



Campaign against suicide and violence

HEALTH SECTOR BULLETIN
DECEMBER 2019

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Emergency type: Level 3 Emergency
Reporting period: 01-12-2019 to 31-12-2019



HIGHLIGHTS	HEALTH SECTOR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 277 Health Facilities are supported by Health Sector Partners in 14 governorates. In Al Hol Camp, access to primary health care services has improved with 15 static medical points, eight medical mobile teams and three field hospitals functioning. Specialist services are also available through three delivery clinics, two HIV and TB clinics, and two static and two mobile teams for vaccinations and leishmaniasis. WHO has conducted assessment in 143 communities in 7 governorates (Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Homs, and Idleb) to assess the health situation. WHO delivered 147.7 tons of medical, laboratory, WASH, nutritional supplies, printing material and generators - covering 10 governorates. The shipments are sufficient to provide more than 521,834 treatment courses and treat 3,750 trauma cases. DOH has conducted the second round of the localized campaign in rural Deir-ez-Zor for 15 days to improve routine vaccination activities. The campaign has covered 4 districts (Mayadin, Hajein, Abo-Kammal, Swaer), and vaccinated 45987 children. 8 health facilities were rehabilitated by health partners during this month in Aleppo, Dara, Rural Damascus, Deir ez Zor and Homs. 	59 HEALTH SECTOR PARTNERS
	15 IEHK BASIC KITS 05 IEHK SUPPLEMENTARY KITS 07 TRAUMA A & B KITS 97 NCD KITS
	277 HEALTH FACILITIES
	1,182,880 IMEDICAL PROCEDURES 798,741 TREATMENT COURSES 44,485 TRAUMA CASES
	28,045 PENTA 3
	1,256 REPORTING SITES
	449.1 M REQUESTED 167M (37%) FUNDING RECEIVED (FTS)

Situation update

The security situation remains unstable and volatile, with the main hot spots in Al-Hasakah, Ar-Raqqah, Aleppo, Latakia, Hama and Idlib governorates. Hundreds of thousands of people in northeast and northwest Syria are at risk amid ongoing violence. The civilians continue to pay a very high price. The Turkish army- supported offensive led to massive displacement of population toward south areas of Hasakeh, Raqqqa, Ein issa and Tel Tamir.

In northeast Syria **73, 859 people remain displaced** while **125, 772 people have returned** to their areas of origin in Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqqa, and Aleppo governorates. Approximately **13 per cent** of all population movements recorded represent secondary displacement / movement i.e. from host community to collective shelter and vice versa, as well as movement/relocation between camps/sites.

More than 14,000 IDPs are residing in collective shelters in Al-Hasakeh. The health services to the Collective Shelters are delivered by the nearest health facilities whereas in some shelters the health partners have delivered health services using mobile clinics or mobile teams.

These recent displacements have compounded an already dire situation in which 710,000 people were already displaced, and approximately 1.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance.

Over **17,000 Syrians** have entered Iraq through informal crossing points; 74 percent are women and children

The population of **Al Hol is 66,101 people (18,208 HHs)**; comprising of 46 per cent Iraqis (30,724), 39 per cent Syrians (25,780) and 15 per cent third country nationals (TCNs) (9,597). Since June 2019, 4,085 residents have departed Al Hol, including more than 2,622 Syrians and around 1,430 Third Country National (TCN) women and children. In December 2019, 907 IDPs departed for Deir-ez-Zor and in January, 315 IDPs left for Ath Thawra town in Ar-Raqqqa under tribal sponsorship arrangements

The access to primary health care services in Al Hol Camp has improved with **15** static medical points, **eight** medical mobile teams and **three** field hospitals functioning. Specialist services are also available through **three delivery clinics**, two HIV and TB clinics, and two static and two mobile teams for vaccinations and leishmaniosis. Five health actors are supporting Areesha Camp, while six health actors with seven health facilities are active in Al-Mahmoudli camp.

