HEALTH SECTOR BULLETIN  
NOVEMBER 2019

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Emergency type: Level 3 Emergency  
Reporting period: 01-11-2019 to 30-11-2019

HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of 277 Health Facilities are supported by Health Sector Partners in 14 governorates.

- More than 12 Health Partners are delivering health care services in Al Hol Camp and other camps in northeast Syria despite all challenges with more than 20 functional static health centers, 10 mobile clinics and teams, 3 delivery clinics and 3 hospitals.

- The health sector Strategic/Technical Review Committee reviewed six proposals submitted by UNICEF, UNFPA, TdH, Rescate, Syrian Society to cure cancer of children, and Al Bir Association for Social Services for 3rd Reserve Allocation for northeast Syria.

- WHO delivered shipments of 115 tons of medicines, medical supplies and equipment to northeast Syria. The shipments are sufficient to provide more than 400,000 treatment courses.

- 11594 women reached with antenatal care, post-natal care, reproductive tract infections, family planning and referral services in northeast Syria.

- MoH in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF conducted Sub National Polio campaign from 17-21 November targeting almost 1 million children under the age of 5 years of age in 10 high risk governorates with one dose of bivalent OPV vaccine. The reported coverage is 95%.

- 9 health facilities were rehabilitated by health partners during this month in Aleppo, Dara, Rural Damascus, Deir ez Zor and Homs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KITS DELIVERED TO HEALTH FACILITIES/PARTNERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 IEHK BASIC KITS</td>
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<tr>
<td>34 IEHK SUPPLEMENTARY KITS</td>
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<td>16 TRAUMA A &amp; B KITS</td>
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<td>17 NCD KITS</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPPORTED HEALTH FACILITIES</th>
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<td>277 HEALTH FACILITIES</td>
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<th>HEALTH ACTION</th>
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<tr>
<td>1,215,234 IMEDICAL PROCEDURES</td>
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<td>1,053,205 TREATMENT COURSES</td>
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<td>28,458 TRAUMA CASES</td>
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<tr>
<th>VACCINATION</th>
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<td>30,678 PENTA 3</td>
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<tr>
<th>EWARS</th>
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<td>1,248 REPORTING SITES</td>
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<th>FUNDING $US</th>
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<tr>
<td>449.1 M REQUESTED</td>
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<td>167M (37%) FUNDING RECEIVED (FTS)</td>
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**Situation update**

The security situation remains unstable and volatile, with the main hot spots in Al-Hasakah, Ar-Raqqa, 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, Raqqa, Ein issa and Tel Tamir.

227,702 population movements have been recorded since military operations began on 9 October:

- **74,531 people remain displaced** from Al-Hasakeh (42,727), Ar-Raqqa (24,721) and Aleppo (7,083) governorates
- **123,289 people have returned** to their areas of origin in Al-Hasakeh (71,367), Ar-Raqqa (41,817) and Aleppo (10,105) 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.

Overall, **97 active collective shelters** in Al-Hasakeh (95) and Ar-Raqqa (2) governorates are accommodating 17,581 people (4,097 HHs) – an additional 32 collective shelters, all in Al-Hasakeh governorate, are now empty.

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 health service delivery has improved in Al Hol camp with 15 static medical points, 8 medical mobile teams, 3 delivery clinics, 2 HIV and TB clinics, 3 field hospitals, 1 static point for the vaccine in addition to a mobile team, 1 static point for Leishmaniasis in addition to one mobile team. Five health actors are supporting Areesha Camp, while six health actors with seven health facilities are active in Al-Mahmoudi camp.

The total number of people who left Rukban transiting through Homs shelters remains at **18,599 people**. Between 22 and 24 November, **97 people** (50 males, 20 females, 20 children and 7 infants) **left** the shelters.

- 20 people (16 males, 3 females, and 1 child) left **Baraa ibn Malek** shelter
- 77 people (34 males, 17 females, 19 children and 7 infants) left **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.

Communicable diseases

EWARS and epidemiological updates at national level

Surveillance performance.

