



The Ministry of Health launched a 10-day oral cholera vaccine (OCV) campaign targeting people over 1 year old in the governorates of Aleppo, Al- Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqa, and Deir-ez-Zor.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- A shipment of two million doses of Oral Cholera Vaccines (OCV) arrived in Damascus on 29 November 2022. The GAVI-funded oral cholera vaccines will be used in an immunization campaign in 4 governorates of Al-Hassakeh, Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, and Aleppo targeting populations above one year of age in areas where the disease is spreading fast, and communities have limited access to health facilities, clean water, and sanitation.
- 7 635 health staff were trained in different intervention areas through 253 capacity-building activities.
- More than 124 tonnes of medical, lab, and nutritional supplies, kits, PPEs, ORS, IV fluids, purification tablets, haemodialysis sessions, and printed IEC materials were dispatched to 26 MoH facilities, 12 MoHE hospitals, 9 NGOs, 6 INGOs, 1 NGHs, 3 NGPHCs, SARC and 1 IA convoy (Sarmada 9) and UN agencies.

## Health Operational Update

### Disease Surveillance and Outbreak Response

- 1 427 out of 1 487 sentinel sites are reporting weekly with 81% completeness and 89% timeliness.
- 84% of alerts are responded within 72 hours.

### Cholera outbreak at the WoS level

- The first cholera case was detected on 22 August 2022 in Aleppo and was confirmed on 25 August 2022.
- On 10 September 2022, the Syrian Ministry of Health declared 15 cholera laboratory-confirmed cases in Aleppo governorate resulting in one death.
- By the end of November: Ministry of Health (MoH), EWARN system in Northwest Syria (NWS), and health partners in Northeast Syria (NES) reported a total of 56 879 AWD cases, including 98 associated deaths at a case fatality rate of 0.2%. Of the 4 174 samples tested with rapid diagnostic tests, 1 846 have tested positive. The overall proportion of rapid diagnostic test (RDT)-positive cases is 44.2%. In addition, 2 237 stool samples have been cultured, of which 771 have tested positive for Vibrio Cholera: a positivity rate of 34.4%
- In November, acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) cases increased by 9.1% compared to the previous month

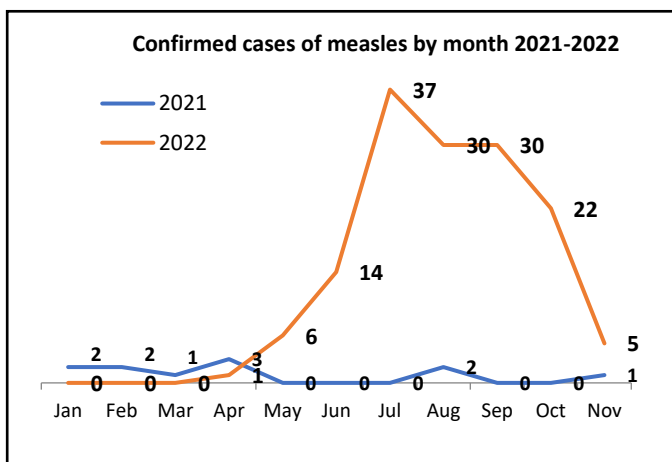
(20 662 in November and 18 939 in October). The increase was observed mainly in NWS areas.

- All 14 governorates in Syria reported AWD cases as well as confirmed cholera cases as per the below table:

Governorate	Suspected Cases (AWD)	Attack Rate (%)	RDTs	Positive RDTs	Culture + Tests	Attributed Deaths	CFR%
Deir Ez-Zor	19,430	2.49	706	416	99	28	0.1%
Ar-Raqqa	11,998	1.56	328	74	92	10	0.1%
Aleppo	10,501	0.25	1733	1001	207	42	0.4%
Al-Hassakeh	2,156	0.19	558	108	23	5	0.2%
Idleb	12,113	0.43	195	8	262	10	0.1%
Latakia	174	0.01	152	93	12	0	0.0%
Damascus	101	0.01	97	20	10	1	1.0%
Hama	149	0.01	149	37	37	1	0.7%
As-Sweida	83	0.02	83	26	2	0	0.0%
R. Damascus	55	0.00	55	17	3	0	0.0%
Homs	54	0.00	53	27	21	1	1.9%
Dara'a	18	0.00	18	5	0	0	0.0%
Quneitra	19	0.02	19	4	1	0	0.0%
Tartous	28	0.00	28	10	2	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,879</b>	<b>0.27</b>	<b>4,174</b>	<b>1,846</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>0.2%</b>

