

Key figures as of 13 October 2021

Total laboratory confirmed cases

37 794

Total deaths reported

10 708

Total patients recovered

24 720

COVID-19 Update

COVID-19 Statistical Summary at Whole of Syria Level

As of 9 October 2021

	143,980	Total cases (including 6,780 health workers)
	68,792	Active cases
	70,423	Recovered cases
	4,765	Deaths
	3.3%	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
	15	COVID-19 functional laboratories
	459,743	COVID-19 tests done
	2,171	Overall testing rate per 100 000 population
	680	Incidence rate per 100 000 population (highest in Al-Hasakeh – 1,731)
	31.3%	Positivity rate

WHO Syria Response

EPI activities:

The National Polio Immunization campaign was held on 10-14 October 2021, targeting 2.8 million children aged under 5 years. More than 9 000 members of the MOH were mobilized for the campaign at both fixed sites and mobile sites in all governorates. Special plans were made to ensure coverage in far remote areas of Deir-ez-Zor east of the Euphrates, nomadic settlements and IDP camps.

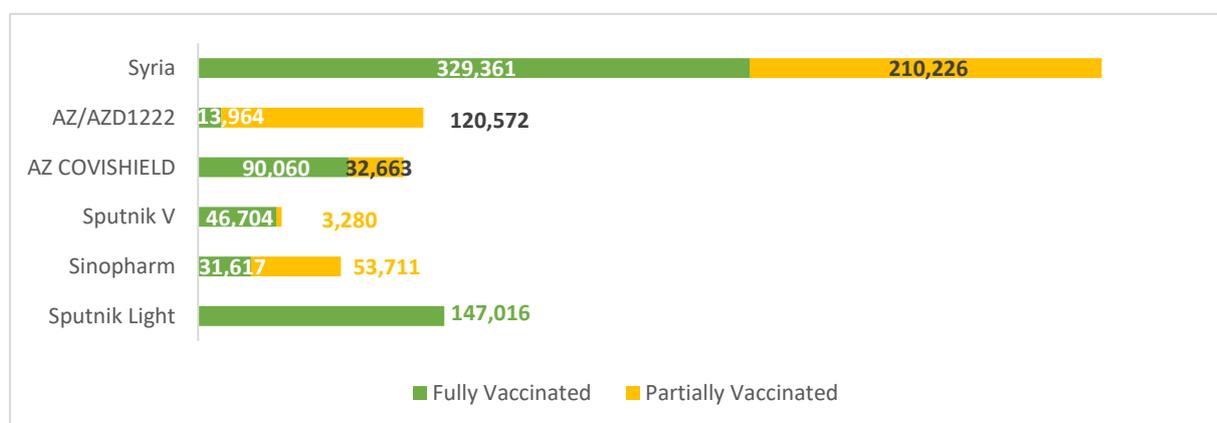
COVID-19 Vaccination

Additional batches of vaccines are expected to be delivered to Syria through COVAX in the coming months, between October and December 2021.

Based on projected deliveries, only 16% of the total population will be fully vaccinated by the end of 2021, unless new allocations are received. Doses delivered through the COVAX system will cover the vaccination of 13.2% of the population.

To date, 721 932 vaccine doses have been administered, 50% of which through COVAX and 50% through bilateral agreements.

329 361 (2% of the population) are fully vaccinated. An additional 210 226 people (1.3% of the population) have received a first dose.



Primary Health Care and Non-Communicable Diseases

WHO continues to support MOH in strengthening the capacity of its staff on non-communicable disease risk prevention, early detection, and case management. A workshop was conducted in this regard with the participation of 25 health specialists.

WHO conducted two workshops in cooperation with MOH and MOE with the participation of 30 trainees from Ar-Raqqa governorate to enhance their skills on IPC measures as well as the safe return to school measures.

