

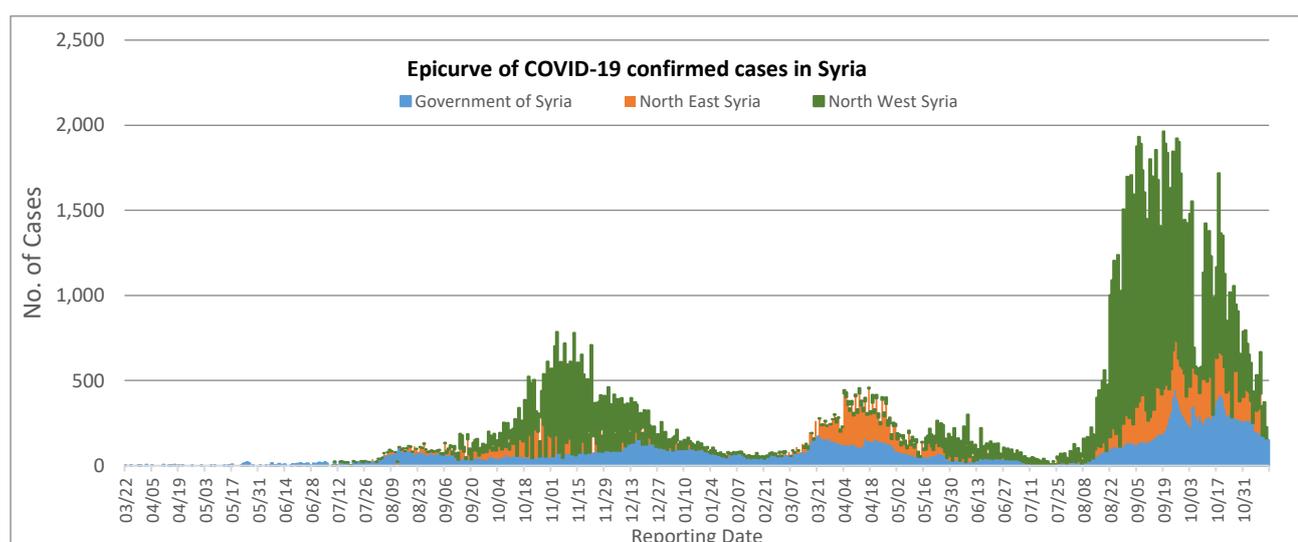
## COVID-19 STATISTICAL SUMMARY AT WHOLE OF SYRIA LEVEL

As of 13 November 2021

	173,798	Total cases (including 6,323 health workers)
	82,015	Active cases
	85,667	Recovered cases
	6,116	Deaths
	3.5%	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
	15	COVID-19 functional laboratories
	526,464	COVID-19 tests done
	2,486	Overall testing rate per 100,000 population
	821	Incidence rate per 100 000 population (highest in Al-Hasakeh; 2025)
	33.0%	Positivity rate

## Daily Distribution of COVID-19 Cases at Whole of Syria Level

**22 March 2020 – 13 November 2021**



Since the reporting of the first case of COVID-19 on 22 March 2020 and as of 13 November 2021, a total of **173 798** cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Whole of Syria, including **6 116 deaths**, the overall case fatality rate was 3.5%, the CFR was highest in Deir Ez-Zor, Tartous, and Damascus (above 8.9%).

COVID-19 confirmed cases are reported by three territories in Syria: The Ministry of Health at the Syrian government-controlled areas (GoS), northwest Syria (NWS), and northeast Syria (NES). Figure 1 shows the EPI curve of COVID-19 by source of reporting. The Chart 1 indicates to the fourth wave of COVID-19 in Syria since August 2021. A decline of new cases was noticed in week 45. The daily cases of COVID-19 reached the highest level on 19 September 2021 where 1 964 new cases were reported.

