



**HEALTH SECTOR BULLETIN
OCTOBER 2019**

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Emergency type: Level 3 Emergency

Reporting period: 01-10-2019 to 31-10-2019



HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of **277 Health Facilities** are supported by Health Sector Partners in 14 governorates.
- WHO and Health Sector conducted **health needs assessment** at 47 collective shelters in north east Syria from 21-26 October 2019. The most needed services are emergency care, reproductive and child health.
- More than **10 Health Partners** are delivering health care services in Al Hole Camp despite all challenges with 14 functional static health centers, 4 mobile clinics and 03 hospitals.
- The **Emergency Immunization Campaign** was conducted by MoH in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF in all accessible districts of AL Hassakeh and Ar Raqqa; almost **11,112 children** were vaccinated.
- WHO delivered shipment of 3.1 tons of medical supplies to Ar-Raqqa DOH on 30 October. The shipment which is sufficient to provide about 780 treatments was the **first shipment in five years** to reach Debsi Afnan.
- More than **100,000 consultations** were provided by the Health Sector in North East Syria since 9th October to newly displaced people at Collective Shelters, Camps and living in population.
- The National Polio campaign in Syria was conducted from 13-17 October where **2,774,310 children 0-59 were targeted** to receive one dose of bivalent OPV. All 13 governorates were involved.

HEALTH SECTOR



59 HEALTH SECTOR PARTNERS

KITS DELIVERED TO HEALTH FACILITIES/PARTNERS



3 IEHK BASIC KITS
44 IEHK SUPPLEMENTARY KITS
12 TRAUMA A & B KITS
51 NCD KITS

SUPPORTED HEALTH FACILITIES



277 HEALTH FACILITIES

HEALTH ACTION



1,137,005 IMEDICAL PROCEDURES
863,599 TREATMENT COURSES
42,382 TRAUMA CASES

VACCINATION



293,757 PENTA 3

EWARS



1,239 REPORTING SITES

FUNDING \$US



449.1 M REQUESTED
95M (21.2%) FUNDING RECEIVED (FTS)

Situation update

The security situation remained volatile and unstable. 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. More than 200,000 people who fled the fighting in recent weeks have not yet been able to return home and are dispersed across improvised camps and collective shelters. Moreover, 45,575 children and 27,130 women of reproductive age remain displaced. Of those displaced, 91,721 are residing in host communities in Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor governorates; the remaining 16,793 (3,697 families) are being accommodated in 79 active collective shelters in Al-Hasakeh (78) and Ar-Raqqa (one) governorates. Twenty-six collective shelters previously hosting displaced populations in Ras al-Ain (16), Al-Hasakeh (8) and Al-Malikeyyeh (2) are now empty. Almost all active collective shelters are schools, depriving at least 51,200 children of learning opportunities. Most of the Collective Shelters are served by the nearest health facilities whereas in some sites health partners have delivered mobile health services.

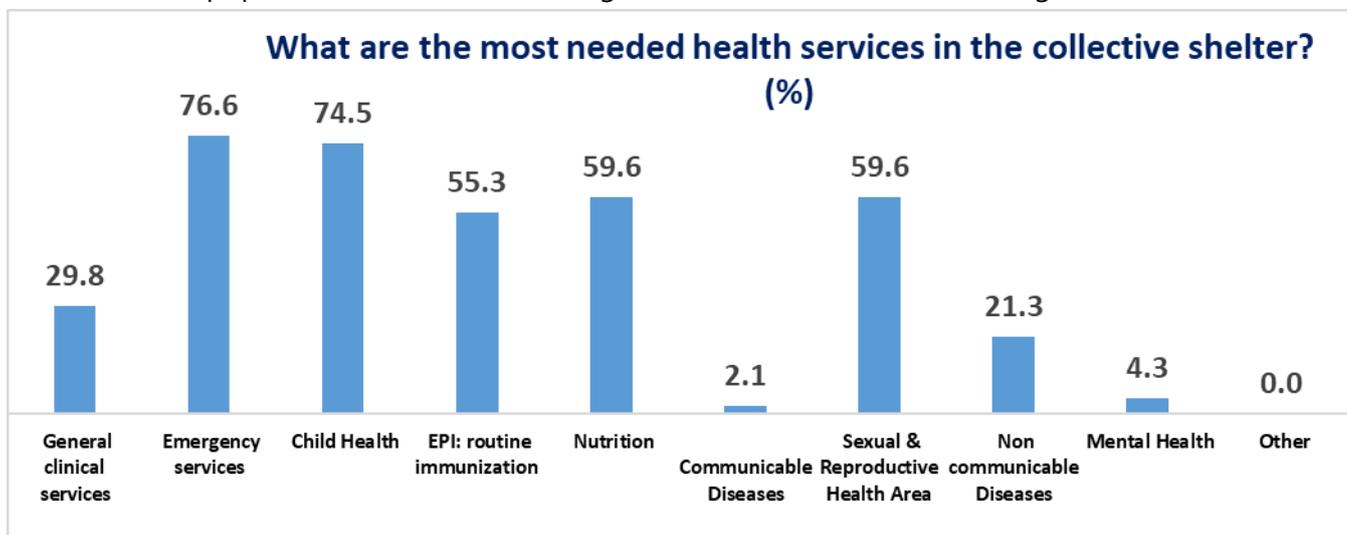
These recent displacements have compounded an already dire situation in which 710,000 people were already displaced, and approximately 1.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance.