Secondary and Tertiary Health Care (STHC)

WHO continues its provision of medical equipment to Harasta National Hospital in Damascus. In the reporting period, WHO delivered 1 Abdominal Hysterectomy Instrument Kit, 2 Major Surgery Kits, 2 Minor Surgery Kits, 2 Cesarean Kits, 2 Delivery Instrument Kits, 2 General Urinary Surgery Kits, 1 Nasal Instrument kit, 2 Tonsillectomy kits, 2 Urethrostomy kits, and 1 Uterine kit.

Trauma

WHO delivered over 33 964 treatments of life-saving medicines and more than 14 different types of surgical and trauma kits - supporting around 1 310 trauma cases - to health partners in the governorates of Damascus, Homs, Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Dar'a, Latakia, Hama, and Aleppo. 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.

Training sessions on major incident medical management and support at hospitals, risk management and evacuation of buildings, and management of ICU patients were attended by 150 health workers from Homs, Aleppo, Damascus and Tartous. Attendees included doctors, nurses and anesthesia technicians working in isolation centres, intensive care units and emergency departments.

A total of 463 people with disabilities benefited from different types of assistive devices delivered to MOH and local NGOs in Damascus, Lattakia and Hama.

Training workshops in the field of disability and rehabilitation were delivered at the MOH centre of prosthetics and rehabilitation in Damascus and attended by 75 health workers, including prosthetics and orthotics technicians, physiotherapists, and physiatrists. Topics covered included prosthesis in assistive technology, inclusive accessibility, procedures and preparations for buildings during the COVID-19 pandemic and scoliosis.

TB & HIV

WHO delivered 19 968 ELISA HIV testing kits and 30 000 HIV rapid diagnostic kits to the country.

Two out of three TB mobile clinics are still functioning in both Aleppo and Rural Damascus governorates. A total of 550 beneficiaries benefited from 11 awareness sessions on TB. Of 23 suspected cases tested for TB, five were confirmed as positive. A total of 139 cases of TB have to date been detected in 2021 through mobile clinics mobilized to continuously provide TB services (diagnosis, treatment, and awareness sessions) for IDPs and other vulnerable populations in emergency response areas and close settings, such as prisons.

Communicable Diseases

WHO delivered 200 rapid diagnostic kits for the detection of visceral leishmaniasis. A training workshop on laboratory diagnosis for both visceral and cutaneous leishmaniasis targeted 30 lab technicians from leishmaniasis centres across the country.

Leishmaniasis vector control activities conducted by DoH Aleppo with WHO support concluded successfully on 28 September. A campaign of indoor residual spraying, which began on 1 June and was supervised by the national leishmaniasis programme, resulted in 163 233 rooms in 46 080 homes in 35 neighbourhoods - of which 12 were high burden – being sprayed twice to target sandflies that transmit the leishmania parasite and cause the disease. A total of 234 910 residents benefited from the initiative.

Mental Health (MH)

A total of 89 000 services were delivered and 6 500 different activities and sessions were held by the end of September as part of the RCCE and MHPSS community campaign in Aleppo, Homs and Hama. The campaign, held within the context of the COVID-19 response and ‘My Hero is You’ and ‘Living with Times’ initiatives, targeted children, the elderly, parents and caregivers.

WHO continues to support 20 ongoing MHPSS projects nationwide, which are mapped through the MHPSS referral pathway and monitored by the MH unit and a team of experts. More than 48 897 services have been delivered at 179 locations since the beginning of the year.



WHO supports the delivery of awareness sessions in Aleppo under ‘My Hero is You’ initiative

A new technical group was formed, by all NGOs partners, to follow up on newly adapted WCO guidelines for the delivery of MHPSS services at the community level, and to ensure community participation during all project phases.

On the occasion of World Mental Health Day, an orientation session about mental health in the workplace, staff care and stress management was held to support staff in the WHO country office.

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. 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.

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, 57 water samples were tested in two villages in the northern part of Aleppo and 905 were tested in the NES governorates of Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, and Deir-ez-Zor, including at eight IDP camps and 23 collective shelters in Al-Hasakeh. Among them, contaminants were found in 52 water sources (91.2%) in rural Aleppo and 37 sources (4.1%) in NES. At IDP camps, contaminants were found only in jerry cans and ice cubes.

