



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Supported by WHO, UNICEF, and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI); the Ministry of Health in Syria launched a country-wide polio, measles, and rubella vaccination campaign. The 10-day campaign, which started on 9 October 2022, aimed to vaccinate 2.4 million children under the age of 5 in all Syrian governorates, regardless of their vaccination status, with a special focus on camps and informal settlements.
- 3 600 health staff were trained on different intervention areas through 144 capacity-building activities.
- More than 34 tonnes of medical, lab, and nutritional supplies, kits, PPEs, ORS, IV fluids and printed IEC materials were dispatched to 23 MoH facilities, 13 MoHE hospitals, 2 NGOs, 14 INGOs, 1 NGHs, 6 NGPHCs, SARC and 2 IA convoy (Sarmada 8 & RAA) and 2 UN agencies.

WHO supports national polio, measles, and rubella vaccination campaign in Syria

## Health Operational Update

### Disease Surveillance and Outbreak Response

- 1 477 Sentinel sites are reporting weekly with 80% completeness and 91.6% timeliness.
- 93% of alerts responded within 72 hours.

### Cholera outbreak at the WoS level

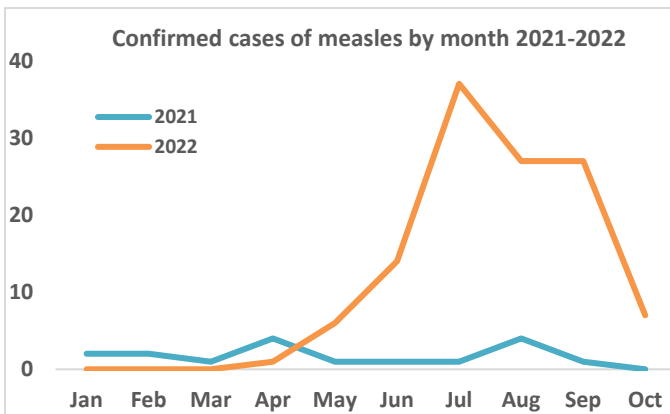
- The first cholera case was detected on 22 August 2022 in Aleppo and was confirmed on 25 August 2022.
- On 10 September 2022, the Syrian Ministry of Health declared 15 cholera laboratory-confirmed cases in Aleppo governorate resulting in one death.
- As of 29 October 2022, a total of 30 219 AWD cases have been reported, including 85 associated deaths at a case fatality rate of 0.28%. Out of the 2 483 samples tested with rapid diagnostic tests, 1 232 were confirmed positive. The overall proportion of RDT-positive cases is 43.7%. In addition, 1 346 stool samples have been cultured, of which 454 were positive for Vibrio Cholera. The positivity rate of cholera is 33.7%.

- In October AWD cases increased by 70% compared to the previous month (18 924 in October and 11 097 in September). 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	14,543	1.87	613	346	98	27	0.2%
Ar-Raqqa	7,428	0.97	240	67	78	10	0.1%
Aleppo	4,781	0.11	750	686	147	40	0.8%
Hassakeh	1,348	0.12	368	94	23	5	0.4%
Idleb	1,719	0.06	149	8	88	2	0.1%
Latakia	89	0.01	68	46	3	0	0.0%
Damascus	68	0.00	65	14	7	1	1.5%
Hama	71	0.01	71	11	2	0	0.0%
As-Sweida	69	0.02	69	24	2	0	0.0%
Rural Damascus	37	0.00	37	6	1	0	0.0%
Homs	27	0.00	27	11	5	0	0.0%
Daraa	18	0.00	18	5	0	0	0.0%
Qunitera	8	0.01	8	1	0	0	0.0%
Tartous	13	0.00	13	4	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30 219</b>	<b>0.14</b>	<b>2 483</b>	<b>1 323</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>0.28%</b>

## Measles cases

- During October, a total of 496 suspected measles cases were reported through the EWARS system in 12 governorates, most of the cases were from Ar-Raqqa 76.6% (n=380), Deir-ez-Zor 7.2% (n= 36) and Aleppo 5.6% (n=28).
- During 2022, there was an increase in the number of measles cases with a total of 120 confirmed cases. The cases were distributed as follows: Ar-Raqqa (44), Aleppo (27), Deir-ez-Zor (20), Homs (7), Damascus (3), Hama (3), Hassakeh (2), Rural Damascus (2), and one case in each of Daraa, Quneitra, Tartous, and As-Sweida.
- In October 2022, lab results were positive for 7 samples distributed as follows: 6 cases in Deir-ez-Zor and one in Hassakeh.