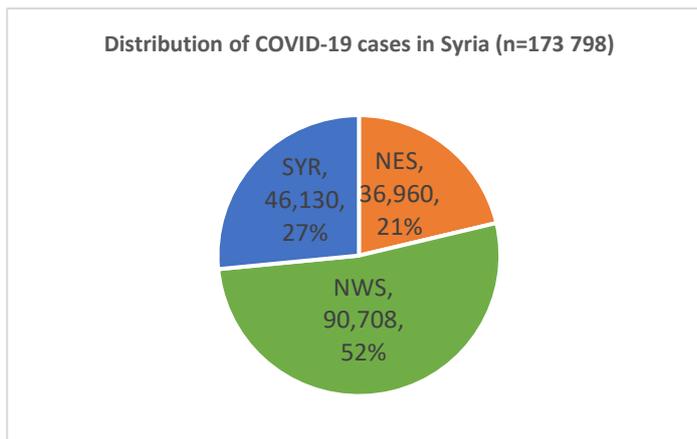


Figure 1

COVID-19 cases reported mostly from northwest Syria - 90 708 (52.19%), while 46 130 (26.54%) of cases reported at the government of Syria level, and 36 960 (21.27%) of cases reported in northeast Syria.

## WHO-SYRIA RESPONSE

### COVID-19 Vaccination

A total of 1 356 000 doses of the Sinovac vaccine were delivered to the Syrian Ministry of Health through the COVAX mechanism. It is the largest batch of vaccines delivered to Syria through COVAX since a first consignment was received in April this year. All doses will be administered as part of the ongoing national vaccination campaign nationwide.

More vaccines are expected to be delivered through both COVAX and bilateral donations in the coming months. Currently, there are enough vaccines in the stock to reach over 10% of the population, and additional vaccines are expected in the nearest future to cover over 28% of the population. Delivery of vaccines late in a year makes timely implementation of vaccination challenging and places additional strain on an already fragile health system. The greater the supply of vaccines, the stronger the response to the pandemic and the fewer complications and deaths resulting from COVID-19.

MOH is conducting a large vaccination campaign during November and December 2021. The campaign targets the population of above 18 years old with the aim of reaching up to 20% of the target population in Syria by the end of 2021. Almost 1 466 vaccination teams are deployed in all governorates around Syria at hospitals, PHC centers and mobile teams. In the meantime, partners are working with the MOH to secure vaccines for that endeavor.

According to the latest data supplied by the Ministry of Health, 687 065 people have received at least one vaccine dose, of whom 474 311 have received a second and are fully vaccinated.

### Primary Health Care and Non-Communicable Diseases

WHO, in collaboration with a technical officer from MOH, participated in a virtual webinar on Tobacco Economics Tax Sore Card, COP 9 & MOP 2.

Representatives from the WHO CO also participated in the multi partner trust fund meeting on non-communicable diseases (NCD) and mental health in a bid to scale up progress at both regional and national levels.

## Secondary and Tertiary Health Care (STHC)

WHO continues to support the children's hospitals in Aleppo and Harasta National Hospital in Rural Damascus through the provision of medical equipment, of which 85 pieces have thus far been delivered.

The Organization also facilitated the participation of technical officers from MOH and MOHE in the virtual cancer registry training course, which itself was facilitated by EMRO and IARC.

Three workshops, facilitated by WHO and attended by more than 90 professionals from the directorates of health in the governorates of Damascus, Tartous and Lattakia, centred around quality control at national hospitals and incorporated discussions on medical records, and infectious diseases surveillance.

## Trauma

WHO has delivered over 52 584 treatments of life-saving medicines and different types of trauma kits - supporting around 100 trauma cases - to health partners in the governorates of Damascus, Homs and Al-Hassakeh. ICU and hospital beds were among the 29 pieces of medical equipment delivered to isolation hospitals in Damascus and Homs. These deliveries are part of efforts to enhance the capacity of public health facilities to deliver timely and appropriate responses to emergency cases, including cases of COVID-19.

WHO supported the delivery of training for 50 prosthetics and orthotics technicians, physiotherapists, and physiatrists in Damascus. Training workshops on disability and rehabilitation were held at the MOH centre of prosthetics and rehabilitation in the capital.

## Mental Health (MH)

WHO continues to support 12 ongoing MHPSS projects across the country, which are being monitored by the MH unit and a team of experts. Plans for the technical supervision for all MHPSS workers have been designed and are being implemented to ensure the provision of quality services. More than 82 120 services were delivered since the beginning of 2021.

