

**BI-WEEKLY
SITUATION REPORT
WHOLE OF SYRIA**

Issue 7 | 1 – 15 April 2021











TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. COVID-19 UPDATE.....	1
1.1. COVID-19 Statistical Summary at Whole of Syria Level	1
1.2. Daily Distribution of COVID-19 Cases at Whole of Syria Level	1
1.3. Distribution of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths at Whole of Syria Level.....	1
1.4. Distribution of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths by Governorate and Outcome	2
2. WHO SYRIA RESPONSE	2
2.1. COVID-19 Response	2
2.1.1. COVID-19 Laboratories	2
2.1.2. Points of Entry (POE)	2
2.2. Health Sector Coordination.....	3
2.3. Routine Immunization.....	3
2.4. Primary Health Care and Non-Communicable Diseases	4
2.5. Trauma	4
2.6. Mental Health	5
2.7. Tuberculosis (TB) / HIV	5
2.8. Environmental Health	5
2.9. Nutrition	6
2.11. External Relations and Communication	6
2.12. Community Engagement (NGOs)	6
2.13. Information Products and Related Activities	7
2.14. Capacity Building.....	7
2.15. Operations Support and Logistics	8
3. WHO SYRIA SUB-OFFICE RESPONSE	9
3.1. Aleppo Hub.....	9
3.2. Lattakia Hub	9
3.3. Homs Hub.....	9
3.4. Deir-Ez-Zor Hub	10
3.5. Al-Qamishli Hub (North-East Syria)	10
4. NORTH-WEST SYRIA (NWS) RESPONSE.....	11
4.1. Primary Health Care Networks:.....	11
4.2. Secondary Health Care	12
4.3. Early Warning, Alert and Response Network.....	12
4.4. Leishmaniasis:	12
4.5. COVID-19 Update	12
4.6. Tuberculosis	13
4.7. Community Health Workers:.....	13
4.8. Non-Communicable Diseases.....	13
4.9. Mental Health	13
4.10. Supply Chain.....	14
4.11. Procurement	14
4.12. Routine Immunization.....	14
4.13. Information Management (IM) / Health Information System (HIS).....	15
5. VACCINE UPDATES	15
6. USEFUL LINKS.....	15
7. CONTACT US	16

1. COVID-19 Update

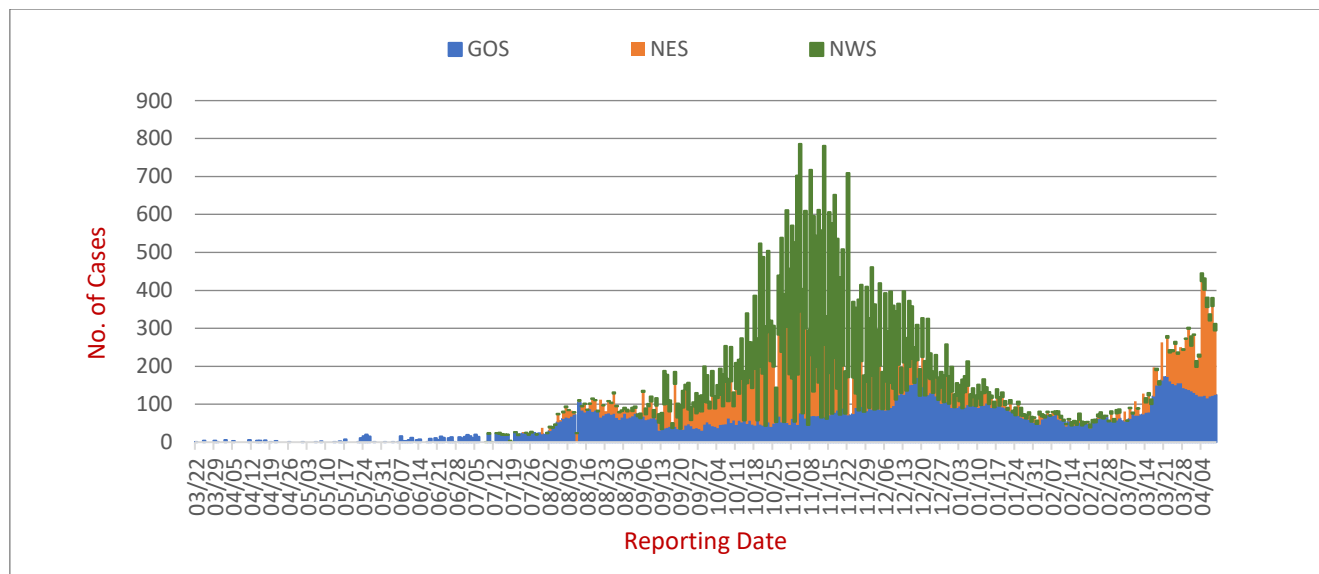
1.1. COVID-19 Statistical Summary at Whole of Syria Level

As of 13 April 2021

	55 009	Total cases (including 3 907 health workers)
	17 323	Active cases
	35 219	Recovered cases
	2 467	Deaths
	4.5%	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
	20	COVID-19 functional laboratories
	218 962	COVID-19 tests done
	1 074	Overall testing rate per 100 000 population
	270	Incidence rate per 100 000 population (highest in Al-Hasakeh; 783)
	25.1%	Positivity rate (highest in As-Sweida)

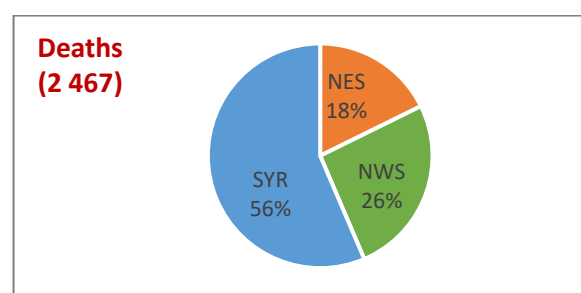
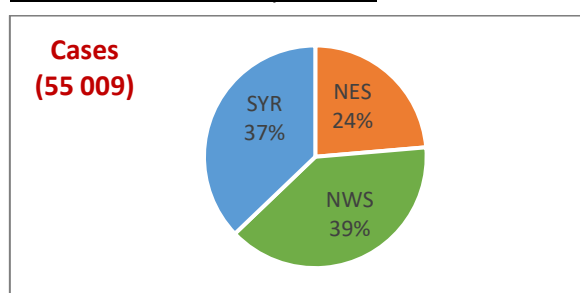
1.2. Daily Distribution of COVID-19 Cases at Whole of Syria Level