## Trauma

- 100 health workers from Damascus received training in the MOH Centre of Prosthetics and Rehabilitation in Damascus in the field of disability and rehabilitation.
- 24 training courses were conducted in 11 governorates (Al Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, As-Sweida, Dara'a, Quneitra, Damascus, and Rural Damascus) through which 600 health professionals from MOH received training on cholera case management, standard case definition and IPC standards for CTC/CTUs.
- Over 39 000 treatments of life-saving medicines and different types of medical equipment (oxygen concentrators, patient monitors) were delivered to health partners in Damascus, Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, and Lattakia. These deliveries are part of enhancing the capacity of public health facilities for a timely response to life-saving interventions.

## Primary Health Care

- Integrated Mission of Program of Action for Cancer Therapy (imPACT) to Syria: WHO participated jointly with the Ministry of Health, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the International Agency for Research on Cancer. A series of field visits were conducted to different health facilities that provide cancer care in Damascus to (1) assess the current prevention and screening services, registry and referral process to radiography and oncology centres, pink month services, and awareness campaigns for the early detection of the three priority cancers: Breast, Cervical, and prostate; (2) identify cancer care gaps and challenges; and (3) finalize the mission report with recommendations to draft the response action plan on the short-, mid-, and long-term phases.
- Conducted a 3-day capacity-building training for 25 healthcare workers and front liners from Zaid Al Sharety Public Hospital in As-Sweida governorate on IPC and patient safety standards to prevent and manage health-associated infections.

## Secondary Health Care

- Conducted a 3-day central meeting to review the Syrian guideline on hospital classification towards accreditation standards. The meeting was attended by 25 participants representing hospital managers, and officers from the quality control units at MOH and MOHE.

## Nutrition and Child Health

- In September 2022, 57 939 U5 children were screened for malnutrition in 981 health centres across the country.
- 2 850 cases of global acute malnutrition were detected (745 severe and 2 105 moderate).

## Mental Health (MH)

- # the public health centres at MoH covering integrated MHPSS services: 580
- # mhGAP consultations at public health facilities: 40 797.
- # psychosocial support at public health facilities: 42 362.
- # specialized psychological interventions: 1 393.
- # MHPSS services delivered at the community level: 26 952 in 75 locations, through a partnership with 6 NGOs.
- # Health and community workers trained on MHPSS interventions (MoH, MoE, NGOs): 498.

- # Community workers from the protection sector trained on MHPSS low-intensity interventions at the community level: 60.

## Communicable Diseases

- HIV active case finding in prisons started in 10 governorates. 2 770 prisoners benefited from awareness sessions on HIV and went through rapid tests with one positive case detected.
- TB mobile clinics are still functioning in three governorates (Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, and Rural Damascus). 866 beneficiaries benefited from 40 awareness sessions on TB. In addition, 299 suspected cases were tested for TB, of which 23 cases were confirmed.
- The Leishmaniasis mobile team is working to cover hard-to-reach areas in the southern countryside of Hassakeh governorate. The services provided included detecting and treating cases of leishmaniasis (no new cases), in addition to conducting 10 awareness-raising activities.
- During October, a total of 157 new Leishmaniasis cases were reported, with a decrease of (943%) compared to the same period in 2021 as it was (2 185). At the camp level, WHO together with health partners provided specialized treatment through 57 therapy sessions. 26 new cases were reported of which 20 were recovered.