## Measles cases

- During November, a total of 889 suspected measles cases were reported through the EWARS system in 12 governorates. Most of the cases were from Ar-Raqqa 69.5% (n=618), Deir-ez-Zor 17.7% (n= 157), and Aleppo 4.9% (n=44).
- During 2022, there was an increase in the number of measles cases with a total of 145 confirmed cases compared only with 11 cases in 2021. The cases were distributed as follows: Ar-Raqqa (45), Aleppo (39), Deir-ez-Zor (38), Homs (7), Hama (4), Damascus (3), Al-Hassakeh (3), Rural Damascus (2), and one case in each of Dara'a, Quneitra, Tartous, and As-Sweida.
- In November 2022, lab results were positive for 5 samples.



## Trauma

- Over 148 060 treatments of life-saving medicines and 3 226 pieces of medical equipment (3 128 oxygen concentrators, 5 patient beds, and 93 pulse oximeters) were delivered to health partners in Damascus, Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hassakeh, Deir-ez-Zor, Latakia, Tartous, Rural Damascus, As-Sweida, Quneitra, Dara'a, and Idlib. These deliveries are part of enhancing the capacity of public health facilities for a timely and appropriate response for life-saving interventions.
- 4 471 persons with disability benefited from different types of assistive devices delivered to health partners in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Quneitra, and Idlib.
- 125 health workers from Damascus received training in the field of disability and rehabilitation at the MOH Centre of Prosthetics and Rehabilitation in Damascus.
- 69 training courses were conducted in 14 governorates (Al-Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, As-Sweida, Dara'a, Quneitra,

Damascus, and Rural Damascus) through which 2 350 health professionals from MoH received training on cholera case management, standard case definition, and infection prevention and control (IPC) standards for cholera treatment centers and units (CTC/CTUs).

- 37 training courses were delivered in 12 governorates (Al-Hassakeh, Deir-ez-Zor, As-Sweida, Dara'a, Quneitra, Homs, Hama, Latakia, Tartous, Damascus, Rural Damascus, and Aleppo) through which over 925 midwives and gynecologists were trained on the vaccination of pregnant women and the management of COVID-19 during pregnancy.
- 12 meetings were held to present and review the data received from the Breast Cancer Early Detection Awareness Campaign that was conducted at the governorate level in October.

## EPI

- 20-24 November, the MoH — with support from GAVI and WHO — conducted the periodic intensified routine immunization campaign including all routine vaccines in all governorates targeting under-five children (U5), defaulters, and newborns. Around 712 260 U5 children were screened, out of which 89 211 children under the age of 1 year received their first dose or completed their vaccination, while 90 991 aged 1-5 years received their first dose or completed their vaccination. The remaining children have either already completed their vaccines, or their vaccination is not due.

## Primary Health Care

- With the participation of the Ministry of Health and 40 representatives from other line ministries, a meeting was conducted to discuss the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) cost-effectiveness study. The meeting included a desk review analysis on the cervical cancer burden at the national level and study tools to inform decision-making on introducing the HPV vaccine within the EPI schedule for girls aged 9-15 years old.
- WHO facilitated the participation of MOH focal points in the virtual regional meeting on “Implementing and Strengthening Noncommunicable Disease (NCD) Monitoring Systems at the Primary Health Care Level.” The status of NCDs monitoring systems from the regional perspective was presented along with implementation models and the NCDs data monitoring program.
- National IPC guidelines were finalized with EMRO support.

## Secondary Health Care

- With WHO support, seven supervisory visits were conducted by MOH to public and private hospitals to provide on-job training on quality and accreditation standards. 30 trainees from IPC & quality units benefited.