22 March 2020 – 13 April 2021 (n = 55 009)



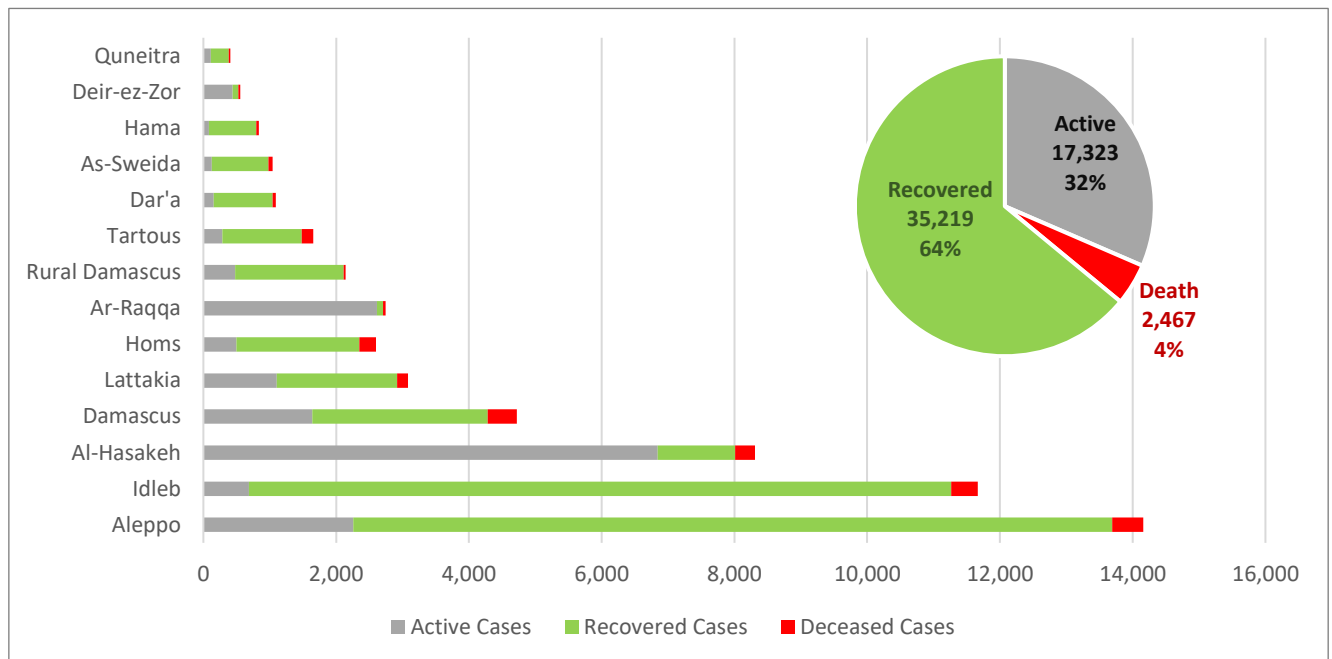
1.3. Distribution of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths at Whole of Syria Level

22 March 2020 – 13 April 2021



1.4. Distribution of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths by Governorate and Outcome

22 March 2020 – 13 April 2021



2. WHO Syria Response

2.1. COVID-19 Response

2.1.1. COVID-19 Laboratories

- Public health laboratories diagnosing COVID-19 are now functioning in eight governorates in WoS: Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, Lattakia, Rural-Damascus, Qamishli, Idlib, and Hama; in addition to Al-Assad University Hospital which is affiliated with the Ministry of Higher Education.
- Ensured the functionality of PCR machines in laboratories through providing a complete package of devices and equipment, such as biosafety cabinets, autoclave sterilizers, microcentrifuge machines, automated nucleic acids extraction machines, etc.
- In the first quarter of 2021, WHO continued its support in training lab technicians from all governorates across Syria. The training covered molecular biology, COVID-19 PCR testing, biosafety, sample-taking, and biosecurity procedures. Now, a total of 131 laboratory technicians and assistants can perform COVID-19 testing.

2.1.2. Points of Entry (POE)

- WHO continues to support the Ministry of Health (MoH) in enhancing the national capacity of preparedness and response to health emergencies and to ensure health security under International Health Regulations (2005), including strengthening the core capacity at points of entry (PoE).
- A medical point in Al-Boukamal ground-crossing is under construction by Deir-Ez-Zor Directorate of Health. MoH and WHO will be equipping the medical point with devices and furniture to provide health services to travellers.
- WHO is working on establishing a medical point in Al-Dabbousiyah ground-crossing in Homs, including rehabilitation and provision of medical devices.

2.2. Health Sector Coordination

Syria National Health Sector Activities

- Collected operational updates from health partners, then prepared and disseminated the updates for the period between 16 and 31 March 2021.
- On 5 April, conducted a health sector coordination meeting, which was attended by 38 participants. The “Plan of Action” to strengthen the health sector functions was presented and endorsed by health sector partners. The plan of action recommended activities under each health sector function with a specific timeline and responsibilities.
- On 6 April, attended the Humanitarian Program Cycle (HPC) project module training conducted by OCHA.
- On 6 April, attended the Northeast Syria inter-hub coordination meeting.
- On 11 April, participated in Health Sector Information Management Working Group (IM WG) virtual meeting. Conducted an orientation for the Information Management Officers (IMOs) from health sector partner agencies on Health Sector Log Frame 2021, New Indicators, 4Ws, COVID-19 Supplies Tracking System, as well as other information management products by Health Information Management Unit (HIMU) team.
- On 12 April, participated in the Health Sector /Reproductive Health/ working group meeting and Inter-Sector Coordination Meeting.
- On 13 April, attended the Global Health Cluster (GHC) Strategic Advisory Group Virtual meeting.
- On 14 April, attended the GHC Partner Meeting as a member of the Strategic Advisory Group.
- Conducted a bilateral call with the Whole of Syria (WoS) coordination team to finalize the health sector log frame. The log frame has objectives, indicators, baseline and targets for 2021; it helps to monitor the health sector response.
- Provided inputs to Inter-Sectoral Collaboration Survey in preparation for the Partner Meeting by the Global Health Cluster
- Participated in meetings and webinars to enhance health sector coordination, tackle humanitarian needs in Syria and provide operational updates.

Northeast Syria Coordination Updates

- Arranged the Northeast Syria Inter-Hub Meeting, which was attended by WHO Syria Hubs and NES Forum partners (6 April)
- Attended a meeting convened by WHO Whole of Syria Health Cluster Coordinator to discuss the health situation in Al-Hol camp (6 April)
- Organized Al-Hol camp regular health sector coordination meetings (1, 8 and 15 April).
- Organized ad-hoc meetings to discuss the COVID-19 situation in Al-Roj camp (4 and 12 April), Al-Areesha camp (4 and 11 April), and Al-Hol camp (11 April).
- Provided health sector inputs during Al-Hol camp coordination meeting arranged by UNHCR (6 and 13 April)
- Prepared, and distributed among partners, the report capturing the survey results on health service contingency planning in Al-Hol camp

2.3. Routine Immunization

- In coordination with the Ministry of Health, a workshop was conducted to enhance the capacities of the WHO field staff concerning the following COVID-19 activities:
 - Introducing COVID-19 vaccines and answering the most frequent questions.
 - Illustrating MoH vaccination plan.
 - Organizing the vaccination session and maintaining vaccine temperature.
 - Storing, transporting and the cold chain process.