WHO has supported the delivery of 89 352 MHPSS services at 487 PHCs, in cooperation with MoH, between January and September 2021, in addition to 4 043 sessions of advanced psychological counselling and 100 871 consultations.

Several risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) activities related to mental health are underway. Four campaigns currently under preparation focus on women's health and include components related to COVID-19 and MHPSS. They will be implemented in Homs, Hama, Lattakia and Aleppo. WHO is also preparing to conduct a cross-sectoral coordination meeting with the sector chiefs of education and child protection to harmonize coordination of MHPSS interventions and programming at schools. An action plan has been drafted and a full mapping exercise is underway at the country level, with plans to form a sub-working group under the MHPSS TWG that focuses on MHPSS for children. The Organization is also supporting the emergency response for Dar'a, in partnership with two NGOs, which has included delivery of 660 life-saving interventions and 17 specialized psychiatric consultations by health and community workers who have been trained and retrained in psychological first aid and delivery of mhGAP consultations.

## Points of Entry (PoE)

MoH and WHO are equipping the medical point at Abu Kamal in Deir-ez-Zor with medical devices and furniture to enable the provision of health services to travellers in line with IHR (2005). WHO is also establishing a medical point at Jubousiya ground-crossing in Homs and another at Judeidet Yabous in Rural Damascus, rehabilitating spaces and equipping them with medical devices. The three medical points will be operational by the end of the year.

WHO and MOH jointly organized a two-day workshop, held in Damascus on 7-8 November, on the COVID-19 strategic preparedness and response plan in the Syrian Arab Republic. A total of 35 MoH officials, including senior management and WHO staff, met to review the national plan for 2022-23 and draft the operational and procurement plans for 2022. The plans developed reflect the current situation, as well as achievements made and gaps faced since 2020. The operational plan for 2022 is to be reviewed by MoH across different departments and finalized for implementation as of January 2022.

## Environmental Health

WHO supports the monitoring of water quality in Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor and at IDP camps in NES. During the reporting period, tests were conducted on 65 water samples from three villages in the northern part of Aleppo, 26 samples from seven districts in Rural Damascus and 1 015 samples from the NES governorates of Al-Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqqa, and Deir-ez-Zor, including from 11 IDP camps and 29 collective shelters in Al-Hasakeh. Among them, contaminants were found in 60 water sources (92.3%) in rural Aleppo, 21 sources in Rural Damascus (80.7%), and 35 sources in NES (3.4%).



*WHO supports monitoring of water quality in Deir-ez-Zor.*

In response to the spike in cases of watery diarrhoea observed in Deir-ez-Zor since April 2021, WHO has been supporting the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment (MOLAE) to conduct advanced laboratory analysis of water specimens collected from Deir-ez-Zor on a weekly basis. On 15-30 October, a total of 30 samples (seven from the water network and two from the river) were collected in the districts of Muheisen and At-Tebni in Deir-ez-Zor and from the eastern side of the Euphrates, of which 25 samples were found to be contaminated with E.coli and salmonella.

To mark National Environment Day (1 November 2021), WHO provided three waste management bins, three pumps and 2 500 masks to the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment (MOLAE).

## Non-Communicable Diseases

WHO supported the delivery of five capacity building workshops at Damascus Hospital attended by 174 health workers from public hospitals and the MOH poison centre. Among the topics discussed were the use and rationalization of use of antidotes and activated charcoal; case management of food poisoning; chemical and medicines poisoning; poisoning resulting from animals (scorpions, snakes, spiders, ants, and ticks) and poisonous plants; and patient forms and reports for national statistics building.

