

## Week 45, 3-9 November 2017

### General developments & political & security situation

- Syrian government forces and Iranian-backed militias have completely retaken the city of Deir al-Zour.
- The regime forces targeted Talbiseh and warplanes raid on the countryside of Hama leaving casualties and wounded.
- UN agencies: a deteriorating humanitarian situation for about 50,000 Syrians in the AL-Rukban camp. Russia on Friday accused the United States of committing a "war crime" in Syria, saying its military had denied Syrian refugees access to humanitarian aid. The claim, denied in Washington, was made by the Russian defense ministry's Syria reconciliation center, which cited a "most severe humanitarian situation" in the Al-Tanf region. It also said tens of thousands of Syrian refugees from the Al-Rukban refugee camp on the Jordanian border are deprived of humanitarian aid because of the US, which "illegally placed their military base there and forbids approach within 55 kilometers (35 miles) under the threat of death."
- The U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF): civilians returned to al-Meshleb, Raqqa's easternmost district, after "mine-removal teams had finished clearing the entire neighborhood of explosives left indiscriminately in civilian homes."
- The district is the first in Raqqa that civilians have been allowed to return to.
- Al-Qaida-linked militants captured three villages in northern Hama from government forces.
- ISIL supreme leader 'caliph' al-Baghdadi has reportedly departed Iraq for Syria on 06 November.
- The Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Ahmet Uzumcu said on 06 November in a note in his forty-ninth monthly progress report on Monday that OPCW had verified the elimination of 25 out of 27 chemical weapons production facilities in Syria.
- U.S. Defense Secretary Mattis said on 06 November he backed diplomatic efforts to bring an end to the Syrian civil war.
- The US continues to supply SDF with arms and has recently delivered 120 trucks loaded with heavy armament and armored vehicles for the Deir Ezzor operation.
- Turkey says Russia postpones Syria peace conference.
- Syrian government holds no talks with Kurds on separation of the North.
- High tension is reported in eastern Ghouta between Jaish Al Islam and Faylak Al Rahman/Tahrir Al Sham). Jaish Al Islam announced that Faylak Al Rahman broke the peace and attacked three of Jaish Al Islam locations in east Al Ghouta. Media sources indicate that Jaish El Islam is preparing for retaliatory action against Faylak Al Rahman/Tahrir Al Sham).

### KEY HEALTH ISSUES

The UN is deeply concerned for the safety and protection of civilians in north eastern Syria impacted by fighting, airstrikes and military campaigns. In the last few weeks, an estimated 120,000 people were displaced from Abu Kamal city in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate on the border with Iraq. Intense fighting and airstrikes have also been reported in areas around the Euphrates river. Of these, an estimated 50,000 people reportedly fled to the eastern part of Al Sur town, controlled by ISIL and inaccessible to humanitarian actors. The other 70,000 people displaced to areas near their villages into western Al Sur town, west of Al Khabour river, where the UN response through local partners is underway. On 4 November, local sources reported that airstrikes on two informal IDP settlements (Al-Rifai and Siyal village) resulted in civilian deaths and injuries. On the same day, about 100 people, including children, were reportedly killed and wounded by a VBEID that struck at an internally displaced people gathering point close to Alomar oil field [140km south of Hasakeh city in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate]. Two days earlier, on 2 November, airstrikes on the Al Mayadeen city area reportedly resulted in more than 25 deaths and many other injuries, most of whom were women and children.

Increased advocacy at all levels approaching Member States for:

- Help to increase frequency and duration of Inter-Agency convoys and for separate needs assessment missions to the besieged eastern Ghouta and other besieged areas;
- Support immediate medical evacuation by SARC of 29 urgent cases (mostly children) from eastern Ghouta (from total of 240+ cases in need of evacuation);
- Establish medical evacuation corridors for more systemized approach;
- Stop attacks on civilians, especially children.