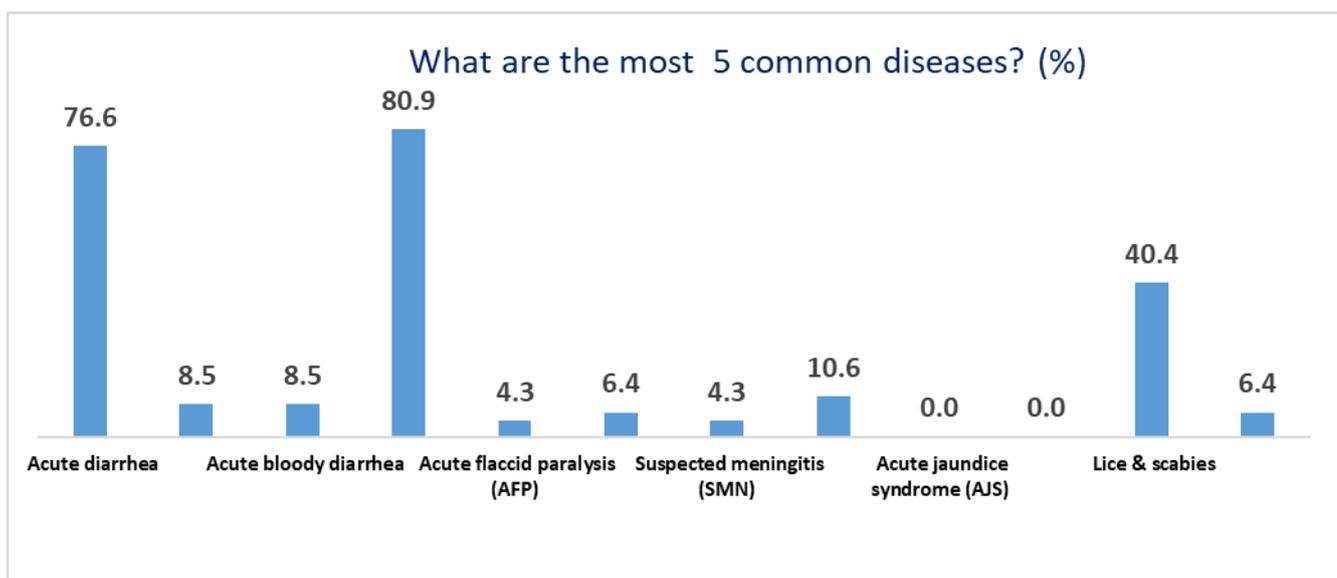
Over 13,000 Syrians have entered Iraq through informal crossing points; 74 percent are women and children

The situation in Al Hol camp changed after 9th October leading to some disruption of health services provision due to the decrease in the number of health workers in Al Hol hospitals and health facilities and temporary suspension of XB supported activities. Some partners relocated their operations to support new IDPs in Al Hassakeh while referrals were limited to emergency cases only. Towards the end of the month, the health workers returned and the organizations-resumed the activities.

The total number of people who left Rukban remains at 18,386, including 18,057 people who left Rukban through self-organized departure and 329 people who left Rukban supported by UN/SARC. The total number of people remaining at the shelters is 393.

WHO lead the sector partners in a needs assessment evaluating the availability of health services and needs of newly displaced people. The assessment covered 47 Collective Shelters in North East Syria with estimated population of 9000. The finding of the assessment is shown in figures,





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.

More than 400,000 people in Hassakeh city are at increased risk of contracting infectious diseases due to poor availability of sufficient water because of non-functionality of Allouk water station.

WHO/Health sector needs assessment at six hospitals. Six public health centers and 47 Collective Shelters showed the need for improving delivery of primary health care including maternal and child health services.

Despite challenges, 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:

- Total number of reporting sites is 1239 in 14 governorates.
- Average completeness of reporting 87.9%, and average timelines is 90.4%.
- Total number of consultations is 1 420 652.
- 49.9% of the cases were among females and 43.8% were distributed among children under 5 years.