The total number of people who left Rukban transiting through Homs shelters remains at 19,054 people. As of 31 December, the total number of people remaining at the shelters is only 27 (10 males, 6 females, 6 children and 5 infants):

- **14 people** from group No.31 are still in Mahmoud Othman shelter.
- **2 people** from group No.30 are still in Baraa Ibn Malek shelter.
- **11 people** from groups No. 28+29 are still in Abdul Rahman Shattoor shelter

Public health risks, priorities, needs and gaps

The ongoing conflict, violence and displacement have grave public health consequences with increased morbidities, mortalities and disabilities among affected and vulnerable population. The most affected are children, women and elderly people.

Despite challenges, Ministry of Health and humanitarian partners continue to assist people in need where access is possible with focus on collective shelters and IDP camps delivering essential health services.

With the deplorable condition of the health facilities and inadequate clean water, there is a likelihood of a rise in the communicable diseases. In the face of high levels of displacement and accompanying threats to physical and mental well-being, surveillance and response capacity for epidemic-prone diseases, as well as immunization services, must be maintained and strengthened.

A joint assessment mission was conducted by WHO, UNFPA, and UNDP on 23 Dec 2019 to the eastern countryside

of Deir-ez-Zor (Sbekhan and Al-Kouriy) to assess the rehabilitation needs of delivery centers and health centers. The output of the assessment mission is to plan joint projects by the three organizations in a coordinated way:

- UNDP- to undertake the rehabilitation the centers.
- UNFPA - to supports the centers by providing reproductive health services.
- WHO – to provide medical equipment related to primary health care.

Communicable diseases

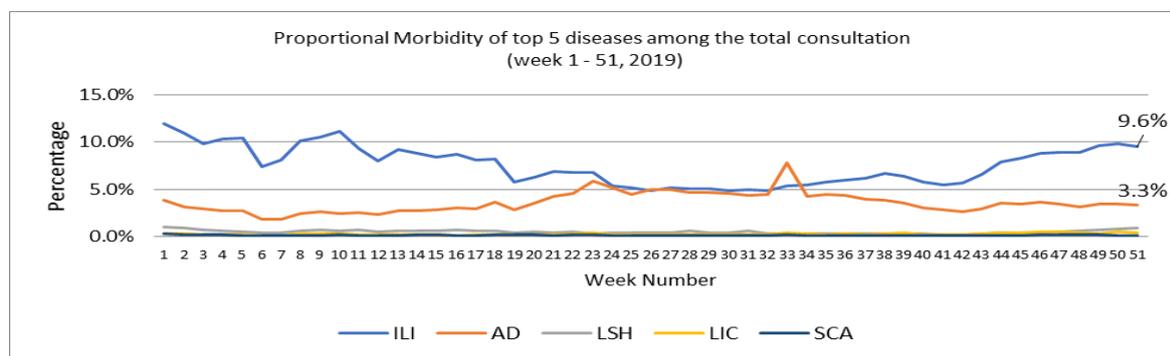
EWARS and epidemiological updates at national level

Surveillance performance:

- A total of 1176 out of 1256 active reporting sites (93.7%) in all 14 governorates of Syria reported through early warning alert and response system (EWARS) with 89.0 % of timeliness.
- Six reporting sites were newly recruited (five sites in Al-Hasakeh, and one in Tartous) .
- Total number of consultations was 803 072. 50.3% of the cases were among females and 42.3% were among children under 5 years.
- Out of the 803 072 total consultations, a total of 123 568 EWARS notifiable cases were reported.

Morbidity:

- The leading causes of morbidity among all age groups were influenza-like illnesses, and acute diarrhoea. The breakdown was as follows:
 - Influenza-like illness (ILI): 77 711, accounting for 67.7% of total cases. Most cases reported from Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor and Lattakia.
 - Acute diarrhoea (AD): 27 492 (24.0% of total cases), most reported from Deir-ez-Zor, Aleppo, and Idleb.
 - Acute jaundice syndrome (AJS): 1 256 most reported from Deir-ez-Zor, Idleb, and Ar-Raqqa.
 - Sever acute respiratory infections (SARI): 961, most reported from Tartous, Hama and Damascus.
 - Suspected measles (SM): 95, most reported from Ar-Raqqa, Idleb and Aleppo.
 - Acute flaccid paralysis (AFP): 17, most reported from Hama, As-Sweida, Aleppo and Rural Damascus.
 - For the “other diseases” category 15 599 cases were reported, with the most reported cases is leishmaniasis of cases (6580), most reported from Deir-ez-Zor, Aleppo, and Idleb