## Nutrition and Child Health

- In October 2022, 114 278 U5 children were screened for malnutrition in 941 health centres across the country.
- 2 852 cases of global acute malnutrition were detected (651 severe and 1 931 moderate).

## Mental Health (MH)

- Under the primary health care directorate, 104 mental health focal points will be assigned at the health-district level in different health centers to strengthen the provision of MH services and support in data collection and information dissemination.
- # MHPSS services delivered at the community level: 4 020 in 75 locations, through a partnership with 3 NGOs.
- # Health and community workers trained on MHPSS interventions (MoH, MoE, NGOs): 554.
- # Community workers from the protection sector trained on MHPSS low-intensity interventions at the community level: 70.

## Communicable Diseases

- WHO delivered 9 awareness sessions on HIV at the school level in different governorates and conducted a meeting with representatives from different line ministries to discuss the needs and difficulties that people living with HIV are facing.
- HIV active case finding in prisons was concluded in 10 governorates. 8 125 prisoners benefited from awareness sessions on HIV and went through rapid tests with one positive case detected.
- 25 health professionals received training on integrating mhGAP within the HIV program.
- WHO, together with the MoH, commemorated World AIDS Day 2022 under the theme “Tell a Friend: Test for HIV. It’s free, confidential & easy”. Different health partners and community representatives took part in this solidarity event.



WHO-MoH joint activity on the occasion of the World AIDS Day, 1 December 2022

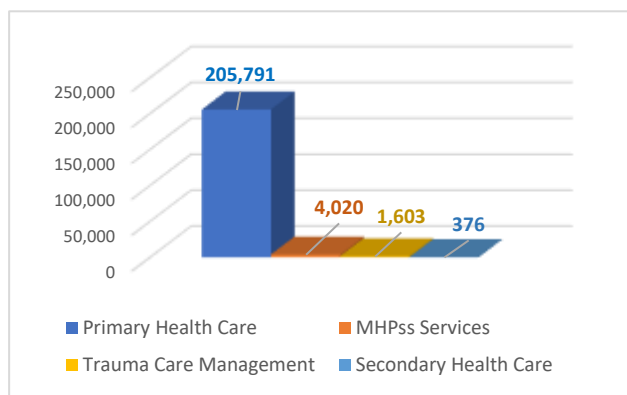
- Tuberculosis (TB) mobile clinics are still functioning in three governorates (Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, and Rural Damascus). 734 beneficiaries benefited from 40 awareness sessions on TB. In addition, 274 suspected cases were tested for TB, of which 26 cases were confirmed.

## Communication

- Cholera prevention messages were disseminated among healthcare workers and community members through flyers and social media cards.
- Cholera vaccine-related information, education, and communication (IEC) material was developed and shared with health partners, including OCV guidance, flyers about the vaccine, as well as social media cards.
- 540 000 flyers on cholera prevention as well as 6 400 posters on cholera case management were printed and distributed among health partners.
- Cholera-related capacity-building workshops took place across Syria where almost 500 community health workers were trained in responding to and addressing community members on cholera-related topics. More than 220 000 people were reached with the relevant messages and 150 000 IEC materials were distributed during November.
- Funded by GAVI, a shipment of two million doses of oral cholera vaccines (OCV) arrived in Damascus, Syria on 29 November. Read the full joint WHO-UNICEF press release [here](#).
- WHO, in cooperation with the MoH, conducted capacity-building training for media professionals to sensitize and train journalists on the key aspects of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and strategies for fighting AMR across the human, animal, plant, and environmental health sectors.

## Community Engagement (NGOs)

- Eight contracted NGOs are providing primary and secondary healthcare services to people in need in underserved areas. NGOs are supporting 11 fixed health facilities, one hospital, and 7 mobile medical teams in Homs, Hama, Lattakia, Deir-ez-Zor, Al-Hassakeh, and Aleppo governorates.
- WHO partners provided 211 790 healthcare services:



## Pharmacy

- 110 pharmacists received training of trainers (ToT) to enhance their capacities, especially in the areas of quality control and pharmaceutical affairs.
- The national pharmaceutical profile was finalized and will provide data on existing socio-economic and health-related conditions, resources, regulatory structures, processes, and outcomes relating to the pharmaceutical sector of Syria.
- 90 healthcare workers received training in pharmacovigilance and pharmaceutical control labs.