- Micro planning of COVID-19 vaccination plan.
- Ensuring a clear understanding of the vaccine safety injection policy, in line with EPI procedures.
- Discussing the emergency and communication plan.
- Statistics have shown that during February 2021, the coverage percentage of the Extended Program on Immunization (EPI) was 62% for DPT3, 71% for MMR1 and 62% for OPV3.
- To enhance routine immunization in Syria in 2021, WHO supported 14 EPI planning workshops at the district level in all 14 governorates. The objective is to reduce the number of zero-dose children as per GAVI/MoH targets. Special plans are to be adopted for the Eastern-Euphrates (Ar-Raqqa and Deir-Ez-Zor).
- Ensured continued support to routine vaccination activities through mobile teams, outreach activities as well as supervisory visits from the central and governorate level to district teams.
- During the period from 4 to 13 April 2021, the National Immunization Days (NID) campaign was implemented in all Syrian governorates with a special emphasis on high-risk areas as well as camps and nomads in northeast Syria. The campaign targeted 2.7 million children under-5 years; 572 824 of whom are under-1.
- The targeted number of children who are expected to be routinely vaccinated is 101 885 in addition to 77 057 drop-out children. The vaccination was affected through 1 000 vaccination sites, 568 mobile teams, 655 newly vaccination point, over 7 000 MoH health workers and 633 campaign supervisors. WHO ensured a smooth campaign implementation by delivering the vaccines inside Syria and transporting the mobile vaccination teams.
- Conducted a workshop on Service Provision for vaccination teams in 7 governorates (Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Latakia, Hama, Homs and Idlib).

2.4. Primary Health Care and Non-Communicable Diseases

- Started the rehabilitation process for Al-Sayda Zainab PHC, which is affiliated with Qunitera DOH and located in Damascus GOV, under the Russian fund. Additional rehabilitation works for Hanano and Kady Askar PHCs in eastern Aleppo are in progress.
- Facilitated a joint meeting with EMRO and MoH focal point to discuss progress for Primary Health Care Measurement and Improvement (PHCMI) initiative in Syria.
- Held a joint meeting with MoH and MoHE counterparts to discuss and strengthen the current hospital-based cancer registry for both MoH and MoHE settings, and at the MoH central level.
- Working on reactivating the oral health project to cover students in the remaining 15 schools in eastern-Ghouta towns in Rural Damascus.
- Continued preparing for the “World No-Tobacco Day” in coordination with MoH counterparts.

2.5. Trauma

- Over 350 persons with disabilities benefited from different types of assistive devices which were delivered to the physical rehabilitation centre in Damascus.
- 75 health workers from Deir-Ez-Zor, Damascus and Homs were trained on “Advanced Children and Adults Life Support”, “Managing the Emergency Plan” and “First Aid and Basic Life Support”. The targeted groups for the courses are health professionals (doctors, nurses, and anaesthesia technicians) working in isolation centres and intensive care units as well as emergency departments.
- Conducted a meeting with MoH concerned officials to discuss establishing Public Health Emergency Operations Centers (PHEOC) at the national and governorate levels. It was agreed that WHO and MoH would conduct a two-day workshop attended by high-level officials in MoH, including health directors, policy and legislation experts to review and amend existing efforts to develop an implementation plan for establishing PHEOCs using international standards provided in the WHO Framework on Public Health Emergency Operations Center.

2.6. Mental Health

- During March 2021, 1 580 mental health (MH) consultations were provided through implementing partners at 59 sub-communities. The total number of consultations provided in the first quarter of 2021 reached 12 050.
- In northeast Syria (NES), the total number of MH consultations provided was 196, as well as 190 pharmacological interventions and 250 psychological interventions.
- Followed up closely with the MH directorate at MoH, MoHE, MH hospitals, long-term care facilities, different hubs as well as other MH partners regarding the distribution plan of psychotropic medication during the second quarter of 2021.
- In collaboration with 7 mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) partners, the MHPSS guidelines for the elderly during COVID-19 has been translated and the technical revision is in progress.
- Held several bilateral coordination meetings with MH partners (UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAMS, OXFAM, COOPI, DORCAS, AAH, SSSD, SCAFP, AMAL organization, and many other NGOs) to provide technical support on MH and explore different joint projects.
- Conducted 5 capacity-building activities with MoE on Mental Health GAP (mhGAP) programme targeting school health workers.
- Participated in the MHPSS Innovation and Localization Programme in Syria workshop, followed by several meetings with MHPSS/Child Protection (CP) Sub-sector to identify gaps.
- Provided technical feedback for the workshop held by the Syrian Commission for Family and Population Affairs (SCFAP), in cooperation with UNICEF and other MHPSS/ CP partners, to discuss the psychosocial support manual, booklets and programs.
- Jointly with the communication and NGO units, two workshops took place to train 80 community workers (CW) on different MHPSS and risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) topics including basic psychosocial skills for COVID-19 responders, parenting skills during COVID-19, and MHPSS at the community level. Under the COVID-19 response / RCCE pillar and partnering with 2 selected NGOs, the CWs will participate in the “My Hero is You” campaign targeting communities in Rural Damascus.
- In collaboration with the reproductive health sub-working group (RH-SWG), an introductory MHPSS session was presented during the 2nd meeting of RH-SWG to discuss a systematic integration based on evidence-based guidelines.

2.7. Tuberculosis (TB) / HIV

- A total of 1 524 beneficiaries have benefited from 28 awareness sessions on TB provided by the TB mobile clinics. During those sessions, 140 suspected cases were tested for TB, 9 of which were confirmed.
- WHO local implementing partner, Al-Sham NGO, continued providing awareness-raising sessions within the project “Prevention and Promotion for Health and Mental Health on HIV to the Most At-risk Population”. Through 65 awareness sessions, 590 beneficiaries were targeted and 459 beneficiaries volunteered to take the HIV test; none of whom were positive.

2.8. Environmental Health

- To check for chemical and biological contamination of different water sources, WHO continues monitoring the water quality at water networks, ground wells, reservoirs, water tanks and jerry cans by collecting cultures to identify pathogens. During the reporting period:
 - 42 tests were conducted in five villages in Rural Aleppo (Southern and Western part); among which 32 water sources were found contaminated and were sterilized.
 - 890 tests were conducted in northeast Syria (Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, and Deir-Ez-Zor) including eight IDPs camps and collective shelters; among which 90 water sources (mainly jerry cans) were found contaminated and were sterilized.
- WHO is coordinating with Deir-Ez-Zor governorate to expand the quality monitoring of drinking water.

