4% Percentage point increase from the last month

Whole of Syria:

4 400 590 Vaccines administered	
2 867 337 People who received at least one dose	1 943 765 People who are fully vaccinated
13.9% Percentage of the population that received at least one dose	9.5% Percentage of the fully vaccinated population
0.6% Percentage increase from the last month	0.6% Percentage increase from the last month

Pillar One: Coordination

- WHO continued updating health sector (as well as UNCT, HCT, etc.) on the situation with COVID-19 and related vaccination. Advocated at all levels on remaining increasing risks of COVID-19 transmission (including NES) and priorities for the response. COVID-19 is one of standing risks as reflected by the ongoing strategic risk assessment under the WoS modality. Separate technical consultations are carried out on case management and COVID-19 vaccination in camps of NES. COVID-19 priorities were included for funding of the SHF allocation. First time Gavi mission concluded in the continuous funding support for COVID-19. Syria Case Study (remote) IAHE of the humanitarian response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been ongoing, with first draft prepared. Various eight national and sub-national health sector meetings across Syria keep COVID-19 as a standing agenda item. On average, per each month, health sector partners donate 250 000 PPE across the country. COVID-19 updates are regularly updated at the site: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/syria/health>

Pillar Two: Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- During the mission of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) to Syria (17-21 July), the communication unit presented to MOH, UN partners and INGOs what has been accomplished so far with regards to COVID-19 vaccination, the challenges faced and the way forward to tackle hesitancy and scale up vaccine uptake in Syria.
- Through its social media channels, WHO continued to highlight the impact of WHO partnerships in providing medical consultations to vulnerable people in Syria, in addition to underlining the adequate behaviours for staying healthy and mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

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

- On 4 June, MoH disseminated a circular regarding multi-country monkeypox outbreak to activate the vigilance and surveillance against this disease. Up to date no monkeypox cases were detected in Syria.

Pillar Five: Laboratories and diagnostics

- Supporting MoH for Genome Sequencing by providing the needed supplies to activate it.
- Three trainings on COVID-19 PCR testing were conducted at the central COVID-19 laboratory in Damascus. Two trainings were attended by 16 technicians from Qunitera and Ar-Raqqa governorates, in addition to seven technicians from the CPHL. Moreover, one refresher training was delivered to 15 technicians from the governorates of Lattakia, Homs, Aleppo, Rural Damascus and Damascus.

Pillar Six: Infection prevention and control

- Provided an update to the multi-sectoral IPC national committee on the IPC updated guideline and preparedness action plan in the context of public health emergencies.
- Participated in the online meeting organized by the regional office on framework & toolkit IPC outbreaks focus group discussion.
- Supported school health unit at the ministry of Education with 174 100 PPE supplies for safe health care during the second round of the national exam (75 900 Masks surgical, 92 200 gloves and 6 000 gowns).

Pillar Seven: Case management, clinical operations, and therapeutics

- Over 28 231 treatments of life-saving medicines and 600 trauma cases of life-saving medicines and medical kits were delivered to health partners in Lattakia and Aleppo. These deliveries are part of enhancing the capacity of public health facilities for timely and appropriate response for life-saving interventions and COVID-19 cases.
- 150 participants including health workers from the isolation centers, directorate of Emergency and Ambulance Services, ICU and Emergency departments from Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama and Deir-ez-Zor were trained on “Immediate Life Support and Ventilator Management for COVID patients, Management plan of COVID-19 patients and transmission preventive measures, as well as Management plan for COVID-19 patient and treatment of respiratory infections.”
- To increase access to recommended treatments for hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19 symptoms, WHO supported the public hospitals with 840 vials of Tocilizumab, WHO-prequalified treatments for COVID-19.