## Health Systems

- WHO conducted a 2-day field mission to Homs governorate to support the health sector and plan for health system recovery. A series of meetings were conducted with the Directorate of Health (DoH) and the heads of health facilities (both primary and secondary). Discussions revolved around health system recovery using the health system six pillars matrix.
- WHO conducted awareness-raising sessions conducted for its implementing partners on topics such as gender vulnerabilities during the response to outbreaks, with a focus on GBV and cholera including topics on sexual exploitation and abuse. 90 representatives from different NGOs in Damascus and Rural Damascus participated.

- A capacity-building activity on the International Health Regulations (IHR) and Health Preparedness and Response at Points of Entry targeting concerned stakeholders was held on 31 October – 2 November 2022. Health System Strengthening to enhance International Health Regulations was presented.

## Health Sector Coordination

- Produced 5 weekly AWD/cholera (Health, WASH, RCCE sectors) Syria situation reports.
- Produced October 2022 health sector 4W For the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).
- Worked jointly with the WoS team to finalize the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and health sector severity scale.
- Conducted a health sector national coordination meeting on presenting the findings of the Global Health Cluster study on COVID-19 vaccination.
- Updated the health sector on opening 2023 HRP project modules and related trainings. Project submission is extended until 5 December 2022.
- Updated health sector assessment registry (third quarter).
- Updated overview of health sector assistance with capacity-building activities, July – September 2022.
- Provided an overview of the health sector Syria operational update, November 2022.
- Provided health sector updates (including SWOT analysis) for Al Hol camp donor conference.
- Facilitated participation of the WHO Syria technical team in the workshop on WHO Localization Strategy – Designing the Operating Framework.
- Updated health sector with interactive dashboards, HERAMS:
  - Public hospitals: [Link](#)
  - Public health centres: [Link](#)

### Aleppo

- Conducted AWD/cholera Aleppo task force meeting to identify challenges and mobilize resources to provide the needed support.
- Participated in the inter-agency (IA) convoy “Sarmada 9” through which around 1.2 tonnes of medical items were delivered enough to provide 8 280 treatments and 10 trauma cases.

### Latakia

- To strengthen AWD/cholera coordination and response in the governorates of Latakia and Tartous, WHO implemented the following:
  - Visited 320 communities and disseminated more than 54 000 materials tackling topics on IPC and treatment protocols and different risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) topics such as transmission, infection, prevention and treatment, and personal hygiene practices.
  - Supported the cholera treatment facilities in Latakia and Tartous with 1.7 tonnes of essential health supplies and delivered more than 200 rapid diagnostic tests to the surveillance teams.



*Awareness-raising campaign on cholera in Latakia.*

- WHO conducted two awareness-raising events in Latakia and Tartous to highlight the importance of early detection and diagnosis of breast cancer and strengthen cancer care services in the governorate.
- At the community level, WHO supported 16 training courses in Latakia and Tartous for 392 health and community workers under different intervention areas including nutrition, primary health care,

mental health, trauma, and health information system.

### Homs

- The AWD/cholera awareness-raising campaign in cooperation with the directorate of health in the governorates of Homs, Hama, and Idleb was concluded. The campaign covered more than 460 locations through which 49 530 beneficiaries have been reached by 23 mobile teams and 69 trained volunteers, with a special focus on the hot spot areas. More than 14 000 IEC materials have been distributed during the campaign.



*Awareness-raising campaign on cholera in rural Homs.*

- On 29 November, participated in the ECHO mission to Homs governorate during which several field visits were conducted including the COVID-19 lab, Al-Waleed Hospital (the main isolation center in Homs), the haemodialysis department in Al-Reaya Al-Tebiya Hospital and the MRI center as part of the health project supported by ECHO.
- Al-Afia Fund NGO in Homs governorate started a health project to strengthen the provision of haemodialysis sessions to the most vulnerable groups in Homs and its countryside. The total number of health services provided is 1 759.
- WHO conducted a rapid health assessment for HeRAMS health facilities in Homs and Hama covering 7 national hospitals and 18 PHCs.