Morbidity:

- Out of the 1 420 652 total consultations, a total of 151 655 EWARS notifiable cases were reported.
- 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): 88 622, accounting for 58.4% of total cases. Most cases were reported from Deir-ez-Zor, Lattakia, and Aleppo.
- Acute diarrhoea (AD): 42 364 (27.9% of total cases); most cases were reported from Deir-ez-Zor, Idleb, and Aleppo.
- Acute jaundice syndrome (AJS): 2 183; most cases were reported from Deir-ez-Zor, Idleb, and Ar-Raqqa.
- Suspected measles (SM): 176, most cases were reported from Deir-ez-Zor, Aleppo, and Ar-Raqqa.
- Acute flaccid paralysis (AFP): 9; most cases were reported from Rural Damascus and Hama.
- For the "other diseases" category 16 636 cases were reported, with the most reported cases is leishmaniasis 4 304 cases; most cases were reported from Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, and Idleb.

EWARS and epidemiological situation in Al-Hol camp

Surveillance performance:

- Total number of reporting sites is 16.
- Average completeness of reporting 94.3%, and average timelines is 87.0%.
- Total number of consultations was 28,583. 60.4% of the cases were among females and 47.3% were distributed among children under 5 years.

Morbidity:

- Out of the 28 583 total consultations, 4 133 EWARS notifiable cases were reported.
- The leading causes of morbidity among all age groups were acute diarrhoea (57.6%/2,383) influenza-like illnesses (33.5%/1384).
- Three suspected measles were reported, and all cases were under 5 years
- Zero cases of AFP reported.

Public health responses

Suspected measles

A total of 176 suspected measles cases was reported during October 2019. All the cases were investigated by rapid response teams of the health directorates except for the cases reported from Idleb governorate (28 cases) where access is limited. The blood specimens from 148 suspected cases were collected and tested for IgM ELISA at the reference laboratory in Damascus. The laboratory results showed all the tested 148 samples were negative for measles.

Acute flaccid paralysis

Nine AFP cases were reported during October 2019. Five cases were under 5 years and four cases are above 5 years. The stool samples from all nine cases reported were collected and tested at the polio reference laboratory in Damascus, and the results showed the cases were negative for poliomyelitis.

Tuberculosis case management:

Three fully equipped mobile clinics for tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment were donated to MOH (distributed to Aleppo, Rural Damascus and Deir-ez-Zor). These will be used for reaching out TB patients in hard-to- reach areas.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene

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 the 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 microbially and chemically contaminated.
- Al-Hasakeh:
 - Wells: Two wells (Hamid Al-Salleh and Shamoukah) in Al-Hasakeh were tested. Contamination was not found in both samples.
 - Collective shelters (23 shelters in Al-Hasakeh city): the water samples from 23 tanks were tested (one for each shelter). Among them, microbial contamination was found in two tanks in Khasman school in Halima Al-Saadi.
 - Five IDP camps (Al Mahmoudli, Areesha, Rouge, Al-Hol and Abu Khashab): 275 tests were performed by ATP measurement, TDS, and PH including 37 water trucks, 129 water tanks, and 109 jerry cans (10L). Among them, microbial contamination was found in the samples from one water tank and 28 jerry cans.

Water chlorination

The chlorination of contaminated water source has been performed by WHO and WASH partners based on the test results.

- WHO distributed 243 060 chlorine tablets (NaDCC 1.67g, for 200L) to 93 collective shelters in Al-Hasakeh, six IDP camps (Al-Hol, Areesha, Abu Khashab, Al Mahmoudly, Old and new camp in Membej) in October in collaboration with WASH partners. This benefited more than 124 000 IDPs for one month.

Water supply

- In response to a critical shortage of water due to the deterioration of security in NES in October, WHO supported seven DOH health facilities in Al-Hasakeh with 60 000 bottles of water (1.5L) and 1 000 jerry cans (25L)). The beneficiaries are 123 health care workers and 56 370 patients in Al-Hasakeh National Hospital, Al-Iolola, TB centre, Al-Nassrah, Al-Nashwah, Al-Salhyah, and Tal Hajar.

Mental Health

The number of mental health consultations provided by health actors stands at **26,512**. It is almost more than 30% as compared to last month due to late reporting and inclusion of May and June consultations for mental health.

Health facility Functionality

According to HeRAMS 2018 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 15 and 29 October 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 are summarized in the below table:

HRP Indicator 2019 (Per Month)		September
Medical procedures	1.1.1 Number of outpatient consultations provided	1,057,518
	1.1.2 Total number of trauma consultations supported	42,382
	1.1.3 Number of mental health consultations supported	26,512
	1.1.4 Number of physical rehabilitation sessions supported	542
	1.1.5 Number of vaginal deliveries attended by a skilled attendant	4,777
	1.1.6 Number of caesarean sections supported	4,013
	1.1.7 Number of cases referred for treatment (between levels of care, cross-line and cross-border)	1,261

Immunization

The Ministry of Health in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF conducted a National Polio campaign from 13-17 October 2019) where 2,774,310 children 0-59 were targeted to receive one dose of bivalent OPV. All 13 governorates were involved in the campaign except Idleb due to security concerns.