Pillar Eight: Logistics and operations

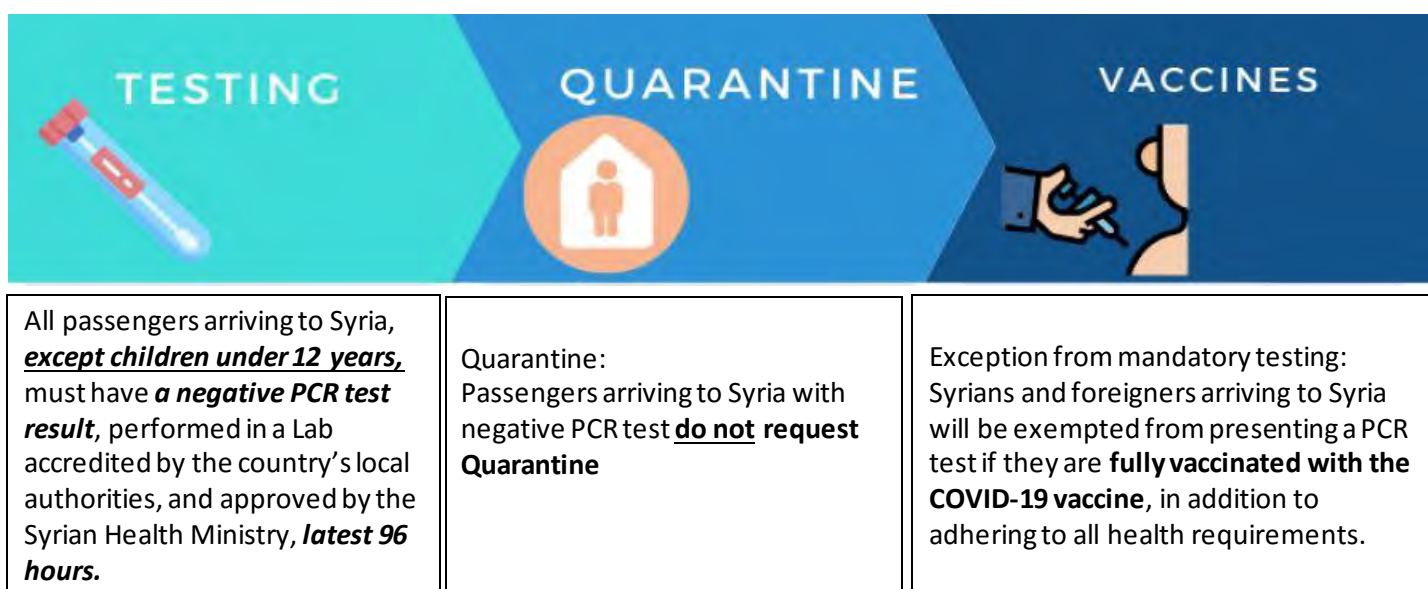
- In July 2022, WHO provided approximately 91 tonnes of medical and lab supplies, kits, and equipment to nine governorates with a total value exceeding 1 415 659 USD. They were distributed to the Ministry of Health directorates of health in different governorates, Ministry of Higher Education and Ministry of Education -affiliated health facilities, NGOs, and INGOs.
- Delivered two Scanners/Spiral Computed Tomography in favor of Harasta national hospital and Damascus Hospital.
- Two crossline shipments (one road convoy with three trucks in total and one airlift) have been delivered to northeast Syria in July 2022 with a total weight (20 947 kgs) and a total number of treatment 169 432 treatments and 1 200 trauma cases. It included different types of medicines and vaccines in favour of Qamishli national hospital and Al Hassakeh DOH.

Pillar Nine: Maintaining essential health services and systems

- To maintain essential health services to the best quality of care, a central workshop supported by WHO was conducted to review quality and accreditation standards at both hospitals and PHC levels in the context of COVID-19. It was followed up by two TOT workshops for 50 quality staff at 14 governorates.
- Coordination with EMRO and MoH with regards to moving ahead the agenda of hospital resilience and the importance to building on strong primary health care has started to strengthen the resilience of hospitals as well as to investing in hospital preparedness through a holistic and integrated approach led by primary health care and rooted in community engagement and health systems strengthening.