### Deir-ez-Zor

- Organized a health sector meeting to discuss the health needs in Deir-ez-Zor hospitals with the participation of the DoH, the head of Al Assad hospital, and INGOs.

- The AWD/cholera awareness-raising campaign in collaboration with DOH and local NGOs has been concluded with 136 064 beneficiaries reached through conducting door-to-door visits targeting the most affected populations, in addition to distributing around 318 638 aqua tablets (1 gr).

### Qamishli Hub / Northeast Syria (NES)

- On 3 November, WHO team conducted a field mission to Al-Hol camp, the team attended and facilitated the regular weekly health meeting and visited the WHO-supported NGO and vaccination site.
- WHO conducted a series of capacity-building trainings covering different intervention areas including Nutrition Surveillance, Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), and cholera-related topics.
- The routine immunization campaign was implemented in Al-Hassakeh through 35 mobile teams and 41 fixed teams. 15 153 (80%) children have been vaccinated, including 4 500 defaulters.
- Through an agreement with Al-Hikmeh Hospital, WHO is providing life-saving secondary healthcare support to the most vulnerable groups across NES. Within the reporting period, WHO supported the referral and care of 903 cases, including 562 trauma cases and 341 secondary cases.
- WHO shared Al-Hol mortality monthly report for September.

- Based on EWARS data, the table below shows the top reported morbidities in Al Hol camp in November compared with October:

Top conditions reported in Al-Hol camp	November (W44 to W48)	October (W40 to W34)	Percentage of change
Acute diarrhea	793	891	-11%
Influenza-like illness	2009	1156	+74%
Worms	246	283	-13%
Bloody diarrhea	26	21	+24%
Leishmaniasis	16	9	+78%
Scabies	10	14	-29%
Acute watery Diarrhea	5	8	-38%

- **AWD/Cholera response:** 3 683 beneficiaries were reached weekly with awareness-raising sessions and 20 000 copies of different IEC materials were distributed.
- Health awareness sessions were delivered to different health partners and at the camp level on defining cholera, its causes, symptoms, methods of prevention, and treatment.
- WHO continues to monitor the quality of drinking water within 11 main camps in NES and 33 collective shelters in Al-Hassakeh; 15 drinking water stations in rural Deir-ez-Zor; 23 collective shelters in Al-Tabqa city; and 37 house tanks and 25 boreholes in Deir-ez-Zor with a total number of 1 329 347 beneficiaries.

## Northwest Syria (NWS)

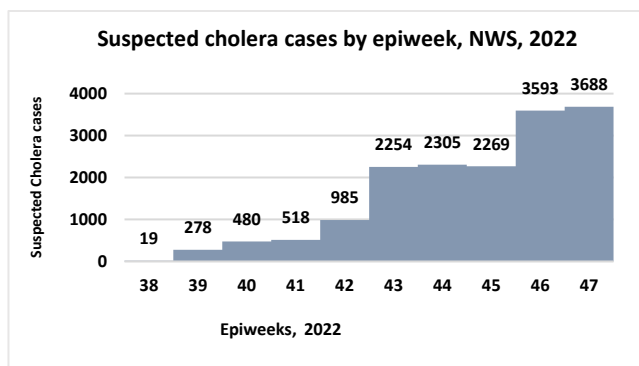
### Routine Immunization

- In November, 93 routine vaccination centers are fully functioning with 133 teams (100%). A total of 100 vaccination teams supported by WHO (60 mobile & 40 fixed) continue working at full capacity.
- WHO Gaziantep field presence attended the Intercountry Meeting of National Managers of the EPI in Cairo, Egypt on 21 - 24 November 2022.

### Cholera Response

- Suspected cholera cases more than doubled in November, reaching Ras Al Ain Tel Abyad (RAATA) areas as well. WHO engaged with partners to activate and operationally support – including with supplies – Cholera Treatment Centres (CTC) and Units (CTU).