- A total of 1172 out of 1248 active reporting sites (93.9%) in all 14 governorates of Syria reported through early warning alert and response system (EWARS) with 87.9% of timeliness.
- 32 reporting sites were newly recruited (6 in Al-Hasakeh, 7 in Ar-Raqqa, 14 in Aleppo, and 5 in Deir-ez-Zor).
- Total number of consultations was 806 538. 50.6% of the cases were among females and 43.9% were among children under 5 years.
- Out of the 806 538 total consultations, a total of 114 735 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): 70 202, accounting for 61.1% of total cases. Most cases reported from Aleppo, Lattakia and Deir-ez-Zor.
  - Acute diarrhoea (AD): 28 270 (24.6% of total cases), most reported from Deir-ez-Zor, Idleb, and Aleppo.
  - Acute jaundice syndrome (AJS): 1 324 most reported from Deir-ez-Zor, Idleb, and Ar-Raqqa.
  - Sever acute respiratory infections (SARI): 687, most reported from Damascus, Hama and Tartous.
  - Suspected measles (SM): 116, most reported from Ar-Raqqa, Idleb and Aleppo.
  - Acute flaccid paralysis (AFP): 11, most reported from Homs, Aleppo and Damascus. 1
  - For the “other diseases” category 11 588 cases were reported, with the most reported cases is leishmaniasis of cases (3 767), most reported from Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, and Idleb.
**EWARS and epidemiological situation in Al-Hol camp**

**Surveillance performance:**

- Total number of reporting site is 18.
- Average completeness of reporting 90.3%, and average timelines is 100.0%.
- Total number of consultations were 27,216. 59.1% of the cases were among females and 49.7% were distributed among children under 5 years.

**Morbidity:**

- Out of the 27,216 total consultations, 3,521 EWARS notifiable cases were reported.
- The leading causes of morbidity among all age groups were influenza-like illnesses (49.1%/1,728) were acute diarrhoea (41.2%/1,449).
- One suspected measles was reported, and all cases were under 5 years’ old
- Zero cases of AFP reported.

**Public health responses**

**Suspected measles**

A total of 116 suspected measles cases was reported during November 2019. All the cases were investigated by rapid response teams of the health directorates except for the cases reported from Idleb governorate (23 cases) where the access is limited. The blood specimens from 116 suspected cases were collected and tested for IgM ELISA at the reference laboratory in Damascus. The laboratory result showed all the tested 116 samples were negative for measles.

**Acute flaccid paralysis**

11 AFP cases were reported during November 2019. Six cases were under 5 years old, and five case are above 5 years old. The stool sample from all 11 cases reported were collected and tested at the polio reference laboratory in Damascus, and the result showed the case were negative for poliomyelitis.
**Influenza**
- An increase of proportional morbidity of influenza-like illness (ILI) 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.
- WHO procured 90,000 doses of seasonal influenza vaccine procured to be donated to MoH and the Ministry of High Education.

**Cutaneous Leishmaniasis**
- The total of 3,767 suspected cutaneous leishmaniasis were reported and most reported from Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, and Idleb in November. A significant increase of suspected cutaneous leishmaniasis in Deir-ez-Zor has been observed since mid of October.
- WHO provided 12,000 ampoules of meglumine antimoniate (Glucantim) the local health authority. This quantity can cover approximately 2,400 cases for 5 injections (1-2 months).
- Three days' workshop on cutaneous leishmaniasis case management was conducted jointly with MoH and WHO between 12 and 14 November in Aleppo. 35 participants (dermatologists from MoH, MoHE and private sectors) participated and reviewed the policy and the practices of diagnosis and treatment.
- WHO works with MOH to finalize the Syrian National guidelines of cutaneous leishmaniasis to ensure the consistency with the WHO recommendations.

**HIV/AIDS**
- Two suspected HIV/AIDS cases were reported in Al-Hasakeh. Both cases were adults. WHO supported DoH Al-Hasakeh rapid response team to invest the cases. The blood samples were collected and tested in the laboratory. The laboratory analysis showed that the both cases were negative for HIV/AIDS.
- WHO delivered antiretroviral medicine to the National AIDS programme for the treatment of 284 HIV patients for one year.
- WHO supported MoH to organize the new TB guideline workshop between 10 to 12 November in Damascus. During the workshop, the use of new TB regimen and the monitoring mechanism of DOT were introduced. 32 physicians in TB MoH centers and the military medical services participated.
WASH
Water quality monitoring

