



**World Health  
Organization**  
Syrian Arab Republic

# **WCO SYRIA**

## **BI-WEEKLY**

# **SITUATION REPORT**

*Issue 3 | 1 - 15 February 2021*











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## 1. COVID-19 Update

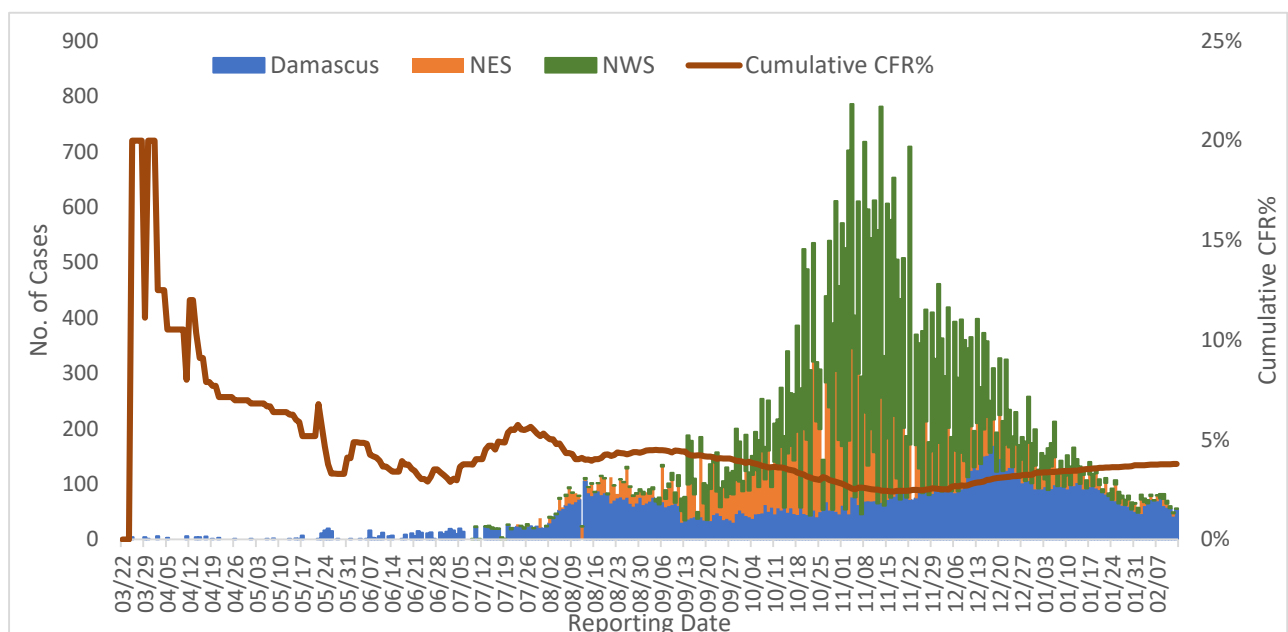
### 1.1. COVID-19 Summary Statistics at Whole of Syria level

As of 13 February 2021:

	<b>44,449</b>	Total cases (including <b>3,907</b> health workers)
	<b>15,736</b>	Active cases
	<b>27,031</b>	Recovered cases
	<b>1,682</b>	Deaths
	<b>3.8%</b>	Case Fatality Rate (CFR)
	<b>20</b>	COVID-19 laboratories
	<b>171,382</b>	Tests done
	<b>840</b>	Overall testing rate per 100 000 population
	<b>218</b>	Incidence rate per 100 000 population (highest in Al-Hasakeh)
	<b>26%</b>	Positivity rate (highest in As-Sweida – 62%)