Medical evacuation from the besieged eastern Ghouta: At this stage no formal approval was received from the responsible national authorities. The issue is being constantly followed by WHO with SARC. Lists of the priority needs for eastern Ghouta, including medical supplies, shared by the humanitarian focal point from the High Negotiations Committee with OCHA colleagues in Geneva and SAMS were received by WHO and shared with UNICEF and UNFPA, ICRC. These supplies if provided inside eastern Ghouta are reported to minimize the number of medical evacuations needed. Jointly with UNICEF and UNFPA, WHO reviews the current stock in the country vs the indicated amounts of supplies. Gaziantep colleagues shared the list of members of specialists' technical committee on triage in eastern Ghouta. At the same time on 6 November SARC evacuated a four-year old girl from the besieged Douma to Damascus.

Access to Rukban area (Syria/Jordan border): As reported from unconfirmed sources, while the construction for the Al-Rukban II camp continues, a surge in the medical case load have been reported from the Sham Medical Center in Al-Rukban I. The FSA-funded medical center was opened last August and is staffed with 16 health workers (nurses and pharmacists), and provides medical services free of charge. The medical caseload includes cases of diarrhea, lethargy, infections and cases of suffocation caused by sandstorms. Critical cases can sometimes be transferred to Jordan or to the American base in Al Tanf, although these medical evacuations are often not able to proceed. Syria hub based health partners: health assistance, including rapid needs assessments, life-saving supplies and roll out of mobile medical teams, is ready and can be delivered as part of "humanitarian aid delivery to Al Rukban" once the agreement is reached between the controlling parties on the best of the proposed UN scenarios.

The latest version of the 2018 Syria HNO is released. As reported by OCHA, this version follows a first round of review by the various inter-sector coordination forums and sector coordinators at hub and WoS level, by OCHA GVA, and various UN agencies including UNHCR and OHCHR. It addresses most of the 500 comments received on the first draft.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4ltC8R5Fw1MWnhOM05zbS0weWM/view?usp=sharing> (pdf)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4ltC8R5Fw1McG1rdnQ5YUJqRjg/view?usp=sharing> (word)

The 21<sup>st</sup> WHO-UNICEF Regional Situation Report on the cVDPV2 outbreak in Syria was released: Ten (10) new cases of cVDPV2 were reported this week from Mayadeen and Boukamal districts, Deir Ez-Zor governorate. Isolates from some cases had been laboratory pending for some time. The most recent case (by date of onset) remains 25 August. The total number of cVDPV2 cases is 63. IPV will be offered to children 2-23 months in areas of Damascus and Rural Damascus with large IDP populations in the upcoming Sub-National Immunization Days (SNIDs) targeting children under five with bOPV. 250,000 doses of IPV have arrived in Damascus, which will ensure a continuous supply of vaccine for routine immunization activities in coming months.

## OPERATIONAL UPDATES

### Coordination:

- Conducted health sector working group meeting in Damascus with the focus of update of health sector 2018 HRP:

|               | 2017         | 2018         |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Health sector | 133 projects | 198 projects |

|                            |                  |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                            | 465,875,875 USD  | 529,339,616 USD  |
|                            |                  |                  |
| Syria hub projects         | 11 organizations | 15 organizations |
|                            | 14 projects      | 21 projects      |
|                            | 33,469,924 USD   | 74,014,859 USD   |
|                            |                  |                  |
| WoS projects               | 6 organizations  | 3 organizations  |
|                            | 14 projects      | 11 projects      |
|                            | 254,016,615 USD  | 211,779,467 USD  |
|                            |                  |                  |
| Non Syria and WoS projects | 68 projects      | 166 projects     |
|                            | 169,760,867 USD  | 243,545,290 USD  |

WHO requests 142,549,161 USD, including WHO Syria hub - 95,600,500 USF (or 67.1%); while WHO Gaziantep – 43,569,461 USD (30.6%) and WHO Amman – 3,379,200 USD (2.4%). In addition to eight health projects two projects on nutrition and WASH were submitted.