- Rural Damascus: In total, 71 water samples were tested by ATP measurement and laboratory in 13 neighborhoods. 28 samples from water tanks, 31 samples from wells and 12 samples from water network. Among them, microbial contamination was found in 11 samples from tank, five samples from wells and two samples from water network.
- Aleppo: The total of 136 water samples was tested by ATP measurement (110 samples from reservoirs and 26 from jerry cans) in six villages in the Eastern Countryside and two villages in Southern countryside. Among them, microbial contamination was found 30 from reservoirs and 20 jerry cans. A laboratory analysis of 64 samples from the wells were performed and 24 samples were microbiologically and chemically contaminated.
- Al-Hasakeh:
  - Water sources in Al-Hozemee, Tal Azzan station, Al-Aqqaidy, Al-Daly, Abu-Suleiman, Shamouka: six water samples were collected each from six water sources which provide drinking water to Al-Hol camp, Areesha camp and the collective shelters in Al-Hasakeh. The laboratory results showed that there is no bacterial contamination in all 6 samples.
  - Collective shelters (64 shelters in Al-Hasakeh city): the water samples from 64 tanks were tested (one for each shelter). Among them, microbial contamination was not found.
  - Five IDP camps (Al Mahmoudli, Areesha, Rouge, Al-Hol and Abu Khashab): 229 tests were performed by ATP measurement, TDS, and PH including 53 water trucks, 82 water tanks, and 94 jerry cans (10L). Among them, microbial contamination was found in the samples from one water tank and 27 jerry cans.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Services

The number of mental health consultations provided by health actors stands at 33,229, an increase of almost 25% as compared to the last month.

Continue scaling up MHPSS services in NES in coordination with partners and Qamishly hub, as 4 capacity building activities were conducted, psychological first aid and first line support, and mhGAP.

MHPSS services were provided in 14 locations across NES, through many modalities of health static facilities, mobile teams, family wellbeing centers, and caravans" providing mainly psychological first aid, basic counselling for newly IDPs and traumatized population, mhGAP consultations' in health facilities, raising awareness sessions, with the specialized services provided by MHFP in NES.

Dissemination of promotional items on the World Mental Health Day to many governmental and nongovernmental partners across the country. Up to 15 capacity building activities were conducted across the country for more than 275 health and community workers from different partners, on different programmes such as mhGAP, counselling and problem management.

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, two regularly scheduled health sector coordination meetings were held on 12 and 28 November and were attended by national Syrian NGOS, international NGOs, SARC and observers.

The Health Sector participated in 2 ISC meetings and 2 HCT meetings at national level while at Hub level the hub Health Sector Coordinators attended AHCT meetings.

The regular meetings were also held at hubs and in Al Hole Camp.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HRP Indicator 2019 (Per Month)</th>
<th>September</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1.1 Number of outpatient consultations provided</td>
<td>1,140,986</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1.2 Total number of trauma consultations supported</td>
<td>28,458</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1.3 Number of mental health consultations supported</td>
<td>33,229</td>
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<td>1.1.4 Number of physical rehabilitation sessions supported</td>
<td>2,052</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1.5 Number of vaginal deliveries attended by a skilled attendant</td>
<td>4,669</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1.6 Number of caesarean sections supported</td>
<td>4,151</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1.7 Number of cases referred for treatment (between levels of care, cross-line and cross-border)</td>
<td>1,689</td>
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Immunization

The Ministry of Health in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF conducted a Sub National Polio campaign from 17–21 November targeting almost 1 million children under the age of 5 years of age in 10 high risk governorates with one dose of bivalent OPV vaccine.

The reported coverage is 728,311 children from the total accessible (accessible = 767,166 children) hence the adjusted coverage is 95%. The vaccination teams in Raqqa and Hassakeh have targeted collective shelters, IDP in camps and within the host community as well.

EPI team in Aleppo was able to access some villages in Ain al Arab district and vaccinated 348 children in routine immunization sessions, in addition to vaccination of 3157 children of 0-59 months against polio during the sub national polio campaign.
Child Health

30,678 children were immunized for Penta 3

Reproductive Health

Skilled birth attendants conducted 4,669 normal deliveries while 4,151 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

Supported outreach health services by delivering two mobile clinics to local NGOs in rural Damascus (Lamset Shifa) and Hama (Amal Elbir and social care).