In response to the spike in cases of watery diarrhoea observed in Deir-Ez-Zor since April 2021, WHO has been supporting MOLAE to conduct an advanced laboratory analysis of water specimens collected from Deir-ez-Zor on a weekly basis. On 25-26 September, a total of 10 samples (six from water network, one each from a water station, the Euphrates, a well and a reservoir) were collected in three districts of Deir-ez-Zor: Al-Tabni, Al-Jora, and Al-Aghwat. All samples were found to be contaminated and non-potable.

Health Systems

WCO continues to support the **Centre of Strategic Studies and Health Training** in vitalizing its role in setting the health research agenda and capacity building. A series of workshops were held at the centre to facilitate the drafting of its research and training strategies. Staff from the centre, directors from the MOH and technical officers from WHO country office attended the first and second workshops held during the first week of October. The development of new strategies at the centre is expected to positively impact national health policies.



WHO supports the Centre of Strategic Studies and Health Training in vitalizing its role in setting the health research agenda and capacity building

Coordination

Syria Health Cluster Coordination

- WHO organized a visit by a team from the Inter-agency Policy for Emergencies Unit at WHO HQ who are working on the concept of WHO localization. The visit included consultations with WHO Syria technical staff, M&E and grant management staff, UN agencies (OCHA, UNICEF, UNFPA, SFH Team, UNRC Office, UNDP), INGOs, local NGOs and health sector working groups, and included a one-day trip to Aleppo sub-office for dedicated discussions on localization issues with the HCT and INGOs.

- WHO country office attended the joint consultation on strategic and operational planning for WHO country cooperation in Syria, providing inputs to help finalize the country office presentation.
- WHO also organized and facilitated a Health Sector coordination meeting, for which COVID-19 and COVAX updates were on the agenda.

North-east Syria Cluster Coordination

The Organization:

- Provided health sector inputs during an Al-Hol camp coordination meeting, organized by UNHCR, and during a joint meeting to discuss medical waste zone management in Roj camp, organized by NES WASH Working Group.
- Organized and facilitated an Al-Hol camp health sector coordination meeting, held on 14 October.
- Followed up with partners on issues related to health sector activities at camps in NES.

Crossline Supplies (NES and NWS)

- **NES:** During the reporting period, one crossline delivery of supplies was arranged via airlift, from Damascus to Quamishli airport in the governorate of Al-Hasakeh. The cargo included COVID-19 vaccines and vaccines used for routine immunization activities.
- **NWS:** Following a first and successful WFP crossline convoy to NWS, the possibility of arranging a second inter-agency convoy is currently being explored by WFP. A second convoy would likely include supplies from different UN agencies, including health supplies by WHO. The supplies have already been identified and will soon be dispatched to a WHO warehouse in Aleppo for inclusion in the inter-agency convoy.

Whole of Syria Strategic Operational Review

WHO Syria has co-organized – along with the WHO Regional Office for Eastern Mediterranean – the Whole of Syria Strategic Operational Review meeting, which took place in Amman, Jordan on 27-28 September. The event brought together all WHO offices involved in Syria response and its objective was to review current humanitarian situation and related operational implications on the Whole of Syria, including COVID-19 pandemic, lessons learned from roll out of the COVAX, water scarcity crisis in Syria, and the status of crossline and cross-border operations (including supplies). Participants also reviewed bottlenecks and barriers to effective implementation of operational activities and discussed solutions to address them (including those related to programme implementation, operations, donor and partnership mobilization, and financial performance).

External Relations and Communication

WHO marked World Mental Health Day 2021 by posting a [Human Interest Story](#) and [Social media posts](#).

A set of posters presenting a “safe workplace” were produced to highlight the necessary preventive measures that should be followed at work and the role this plays in mitigating the spread of the COVID virus. Social media cards to address preventative measures, regardless of a person’s vaccination status, were also produced.

WHO also created an RCCE module for use during local community awareness workshops, which highlights measures for protecting oneself and others, as well as some frequently asked questions and myth busters.