## Communication

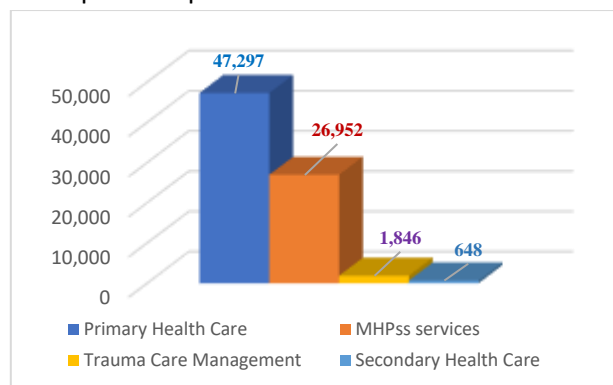
- Developed a set of press releases highlighting:
  - Norway’s fund to support the cholera outbreak response: [here](#)
  - Italy’s donation to support the WHO response to the cholera outbreak in the country: [here](#)
  - WHO support for health referrals: [here](#)
  - WHO support for the National Polio, Measles, and Rubella vaccination campaign: [here](#)
- During the Cholera outbreak response, WHO developed and disseminated [IEC resources](#), including posters, flyers, brochures, and social media cards. The resources were shared with health partners, printed, and distributed among affected communities.
- RCCE capacity-building activities continued across Syrian governorates training more than 1 494 community health workers, who engaged with different communities including highly affected ones, on cholera key messages related to sources of infection, prevention, and treatment for simple

cases. Subsequent awareness-raising activities reached more than 394 504 individuals.

- Developed and published a [video](#) acknowledging the continuous support provided by partners and stakeholders enabling WHO to deliver the needed health service across Syria.

## Community Engagement (NGOs)

- Eight contracted NGOs are providing Primary and Secondary Healthcare services to people in need in under-served areas. NGOs are supporting 13 fixed health facilities, one hospital, and 9 mobile medical teams in 6 governorates including Dara’a, Homs, Hama, Lattakia, Deir-ez-Zor, and Al-Hassakeh.
- WHO partners provided 76 743 healthcare services:



## Health Systems

- WHO supported a capacity-building workshop at the Centre of Strategic Studies and Health Training on improving the health system response during outbreaks. So far, 50 participants, from departments of infection and quality control at hospitals and directorates of health, in six governorates were trained.
- Facilitated two presentations to WCO technical staff on the current cholera outbreak as part of the Knowledge Management meetings.
- A presentation on health systems’ early recovery was shared with the Health Sector.

## Health Sector Coordination

- Provided Syria Health Sector inputs for the final draft of 2023 HNO (health needs); enhanced health sector severity scale; worked with WoS team to finalize 2023 HRP log-frame; in process of collecting inputs on early recovery reporting as part of the UNSG report.
- Re-launched the exercise of updating the list of health sector support to capacity-building activities (July-September).

- Continued technical consultations for the next steps of the development of the WHO Localization Strategy.
- Initiated an update of the health sector assessment registry.
- Completed SHF 1st Standard Allocation (AWD/Cholera), and shared the key observations with the health sector:
  - The funding envelope was established at 3.5 million USD under Health.
  - 16 project proposals were submitted by 15 organizations.
  - 11 projects were standalone health projects and 5 were health and WASH.
  - 4 projects by 4 organizations were recommended for funding.
- Updated WHO Syria AWD/Cholera weekly Situation Reports, 18, 25 October 2022.

## WHO Syria sub-offices

### Aleppo

- Conducted two AWD/Cholera Aleppo task force meetings to identify challenges and mobilize resources to provide the needed support.
- Concluded a series of awareness-raising campaigns through which key messages on cholera and AWD were delivered to communities in high-risk areas. 28 920 beneficiaries were reached via household and door-to-door visits.
- Participated in the joint WHO, MOH, UNICEF, and GAVI field visit to Aleppo governorate to follow up on the implementation of the national Polio and MR campaign.
- Followed up closely on the delivery and distribution of the medical items included in the crossline convoy “Sarmada 8”.
- Represented the health sector in an ad-hoc AHCT meeting with ECHO.
- The Leishmaniasis campaign in Aleppo is ongoing and supported by 140 health workers. During the reporting period, 10 districts were sprayed in addition to 3.8 km<sup>2</sup> in Aleppo governorate targeting around 76 136 population.