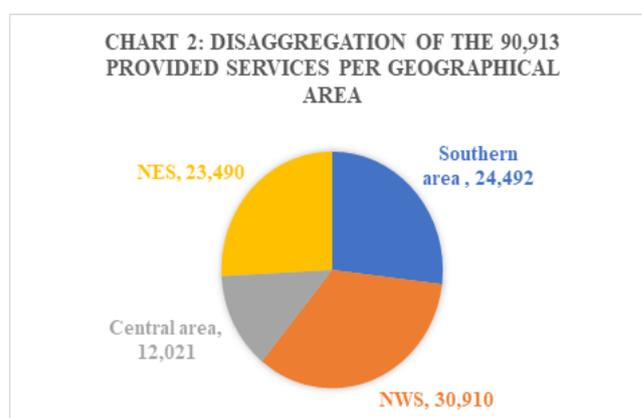
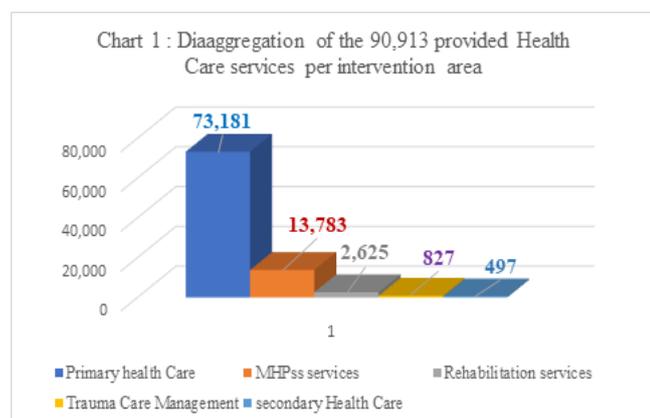
## HIV

Two TB mobile clinics supported by WHO in Aleppo and Rural Damascus governorates remain functional. A total of 571 beneficiaries attended one of 20 awareness sessions on TB. Six of 86 suspected cases tested for TB came back positive. Thus far this year, a total of 155 cases of TB have been confirmed through the mobile clinics, which were mobilized to continuously provide TB services (diagnosis, treatment and awareness sessions) for IDPs and other vulnerable populations in emergency response areas and closed settings such as prisons.

Two capacity building activities for health workers engaged in the TB programme were conducted in Damascus. They focused on the treatment of TB-MDR patients and the newly developed guideline. Another workshop for the health workers engaged in the HIV programme, focused on epidemiological investigation and surveillance, was held in Damascus.

## Community Engagement (NGOs)

WHO supports 17 implementing partners and four community initiatives to strengthen health responses across Syria. Two are in Damascus, two in Dar’a, three in Rural Damascus, four in Aleppo, four in NES and two in Homs.



## Coordination

### Syria Health Cluster Coordination

WHO Syria:

- Attended and provided WHO inputs during inter-agency discussions on crossline supplies to northwest Syria.
- Organized and facilitated a Health Sector coordination meeting, with COVID-19 and COVAX updates as a standing agenda item. During the meeting, WHO updated Health Sector partners on HPC timelines and presented the structure of the Health Chapter that is part of the Humanitarian Needs Overview 2022.
- Co-facilitated meetings of the Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF) Technical Review Committee during which technical reviews of projects submitted under the Health envelope of the SHF Second Reserve Allocation were finalized.
- Developed the Operational Plan for the First Crossline Convoy to Ras El Ein and Tal Abyad, in collaboration with UNICEF.
- Conducted an introductory call with the newly appointed Whole of Syria Health Cluster Coordinator to discuss joint activities in 2022.
- Collected inputs from health sector partners and prepared the section on health in the third situation report on the humanitarian situation in the governorate of Dar’a.

## Northeast Syria Cluster Coordination

WHO provided health sector inputs during the Al-Hol camp coordination meeting organized by UNHCR and the camp coordination meeting for formal and informal camps. The CO also organized and facilitated Al-Hol camp health sector coordination meeting.

## Crossline Supplies (NES and NWS)

WHO identified around 13 tons of supplies for the second WFP convoy to NWS. All items are currently in a WHO warehouse in Aleppo. The convoy will move to NWS as soon as approvals are granted.

WHO facilitated the delivery of supplies required for the polio campaign and routine immunization activities in NES. The supplies were airlifted to Qamishli Airport in Al-Hassakeh governorate on 10 November 2021.

## External Relations and Communication

A workshop held on 10-15 November 2021 engaged Syrian healthcare workers, key players in vaccine demand generation, to support capacity building in the management of vaccine hesitancy as part of the COVID-19 response. The interactive training was organized by the Ministry of Health and WHO, in partnership with UNICEF, IFRC and SARC. Health workers were encouraged to share concerns - theirs and those of the communities they serve - that prevent vaccine uptake.