The preliminary coverage is 85.5%, where 2,371,991 children were vaccinated including children in the high-risk areas of North East Syria (NES). Special attention was given to IDP camps/collective shelters

and the nomads of Hassakeh and Raqqa where 18,454 children were vaccinated.

Following new displacement after 9th October, the Emergency Immunization Campaign (EIC) was implemented by MOH in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF in Raqqa, Hassakeh, and Aleppo (Menbej & Ein Arab). The total vaccinated U-5 children are OPV (11,112), IPV (6875), Measles & Vit A 100 (857) and MMR & Vit A 200 (6241)

Child Health

40,507 children were immunized for Penta 3

Reproductive Health

Skilled birth attendants conducted 8790 normal deliveries while 4013 mothers underwent caesarean sections.

Health Cluster Partners Updates – October 2019

Health Cluster Partners continued supporting health service delivery across the country: -

World Health Organization

Delivered three mobile clinics, procured under DFID and Japan funds, in favor of two NES NGOs
2 mobile clinics for Souria Yakama and 1 mobile clinic for Mawada NGO

Delivered 34 NCD kits to (Bir Wa Ehsan Ras Ein, Souria Yamama, Mawada, Mar Efram, KRC and Qamishly hub), 3 Pneumonia A & B kits to (Bir Wa Ehsan Ras Ein, Souria Yamama, Mawada), 4 examination beds to (Hassakeh national hospital & KRC)

50 health workers in Damascus were trained on disability related topics.

A national training workshop on community awareness of GBV and health was conducted in Damascus.

12 sessions were delivered in two days with the focus on MHPSS as an entry to GBV, followed by on-job training on the third day. The community based approach was developed for embedding GBV component in health, and mental health project

10 capacity building activities were conducted across the country for up to 200 health and community workers from different partners, covering different programs; mhGAP and counselling, problem management plus +

Conducted mhGAP training phase 2 course for 25 doctors working in DOH/ PHCs with close collaboration with DoH/MHD in Aleppo.

Conducted 2-day group supervision for 12 mhGAP trained doctors working in DOH/ PHCs and with NGOs projects.

Supported Jebleh hospital in Lattakia with a C-Arm X-ray

UNICEF

Three C4D campaigns preceded polio vaccination campaigns for four days. The campaign targeted the neediest areas, where community mobilization activities were carried out by DoH workers through home visits and awareness sessions as well as distribution of IEC materials.

In Hassakeh governorate, 10241 households were visited by 32477 caregivers.

In AR Raqqah governorate, 4374 households were visited by 18807 caregivers.

In Deir Ezzor 2581, households were visited by 19724 caregivers.

In the Hol Camp, there was a unique experience. 8 information desks participated in the activities by spreading the polio vaccination message. In addition to outreach teams, three health partners also participated in several awareness sessions and referred children to vaccination teams in Al Hol Camp and approximately 10700 children had been vaccinated (9500 Polio, 1200 routine immunization).

UNFPA

In the month of October, UNFPA provided 15 trucks containing 21,382 kits and 55,000 sanitary napkins to Al-Qamishly and AlHassakeh, 3 trucks containing 5,370 kits to Ar-Raqqa governorate, 2 trucks containing 3,578 kits to Tabqa. The beneficiaries reached were 15,693

Since 09th October in NES, UNFPA has supported 11 safe deliveries (Areasha camp, Tabqa city, and AlHassakeh city) and has referred 4 urgent C-sections to licensed health facilities for critical cases to date. The referrals were made from shelters in Al-Hassakeh to Al -Hikmeh and Dar Al Shifaa private hospitals. SRH services to a total of 2,924 pregnant women were provided.

Plans for future response

Update mapping of health actors and health services in northeast Syria

Preparation of northeast Syria Response Plan for SOM and identifying critical health needs

Conducting health needs assessment in the remaining Collective Shelters and for IDPs living in host communities

Subnational Immunization campaign from 17-21 November 2019.

Finalizing health sector component of HNO 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
Coordinators				
Dr Jamshed Tanoli Health Sector Coordinator tanolij@who.int	Dr Kady Fares Head of WHO sub-office kadyf@who.int	Dr Nadia Aljamali, Head of WHO sub-office aljamalin@who.int	Mr Hamza Hasan Head of WHO sub-office hhassan@who.int	Dr Khaled Al Khaled Head of WHO sub- office alkhaledk@who.int
Information Management Unit				
Mr Mutasem Mohammad, Information Management Officer, WHO Syria, mohammadm@who.int Mr Ayman Al Mobayed, Information Management Officer, WHO Syria, almobayeda@who.int				