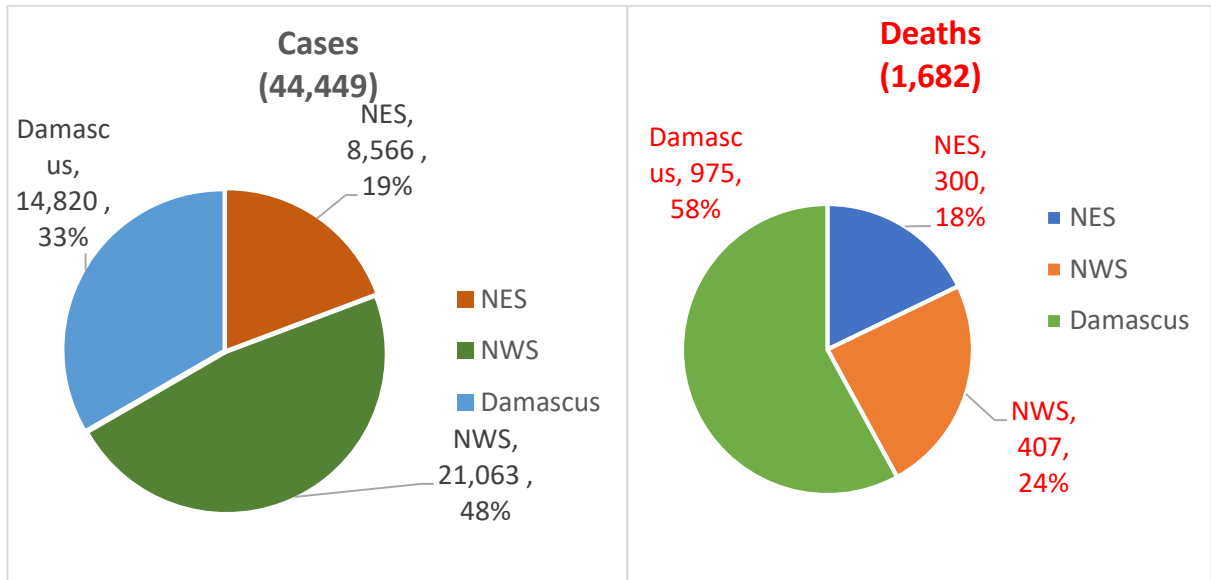
### 1.1. Daily distribution of COVID-19 cases and cumulative CFR: Whole of Syria

22 March 2020 – 13 February 2021 (n=44,449)



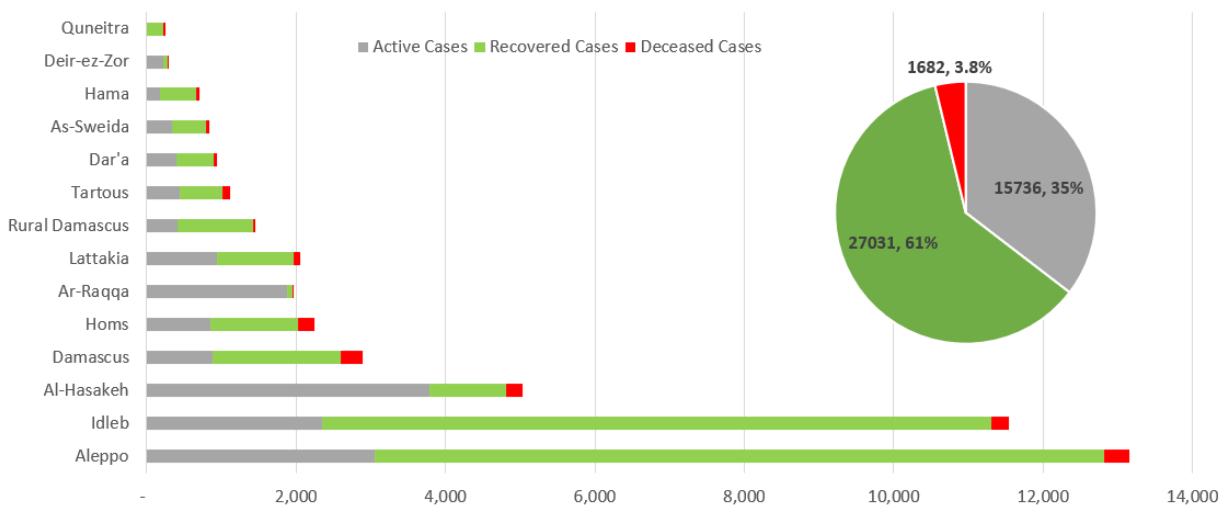
### 1.2. Distribution of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths: Whole of Syria