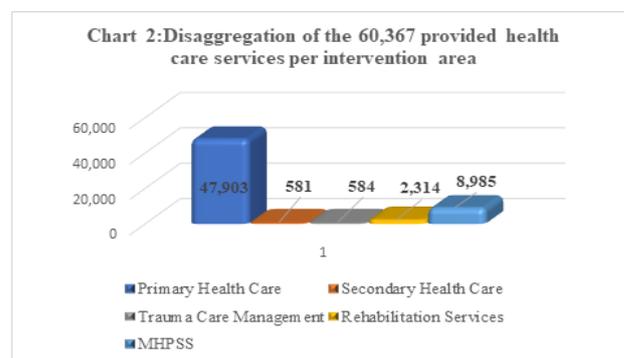
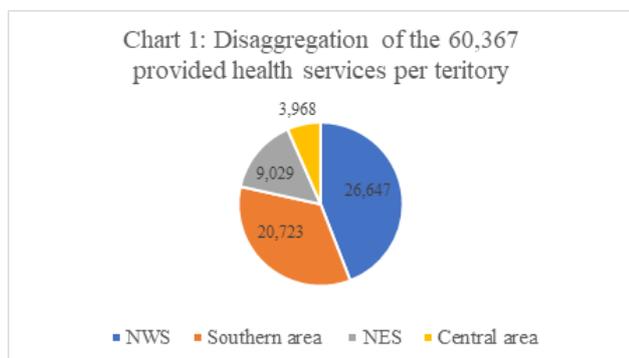
Information Products and Related Activities

WHO produced and shared:

- Health Sector COVID-19 response monitoring (January to August 2021);
- (Health Sector & WHO) 4Ws snapshots for August 2021;
- Updated COVID-19 dashboard and online item tracking system;
- HeRAMS indicators for Damascus hub based on the 2nd quarter 2021 data for public health facilities to WoS;
- Key information on health facilities based on HeRAMS;
- Updated maps for health sector interventions.

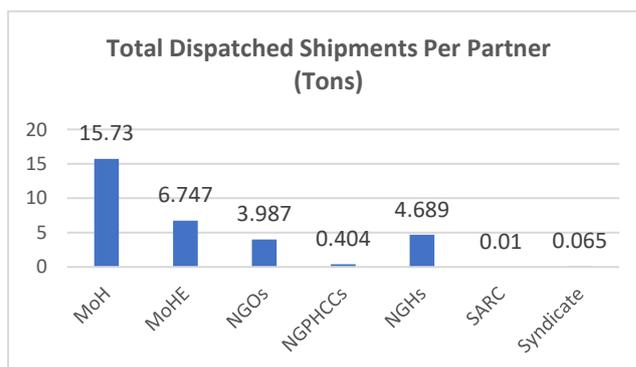
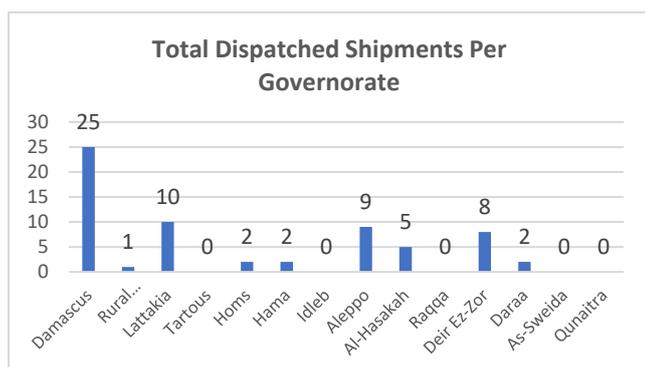
Community Engagement (NGOs)

WHO supports 19 implementing partners to strengthen health responses across Syria. Two are in Damascus, two in Dar’a, three in Rural Damascus, four in Aleppo, seven in NES and one in Homs.