The collective work is not limited to combating COVID-19, but also building national capacities and skills to strategically address vaccine hesitancy, rumours and misinformation that may pose an even greater threat. Throughout the ongoing vaccination process, and as more vaccines become available, health care workers will play a critical role in supporting effective risk communication and community engagement to promote the safety and efficacy of vaccines in order to boost vaccination rates.



*RCCE capacity building workshop for health care worker*

## Information Products and Related Activities

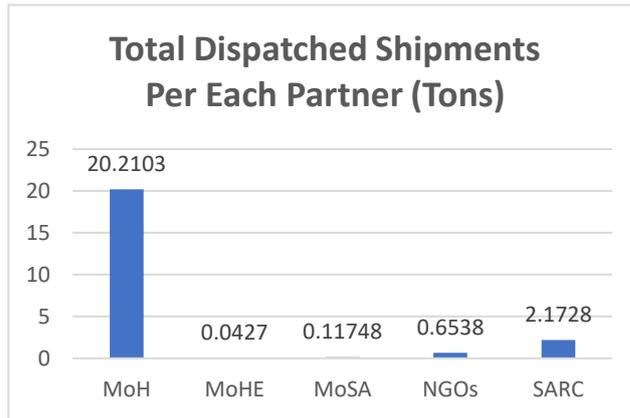
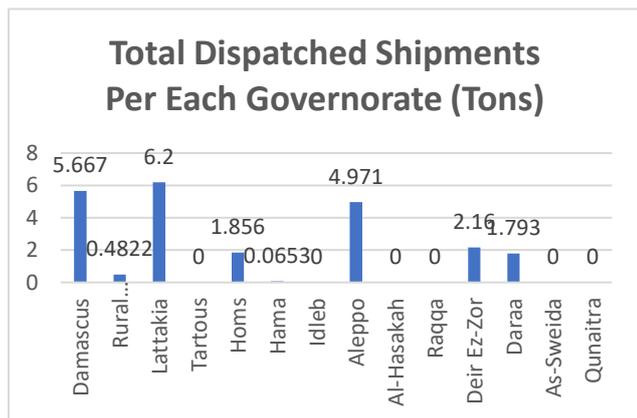
WHO produced and shared:

- Flash update #64 about the recent incident against a gynaecologist in Dar'a (30 October 2021).
- Information about site visits to public hospitals and health districts in Aleppo governorate affiliated to MoH to monitor Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) for deaths and births modules, primary health care information system, and COVID-19 vaccination.
- Data on Health Sector COVID-19 response monitoring (January to September 2021).
- (Health Sector & WHO) 4Ws snapshots for September 2021.
- Updates to the COVID-19 dashboard and online item tracking system.

- Key information on health facilities based on HeRAMS
- Updated maps for health sector interventions.