22 March 2020 – 13 February 2021



### 1.3. Distribution of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths by Governorate

As of 13 February 2021



## 2. Situation of Health Facilities and Attacks on Healthcare System






### 2.1. Situation of Health Facilities

According to the **Health Resources and Services Availability Monitoring System (HeRAMS)** by end of December 2020 at WoS level

- 37%** (out of 293) hospitals are partially functioning or non-functioning
- 46%** (out of 2,053) fixed primary health care centers are partially functioning or non-functioning

### 2.2. Attacks on Healthcare

Attacks at Whole of Syria level from January to December 2020 (data provided quarterly):

	<b>28</b>	Total Attacks
	<b>13</b>	Killed (of which <b>0</b> healthcare providers)
	<b>42</b>	Injured (of which <b>7</b> healthcare providers)
	<b>18</b>	Attacks impacted health facilities ( <i>Total count includes one or more attacks on the same facility during a quarterly period</i> )
	<b>36%</b>	of attacks over the past 12 months (1 Jan – 31 Dec 2020) were reported as violence with heavy weapons

## 3. WHO Key Achievements: Whole of Syria

From January to December 2020, the key achievements were as follows:

<b>265,616</b>	trauma consultations supported
<b>1,921,168</b>	outpatient consultations provided
<b>369,801</b>	mental health consultations supported
<b>53</b>	rolled out mobile medical teams/clinics
<b>45</b>	NGOs as implementing partners supported by WHO
<b>83%</b>	immunization (Coverage rate) <b>DPT3</b> (under 1 y)
<b>82%</b>	immunization (Coverage rate) <b>Measles 2</b> (1-2 y)
<b>81%</b>	immunization (Coverage rate) <b>Polio 3</b> (under 1 y)
<b>12,361,550</b>	treatment courses provided
<b>2,508,607</b>	medical procedures provided
<b>94%</b>	of sentinel sites submitting weekly surveillance reports (Completeness)

<b>1,704</b>	sentinel sites submitting weekly surveillance reports
<b>30,794</b>	healthcare providers trained
<b>2,256.6</b>	weight (tons) of all delivered health supplies

## 4. WHO Response

### 4.1. Non-Communicable Diseases and Primary Health Care

- Conducted field visits to the governorate of Hama. Official meetings were held at the Directorate of Health in Hama to address the health needs, gaps, challenges as well as the provision of the needed supplies.
- Visited the cancer registry unit at Hama National Hospital to follow up on the process of data entry, challenges and the needed support using CanReg 5 automated system and the International Classification of Diseases for Oncology ICD O3.

### 4.2. Trauma

- To enhance the capacity of public hospitals for a timely and appropriate response to emergency cases (including COVID-19), 13 433 treatments of life-saving medicines and 25 supplementary Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) were provided.
- Delivered 250 000 treatments to health partners in Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Deir-Ez-Zor governorates.
- Trained 125 health workers from Damascus, Rural Damascus, and Tartous on different trauma and disability topics including: Immediate Life Support and Ventilator Management, Manufacturing of Ankle-Foot Orthoses (AFOs), Rehabilitation of Sports' Injuries, Children and Adults Life Support, and Rehabilitation of patients with lower limb amputation. The objective of this training is to enhance the capacity of health workers in responding effectively to emergencies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### 4.3. Secondary Health Care

- Conducted field visits to Hama governorate through visiting the Hama National Hospital, Al-Assad Hospital, Skelbiah National Hospital and Al-Salamiah Hospital to follow up on:
  - Strengthening the hospital information system through the installation of the IT network.
  - Assessing the readiness of designated isolation hospitals under infection prevention and control as well as case management pillars, in addition to the HeRAMS tool on COVID-19 readiness.

### 4.4. Mental Health

- Conducted five capacity-building activities under the online modality covering Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) and basic psycho-social skills for COVID-19 responders.
- In January 2021, 3 927 MHPSS services were provided through implementing partners in 25 sub-districts.
- In 2020, 8 017 treatments were received for mental disorders at specialized healthcare facilities.
- In 2020, 74 921 psychosocial support services were provided for distressed people.
- In 2020, 44 292 mental disorder cases were managed.