### Latakia

- To strengthen AWD/cholera coordination and response in the governorates of Latakia and Tartous the following is implemented:
  - Regular meetings were conducted at the governorate, interagency, and intersectoral levels with the participation of all involved stakeholders and members of the established task force group.
  - Disseminated more than 22 000 materials tackling topics on IPC and treatment protocols

and trained 424 health and community workers on different RCCE topics (transmission, infection, prevention and treatment, and personal hygiene practices).

- Launched a 20-day awareness-raising campaign in Latakia, in collaboration with 13 NGOs and INGOs, targeting high-risk areas and the most vulnerable groups.



*Awareness-raising campaign on cholera in Latakia*

- Joined the Norwegian Embassy on their field visit to Latakia governorate, through which the health priorities and needs were discussed in addition to visiting one of the WHO-supported NGOs.

### Homs

- Jad Charitable Society NGO in Hama governorate started a health project to strengthen the provision of integrated healthcare services to the most vulnerable groups in Masyaf and its countryside. The total number of health services provided is 3 195 Trauma, 4 401 psychosocial support, 4 853 primary health services, and 570 assistive devices.

- The AWD/Cholera awareness-raising campaigns in cooperation with the directorate of health are ongoing in the governorates of Homs, Hama, and Idleb. 9 844 beneficiaries have been reached through the 23 mobile teams and the 69 trained volunteers with a special focus on the hot spot areas.



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

- National polio, measles, and rubella vaccination campaign has been implemented across the country in October. Around 93% of children were vaccinated with MR vaccines and 95% were reached with the polio vaccine in Homs, while in Hama 88% of children received MR vaccines and 89% were reached with the polio vaccine.
- Participated in the WHO-GAVI mission to Homs to follow up on the process of the vaccination campaign. Two primary health centres were visited (Shamas and Al Arman PHCs), in addition to the Al Zhoriya camp.

### **Deir-ez-Zor**

- The AWD/cholera awareness-raising campaign in collaboration with DOH and local NGOs is ongoing including conducting RCCE activities and distributing 213 300 aqua tabs. Around, 91 900 beneficiaries have been reached with health messages and IEC materials.
- More than 57 volunteers were trained on WHO guidelines and health-related messages to contain the spread of the cholera bacterium.
- In partnership with the Syria Pulse Association, 30 725 beneficiaries benefited from the services provided by WHO-supported NGOs, including medical consultations, psycho-social support,

health referrals, and awareness-raising sessions.

### **Qamishli Hub / Northeast Syria (NES)**

- Conducted a series of field missions to Hassakeh DoH, Al Hol, and Al Areesha camps to follow up on the implementation of the National Polio and MR immunization campaign, the response to the cholera outbreak, as well as the preparation for the COVID-19 vaccination campaign.
- On 27 October, WHO jointly with UNICEF and UNDSS conducted the first crossline mission to the Ras Al-Ain area in NES since 2019. The mission included assessing the health situation on the ground as well as delivering a 3.8 tonnes shipment of health aids enough to provide 14 160 treatment courses, including cholera kits.



*WHO, UNICEF and UNDSS joint mission to Ras Al-Ain in NES*

- The National Polio and MR immunization campaign was implemented in Al Hassakeh through 41 mobile teams and 41 fixed teams. Eight days into the campaign around 55% of the targeted children were reached, (114 746 children received the MR vaccine, and 135 306 received the Polio vaccine). Noting that the routine immunization vaccines arrived in Qamishli on 13 October 2022.
- Through an agreement with Al-Hikmeh Hospital, WHO is providing the needed support to the most vulnerable groups across NES, covering the gap in secondary healthcare. Within the reporting period, 647 cases were referred to WHO-supported Al-Hikmeh hospital (405 trauma cases and 242 secondary cases).
- In partnership with the Syrian Society to Cure Children with Cancer (CCS NGO) in NES, WHO

provided essential medical services (PHC, STHC, trauma, and mental health) in 4 PHCs to the most affected population in 4 locations in NES.