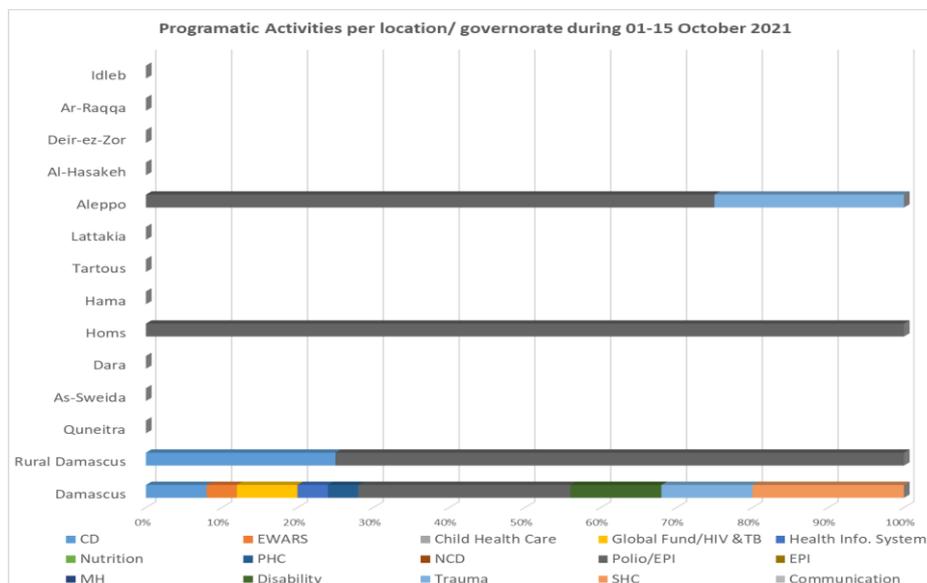
Operations Support and Logistics

WHO dispatched 31.63 tons of medical and lab supplies, kits and equipment to nine governorates. They were received by fourteen MoH facilities, five MoHE facilities, eighteen NGOs, six INGOs, six NGH, two NGPHCC, and SARC.



Capacity Building

A total of 63 capacity building activities attended by 1 180 participants were supported by WHO during the reporting period.



WHO Syria

Sub-Office Response

Aleppo Sub Office

A total of 469 beneficiaries attended eight awareness sessions on TB, delivered through WHO-supported TB mobile clinics. Of 19 suspected cases tested for TB, four were confirmed as positive.

A training workshop on TB conducted in Aleppo on 20-24 September 2021 was attended by 25 participants. The main objective was the provision of trainees with updated information on TB diagnosis and treatment.

During the reporting period, WHO provided more than 26 659 health care services through its implementing partners, including eleven mobile medical teams, eight PHCs and two trauma centres.



The sub office follows up on health care services provided with WHO's support through implementing partners in Aleppo governorate

Lattakia Sub Office

WHO concluded an awareness campaign targeting schools, in collaboration with the school health directorate. Awareness sessions, MHPSS, advocacy for vaccine safety, IPC measures and personal hygiene were presented at 15 schools during the campaign.

WHO continues to monitor the evolving situation of COVID-19 in the coastal area and participated in an emergency meeting with the governor of Lattakia and all concerned directorates, during which the Organization briefly represented the health cluster workplan and allocated resources for the COVID-19 outbreak crisis.

In a bid to strengthen health system responses to gender-based violence (GBV), WHO conducted a workshop for 25 participants from DOH at policy and implementation level.

WHO continues to support the MH-Gap programme and conducted a series of MH-GAP phase-I workshops attended by 75 health workers at NGO level.



WHO supported workshop on Gender-based Violence in Lattakia governorate

Homs Sub office

WHO-supported mobile teams reached more than 78 villages that do not have any medical services in rural Homs and Hama, targeting children, the elderly, parents and care givers within the context of the COVID-19 response and the “My Hero is You’ and ‘Living with Times” initiatives.

With WHO’s support, the NGO Lamset Shefa, in cooperation with the Family Wellbeing Center in Dar Al Kabera and two medical mobile teams in the north and east of Rural Homs, provided primary and secondary health care services and mental health and psychosocial support to people suffering from psychological distress and domestic violence. A total of 5 928 beneficiaries received medical consultations, of which 16 were secondary, 142 were for trauma, 363 were MHPSS services and 12 were for speech & language sessions.