### 4.5. Environmental Health

- WHO has monitored the water quality to check chemical and biological contamination of different water sources, such as water networks, ground wells, reservoirs, water tanks, jerry cans, and also culture to identify pathogens.
- During the reporting period, more than 65 tests were conducted in Rural Aleppo (Northern and Southern parts), as well as 350 tests in Northeast Syria; Al-Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqa, and Deir-ez-Zor (including eight IDPs camps.)
- WHO procured 500 waste containers and donated them to the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment (MoLAE) centrally, as well as to Al-Hassakeh governorate to ensure proper separation of hazardous wastes at health-care facilities to reduce risks on health-care workers and the community.

#### 4.6. Nutrition

- In 2020, data analysis for nutrition surveillance shows that at 927 health centers 1 249 654 services were delivered, where 262 589 were infants and young children at 827 health centers. 27 455 cases of global acute malnutrition were detected.
- In October 2020, data analysis for the neonatal resuscitation programme shows that 70 395 deliveries were performed at 50 hospitals in 12 governorates; 10% of which were premature and 1% were extremely premature (< 28 weeks)
- In 2020, data analysis for the Integrated Management for Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) programme shows that at 354 health centers, 761 048 children services were provided; of which 157 487 received special care and 4 53 were referred to hospitals.
- In 2020, data analysis for the newborn care-at-home programme shows that out of 11 884 home visits, 261 were referred to specialized care.

#### 4.7. Information Products and Related Activities

- Developed and shared the following products:
  - WHO Syria - Summary of key performance indicators; December 2020 and Annual 2020
  - Whole of Syria (WoS) - Summary of key performance indicators; December 2020 and Annual 2020
  - (Health Sector & WHO) 4Ws snapshots across Syria; December 2020 and Annual 2020
  - WoS - 4Ws; October and November 2020
  - WoS - Attacks on health care snapshots; November and December 2020
  - Trend analysis of core healthcare services monitored through HeRAMS and provided by public hospitals and health centers during 2019 and 2020
- Conducted site visits to Hama governorate to evaluate and monitor Health Information Systems supported by WHO
- Updated COVID-19 Dynamic Infographic Dashboard for Syria
- Updated the online item tracking system for COVID-19 in Syria
- Updated Maps for health sector interventions

#### 4.8. External Relations and Communication

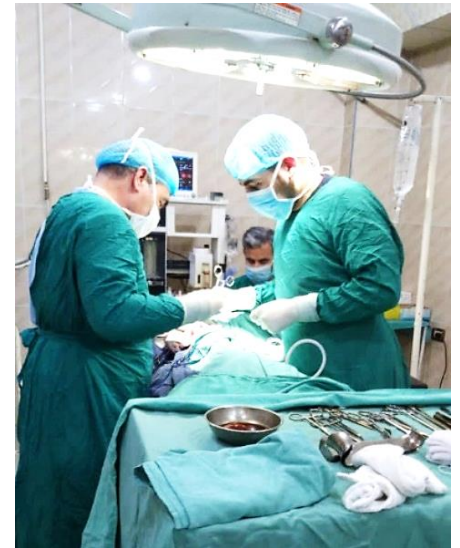
- With a follow-up from EMRO and in coordination with the mental health unit, the Solidarity Initiative proposal “Psycho-social support to parents, caregivers and children through ‘My Hero is You’ coloring book” was finalized. The initiative will be conducted in the governorate of Rural Damascus in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MoSAL). WHO mobilized regional funds to roll out the initiative.
- WHO Syria’s digital and social media channels are regularly updated with new information on COVID-19 and other public health resources.