2.9. Nutrition

- Met with partners from EMRO to coordinate the program on reducing trans fatty acids (TFA) in food supplies.
- Met with the reproductive health (RH) officer in MoH to coordinate the 2021 plan.
- Data collected from the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) program for March 2021 showed that out of 39 767 children screened at 354 health centres, 18 739 children received special care for diseases and 311 were referred to hospitals.
- Data collected from the Newborn Care at Home program for February 2021 showed that out of 1 683 home visits conducted in 12 governorates, 17 cases were referred to specialized care.

2.10. Pharmaceuticals

- Developed the procurement plan for medicines and medical equipment during the upcoming quarters based on the highlighted needs addressed by MoH, to ensure continuity of providing lifesaving medicines at health facilities.
- Coordinated with MoH counterparts on the required capacity building activities.
- Followed up on the timely distribution of medicines and medical equipment to health facilities.
- Conducted a workshop on Pharmacovigilance at 76 hospitals in 12 governorates.

2.11. External Relations and Communication

- On the occasion of World Health Day, WHO supported the Ministry of Information in conducting a workshop for media professionals. The workshop included sessions on the current health situation, a briefing on World Health Day 2021 concentrating on the theme of this year's event, and the role of media in raising awareness on health-related issues. Ramadan health messages were distributed as well.
- In close cooperation with the Ministry of Education, WHO Syria marked World Health Day by awarding children-winners of the Regional Art Competition on pandemic prevention. Two children from Syria were selected by the regional jury among 1 500 drawings submitted from 12 countries.
- WHO team headed by WHO Rep conducted a field visit to Daraa governorate in southern Syria to assess the health situation on the ground, the main challenges and the needed support. The mission included conducting official meetings with the Director of Health and visiting one of the health centres to follow up on the ongoing National Immunization Days supported by WHO and UNICEF.
- Training for selected NGOs from Rural Damascus underwent training on the psycho-social support to parents and caregivers using "My Hero is You" publication. After the training, 80 NGO volunteers will start fieldwork in early May reaching parents, caregivers, school health educators and children in Rural Damascus as planned.

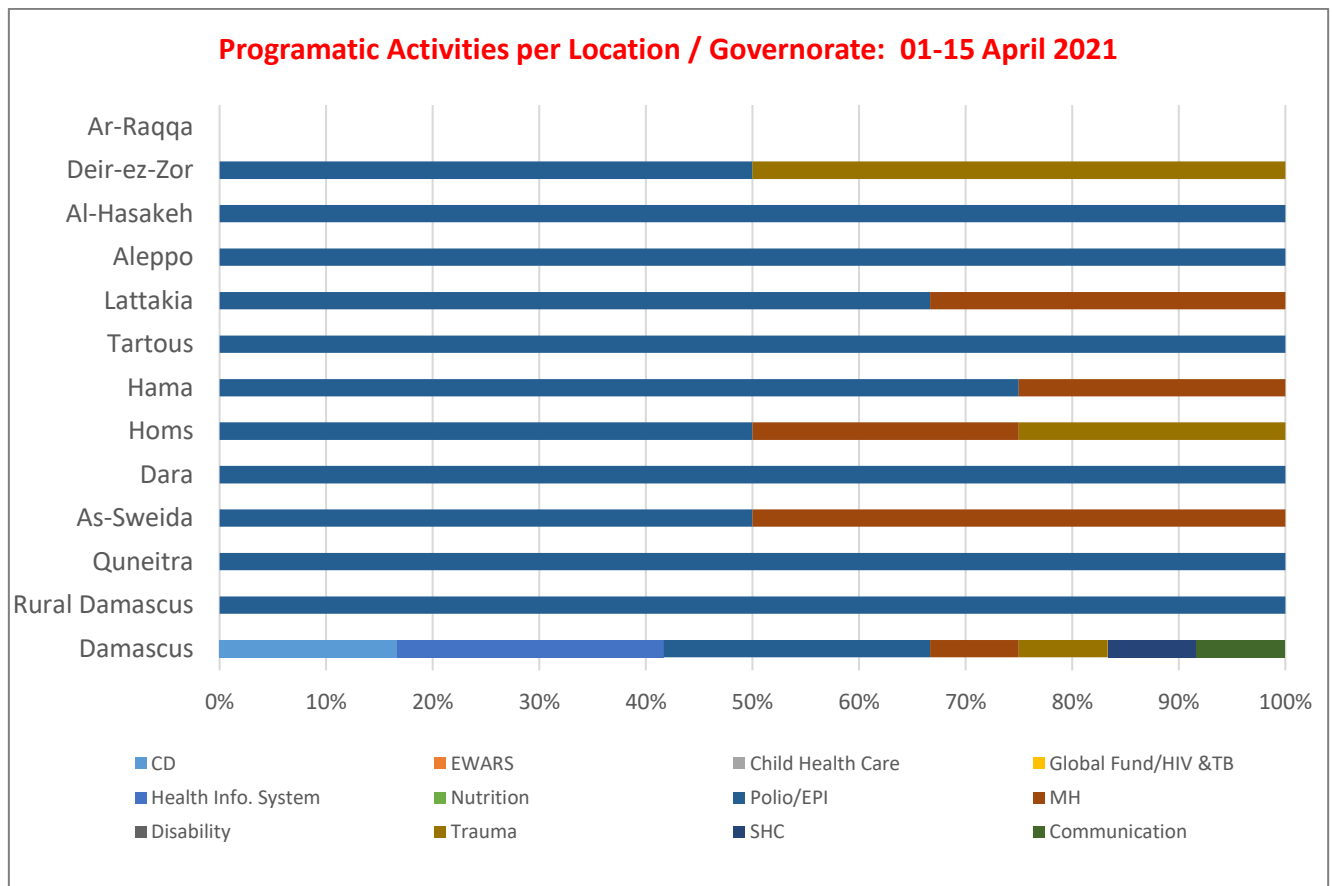
2.12. Community Engagement (NGOs)

- Maintained the provision of lifesaving and life-sustaining health care services in northeast Syria (NES) where 140 patients benefited from trauma care services and 89 benefited from advanced surgical operations. Beneficiaries are mainly from IDP camps and informal settlement.
- Delivered primary health care services including medical consultation and medications for child health, reproductive health and chronic diseases. In Damascus and its rural, 2 061 health services were provided.
- The number of secondary health care beneficiaries in Damascus reached 13 surgical interventions and 4 referred trauma care services.
- Continued the provision of awareness-raising sessions on HIV/AIDS to the at-risk population. The number of beneficiaries during the reporting period was 1 049 from 12 governorates; 590 of whom received MHPSS support.