- On 25 October, a large shipment of cholera kits, ORS, anti-Biotic, RDTs, and water purification tablets arrived at WHO’s office in Qamishli, and distribution started to all Ministry of Health public hospitals as well as NGO and partners operating across all areas of NES.
- **AWD/Cholera response:** more than 850 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 level of the camp on defining cholera, its causes, symptoms, methods of prevention, and treatment.

- The WHO-supported centres for malnutrition treatment received 84 new cases in both Al-Hikmeh and Al-Tabqa hospitals. 72 cases were discharged after being recovered.
- WHO continues to monitor the quality of drinking water within 11 main camps in NES, 33 collective shelters in Al-Hassakeh, 15 drinking water stations in rural Deir-ez-Zor, and 23 collective shelters in Al-Tabqa city, 37 house tanks, and 25 boreholes with a total number of 1 329 347 beneficiaries.

## Northwest Syria

### Routine Immunization

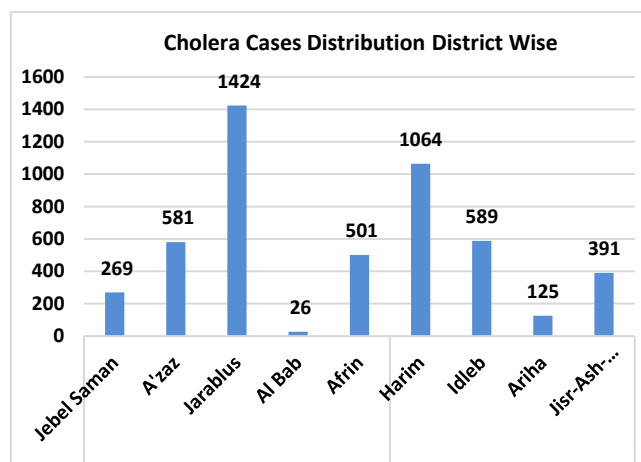
- The EPI coverage till September 2022 is as follows: 60% Pentavalent vaccine (DTwP-HepB-Hib), 60% OPV3, and 69% MMR2. Around 500 EPI staff were trained in different areas like vaccine management, immunization safety, social mobilization, advocacy, DHIS2, and zero dose identification. SIG with the support of WHO and UNICEF is preparing for a Follow-up Measles, Rubella, and Polio vaccination campaign. The tentative start date for the campaign is 25 December and will last for 10 days. The campaign is targeting 758 057 with the MR vaccine (between 6-59 months) and 815 242 children under 5 years with the polio vaccine.

### Cholera Response

- As of October 29, 1 517 out of the 4 526 suspected cholera cases reported in NWS were from camps. 715 samples were collected since the start of the outbreak, out of which 209 were confirmed positive, 432 were negative, and 74 are pending. To date, 5 deaths have been reported.
- EWAR in northwest Syria succeeded in anticipating the cholera outbreak, then trained national actors on surveillance and cholera lab diagnosis, and prepositioned cholera kits including diagnostic tests and essential medicines ahead of the outbreak. This is an exercise that reflects the importance of WHO’s ongoing technical role in the prevention of communicable disease outbreaks in NWS, especially in the absence of health governance and dedicated surveillance and outbreak response or communicable disease control

entity, where in case of non-renewal of UNSCR, direct support to outbreaks will be negatively impacted with national and regional repercussions of transmission of communicable diseases.

- Below chart shows the distribution of the case by district:



### Mental Health

- An alarming rise in suicide-related concerns was documented between January 1, 2022, and October 31, 2022, in NWS.
- This trend calls for improved surveillance and programming of suicide prevention in northwest Syria. The WHO mental health service mapping shows that a total of 42 cases ended their lives, 293 cases of confirmed suicide attempts, and 547 cases of suicidal ideation, put people in danger of taking their own life.