#### 4.9. Points of Entry

- On 11 January, the Higher Defense Council of Lebanon declared a “Health Emergency State” as well as a complete lockdown and curfew starting from 14–25 January and then extended it till 8 February. Exemptions apply to UN Personnel carrying out critical programme deliveries and operational activities, based on a memo to be issued by the UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon.
- Passengers traveling through Lebanon should hold a negative PCR test with a 96-hour validity before boarding; without such a test, no travel to Lebanon can take place. Also, passengers coming to Syria through Lebanon can stay for a maximum period of 3 hours before crossing the POE to Syria, with a valid PCR test.
- Incoming passengers who will stay in Lebanon for more than 3 hours should, in addition to holding a negative PCR test (issued within the last 96 hours before they arrive at the border), quarantine at home; repeat the PCR test 72 hours later.

#### 4.10. Community Engagement (NGOs)

- Strengthened life-saving and life-sustaining health care services on a referral basis in NES, where 120 patients benefited from trauma care services and 50 others benefited from advanced surgical interventions, mainly from IDP camps and informal settlements.
- Boosted delivery of primary health care services including medical consultation and services related to child health, reproductive health and chronic diseases to reach those in need. 7 081 health services were provided in Damascus and Homs governorates through WHO-supported mobile teams.
- Provided awareness-raising sessions, through WHO-supported mobile medical teams, on HIV/AIDS as well as Mental Health Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS) to the most at-risk population in 9 governorates (Rural-Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Hassakeh, Deir-Ez-Zor, Lattakia, Tartous and Daraa).
- Supported people with disabilities in Homs governorate by providing physical therapy for more than 275 beneficiaries along with the provision of the needed assistive devices.



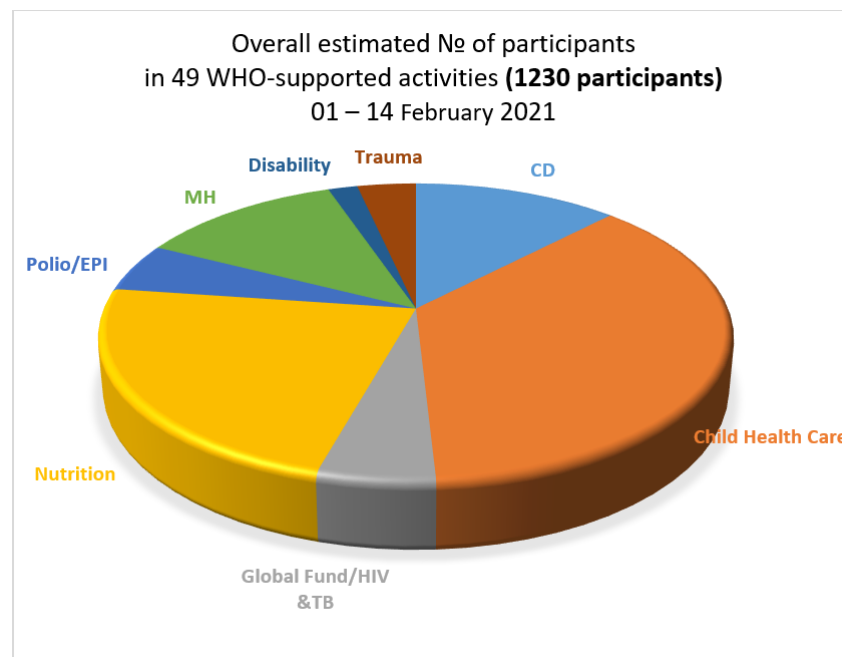
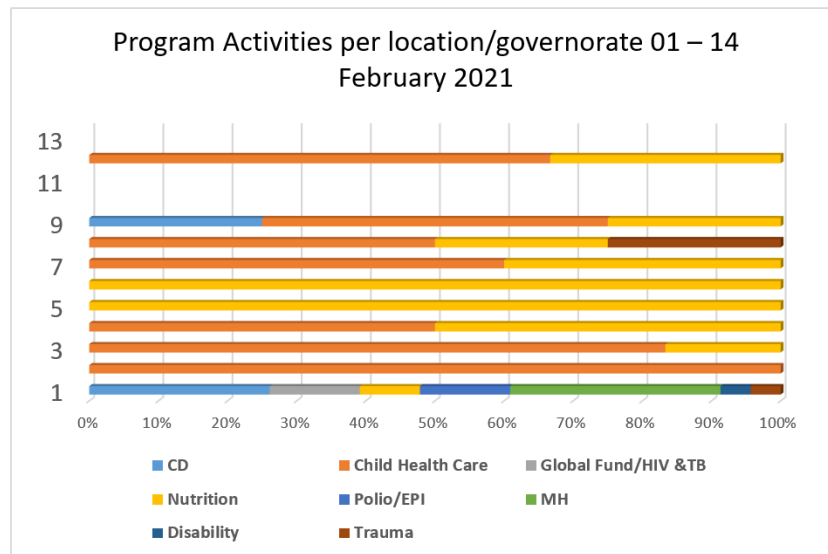
*Strengthening life-saving health care services in NES*