| Project Title  | Original Request 2018 | Original Request 2017 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Strengthening Trauma Care/Mass Casualty Management and Physical Rehabilitation   | 21506126              | 25365900              |
| Improving sustainable and quality secondary health care, obstetric care and referral services across the country   | 49573989              | 22156000              |
| Sustaining and improving delivery of primary health care services addressing chronic diseases, child and maternal health of the affected populations across Syria. | 24090513              | 60372500              |
| Scaling up the national and sub-national Immunization Programmes and Polio Eradication Activities  | 21910796              | 34307500              |
| Reinforcing national and sub-national surveillance systems for the early detection, prevention and control of potential epidemic prone diseases in Syria           | 6082327               | 1527700               |
| Reinforce inter- and intra-hub health sector coordination for effective health response in Syria   | 2731000               | 3086250               |
| Strengthening Health Information Systems for Emergency Response and Resilience   | 3311719               | 5549750               |
| Enhance Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services  | 8031551               | 4785000               |
|  | <b>137,238,021</b>    | <b>157,150,600</b>    |

| Project Title | Original Request 2018 | Original Request 2017 |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Nutrition     | 1,212,000             | 1,666,250             |
| WASH          | 4,099,143             | 4,931,250             |

- Joined ICRC in visiting SARC HQ to follow up on a three-year old boy who was reunited with his father in Syria after being brought back from Turkey where he was for six months. The mother and one child were killed during the explosion which took place earlier this year in Al-Rasheeden in Aleppo governorate.
- Preparing for Q3 DFID meeting in Amman on 27-28 November.
- Regular biweekly health sector updates are received, consolidated and shared (25 October – 7 November).
- Participated and provided evaluation of the performance of AKDN (Agha Khan Foundation) on the alignment of the program with overall UN-established priorities for the Syrian response and effectiveness of coordination with other organizations.

#### Information and planning:

- Participated in a joint sector coordinators/IM meeting on 4W dashboards.

- Participated in a joint meeting to discuss the progress of the social demographic survey implemented by Central Bureau of Statistics.
- Provided inputs for Syria Health Cluster webpage on GHC website.
- Finalized the Syrian SARA tools V5 (questionnaire, guide, box cover) which will be used for field work. Finalized the preparing works for SARA field work. Shared the progress of Syrian SARA implementation.
- Initiated the process of posting Health Sector 4Ws Snapshots on EMRO website.
- Produced Health Sector 4Ws Snapshot January to September 2017.
- Produced 4Ws consolidated figures on delivered assistance by WHO in October 2017.
- Provided training on statistical analysis and ToT in Damascus for 25 MoH participants.
- Provided 5 training workshops for launching SARA survey at governorate level for 137 MoH participants from Lattakia, Tartous, Daraa, Rural of Damascus, and Quneitra.
- Developed a map on distribution and functionality of public health facilities per governorates, September 2017.

## **Health operations:**

### ***Aleppo response:***

- A separate weekly update is being provided.
- Dispatched two (2) shipments from Aleppo hub targeting JRS with NCD and winter medications. A significant quantity of IV fluids and specific life-saving medicines were dispatched to the Cardiac Surgical University Hospital. The estimated number of treatment that can be provided through the dispatched supplies is 10,612.
- Provided 1630 MHPSS services through supported advanced center in Aleppo city.
- Provided 889 trauma and physical rehabilitation services through a supported project with local NGO.
- 3 ongoing agreements with local NGOs support 3145 beneficiaries to receive primary health care services in addition to 166 referral cases.

### ***NES (Al-Hassakeh; Ar Raqqa; Deir-ez-Zoir) response:***

- Maintaining the network of 15 staff and focal points in Qamishli to cover the NES response.
- Partnering with national 6 NGO's and Al Hikma private hospital (Syria Al-Yamama; Al-Mawadda; Al-Birr in Hassakeh; Al-Birr in Qamishly; Al-Birr in Ras Al-Ayn; Mar Assia). There are additional MoUs in place with 4 other NGOs (Mar Afram; GOPA; Arman Batrak; Al-Ihsan). Working closely with UN agencies (UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, IOM), WFP in nutrition, OCHA (coordination), and UNDP (disability). Strong partnerships are established with Directorates of Health; Directorates of Education; SARC Hassakeh; SARC Deir-ez-Zoir.
- During the epidemic week 44, the following communicable diseases were reported from north-east Syria: 142 cases of AD, 43 cases of AJS, 43 cases of BD, 15 cases of Brucellosis, 48 cases of ILL, 25 cases of Leishmaniasis, 2 cases of pertussis, 16 cases of SARI, 7 cases of SMN and 16 cases of TYF mostly from Tal-Abyad Hospital.
- Reviewing health sector related elements for OCHA shared detailed pre-conditions for voluntary, informed, safe and dignified returns of IDPs to Ar-Raqqa city (these are proposed to guide the engagement of humanitarian actors in delivering humanitarian assistance (when possible) to those potentially returning to the city). WHO monitors the ongoing return to one part of the city, the district of Mashlab.
- WHO team took part in the coordination meeting between XL and XB partners in Ein Issa camps. XB partners seek WHO support on issues as: XB participation in vaccination campaigns; Availability of cholera and pneumococcal vaccines in Syria; Coordination in Ein Issa camp where multiple health service providers are located; WHO support to XB partners with health supplies.
- Following the reported explosion (car bomb) in the north-eastern countryside of Deir-ez-Zoir (at SDF checkpoint) resulting in a high toll of killed (estimated 100) and injured (numbers are yet to be verified), WHO follows up with partners on the ground to provide assistance and support to the injured people who were moved to Al Hassakeh governorate. WHO delivers trauma kits and medicines to health facilities involved in the response.
- As per UNHCR estimates, the population of camps as of 31 October is as follows:

- Areesha camp – 42,720 people
  - Mabrouka camp – 21,585 people
  - Ain Issa camp – 22,585 people
  - Al Hol (Iraqis) – 20,411 people
  - Al Hol (IDPs) – 4629 people
  - Roj camp – 2,172 people
  - Newoz camp – 1,192 people
- Conducted site visits to health facilities in Al Hassakeh governorate; to assess the health information system in public health facilities, and conducting SARA workshop.
  - Collected key indicators of WHO’s planning and response work for North East Syria (NES) for October 2017.
  - Provided HIS plan on data collecting using health assessment tool to assess the health situation at community level for Ar-Raqqa community health initiative.
  - Discussing the activation of community health initiative in Ar Raqqa.
  - Coordination with the Department of Primary Care in Damascus to activate the program for the treatment and monitoring of malnutrition in Deir-ez-Zoir to carry out workshops in December.
  - Collecting HeRAMS data from Deir-ez-Zoir based facilities (the Obstetrics and Children Hospital; Al Furat Hospital; Al-Assad hospital and Hajeen hospital).
  - Conducted visits on mental health survey to Ain Issa camp, Tabqa, Mansoura University, Al- Casrat, Tuehineh camp.
  - Supported Al-Mabruka camp (PHC (1454); Disables (16); MHPSS (4); Ras Al-Ain (PHC (1781); SHC (28); Disables (18); MHPSS (28); Al-Mabruka village (PHC (694); Disables (11); MHPSS (20); Al-Hol camp (PHC (495); Medicines (402); SHC (8); MHPSS (50); Trauma (2); Al-Areesha camp (PHC (1742); Medicines (1715); SHC (22); Disables(6); MHPSS (195); Al-Shaddadeh (PHC (688); Medicines (685); Amuda Area (PHC (278); Medicines (267); Qamishly (PHC (655); Medicines (642); SHC (31); vocational training (30); Qahtanyah (PHC (288); Medicines (288); Al-Hassakeh city center (PHC (1215); Medicines (942); Al-Karama village (PHC (1456); Medicines (1456); MHPSS (118); SHC (1); Ain Issa camp (PHC (1234); Medicines (1227); MHPSS (53); SHC(4); Al-Tabqa camp (PHC (533); Medicines (530); MHPSS (55); Al-Twehenah camp (PHC (570); Medicines (570); MHPSS (70); Suluk (PHC (302); Medicines (242); MHPSS (2); Al-Mansoura (PHC (265); Medicines (260); Al-Jarneyah (PHC (225); Medicines (225); Maadan (PHC (460); Medicines (457); MHPSS (13); SHC (8); Dier-Ezor – Hatla (SHC (2); Mayadeen (SHC (2); Trauma (4); Abo Khashab (SHC (10).
  - Developing a nutritional surveillance plan to be conducted in Mabrouka, Ein Issa and Al Areesha IDPs camps in Ar-Raqqa governorate for about 16500 families, the proposed date is from 12 to 30 November 2017.
  - Coordinate with the MoH to implement infection control workshop for Qamishli health facilities.