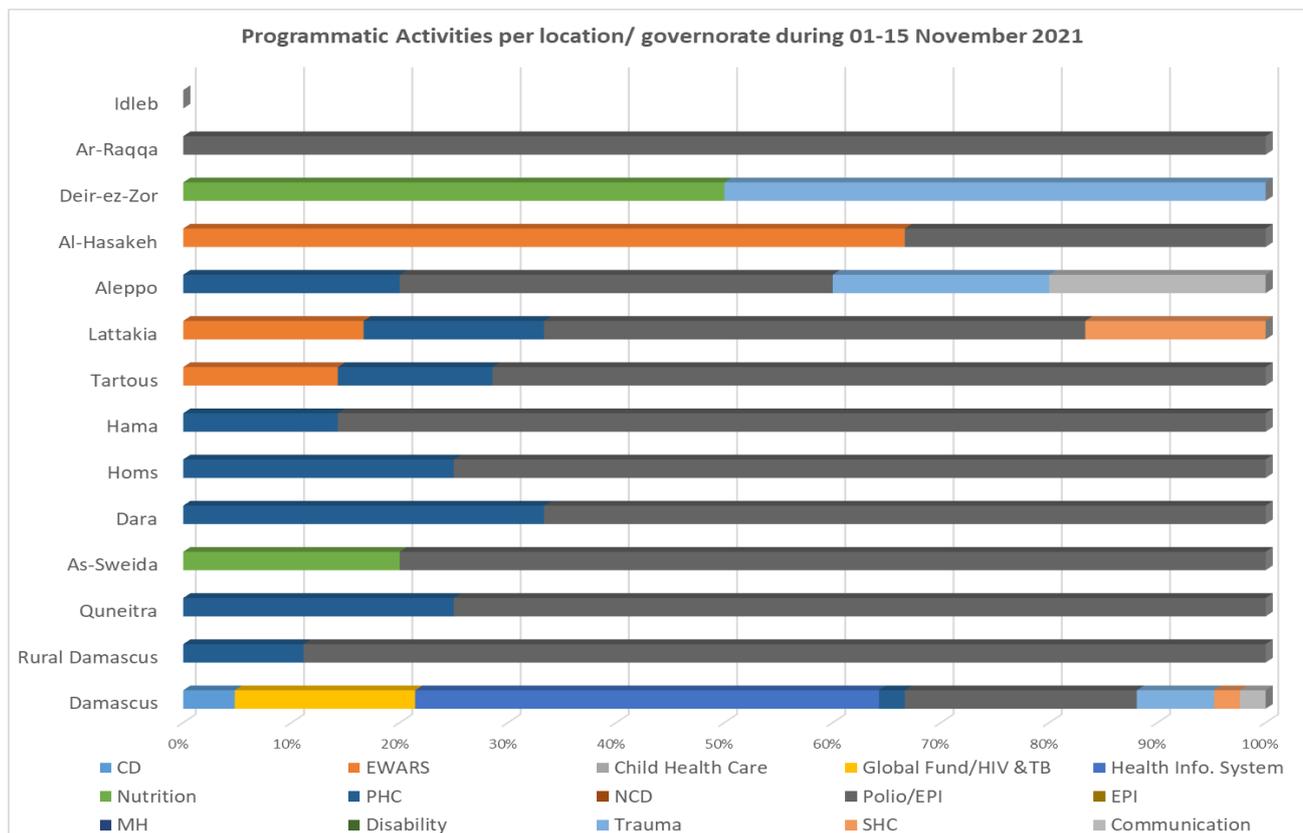
## Operations Support and Logistics

WHO dispatched 23.19 tons of medical and lab supplies, kits and equipment to eight of Syria’s 14 governorates. They were received by 25 MoH facilities, two MoHE facilities, four NGOs, MOSAL and SARC.



## Capacity Building

A total of 99 capacity building activities attended by 2 745 participants were supported by WHO during the reporting period.



## WHO Syria Suboffice Response

### Aleppo Suboffice

The number of cases of COVID-19 confirmed each day has decreased slightly during the reporting period. During the first half of November, 228 cases have been reported by Aleppo DoH .

Occupancy rates at the public isolation centre are however still high 90%, as are occupancy rates in private sector hospitals.

Aleppo DoH aims to vaccinate 511 000 people by the end of 2021 (20% population). Mobile teams will be activated for this purpose over 12 days in each month.

WHO, through four ongoing grants, is supporting the work of implementing partners at eight PHCs , 11 MMTs and two trauma and rehabilitation centres.

### Lattakia Suboffice

WHO, in collaboration with DOH and UNFPA, supported a breast cancer awareness campaign in Lattakia, delivered under the heading “Early Detection Saves Lives”. As part of the campaign:

- Three mobile teams were deployed in the governorate
- 2 269 beneficiaries attended the awareness sessions
- 10 000 brochures and flyers were disseminated
- 313 women were referred to PHCs
- 119 women were referred for mammograph testing
- 194 women were referred for an Echo photograph

To strengthen the role of NSAs and support their effective integration within the health system, WHO conducted a workshop to enhance the capacity of 13 NGOs, support their strategic planning and strengthen their role within the health response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

WHO has supported public community centres in Lattakia through the provision of 12 000 items of PPE delivered to the Directorate of Social Affairs. The Organization has also delivered two refrigerators to the COVID-19 laboratory in Lattakia and nine patient beds and three ICU beds to Al-Basel Hospital, the main isolation facility in Tartous.