#### 4.11. Operation Support and Logistics

- During last month, dispatched 11.824 tons of medical, lab and ICT supplies, kits, equipment and printing materials, covering 7 governorates (except Homs, Hama, Lattakia, As-Sweida, Quneitra, Idleb and Daraa).
- Recipients include 9 MoH facilities, MoHE, MoLAE, 5 National Hospitals, 1 Primary Healthcare Center, 3 NGOs.
- The total number of treatments supported is 299 587.



## 4.12. Capacity Building



## 4.13. Aleppo Sub-Office

- Successfully updated maps of WHO intervention in Northwest Syria (NWS) through a partnership with non-state actors.
- Followed up on WHO engagement with three implementing partners in NWS which will ensure the delivery of essential health care services under primary, secondary, trauma and MHPSS services.
- Al-Sham NGO continued its outreach activities for HIV high-risk groups; 110 prisoners were targeted by 12 awareness sessions, while 82 did the voluntary test for HIV.
- 375 beneficiaries were screened through the TB mobile clinic in Aleppo; 50 cases were suspected but no cases were confirmed.
- Followed up with MoH / Ibn Khaldoun Mental Health Hospital on procurement procedures and documents required related to lab equipment and psychotropic needs.

#### 4.14. Homs Sub-Office

##### Al-Rukban Returnees:

- The total number of people who left Al-Rukban transiting through Homs shelters remains at 19 977 people, of whom 329 people left Al-Rukban supported by UN/SARC.

##### PHC Services

- The three WHO-supported mobile medical teams in north-east and south-west Hama provided 1 120 medical consultations and 54 psychosocial support services during the reported period.

##### NGOs Services

- WHO supported a health project in Homs with the cooperation of Lamset-Shefa LNGO. Its family wellbeing center in Dar-Al-Kabeera and its two medical mobile teams in Northern and Eastern Rural Homs provided primary and secondary healthcare services as well as management of mental health and psychosocial conditions for people suffering from psychological distress and domestic and gender-based violence at the community level.
- The total number of medical consultations provided was 2239; of these are 510 consultations on acute and chronic diseases, 1230 consultations on child health, and 455 consultations on gynecology and Reproductive Health.
- WHO supported a health project in Homs and Hama, with the cooperation of Al-Sham Association, about “Prevention and Promotion for Health and Mental Health on HIV to the most at-risk population in Syria.” Two teams started awareness raising sessions to the most at-risk population with prisoners in both governorates. Four sessions were completed with a total number of 42 beneficiaries.

#### 4.15. Lattakia Sub-Office

- Participated in a joint meeting with DOH Lattakia to review the 2021 primary health care work plan, update the health coverage map, and prioritize the list of health facilities that need rehabilitation.
- Conducted a field visit to Tishreen University Hospital in Lattakia to collaborate on producing a guideline on COVID-19 clinical diagnostics and lab findings based on WHO guidelines and the hospital’s data collection from 320 COVID-19 patients.
- Followed upon the needs of the hemodialysis center in Lattakia due to the acute shortages in sessions and the limited availability of resources at DOH.
- Conducted COVID-19 Surveillance workshop for MOE health workers in Lattakia, to enhance the capacity of the health directorate, strengthen the surveillance and referral pathway at the school level and improve MoH/MoE coordination.
- In cooperation with Lattakia DoH, finalized the assessment study on rehabilitating the COVID-19 lab in Lattakia as well as the lab at Tishreen University Hospital, and listed the needed equipment and supplies to get the labs operational.
- Followed up on the implementation of the newborn care program.
- In collaboration with Al-Sham NGO, supported a mobile team in Lattakia and Tartous to raise awareness on HIV infection, transmission & protection as per WHO guidelines and protocols, targeting groups with high- transmission rates such as in jails, beach chalets, night club facilities, as well as truck drivers.