SYRIA COVID-19

Travel Updates and Requirements (as of March 2022, Source MOH)



COVID-19 key performance indicators for June 2022



COVID-19 key performance indicators

June 2022



National Coordination, planning and monitoring

- 0: No. of transmission classification and capacity assessment
- 1: No. of monthly operational and epidemiological update disseminated
- 30: No. of daily situation update disseminated
- 0: No. of preparedness and response plan for COVID-19
- 0: No. of activate PHEOC

Point of Entry

- 16: No. of PoE implement entry measurement
- 125: No. of officers at PoE training on entry measurement and IHR
- 1: No. of coordination meeting with health authorities or partners conducted
- Annual: No. of National emergency contingency plan reviewed and updated
- 1: No. of established and equipped health control offices at PoE

Maintaining Essential Health Services

- 117,855: No. of PHC treatment provided (including NCD)
- 883,174: No. of Public PHCs consultations
- 470,724: No. of Public hospitals consultations
- 1,993: No. of health facility assessment conducted on minimum service availability
- 65%: % of DPT3 coverage rate (under 1 y)
- 497: No. of health & community facilities providing MHPSS services

Vaccination

- 132,825: No. of people received at least one dose of Covid vaccine
- 130,905: No. of people who are fully vaccinated.
- 227,108: Total number of doses utilized.
- 0: No. of capacity building (Training sessions of COVID 19 vaccination in different areas)
- 1,684: No. of mobile and fixed teams supported
- 1: No. vaccination deployment plan produced and updated
- 0: No. of supplied reporting and registration forms.
- 115: No. of supplied ICT equipment procured to support vaccination
- 5,117: No. of HR supported to ensure providing COVID-19 vaccination services.
- 1: No. of coordination meeting with health authorities or partners conducted

Surveillance, RRT and Case Investigation

- 101: No. of total RRT established and functional in all districts across the country
- 52%: % of samples collected from suspected cases
- 847: No. of SARS-CoV2 (Ag RTs) performed and result reported by surveillance team
- 5: No. of weekly COVID-19 surveillance bulletins
- 1: No. of NGOs contributing in COVID-19 surveillance
- 100%: % of SARI cases tested for influenza and COVID-19 through the integrated surveillance of influenza and COVID-19
- Annual: No. of updated and printed protocol related to the surveillance of COVID-19 and influenza



COVID-19 key performance indicators

June 2022



Risk communication and community engagement

- 273: No. of health workers, media reporters, and community volunteers trained on communication and RCCE
- 5: No. of awareness campaigns conducted for targeted groups on COVID-19
- 4: No. of IEC materials disseminated through MoH and partners
- 1,218,290: People reached with messages on COVID-19 preventive measures and access to health care
- 1: No. of national risk communication and community engagement plan for COVID-19

Cases 2021-2022

Case management

- 104,453: No. of treatments provided (For COVID-19 response purposes)
- 0: No. of medical equipments distributed (For COVID-19 response purposes)
- 0: No. of supplied ICU beds
- 0: No. of supplied oxygen cylinders
- 150: No. of HCWs trained on case management
- 2: No. of hospitals supported with ICU equipped with necessary supplies and equipment
- 1: No. of coordination meeting with health authorities or partners conducted
- 0: No. of supplied patient ventilators
- 0: No. of supplied oxygen generating station
- 0: No. of supplied oxygen concentrators

National laboratory

- 30: No. of laboratory staff trained and retrained on COVID lab techniques or biosafety and biosecurity measures
- Annual: No. of RT-PCR and Cepheid Xpert system machines distributed
- 0: No. of provided SARS-CoV-2 cartridges (Cepheid Xpert system)
- 60,000: No. of provided RT-PCR kits and consumables
- 11: No. of laboratories supported
- 0: No. of provided COVID-19 antigen-based rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs)
- 60,000: No. of swabs and medium provided
- Annual: No. of coordination meeting with health authorities or partners conducted

Confirmed cases per Districts

June 2022

- 34: Confirmed cases
- 59: Recovered cases
- 0: Deaths

Infection prevention and control

- 25: No. of Health staff trained on IPC (Infection Prevention Control)
- 0: No. of PHC health staff trained on COVID19 (Essential Health Services)
- 21,000: PPEs (No. Gloves)
- 10,000: PPEs (No. Surgical Masks)
- 50: No. Alcohol hand rub sanitizer 75% and S...
- 2: No. Thermometers (non-contact & clinic...)
- 0: No. Coverall, Aprons, head cover and dis...
- 0: PPEs (No. Face Shield)
- 0: PPEs (No. Goggles)
- 0: PPEs (No. Gown)
- 0: PPEs (No. Mask 95)