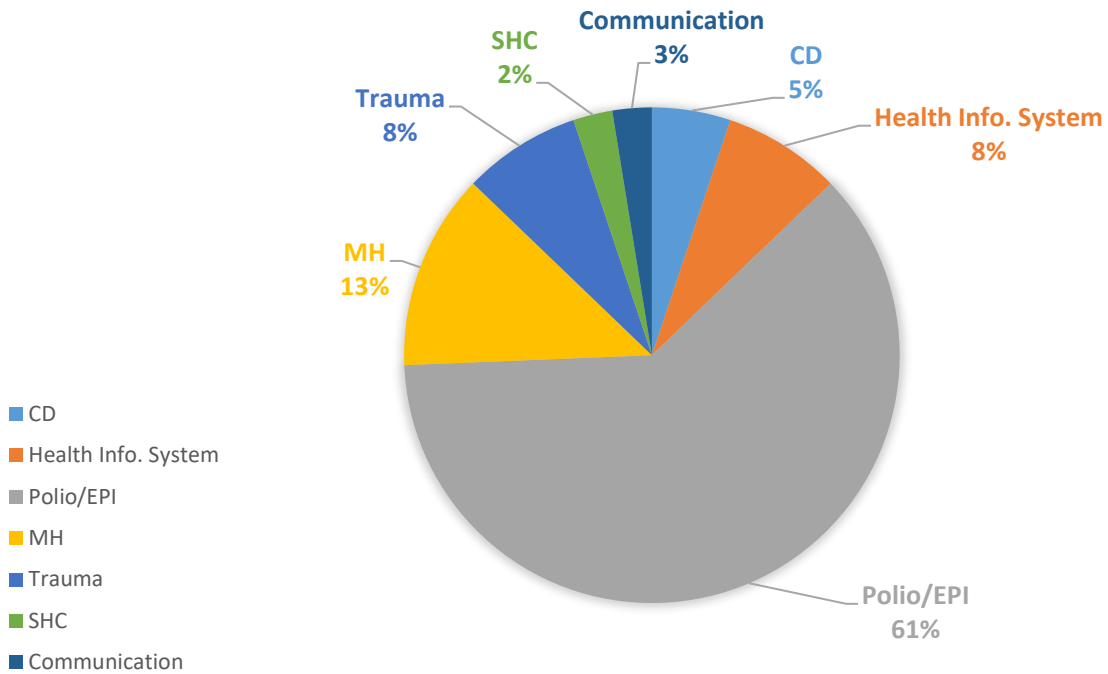
2.13. Information Products and Related Activities

- HeRAMS annual report of 2020 for public health centres in Syria.
- (Health Sector & WHO) 4Ws snapshots across Syria for February 2021.
- Updated COVID-19 Dynamic Infographic Dashboard for Syria.
- Updated the online item tracking system for COVID-19 in Syria.
- 2021 HRP Health Sector Operational Framework.
- Reported on EMRO KPIs.
- Provided key information on health facilities based on HeRAMS.
- Updated Maps for health sector interventions.
- IM Working Group of Health Sector | 1st online meeting during 2021.

2.14. Capacity Building

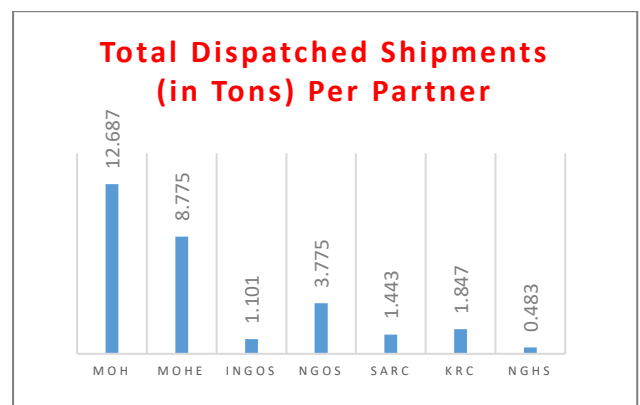
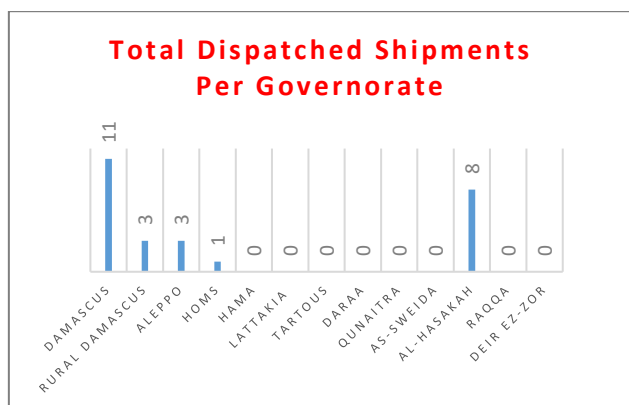


**Estimated Percentage of Participants in 39 WHO-Supported Activities
For an Overall No of Participants of 1065
01 – 15 April 2021**



2.15. Operations Support and Logistics

- Dispatched 30.109 tons of medical and lab supplies, kits and equipment - covering 5 governorates (Aleppo, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs and Al-Hasakeh). Recipients included 6 MoH facilities, MoHE, 5 NGOs, 4 INGOs, as well as 2 National General Hospitals, SARC and KRC.
- The total number of treatments is 136 433.



3. WHO Syria Sub-Office Response

3.1. Aleppo Hub

- Finalizing 4 grant agreement with WHO implementing partners in Aleppo Governorate, which will allow WHO to increase its lifesaving and life-sustaining health services through 10 health facilities and 11 mobile medical teams. Awaiting local authorities' approval (Ministry of Social Affairs)
- Delivered mental health medication to more than 300 persons with disabilities through the Yadan Bi Yad association in Aleppo.
- Conducted follow-up meetings with the nutrition sector to discuss the role of WHO's implementing partners, in addition to the possible nutrition-related activities such as nutritional surveillance, Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening as well as other possible areas of intervention.
- A total of 1 354 beneficiaries benefited from 18 awareness sessions on tuberculosis (TB) through TB mobile clinics. Out of the 80 suspected cases who were tested, 8 cases were confirmed positive.
- Currently organizing, with DoH Aleppo, a COVID-19 awareness-raising campaign on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) as well as Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS). This activity will be implemented through mobilizing outreach voluntary teams in northwest Syria (NWS).
- WHO followed up on the equipment delivery to Ibn-Khaldoun Hospital which will enhance their lab capacity.
- In cooperation with the School Health Directorate, conducted a capacity building workshop targeting health directorate doctors on Mental Health GAP (mhGAP) program.
- WHO local implementing partner, Al-Sham NGO, continued to provide awareness-raising sessions within the project "Prevention and Promotion for Health and Mental Health on HIV to the Most At-risk Population". Through 8 awareness sessions, 83 beneficiaries were targeted and 44 beneficiaries volunteered to take the HIV test; none of whom were positive.
- Supported the National Immunization Week which started on 5 April 2021.