EWARS and epidemiological situation in Al-Hol camp

Surveillance performance:

- Total number of reporting site is 23.
- Average completeness of reporting 93.5%, and average timelines is 100.0%.
- Total number of consultations were 29 732. 58.3% of the cases were among females and 48.6% were distributed among children under 5 years.

Morbidity:

- Out of the 29 732 total consultations, 5119 EWARS notifiable cases were reported.
- The leading causes of morbidity among all age groups were influenza-like illnesses (56.3%/2884) were acute diarrhoea (28.8%/1472).
- Two suspected measles was reported, and the both cases were under 5-year-old
- Zero cases of AFP reported.

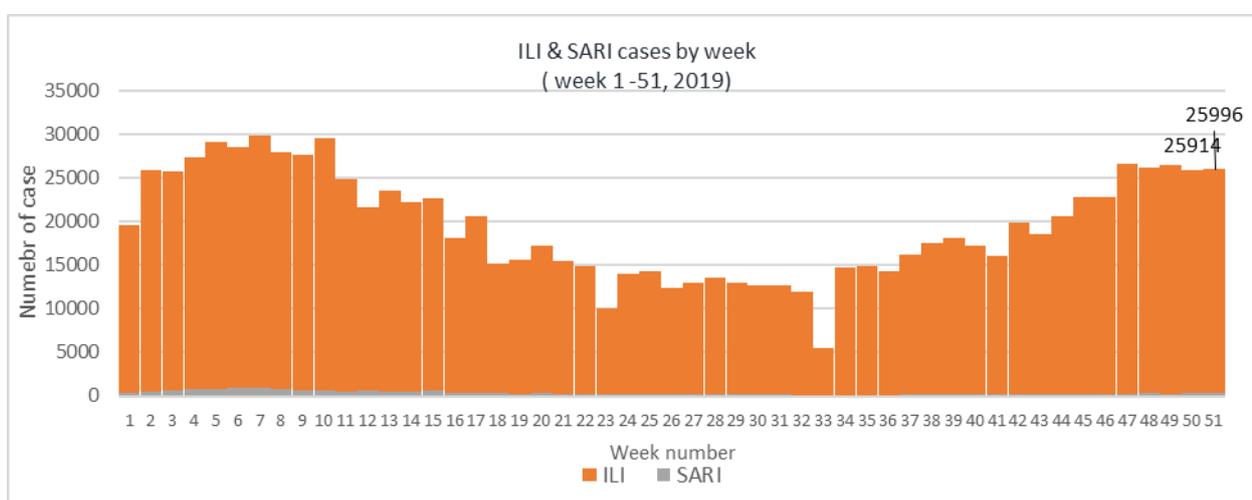
Public health responses

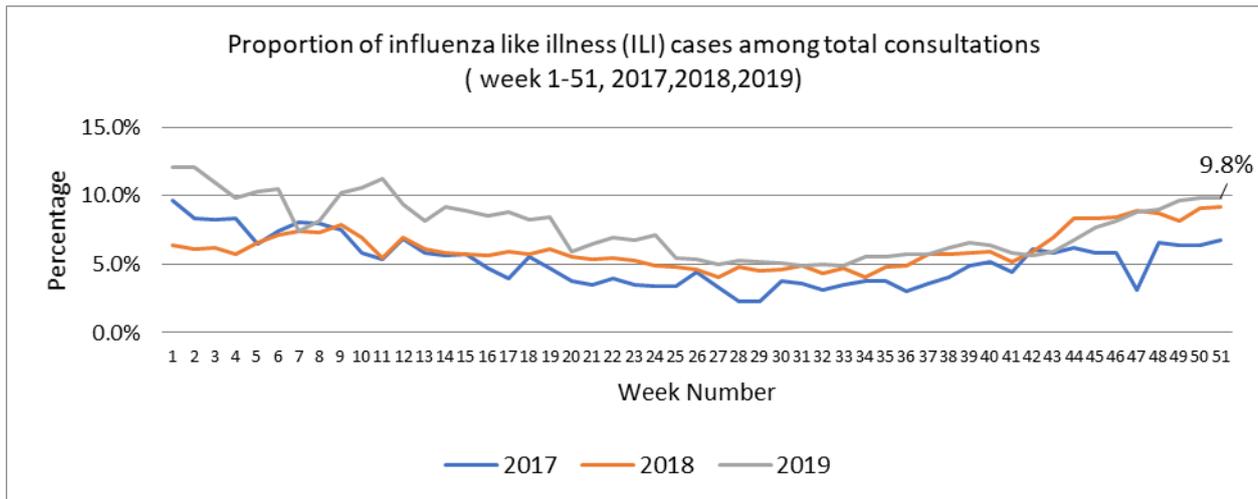
Suspected measles

A total of 95 suspected measles cases was reported during December 2019. All the cases were investigated by rapid response teams of the health directorates except for the cases reported from Idleb governorate (19 cases) where the access is limited. The blood specimens from 76 suspected