Providing primary health care services in the rural areas of Hama governorate

Deir-ez-Zor Sub office

WHO continues to support the implementation of the ongoing polio vaccination campaign in Deir-ez-Zor governorate. The campaign targets 288 000 children aged under five years.

Within the context of the WHO newborn care at home programme, WHO supported supervisory visits to some villages in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, in cooperation with the directorate of health, to assess the situation on the ground and plan accordingly.



Following up on the ongoing polio immunization campaign in DZ governorate

Quamishli Hub / North-east Syria (NES)

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

The monitoring of water quality continues 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 the 941 samples taken from camps and tested, 3.7% were found to be contaminated at the jerry can level.

WHO continues to provide much needed health services to the most vulnerable people at the community level and camps in NES through its four implementing partners. During the reporting period, 401 secondary cases were admitted to hospital.



WHO supports water monitoring at the camp level

WHO continues to provide life-saving treatment for cases of malnutrition identified at the camps. During the reporting period, 18 people were admitted to the malnutrition treatment centre at Al-Hikmeh Hospital and 17 were discharged. A further 6 cases were admitted to the treatment centre in Ar-Raqqa, from which 4 were discharged following a full recovery.

North-west Syria

Primary Health Care (PHC)

North Aleppo and Afrin Networks are fully functional, as is the project to support Harim network, as of 30 September 2021. Harim network phase 7 is complete. As of 1 October 2021, the network runs with minimum functionality and on a voluntary basis. In August 2021, the network provided 148 762 consultations. During its first five months, it has delivered 652 529 consultations, far surpassing its initial target of 450 000. Harim network has reached almost all of its targets prior to completion of the project.

Afrin Network is functioning with 18 facilities, 2 ambulances and one TB centre. The network provided 41 001 consultations in August.

Referral System

The referral system in north Aleppo, Afrin and Idlib is fully functional, with one gap in COVID-19 transportation vehicles in Idlib. The civil defence is providing support with 29 ambulances for transportation of emergency cases, but the gap still exists in transportation of non-emergency cases.

Tuberculosis

Seventy-five beneficiaries visited Idlib and Afrin TB centres during the reporting period. Four were diagnosed as positive for TB. Ten samples were sent to Antakya for GeneXpert testing, of which none came back positive.

WHO, in coordination with the Gaziantep health directorate, is conducting a needs assessment to explore available TB services in Al Bab area in order to determine whether a new TB centre is needed in the city following reports

from partners of several MDR TB cases in the area. Access to TB services offered in Azaz city is difficult for patients from Al Bab.

EWARN

The laboratory, surveillance and contact tracing initiative being implemented in partnership with World Vision is at ACU phase 4 and running smoothly without delays.

The leishmaniasis case management project, implemented through MENTOR, is also ongoing.

COVID-19

The number of cases of COVID-19 remains high. Occupancy rates at ICUs are over 90%, of hospital beds is 76% and at CCTCs is 69%. There are huge disparities in occupancy rates of some CCTCs, as a result of which the referral desk will be invited to support referral of patients between fully occupied CCTCs and low-occupancy CCTCs. Stocks of COVID-19 testing kits have been fully depleted. The WHO procurement team has shared information on the possible arrival date of the next shipment, which will result in a 10-day gap in COVID-19 PCR testing. ACU is implementing the new testing strategy, as agreed with WHO, and performing around 2 000 tests per day, as the surveillance system must be maintained in order to determine transmission levels and the epidemiological situation. They are working in coordination with other pillars to ensure that cases are identified and treated not only through positive PCR results, but also based on clinical symptoms and contact tracing.

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](#)
- [Syria Page in EMRO Site](#)
- [EMRO Dashboard](#)
- [COVID-19 Situation in EMRO Region Reports](#)

Follow WHO Syria



[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

[YouTube](#)

/WHOSyria

@WHOSyria

@WHOSyria

WHO Syria