### Homs Suboffice

The PSS team held several breast cancer awareness sessions, introducing women in attendance to the various symptoms and the importance of early and regular examination. Psychological support sessions were also held to support women who had themselves been diagnosed with breast cancer or were supporting women who had been. Over 250 women attended sessions, which were held by both MMTs and at Aldar Alkabira Centre. The centre hosted an exhibition of products handmade by the beneficiaries during the campaign.

They included paintings and crafts that showcase information about breast cancer. A gynaecologist examined around 80 women and referred four for further examination.



*WHO supports the awareness campaign on breast cancer in Lattakia governorate*

The non-governmental organization Lamset Shefa, with the support of WHO and in cooperation with the Family Wellbeing Center in Dar Al Kabera and two mobile medical teams in the north and east of Rural Homs, has been providing primary and secondary health care services and mental health and psychosocial support to people suffering from psychological distress and domestic violence. 10 420 beneficiaries received medical consultations, of which 6 were secondary, 249 were for trauma, and 1 323 were mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services.



*WHO supported mobile medical teams provide HC services in the rural areas of Hama governorate.*

Two MMTs supported by WHO began providing primary health services in rural areas. One of the teams will cover areas in the district of eastern Hama: Halfaya, Latamneh, Kaf Zatah, Latmeen, Khan Shaykun, Abu Dali and Tamanaah, as well as Ejaz in the district of south Idleb. The total population in these areas is approximately 60 000. The second team will cover areas of the district of eastern Hama: Hamra, Khursan, Sroj, Kasr bn Wardan, Taybat Turki and Huwaes om Jurn, as well as the southern district of Hurbenafseh. The total population in these areas if about 35 000.

## Deir-ez-Zor Suboffice

WHO conducted a field visit on 1 November to assess and evaluate the work of the mobile clinic that it supports, and which is run by the Sham Association in the eastern countryside of Deir-ez-Zor.

A ten-day COVID-19 vaccination campaign was launched during the reporting period at one centre in Deir-ez-Zor.city, four centres in the countryside, 11 mobile teams in government-controlled areas, and 12 teams in SDF areas.



*WHO visits a mobile team in the eastern countryside of DZ governorate*

## Quamishli Hub / North-east Syria (NES)

WHO supports 15 health provision points in delivering health care services to the most vulnerable groups in camps and rural areas across north-east Syria (NES).

A field visit was conducted by WHO on 10 November to monitor the quality of health services delivered by WHO partners at Al-Hol camp.

The monitoring of water quality is ongoing through regular visits to eight camps and 20 collective shelters and the provision of bacterial, F.R.C, T.D.S, EC, PH, and Turb tests. Of 1 010 samples taken from the camps and tested, 3.4% were found to be contaminated at the jerry can level.

WHO follows up on trends in the prevalence of communicable diseases, including COVID, daily, monitoring camps and other reporting sites in NES. No abnormal trends have been detected.

WHO works to cover the gap in secondary health care in NES and ensure timely referral and interventions for those most in need within the community and camps through partnerships with two organisations. During the reporting period, 464 secondary and trauma cases were admitted to Al-Hikmeh Hospital.



*WHO supported mobile medical teams provide PHC service in rural Ar-Raqqa*

## Northwest Syria

### Primary Health Care (PHC)

All three integrated health service delivery networks in Harim, Afrin and North Aleppo are fully functional.

WHO supports 14 PHCs as part of last resort coverage and will consider supporting and continuing to support a few more PHCs once the prioritization exercise of the Primary Health Care Technical Working Group (PHC TWG) and the Health Cluster is finalized.

### Tuberculosis

Service provision is ongoing at three TB centres. Updates from the Azaz TB centre, operated by SRD, indicate:

- All three integrated health service delivery networks in Harim, Afrin and North Aleppo are fully functional.
- WHO supports 14 PHCs as part of last resort coverage and will consider supporting/continuing to support a few more PHCs once the prioritization exercise of Primary Health Care Technical Working Group (PHC TWG) and the Health Cluster is finalized.

### EENC

- A baseline assessment of five selected hospitals has been completed and the development of a short-term plan for the coming 3 months and a long-term plan for the coming year has begun with an assessment team in order to identify priorities and intervention points and develop a capacity building programme.
- The medical equipment and supplies required to conduct the training programme inside Syria arrived at the WHO warehouse in Mersin and will be delivered to Syria next week.