cases were collected and tested for IgM ELISA at the reference laboratory in Damascus. The laboratory result showed all the tested 76 samples were negative for measles.

Influenza

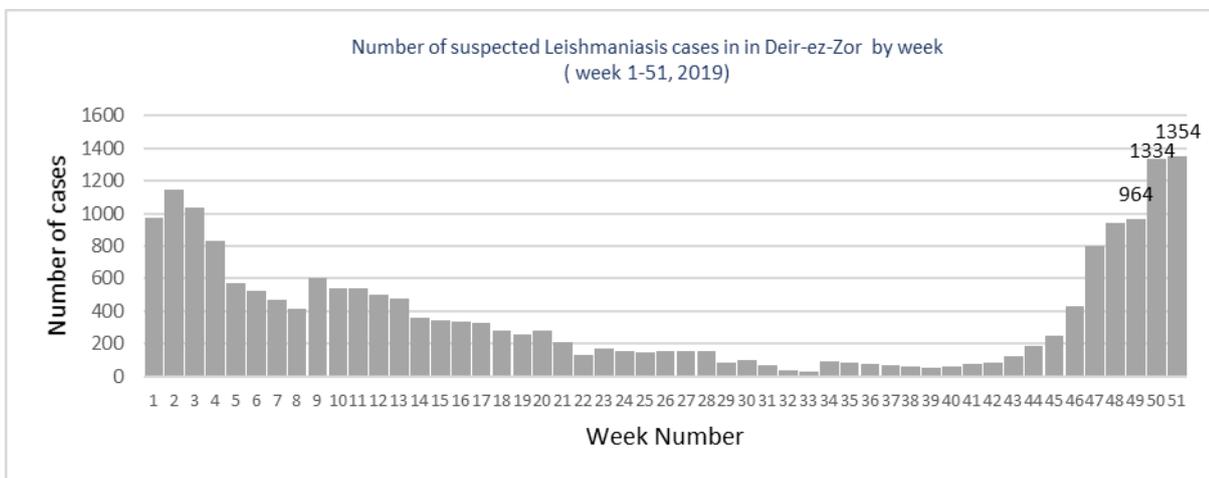
- An increase of proportional morbidity of influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) has been observed. This trend is in line with the seasonality of the diseases considering that the same trend was observed in the previous two years.
- Between 20 October and 20 December, a total of 36 samples were collected from SARI cases admitted to ICU and tested at the influenza reference laboratory. Among them, 12 tested positive for influenza (seven cases were influenza type A- not subtyped, and five cases were type B) while 24 were negative for influenza.
- WHO procured 90 000 doses of seasonal influenza vaccine and donated 50 000 doses to MoH, 25 000 doses to the Ministry of High Education, and the rest to the partners. Also WHO delivered the laboratory devises (Real-Time PCR and Endpoint RT-PCR Kits) to subtyping influenza type A and B.