#### ***Homs response:***

- A separate report is being produced.
- Al Rastan IA convoy is under process to be dispatched on 9 November.
- Participated in the 3rd Sustainable Development Goals/SDGs meeting in Aleppo.
- Participated in AHCT meeting to discuss Al Qaryateen rapid relief and response plans by Homs hub. Separately MIRA assessment was carried out.
- Advocated for DOH vaccination mobile team to cover Bedouins at Abo Rajmin Mountain (eastern Palmyra area). 281 under five children were reached with RI and OPV doses. Nutrition supplies were distributed as well.
- Epi-week 44, DoH was notified of one suspected case of acute Meningitis (an adult male); admitted to Al Nour private hospital. RRTs responded accordingly.
- Distributed nutrition posters to public and private hospitals in Homs city in cooperation with DoH Homs.

#### ***Lattakia response:***

- Conducted the following workshops in Lattakia & Tartous: Launching SARA survey at governorate level; Management Skills Development; Supply chain Problems and Constraints; MhGAP.
- Dispatched insulin in favor of Lattakia DoH and 25 wheelchairs for NGOs in Damascus.
- Attended Breast Cancer Awareness campaign organized by Lattakia DoH.

#### ***Immunization:***

- Significant immunity gaps prompted in Deir-ez-Zor by the lack of immunization activities over the past two years, which led to the current cVDPV2 outbreak. The ongoing conflict in Deir-ez-Zor has forced people to flee to neighboring governorates including Aleppo, Damascus, Hama and al Hassakeh. Accordingly, WHO & MOH have conducted a joint mission during this week to Aleppo to meet all related health partners including DOH, MOHE staff and private sector to advocate for the importance of AFP surveillance system especially in the silent districts, WHO has also committed to provide the necessary technical and logistic support to strengthen AFP surveillance system at district and governorate level.
- IPV will be offered to children 2-23 months in Damascus and Rural Damascus with large IDP populations during the Sub-National campaign 19-23/11/2017 targeting children under five with bOPV.
- 250,000 doses of IPV have arrived in Damascus, which will ensure a continuous supply of vaccine for routine immunization activities in coming months. Syria is finalizing planning for targeted vaccination with IPV and is finalizing a request for additional IPV vaccine for additional campaign activities in Hassakeh, Aleppo Damascus and Rural Damascus governorate.

#### ***Mental health program:***

- Training on mhGAP intervention guide was conducted to a group of health professionals working at PHC centers in Tartous.
- Training on psychological first aid and self-care strategies was conducted to 25 health care providers working at PHC centers in Aleppo.
- 25 non-specialized health professionals previously trained on mhGAP intervention guide working at PHC centers received on the job training by WHO mental health professionals in Hama, Damascus and Tartous.

#### ***Nutrition program and child health:***

- As Aleppo governorate is receiving the highest number of complicated cases of Malnutrition in stabilization centers, nutrition supplies were provided to 2 stabilization centers: 1 SC as NGO, the other is MOE.
- Additional nutrition supplies were provided to be delivered to the eastern Ghouta situation to treat the complicated cases of Malnutrition
- Following up with MoH concerning the IMCI program, the Arabic version of the program final update was provided to MoH accordingly.
- Meeting with MOH – PHC to review the neonatal resuscitation program data received from 7 hospitals and to activate receiving the data from the other 13 trained hospitals in the program.

#### ***Secondary health care program:***

- Engage with HIS team to start the second phase of cancer study including cancer registry.
- Preparation with the MoH and MoHE to conduct 2017 EML update meeting (Essential Medicines List) on 13-14 November 2017.
- Conducted three workshops on management skills development and supply chain problems, hospitals sterilization and disinfections for health workers.
- Supported preparation of the IA convoys to the besieged Talbiseh and Tlul Elhomor in Homs.

### ***Disease surveillance:***

- In response to the shortage in Measles Laboratory kits, and to maintain the continuity of lab services, WHO secured the second type of lab kits for Measles laboratory, which is the only national reference lab for the diagnosis of Measles. By the end of October 470 confirmed cases have been reported out of 1087 laboratory tested samples.
- WHO supported Zoonotic diseases control program at MoH with Tetracycline 453,000 tablets, the provided quantity cover the needs of Brucellosis medicine for 3 months.
- Preparedness measures to diarrhea outbreak are still ongoing by WHO. IV fluid quantity of 48,000 pouches is propositioned at WHO warehouse.