### COVID-19

Approximately 1 000 tests are being taken per day. The testing strategy will be discussed with ACU, as the partner wants to increase the daily testing.

The positivity rate has fluctuated between 45% and 50% in the past week, signalling a decline in the number of cases. Actual case numbers also decreased and are down 35% week on week. Despite the apparent decline, occupancy rates are still high, at around 84% in ICUs, 63% in hospital wards and 47% in CCTCs. Some active CCTCs are fully occupied, while some are not admitting patients. This will be discussed with the Case Management Working Group and the list of active CCTCs will be updated accordingly.

A total of 10 suspected cases of mucormycosis have been detected at four different hospitals. Partners have drafted a case management protocol and an infection prevention and control SOP. Both documents were reviewed by

WHO EURO and WHO Gaziantep officers and recommendations were shared with partners. The case management protocol has been finalized and shared with the Health Cluster for further circulation.

The number of vaccination teams is now 61 following the deployment of 20 teams last week. The vaccine utilization rate remains low. The RCCE Working Group held a meeting last week to discuss possible strategies to increase vaccination coverage. The Group will hold biweekly meetings to follow up on action points.

## EWARN

A project supporting laboratory, surveillance and contact tracing be implemented with World Vision – ACU is in phase 4 is ongoing, as is a project supporting leishmaniasis case management, which is being implemented through MENTOR. A meeting was held with ACU to harmonize the work with Damascus and NES under the WOS approach. Reports regarding a potential leishmaniasis outbreak in Ras El Ein – Tal Abyad area were discussed with the Health Cluster.

## Immunization

Preparation for a polio vaccination campaign and vitamin A distribution in Idleb and Aleppo targeting 815 242 children aged under 5 years continues. The campaign will be launched on Sunday 28 November 2021 and continue through to 2 December with a defaulter tracer follow-up planned for 3 December 2021.

ACU and MSF, in partnership with AL Ameen, launched a measles vaccination campaign and vitamin A distribution in Tal Abyad and Ras El Ein on 6 Nov 2021, targeting 92 070 children aged between 6 months to 9 years. An EPI consultant, working remotely, has begun working on the measles and rubella multiyear plan.

To date, a total of 167 055 individuals (4% of targeted population) have been vaccinated against COVID-19. Of them 100 259 have received only one dose and 66 796 have received two.

A total of 138 311 vaccine doses remain in stock. Cold chain storage capacity is limited. So too is vaccine uptake, due to high community hesitation. WHO has conducted bilateral meetings with health directorates and relevant authorities and agreed to intensify messaging to the community in regard the importance of vaccinating against COVID-19 and addressing community concerns. The Organization also agreed with the health directorate to organized group discussions with all health managers to encourage all health workers to get vaccinated. The health directorate will be strengthening their social media rumour and misinformation tracker through intensive short social media messages, alongside interviews with senior physicians.

The number of vaccination teams and sites has increased from 40 to 61, with a focus on mobile outreach and vulnerable communities.

## Cross-border Deliveries & Procurement

- WHO has developed and finalized a regular distribution plan for November. The plan has been circulated and physical distribution began on 8 November and is being monitored by SREO TPM team.
- A distribution plan for mental health supplies has been developed and supplies are being distributed by the warehouses in Syria.
- WHO will be sending 10 truckloads of supplies next week. They will include insulin, emergency health kits, medicines to support SIG team, some ENNC training materials and laboratory supplies.
- WHO has established a Medical Supply Chain TWG.

- Data is being collected on antimicrobials prescribing practices at Network facilities to support data cleaning and processing.
- AMR support team meetings are being held on a weekly basis. The AMR support team is currently reviewing the M&E framework and project indicators.

## Vaccine Updates

For COVID-19 vaccine updates, please visit: [Update on COVID-19 Vaccination in Syria](#)

## Useful Links

- [Syria Interactive Dashboards](#)
- [Syria Page in Health Cluster Site](#)
- [WHO Syria Site](#)
- [EMRO Dashboard](#)
- [COVID-19 Situation in EMRO Region Reports](#)

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