*WHO supported workshop on COVID-19 surveillance in Jableh District, Lattakia*

#### 4.16. Al-Qamishli Sub-Office – NES Response

- Conducted one-day training session for NGOs in Al-Qamishli on writing and reporting requirements of project proposals within the framework of WHO partnerships. The training took place on 8 February in WHO office for 5 local NGOs, taking into account the social distancing measures at the venue.
- Conducted a workshop for COVID-19 epidemiological surveillance, in collaboration with the directorate of health in Al-Hassakeh, targeting 22 health workers and educators at schools.
- Conducted a field visit to health facilities in Al-Hol camp to follow-up on the issue of referring COVID-19 suspect cases to COVID-19 training facilities and reminding the healthcare workers about case definition and referral Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
- Continued monitoring the quality of drinking water through regular visits to 4 camps and 18 collective shelters; 290 samples were tested, 6.2% of samples were contaminated on the jerry can level. Also, 18 boreholes were tested and none were contaminated.
- Trained 2 water monitors in Al-Areasha camp in terms of definition, using equipment, sampling and data registration.



*WHO monitors the quality of drinking water in camps in NES*

#### 4.17. Deir-Ez-Zor Sub-Office

- Attended a meeting along with other sister UN agencies in Deir-Ez-Zor Hub with UNHCR delegation visiting from Damascus. Topics discussed included returnees and their needs, areas of high priority, as well as psychosocial support activities. WHO briefed the UNHCR delegation members about the successful experience of cutaneous leishmaniasis campaigns on river ferries that were targeting cases from eastern of Euphrates areas, and the possibility of UNHCR supporting such campaigns with medical points.
- Supported the Directorate of health with medical shipment of 2,000 vials of *Mixtard* insulin, 500 vials of *Actrapid* insulin, and 500 vials of *Insulatard* insulin. In addition to 1800 vials of Ceftriaxone, and 800 vials of Heparin for Hemodialysis units and COVID-19 isolation wards. These medicines will strengthen the capacity of DoH in treating diabetic and COVID-19 patients admitted to the hospital.
- Participated in Sector Technical Review Committees (TRCs) to provide technical advice on proposals of health projects for Deir-Ez-Zor governorate and analyze the feasibility and relevance of proposed project activities within the context of relevant sector criteria and the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan.
- Supported a 5-day Baby-Friendly Hospital (BFH) training workshop through which 25 health workers from the National Hospital were provided with on-site training on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), breastfeeding practices and promotion, difficulties and protection of BFH, physiology of BFH, and strategies of BFH. The training also included special sessions on COVID-19 Risk Communication and Community Engagement.



*WHO delivers medical shipments to Deir-ez-Zor Directorate of Health*



*WHO supports a workshop on Baby-Friendly Hospitals in Deir-Ez-Zor*

## 5. Vaccine Updates

For the latest COVID-19 vaccine updates, please visit [WHO Syria website](#).

## 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](#)

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## جائحة كوفيد-19 COVID-19 Pandemic



Wash your hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub  
اغسل يديك بانتظام بالماء والصابون أو بمطهر يحتوي على الكحول



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، يادر عزل نفسك وسارع بالتماس الرعاية الطبية إذا شعرت بصعوبة في التنفس



Cough or sneeze into your bended arm or use disposable tissue  
عند السعال أو العطس احم وجهك بمنديل أو استخدم منديل احدى الاستعمال

For more information: للمزيد من المعلومات  
[www.emro.who.int/COVID19](http://www.emro.who.int/COVID19)



World Health Organization  
www.who.int Eastern Mediterranean