3.2. Lattakia Hub

- Supported several workshops in Lattakia and Tartous to enhance the capacity of health workers and vaccination teams to deliver COVID-19 vaccines and distribution at the hospital level.
- Participated in a bilateral workshop with MoH on COVID-19 vaccine delivery at the national and sub-national levels.
- Supported two Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) workshops for 50 health educators at the School Health Directorate in Lattakia.
- Supported the National Immunization Days in Latakia and Tartous between 5 and 13 April 2021.



Immunization Campaign in Lattakia

3.3. Homs Hub

- Conducted a field visit to the Specialized Physiotherapy Center in the Jab Al-Jandali area which is affiliated with the Homs DoH. The centre has been rehabilitated through WHO support and equipped with furniture and physiotherapy equipment; recently WHO provided the centre with 8 patient beds. The total number of patients in need of physiotherapy is about 350.
- Conducted training on Mental Health GAP programme for 25 participants from the Directorate of Education in Homs.
- Supported the National Immunization Week, which started on 5 April, in both Homs and Hama governorates.



Training on mhGAP programme in Homs

3.4. Deir-Ez-Zor Hub

- In cooperation with MoH, MoE, and WHO the deworming campaign was implemented during March in elementary schools in Deir-Ez-Zor governorate. The school health department staff in Deir-Ez-Zor DoE distributed 500-mg-Mebendazole-tablet for each student, reaching 92 000 students who are attending the first circle of basic education classes (grade 1 to 6).
- In collaboration with MoH, UNICEF, and WHO; the National Immunization Days (NID) campaign was implemented between 5 and 13 April. The campaign aims to intensify the Routine Immunization coverage and follow up on dropout under-5 children.
- In parallel, the activities started on 3 April in the SDF-controlled area; the campaign is planned to last for 15 days. 170 HCWs in 34 mobile teams have been deployed to implement the routine immunization activities in the SDF-controlled areas.
- During the period 7 - 11 April, WHO supported Deir-Ez-Zor DoH to train 25 HCWs on managing the plans for preparedness and response for various emergencies, crisis, and pandemics. In addition to training on medical triage, transportation, evacuation, and other topics. Moreover, a risk communication and community engagement session on COVID-19 was presented to trainees during this workshop.
- WHO supported DoH to conduct a 2-day training workshop (11-12 April) for 9 officers from Deir-Ez-Zor DoH on pharmacovigilance. The purpose of this workshop is to train officers to track, monitor, and report the adverse effects associated with the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine during its rollout.



Deworming Campaign in Deir-Ez-Zor governorate



WHO-Supported Workshop on Pharmacovigilance

3.5. Al-Qamishli Hub (North-East Syria)

- In cooperation with WHO and UNICEF, the Syrian Ministry of Health launched the National Immunization Days' campaign between 5 and 13 April. Al-Hasakeh DoH carried out the campaign through 360 health workers in 39 static centres and 39 mobile teams, covering the five districts of Al-Hasakeh Governorate.
- On 5 and 6 April, a WHO team met with health officials to jointly follow up on the National Immunization Days' campaign. The team also conducted field visits to Al-Louloua medical centre, Al-Gharbi and Al-Sharqi DoH health centres in Al-Qamishli.
- In Eastern Deir-Ez-Zor Governorate, 170 health workers were engaged in carrying out the campaign through 34 interim centres.
- On 5 April, a WHO team visited Al-Hikma Private Hospital in Al-Hasakeh Governorate as well as Al-Qamishli National Hospital. On 8 April, the visit was followed by a discussion with UN partners (UNDSS and FSCO) to develop and update the plan taking into consideration the recent increase in COVID-19 cases in NES.



Al-Sharqi Health Center

- In line with the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan (NDVP), WHO, in cooperation with Al-Hasakeh DoH, conducted training on COVAX pharmacovigilance on 5 and 6 April. The training which took place in Al-Qamishli National Hospital was attended by Dr Omar Al-Agoub, Hospital Director; medical staff from the hospital along with 6 trainees from DoH participated in this activity.
- In light of the recent influx of COVID-19 cases reported in camps (Al-Roj, Al-Areasha, and Al-Hol camps), WHO took the lead in responding taking the following steps:
 - Leading a sequence of meetings by WHO Sector colleagues to coordinate, scale-up and develop response activities in the camps, as well as to provide technical support as needed by technical colleagues.
 - Conducting site visits by WHO team to Al-Roj camp, Malkieh COVID-19 treatment ward and Al-Areasha camp to assess the situation and enhance surveillance activities in terms of developing alert and contact tracing mechanisms.
 - Conducting an assessment to COVID-19 Treatment Facility (CTF) in Al-Hol camp to evaluate the current capacity and ways to scale up and expand the services available to be able to accommodate the more serious cases.
- On 5 April, WHO conducted a field assessment for COVID-19 testing capacity in NES to address the gaps and challenges and discuss the way forward.
- The number of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases with complications was:



Pharmacovigilance training at Al-Qamishli National Hospital



PCR Testing Capacity Assessment

	New Admissions	Recoveries	Active Cases
Al-Hikma Hospital	3	4	2
Al-Tabqa National Hospital	2	2	1

- Conducted field visits to Menbej and Ein-Al-Arab General Hospitals including the COVID-19 wards in both hospitals.
- Continued to monitor the drinking water quality through regular visits to 8 camps and 30 collective shelters: 890 samples were tested, 10.1% of samples were found to be contaminated on the jerry can level.
- Distributed PPEs kits to Al-Hasakeh National Hospital.
- Conducted four assessments and follow up missions to Al-Areasha and Al-Roj camps.

4. North-West Syria (NWS) Response

4.1. Primary Health Care Networks:

- WHO Field Presence Office in Gaziantep is continuing its work on integrating PHC networks to work under one system. As of now, Harem network has already started with a kickoff meeting, North Aleppo network activities are ongoing, while Afrin network extension is under discussions.
- WHO continues supporting 39 PHCs and Mobile Teams in NWS; 21 of which are supported through integrated service delivery networks and 18 as a last resort coverage.
- The referral System is fully functional in Idlib and north Aleppo, with minimum functionality in Afrin and COVID-19 referrals/PoEs. WHO has been working on compiling the NGO inputs regarding their available resources and locations.