### ***Trauma:***

- Constant follow up with SARC regarding the medical evacuation from the besieged eastern Ghouta, as mentioned above.
- Meeting with the Deputy Minister of Health to discuss the issue of importing trauma kits to the country. The outcome was positive as it was agreed that to proceed with importation of trauma kits.
- Joining WCO communication team in visiting the Directorate of Disability and physical Rehabilitation (MOH), the Pediatric Hospital (MOHE) and Almwat University hospital in order to prepare for a visibility audio-visual product for the Chinese donation to help Syrian health sector.

### ***National NGO coordination:***

- The procurement process of third monitoring party is concluded to undertake Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of the supported health care services delivery in the country through sub-contracted Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to complement the state in providing essential package of health care applying the two frameworks: the logic model and the OECD-DAC criteria in order to capture the technical and financial sides of the provision of services.
- In collaboration with the NGOs coordinator of Al Hassakeh, revised rapid response plan to the updated situation in Deir-ez-Zoir is developed. Two grant agreements including establishment of health center and supporting medical mobile teams are in process.
- In coordination with WHO focal point in Hama, two grant agreements to respond to the health needs of the internally displaced people and vulnerable groups are in process.
- Proposal to SHF to support the humanitarian response in NES in line with the health cluster objectives of 2018 is under progress.
- Bilateral meetings with NGOs in Damascus to discuss the response plan for vulnerable groups and IDPs in Damascus including potential referral cases from NES.

### ***WASH:***

#### **Capacity support (details):**

- Provided support to 29 training events for 707 participants:

| Date          | Estimated No of participants | Details/Field  | Program |
|---------------|------------------------------|--|---------|
| 02-05/11/2017 | 25                           | Basic Trauma Life Support "BTLS" in Hama   | Trauma  |
| 02/11/2017    | 25                           | Seminar on diseases surveillance ( Polio, cVDPV2, immediate reporting) for Private sector Doctors / Red Crescent in Damascus | PHC     |
| 04-06/11/2017 | 25                           | Supply chain Problems and Constraints in Tartous   | SHC     |
| 04-05/11/2017 | 25                           | Training course to enhance surveillance and effective detection for Leishmania in Hama                                       | EWARS   |

|               |    |  |        |
|---------------|----|--|--------|
| 04/11/2017    | 25 | Seminar on diseases surveillance ( Polio, cVDPV2, immediate reporting) for Private sector Doctors in Homs                    | PHC    |
| 04-06/11/2017 | 87 | 3 Training workshops for launching SARA survey at governorate level in Lattakia, Tartous and Daraa                           | HIS    |
| 04-09/11/2017 | 25 | Statistical analysis and ToT in Damascus   | HIS    |
| 04/11/2017    | 10 | Polio lab committee meeting in Damascus  | PHC    |
| 05-07/11/2017 | 25 | HWs Training on Rabies case management in Damascus governorate in Damascus   | EWARS  |
| 05-07/11/2017 | 25 | Disability Management training course in Damascus  | Trauma |
| 05/11/2017    | 15 | National Certification committee meeting in Damascus   | PHC    |
| 05/11/2017    | 25 | Seminar on diseases surveillance ( Polio, cVDPV2, immediate reporting) for Private sector Doctors in Damascus                | PHC    |
| 05-08/11/2017 | 25 | Workshop on the ADA recommendation for Patients with Diabetes in Homs  | PHC    |
| 06/11/2017    | 20 | NITAG committee meeting in Damascus  | PHC    |
| 06-08/11/2017 | 25 | Management Skills Development in Lattakia  | SHC    |
| 06-07/11/2017 | 25 | Training course to enhance surveillance and effective detection for Leishmania in Hama                                       | EWARS  |
| 06-09/11/2017 | 25 | Dealing with Hazard materials and Chemical attacks "HAZMAT" in Aleppo  | Trauma |
| 06/11/2017    | 25 | Seminar on diseases surveillance ( Polio, cVDPV2, immediate reporting) for Private sector Doctors / UNRWA in Damascus        | PHC    |
| 07-08/11/2017 | 25 | Workshop for Surveillance teams in the governorate to activate the surveillance system in Damascus                           | PHC    |
| 07-09/11/2017 | 25 | Hospitals Sterilization and disinfection in Damascus   | SHC    |
| 07-09/11/2017 | 25 | mhGAP for heads of health centers for MoH Tartous in Tartous   | MH     |
| 07-09/11/2017 | 50 | 2 Training workshops for launching SARA survey at governorate level in R. Damascus and Quneitra                              | HIS    |
| 08-09/11/2017 | 25 | Training course to enhance surveillance and effective detection for Leishmania in Hama                                       | EWARS  |
| 08-09/11/2017 | 25 | PFA and Self-care strategies for MoH Aleppo in Aleppo  | MH     |
| 08-10/11/2017 | 25 | Rational Use of Medicine in Sweida   | SHC    |
| 09/11/2017    | 25 | Seminar on diseases surveillance (Polio, cVDPV2, immediate reporting) for Private sector Doctors / School health in Damascus | PHC    |