Cutaneous leishmaniasis

- The total of 6580 suspected cutaneous leishmaniasis were reported and most reported from Deir-ez-Zor, Aleppo and Idleb in December. Specifically, in Deir-ez-Zor, a significant increase of suspected cutaneous leishmaniasis has been observed since mid of October. A total of 3652 cases were reported in December.
- WHO donated the national leishmaniasis programme with more than 80 000 ampoules of meglumine antimoniate (Glucantim) to cover the treatment of more than 16 000 cases. WHO also provided 12 000 ampoules of meglumine antimoniate to the local health authority in Deir-ez-Zor to response the cases in the Eastern side of the Euphrates. This quantity can cover approximately 2 400 cases for 5 injections (1-2 months).



HIV/AIDS

- WHO procured HIV rapid diagnostic kits to support 7500 tests, which to be delivered to the National HIV/AIDS programme.

Tuberculosis

- WHO has provided to MoH with multidrug-resistant TB medicines for 18 cases.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Services

The number of mental health consultations provided by health actors stands at **28,091**.

There is continue scaling up MHPSS services in NES in coordination with partners and Qamishli hub.

Health facility Functionality

According to HeRAMS June 2019 report, out of 111 hospitals, 58 (52%) are fully functioning, 27 (24%) partially functioning and 26 (24%) are non-functioning. Out of 1808 Public health centers, 833 (46%) are functioning, 389 (22%) partially functioning and 586 (32%) are non-functioning.

Availability of health staff

Pharmacists represent (1%) of the total health staff at centers' level, along with resident doctors (2%) followed by general practitioners (4%); laboratory (6%); Specialists (7%); dentists (10%); midwives (12%); and nurses (58%).

Health Sector Action

Health Sector Coordination and service delivery

During this month, one regularly scheduled health sector coordination meetings were held on 24 December and were attended by national Syrian NGOs, international NGOs, SARC and observers.

The health sector partners delivered health services and the cumulative monthly indicators (November) are summarized in the below table:

	HRP Indicator 2019 (Per Month)	November
Medical procedures	1.1.1 Number of outpatient consultations provided	1,094,623
	1.1.2 Total number of trauma consultations supported	44,485
	1.1.3 Number of mental health consultations supported	28,091
	1.1.4 Number of physical rehabilitation sessions supported	6,039
	1.1.5 Number of vaginal deliveries attended by a skilled attendant	4,200
	1.1.6 Number of caesarean sections supported	3,976
	1.1.7 Number of cases referred for treatment (between levels of care, cross-line and cross-border)	1,466

Immunization

The Ministry of Health (DOH) in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF has conducted the second round of the localized campaign in rural Deir-ez-Zor for 15 days to improve the routine vaccination coverage. The campaign has covered 4 districts (Mayadin, Hajein, Abo-Kammal, Swaer). 45987 children were vaccinated.



Vaccination Team in the field

Child Health

28,045 children were immunized for Penta 3

Reproductive Health

Skilled birth attendants conducted **4,200 normal deliveries** while 3,976 mothers underwent caesarean sections.

Health Cluster Partners Updates – November 2019

Health Cluster Partners continued supporting health service delivery across the country. Some of the highlights are;

World Health Organization

IMCI training workshop has been conducted in Deir ez Zor for 25 health workers from six rural health centers. The training was conducted by PHC department in Ministry of Health.

The output of this training is that PHCs of Al Husseinayah, Hatla, Mu Hassan, Al Quriyah, Al Mayadin, and Mehkan villages will provide IMCI service which is important in the prevailing situation when there is shortage of doctors.