- As of 26 November, 16 389 suspected cholera cases have been reported from NWS with a total Attack Rate of 0.35%. A total of 3 847 (23%) suspected cases were reported from camps. A cumulative 1 473 samples were collected since the start of the outbreak (9% of overall suspected cases), of which 408 have tested positive by stool culture with a positivity rate of 30%. To date, 12 associated deaths have been reported, with a CFR of 0.07.



- Since the start of the cholera outbreak, close to 24% of the whole population in NWS has been reached through RCCE activities. RCCE partners have used various modalities to raise awareness about cholera prevention and reach out to the affected population in NWS including household visits to caregivers; community and religious leaders; awareness sessions (including at schools) and through social media platforms (Facebook, Telegram, YouTube, and WhatsApp). This was possible thanks to 1 484 community health workers, social mobilizers, and camp managers who were trained before the campaign by WHO and NGO partners.

## Operational Update

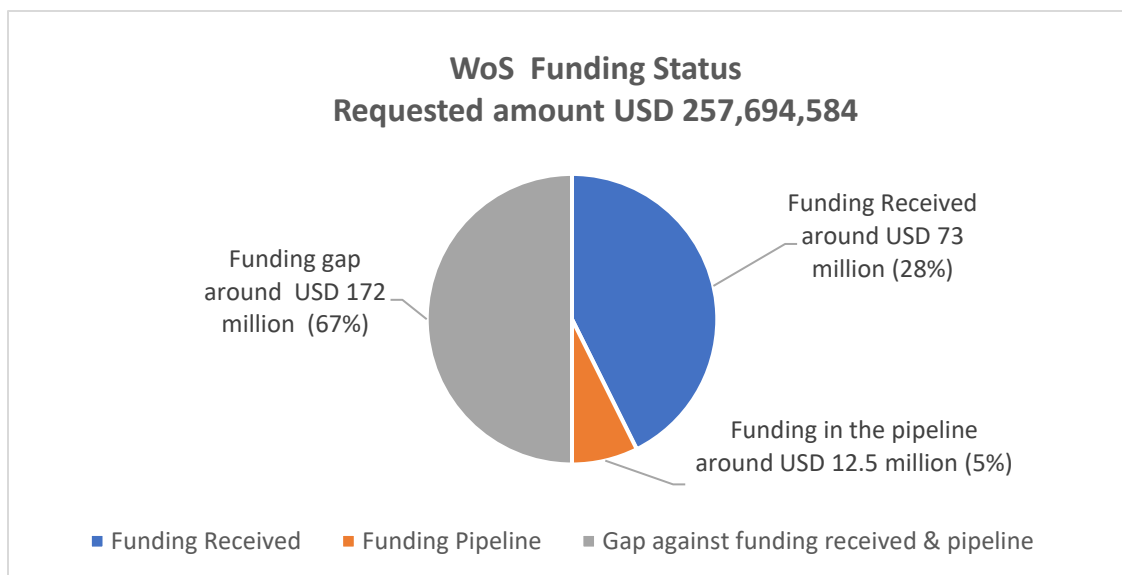
### Delivery of essential medicines supplies into NWS

- On 11 November 2022, the WHO office in Gaziantep delivered 5 trucks loaded with essential medicines and cholera response kits from Turkey to northwest Syria serving more than 500,000 Syrians.
- On 25 November, a delegation from the Swiss Embassy led by its Ambassador to Türkiye, Mr. Jean-Daniel Ruch, attended the transshipment operations at the Cilvegözü border crossing. The convoy of the UN included 12 trucks loaded with essential medicines and cholera response kits from Türkiye to northwest Syria serving more than 500 000 Syrians.
- On 25 November, WHO Head of Office – Dr. Mahmoud Daher – was wearing a white ribbon to honor the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and to highlight the disproportional impact of the Syrian conflict on women and men. WHO plays a key role in bringing attention to and responding to violence against women as a public health, gender equality, and human rights issue.



UN convoy to NWS including 12 trucks on essential medicines and cholera kits

## WoS Funding Status



## Useful links

[HeRAMS public hospitals](#)  
[HeRAMS public health centres](#)  
[WHO-Syria Summary of HRP indicators reported through the 4Ws](#)  
[WoS key performance indicators](#)  
[MHPSS dashboard](#)

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