179,667 treatments of life saving medicines and medical kits delivered to public hospitals and health partners in Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Al Hassakeh. In addition, 1770 trauma cases of trauma medical kits (10 surgical kits, 41 burn kits) delivered to public hospitals and health partners in Aleppo, Lattakia, Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hassakeh.

Distribution of artificial limbs components and manufacturing materials sufficient to produce 170 artificial limbs to three NGOs.

Conducted 4 Workshops on “Prematurity” with Aleppo university and The Syrian Society of the Newborn to celebrate the International Day of Prematurity.

Using HeRAMS, updated information of 10 proposed hospitals for establishing trauma referral pathways to provide urgent life-saving assistance for the displaced population and civilians in northeast.
UNICEF

Three C4D campaigns preceded polio vaccination campaigns for three days in three Governorates, where community engagement activities were carried out by DoH workers through home visits, awareness sessions, announcement by microphones, and distribution of IEC materials.

The achievements were:

- in Hassakeh governorate 4,479 households visited and **288 mother sessions** conducted
- in Ar Raqqah governorate 3,410 of households visited and **113 mother sessions** conducted
- in Deir Ezzor 1181 of households visited and **49 community leader's meetings** conducted

Additionally, two C4D campaigns for routine immunization were implemented by DoHs. The first campaign was conducted in Al Hol camp for foreigner's annexes where **1440 households visited** from different nationalities and the second campaign was in Ar-Raqqah governorate in 34 collective centers as a part of emergency response. Also 48 shelter centers in Al-Hasakeh have been targeted by C4D partner through provision of health and nutrition messages by visiting **2120 households** and conducting 98 IYCF group sessions, 818 individual sessions by 15 IYCF counselors.

UNHCR

During November an estimated **26,554 IDPs, and 3079 refugees & asylum seekers** assisted to access basic package of primary health care services through 13 PHCs supported by UNHCR in Damascus, rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Aleppo and Al Hasakeh. Services included medical consultations and investigations. Treatment courses were provided to an estimated **12,044 IDPs** and **2097 refugees & asylum seekers**

**271 IDPs** with critical medical conditions and **214 refugees** in need for secondary care were referred by UNHCR partners to hospitals and received free of charge secondary care services.

Estimated **11,100 PoCs** reached by community based health activities through 20 health points in community centers in Hassakeh, rural Hassakeh, Aleppo, rural Aleppo, rural Hama, rural Homs, Tartous, rural Tartous, Qunaitra, rural Daraa and rural Damascus. **3130** received basic medical consultation, while **7970 PoC** participated and benefited of health promotion and disease prevention activities conducted by community health workers inside and outside the community centers.
A touching story by Mosaic

On 30/10/2019, an 11-year-old child with articulation disorder and behavioral problems visited us. He was assessed by our Mental Health department. The family had three siblings and he was the youngest.

The mother informed that her child had a Dysarthria, which caused him behavioral problems at school and at home. The child did not suffer from any growth disorder, but rather a difficulty in expressing his needs due to inability to communicate with others. He was hostile most of the time. Some of his friends made fun of his way of speaking. He underperformed at school.

The mother was instructed to follow up on the child’s attendance of articulation therapy sessions at a specialized center and to attend psychological support sessions to learn the proper way to support the child by being calm and patient while dealing with him and preventing others from mocking him in addition to avoiding physical or verbal punishment because it aggravated his hostile behavior.

Communicating with the school and concerned parties to be aware of the status of the child and advising teachers/parents to encourage and support him.

On evaluation on 28/11/2019, the child noticeably got better because of psychological support sessions, articulation therapy sessions and after the parents and teachers played a supportive role based on the advice of doctor.

Plans for future response

Conducting health needs assessment in the remaining Collective Shelters in northeast Syria
Preparation for Rukban and Ras el Ein interagency mission
Finalizing health sector component of HNO 2020

CONTACTS

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<tr>
<th>Damascus: national level</th>
<th>Aleppo: sub-national level</th>
<th>Homs: sub-national level</th>
<th>Lattakia/Tartous: sub-national level</th>
<th>Qamishli (north-east Syria): sub-national level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr Jamshed Tanoli</td>
<td>Dr Kady Fares</td>
<td>Dr Nadia Aljamali,</td>
<td>Mr Hamza Hasan</td>
<td>Dr Khaled Al Khaled</td>
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<td>Health Sector Coordinator</td>
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