WHO in collaboration with DOH and NGOs in Lattakia conducted **One month of “Suicide Prevention Campaign”** targeting population (15 - 29 years old) in schools, universities, health centers and public gatherings. The campaign focused on,

- Briefing on suicide prevention and GBV.
- Highlight referral pathways: NGO / NGO coordination, NGO/ DOH coordination, where and how to receive a specialized MHPSS care.
- Demonstrate academic acting activities by “SACSN” NGO team (15 persons), representing main causes of depression and suicide, how to deal with it, when to ask for help and the journey of surviving.

A total of 50,000 beneficiaries received awareness services.



Assessment mission to Tal Eddaman

UNICEF

UNICEF supported health and nutrition mobile teams carried out the below activities in 12 villages in Sanjar sub-district.

The achievements were;

- **Expanded programme on Immunization (EPI):** Well-coordinated efforts between key partners on the ground (Directorates of Idleb and Hama, UNICEF, and Governor Office) within the health sector significantly contributed to ensure that children have access to routine immunization services in areas with large concentration of returnees. During the reporting period, 255 children U5 years were reached with one of the following antigens (BCG, DTP, MMR, IPV and OPV). Most of them were partially or fully defaulters of routine immunization.
- **Primary Health Care (PHC):** During the reporting period; 187 children U15 years benefited from integrated package of health services including out-patient consultations and health supplies. It is worth to mention that the number of health services provided during the reporting period is 738 including distribution of health supplies.



UNICEF supported mobile team- Abu Elige village- Sanjar

- **Nutrition Programme:** DoH with support from UNICEF provided community-based counselling and raised awareness on the importance of exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding reaching 53 pregnant and lactating women in newly accessible areas in Idleb. Emphasis was placed on prevention of malnutrition by providing supplementary food and multi-micronutrients to children and their mothers across Sanjar sub-district. To this end, over 201 children and pregnant and lactating women were screened and provided with complementary and lipid-based supplementary food.

UNFPA

As fighting rages in north-eastern Syria, UNFPA and partners rush to meet the needs of women

Al Tapqa, Syria – As clashes rage on in north-eastern Syria, the toll on civilians and health systems continue to mount. Mass displacements have complicated the delivery of basic health services, including reproductive health and maternal health

care. It is estimated that approximately 18,860 women of reproductive age are among the currently displaced. These women and girls require services, including menstrual hygiene supplies and maternal health care

Hope amid turmoil

Ms. Al Issa was first displaced three years ago when her house in Al Qadisia Village was demolished, and

subsequently displaced again. Today she lives in Al Tapqqa, a city in Ar-Raqqa governorate, in unfinished house provided by a host family.

In the final months of her pregnancy, Ms. Al Issa was able to receive maternal health services from a clinic operated by the non-profit organization Al Mawada, with support from UNFPA. The clinic serves 50 to 60 women each day, about half of them pregnant. Ms. Al Issa went into labour on 25 December, weeks into the escalation of hostilities in the area. Still, her delivery went smoothly, thanks to skilled care provided by Hanan, a midwife at the clinic. "Asma'a gave birth without any complications," Hanan later recalled. Ms. Al Issa and her new daughter – her fourth child – were discharged in good condition. "I really was worried before giving birth," Asma'a Al Issa, 32, told UNFPA. They took home post-partum and neonatal care supplies provided by the clinic. Holding a healthy baby had left Ms. Al Issa in high spirits. "Now I am very happy to have a baby girl," she told UNFPA.



UNFPA is working with partners to meet the needs of women and girls. © UNFPA Syria

Proud to serve every day

Dr. Adnan, a reproductive health coordinator working in the area, is proud of the care health workers have been able to provide, even amid the recent unrest. "Asma'a is not a special case or an exception," Dr. Adnan said. "She is one of thousands displaced and deprived families that we serve every day."

Hanan echoed those sentiments. "It is a great mission to save her and her new baby's life," she said.

Plans for future response

Planning to conduct Cluster coordination performance monitoring during 1st Q 2020

Finalizing health sector component of HNO and HRP 2020

CONTACTS

Damascus national level	Aleppo sub-national level	Homs sub-national level	Lattakia/Tartous sub-national level	Qamishli (north-east Syria): sub-national level
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