4.2. Secondary Health Care

- WHO continues to support four hospitals including Harem and Medina mental, Newborn, and child health (MNCH) hospitals, Bab Al Salam general hospital and Dana COVID-19 designated hospital.
- Early Essential Newborn Care (EENC) will be conducting series of meetings including bilateral meetings with the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) leads team, group meeting with SRH health partners.
- EENC training is underway; a meeting with Gaziantep University Hospital will be conducted to discuss the EENC training activities and getting feedback.

4.3. Early Warning, Alert and Response Network

- Till epi-week 14, out of 241 sentinel sites (Aleppo 133, Idleb 108), a total of 239 (Aleppo 133, Idleb 106) reported on the 13 syndromes/diseases under EWARN which constitutes 99.2% completeness and 95% timeliness of reporting (compared to 90% in the previous week).
- Till the end of that week, a total of 227 457 consultations were recorded (37% <5 years) which represents a 2.0% decrease in the number of consultations than the previous week (223 021).
- In that week, the highest syndromes reported from NWS were 18 392 influenza-like illness (ILI) cases (1.5% increase from the previous week of 18 116 cases), 8 476 other acute diarrhoea cases (1.1% decrease from the previous week of 8 568 cases), 209 acute jaundice syndrome cases (1.7% decrease from the previous week of 295 cases) and 212 severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) cases (17.5% increase from the previous week of 257 cases)
- Till epi-week 14, a total of 101 alerts were recorded from northern Syria and after primary screening and verifications, 18 ended up as true alerts.
- In epi-week 14, the district level officers (DLOs) conducted 26 training sessions for NGOs' health workers in 26 reporting health facilities in Idleb, Harim, Ariha, Jisr Ash-Shugur, Al-Bab, Afrin, A'zaz, and Jarablus districts. The main topic was the basics of Acute Flaccid Paralysis surveillance, and the number of trainees was 357.

4.4. Leishmaniasis:

- As of epi-week 14, a total of 10 058 cases of leishmaniasis were reported during 2021. In epi-week 14, 846 leishmaniasis cases were reported which was a 4.8% increase from the previous week (807 cases).
- The overall trend of both cutaneous leishmaniasis (CL) and visceral leishmaniasis (VL) cases is higher this year compared to last year. The caseload of VL has dramatically increased this year (22 cases till the end of February 2021) compared to the last 4 years. Harim, Idleb, Afrin Jabel-Saman and A'zaz are reporting the highest number of cases.
- The reasons for the high caseload in recent weeks is thought to be related to migration, congested housing and poor sanitation, increased number of non-immune population, high density of rodents, lack of waste management, open sewage and climate change.

4.5. COVID-19 Update

- In NWS 19 115 (88.9%) cases were confirmed with mild symptoms; 2 289 (10.6%) cases from IDP camps; 435 (3.6%) cases were hospitalized at the time of confirmation; 19 575 (91%) cases have recovered, and 1 471 (6.8%) cases are active; 2 720 (12.6%) cases were healthcare workers (clinical and auxiliary working in health facilities; 13 395 (62.3%) are males and 8 114 (37.7%) are females; over 60-year old are 2 220 (10.3%); 12 205 (56.7%) cases are 20-40 years old. Idleb district has reported the highest number of cases (5 476 / 25.5%).
- A total of 34 200 PCR and extraction kits and 23 200 UTMs and swabs are available. WHO is expecting another 20 000 PCR and extraction kits to be delivered to Mersin warehouse. Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) expects to deliver 101 613 Viral Transport Medium (VTM) between 7-15 April.

4.6. Tuberculosis

- WHO continues to support service provision in three TB centres, working with partners to finalize the agreements for the coming 2 months.
 - The number of beneficiaries who visited all 3 TB centres during the last 2 weeks is 298.
 - The number of TB patients who were diagnosed during the 2 weeks is 17.
 - The number of GeneXpert tests which were sent to Antakya is 62.
 - The number of GeneXpert positive tests is 7.
- The second virtual Concilium was successfully held.

4.7. Community Health Workers:

- Two phases out of three were completed reaching 300 CHWs out of 500 selected to be trained on specific modules identified as a gap according to the assessment conducted by WHO in 2020.
- WHO consultant is finalizing the report of the KAP survey. The first draft will be shared internally with colleagues from WHO for feedback and review.
- WHO finalized, in end-March, the training program for 500 CHWs on the main modules of the CHWs curriculum (family health- NCD-CD).

4.8. Non-Communicable Diseases

- As of 23 March 2021, there were a total of 171 000 patients registered from the 77 PHCs, 24 hospitals, 11 mobile clinics, 8 Thalassemia centres, 9 dialysis centres and 24 facilities with MHPSS services. The total NCD patients came from the 10 NGOs who submitted it to the NCD TWG (UOSSM, SDI, UDER, Shafak, AHF, SRD, MRFS, HiHFAD, RI and SAMS).
- Raw data for the “Thalassemia Needs Assessment” and “BB Needs Assessment” were compiled. WHO and key members of NCD TWG and TIF are doing the analysis. Thalassemia Need Assessment was shared with the Ad-Hoc Thalassemia Task Force. WHO requested the support of the Thalassemia International Federation in doing the Analysis and giving their recommendation, in addition to helping with drafting the “Standard Guidelines Handbook on Diagnosis, Management, and Treatment of Thalassemia for northwest Syria”.
- The Breast Service Mapping using Kobo Link was already shared and IMO Team will help in creating the “interactive infographic”, to see gaps in service provision to women with breast cancer.
- e-Learning project on NCD/PEN has been completed with 64 PHCs (PCI-UK). A final report and a short presentation at HC will be conducted on what was done, good practices, and challenges. The same goes for the NCD Prevention and basic NCD Screening for 400 CHWs under UDER.
- Had an informal planning discussion with PCI-UK, on the NCD/PEN capacity building for the 460 midwives. Midwives inside NWS are not performing proper screening, diagnosis, management, Tx, and referrals on pregnant women with hypertension, diabetes.

4.9. Mental Health

- The MHPSS Helplines, 24/7 Suicide Hotline, support for the 7 Mental Health Mobile Clinics (MHMCs), 6 non-specialized MHPSS facilities plus support for Sarmada Mental Health Center (MHC) are ongoing. These activities included the 198 facilities with MHPSS services across NWS.
- WHO team drafted the “Specific Strategies on Suicide Prevention to Guide the MHPSS TWG Members”, including the “Collaboration and Advocacy on Suicide Prevention” across clusters. This was done with the health cluster, Protection and Education health cluster.
- WHO team is preparing the draft of the community-based mobilization on Suicide Prevention adapting the WHO (2018). “Preventing Suicide: a Community Engagement Toolkit”.