- In addition, the Assistance Coordination Unit (ACU) revealed in March 2022 that the young population suffers from high rates of drug addiction (25% male users and 9% female users). Moreover, those diagnosed by mhGAP doctors displayed severe signs of stress, depression, or psychosis.

### Capacity Building / Training

- WHO provided an advanced training course under the “Diagnosing and treating of those RR/MDR- TB patients” to Syrian doctors working in the 4 TB centers in NWS in the first week of October 2022. 8 doctors participated in this intensive 5-day training to enhance the viability and accessibility of TB services. The participants received technical support from the TB unit at the regional office in Euro.
- WHO field presence in Gaziantep supported the dialysis program in NWS in coordination with the health partners operating the dialysis centers. During the last quarter of 2021, WHO, in collaboration with a technical team from John Hopkins, launched a quality improvement program to ensure the dialysis services in NWS are matching the global standards in emergencies. The importance of the program is to build the capacity of the Syrian staff (medical and non-medical) working in these dialysis centers, mainly on the IPC program and how to provide specialized dialysis services using the updated protocols and

recommendations. This program can ensure the sustainability of these services inside Syria with an acceptable level of quality.

### Operational Update

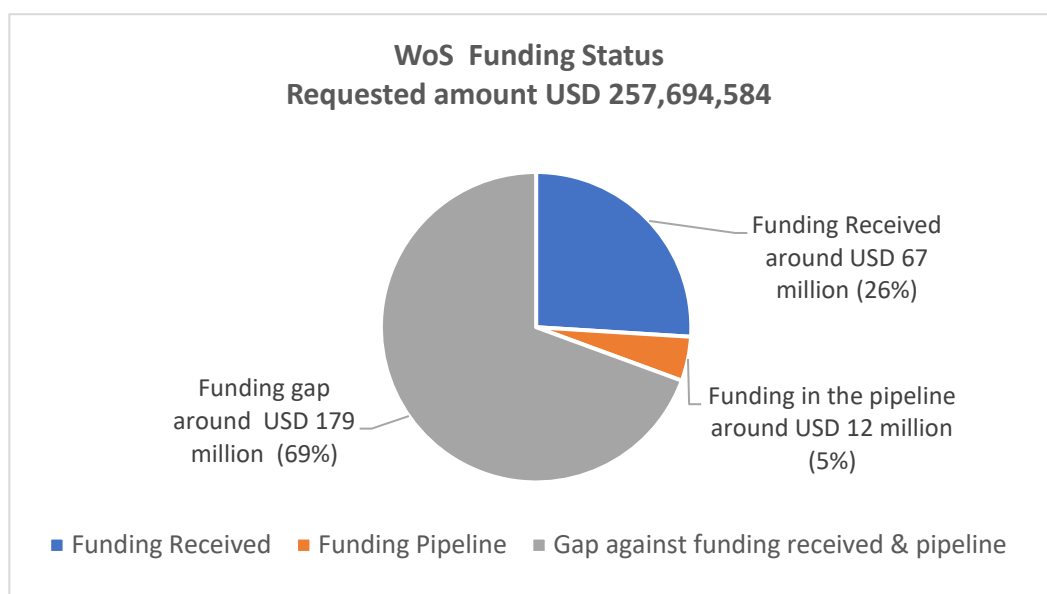
#### Delivery of 6 truckloads of essential medicine supplies to northwest Syria

- WHO delivered 6 trucks of essential medicines and medical supplies at a value of Euro 1 093 671 into northwest Syria, bringing health care supplies and medicines to those that need them most. Since January 2022 to date, WHO has delivered 75 trucks of medical supplies into northwest Syria with an estimated provision of 3 847 239 treatments.



Delivery of essential medicines into NWS

## 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](#)

## Follow WHO Syria



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Instagram](#)



[YouTube](#)

## Contact Us

**Dr. Iman Shankiti**

Acting WHO Syria Representative

[shankitii@who.int](mailto:shankitii@who.int)

**Dr. Mahmoud Daher**

WHO Health Emergencies (WHE)  
Team Lead in GZT

[daherm@who.int](mailto:daherm@who.int)