4.10. Supply Chain

- A survey on Insulin, IV Fluids and anaesthesia materials has been shared with partners.
- WHO has responded to the urgent needs of five health facilities for mental health medicines for three months.
- The final ToRs of capacity building on rational antibiotic use project was shared with a potential supply (Marmara University and Turkish National Pharmacists Association). The start date for the project will be at the end of April-May 2021.
- WHO is working on expanding the warehouse capacity in northern Syria to ensure the warehouse space for prepositioning supplies after UNSCR. An initial budget has submitted for Bab-El-Hawa area. This week WHO will review the budget, ensure the funding availability and the process of administration to be discussed to make it happen.

4.11. Procurement

- 2 350 pieces of UTM and 1 950 pieces of Swabs were delivered to Mersin warehouse on 2 April.
- 20 000 PCR Kits worth 120 000 Euros are expected to be delivered to Mersin warehouse on 6 April.
- 17 Containers with PPEs from Malaysia are on the way and are expected to arrive on 28 April.
- Last week, a request for quotation for manikins for EENC Project was sent out to suppliers and offers were received on 12 April.
- Working on local Procurement of isolation gowns and respiratory Masks for a value of \$156 548.96. Cleared by Quality Assurance team in HQ and currently working on Adjudication Report and other related documents required for requisition submission.
- Working on Request for Price Estimate (RPE) submission for Ambisome and Essential Medicines estimated at \$124 000.

4.12. Routine Immunization

- The total number of launched EPI centres in northwest Syria (NWS) is 93, all of which are working this week (100%). The total number of working teams is 134 out of 134 teams (100%) conducted 638 sessions during last week with an average of 4.8 sessions per team, the estimated under 1-year children monthly targets is 13 578. During February 2 550 vaccination sessions were conducted out of 2 638 planned (97%).
- All EPI teams (622 participants) were trained by Syrian Immunization Groups (SIG) on COVID-19 awareness, physical distancing and protective measures. A monitoring tool was developed to measure the abiding of teams to the WHO guidelines regarding physical distancing, using PPEs and giving COVID-19 awareness. Governorate and district supervisors are submitting a daily report that is discussed in the virtual daily meeting.
- The immunization team is regularly participating in a comprehensive dialogue with UNICEF/Gaziantep, WHO EMRO, UNICEF regional office and GAVI for sustained EPI services in NW Syria, the final draft of the Programme Support Rationale document (PSR), Budget and planning document and Grant performance framework (GPF) were submitted to be processed to International Red Crescent (IRC). The first discussion of NWS PSR with the IRC was conducted last week, we received some follow-up action points and suggestions on which the IRC request further information.
- COVAX technical assistance plan is finalized and submitted, the plan was processed and approved by GAVI. The COVAX Vaccine Request is finalized and submitted in time. NWS is not able to do cost-sharing of vaccine procurement, but this will not hinder the abilities to access the fully subsidized donor-funded doses provided through the COVAX AMC.
- WHO and partners finalized the first draft of the COVAX vaccination campaign plan and draft budget, now with new data available more than one scenario is developed.
- WHO and partners finalized the development of the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan (NDVP) for NWS, the plan was submitted in time to EMRO, presented and approved by Regional Review Committee. Feedback points received from Regional Review Committee were all addressed.

- A targeted country assistance plan was developed and shared with the regional office for further discussions then submitted to GAVI.
- On 15 February, WHO granted Emergency Use Listing (EUL) for the AstraZeneca AZD1222 vaccine produced by the Serum Institute of India (SII-AZ). Northwest Syria has been allocated 240 000 doses of the AstraZeneca AZD1222 vaccine through May 2021, but GAVI later informed of the delays in deliveries of the COVID-19 vaccine produced by the Serum Institute of India (SII/Covishield). Vaccines were redirected to meet urgent domestic needs. Consequently, COVAX vaccine deliveries in March and April have been impacted. GAVI expects deliveries to begin again in full by May, with accelerating catch-up thereafter.
- Developed different formats to collect data for the upcoming COVID-19 vaccination campaign; the development of the registers and SOPs for the campaign is ongoing.
- A review of the COVID-19 vaccination training material is ongoing to tailor it to match the NWS context.
- Vaccine Introduction Readiness Assessment Tool (VIRAT) was updated in March 2021.
- SIG Assembly monthly meeting was conducted, the main points of discussions were EPI plans in light of the reform suggestions of GAVI, in addition to the January 2021 coverages of different antigens, main challenges and way forward.
- Polio campaign started on 27 March 2021 in 44 out of 52 Team Support Centres. The campaign will last for 6 days moving from House to House (H2H), then it will be followed by Post Campaign Monitoring (PCM) conducted by Independent Monitors for 2 days.
- The total target is 815 242 children under 5 years in NWS, the campaign will use bOPV with 1 371 teams and 452 supervisors and 9 central supervisors.

4.13. Information Management (IM) / Health Information System (HIS)

- Finalized the online assessment for consumption of anaesthesia and IV fluid, and shared it with the supply unit to start the data collection.
- Shared the link with partners to nominate candidates for the SAG (Strategic Advisory group), the deadline for the nomination process is Friday 16 April.
- Continued working on the EWARN dashboard, the first version is completed and it is under review for further adjustments before the final version is being published.
- Started the process of working on the HeRAMS report for Q1 2021.
- Created a simple survey for gap estimates to be shared with partners. The survey should help in assessing the status of available stocks and needs for the partners.

5. Vaccine Updates

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

6. 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](#)
- [Latest Global WHO Weekly Update On COVID-19](#)
- [WHO COVID-19 Country And Technical Guidance](#)
- [United Nations Office For The Coordination Of Humanitarian Affairs](#)

7. Contact Us

DR AKJEMAL MAGTYMOVA

Head of Mission and WHO Representative
Syrian Arab Republic





Tel: +963 11 3353265 / 3353284
eMail: emwrosyr@who.int
Twitter: @DrAkjema1

DR MAHMOUD DAHER

WHO Health Emergencies (WHE) Lead
Gaziantep Field Presence

Tel: +970 598 944650 / +970 82822033
eMail: daherm@who.int

Follow WHO Syria:

	Facebook	/WHOSyria
	Twitter	@WHOSyria
	Instagram	@WHOSyria
	YouTube	WHO Syria



جائحة كوفيد-19
COVID-19 Pandemic

If you have symptoms of fever & cough, self-isolate yourself & quickly seek medical care if you have trouble breathing

إذا ظهرت عليك أعراض الحمى والسعال، ازل نفسك عن الناس وسارع بالطلب على الرعاية الطبية إذا شعرت بصعوبة في التنفس

Wash your hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub

اغسل يديك بانتظام بالماء والصابون أو بمطهر يحتوي على الكحول

Cough or sneeze into your bended arm or use disposable tissue

عند السعال أو العطس اغمز وجهك بمنعرجك أو استخدم منديل لثني استعمال

World Health Organization
www.who.int

For more information: www.emro.who.int/COVID19