#### External Relations, Coordination and Communications:

- Engaging with DfID third-party monitors (ICAI and SIM) to coordinate assessments of DfID-funded projects in Syria.
- Conducting face-to-face discussions on Japanese grant for follow up on the implementation.
- Circulating the final draft of Q3 donor update for final review.
- Working on a short visibility media products to reflect the Chinese contribution to WHO/Syria which supports the the humanitarian response in the country.
- Participating in an official meeting together with WHO expert Dr. Paul Acrivadis with the Deputy Minister of Health for the pharmaceutical affairs concerning the preparation of conducting a national workshop to update the Essential Medicines List 2017-2018.
- Preparing the weekly media briefing on WHO main operational activities to be published in the "UN Syria: A week in a focus".

#### Operational support and logistics:

- Dispatched 23 tons of medical, lab supplies, kits and equipment for 8 governorates (Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Sweida, Hassakeh, Lattakia, Damascus and Rural Damascus). The recipients included 2 MoH facilities, 3 MoHE facilities, 2 IA convoys, 13 NGOs. The total number of treatments is 159,749 treatments. The dispatched supplies included:
  - Different types of PHC, secondary health care, EWARS medicines, and pneumonia kits to 6 NGOs located in Damascus, Rural Damascus and Sweida.
  - Under nutrition program - therapeutic milk and resomal sachets were delivered to Aleppo.
  - 4750 Permethrin was delivered to an NGO in Hama.
  - Different medicines (PHC and secondary health care) delivered to an NGO in Aleppo.

- 5 pneumonia kits, 2 surgery kits, 1 IDDK and a range of medicines was delivered to Aleppo University Hospital.
- Two IDDK kits were delivered to Obstetric University Hospital and Cardiovascular Surgery Hospital in Aleppo.
- Health supplies for two inter-agency convoys in Homs.
- Two ultrasound machines were delivered to NGOs in Homs.
- Human Insulin Mix, Rapid and NPH delivered to Lattakia DoH.
- One basic x-ray unit Villa Moviplan 800 TF was delivered to Qamishli National Hospital.
- Different types of medicines were delivered to one of NGOs in Hassakeh.

## **KEY GAPS & CHALLENGES**

- Pending approvals to deliver health and other humanitarian supplies as part of IA convoys to HTR and besieged locations.
- Raqqa: UXOs and landmines pose protection risks not only in temporarily closed Raqqa city but also in IDP accommodations.
- Access to some 7,000 people in rural Deir-ez-Zor in dire need of humanitarian assistance following their displacement (home villages located east and west of the Khabour river<sup>1</sup> and Al-Sur town due to military confrontations).
- Additionally, about 50,000 people are displaced from eastern rural Deir-ez-Zor together with Iraqi refugees to areas under ISIL-control in the Sabkha Rawda area, about 35 km east of Sur due to military activity. The displaced individuals are suffering from shortages of water, food and NFIs and lack medical care. The displaced reportedly wanted to avoid ending up in the NES camps, and instead opted to move towards ISIL-controlled areas.
- Airstrikes on areas under NSAG control in the Al-Hamra sub-district in the north-east of rural Hama on 27 and 28 October resulted in the displacement of around 1,225 individuals to Hama city, where they were registered with SARC Hama to receive humanitarian assistance.
- Syrian/Jordanian border: While a medical point exists in Al-Rukban I, medical evacuations often remain impossible.
- Wadi Barada: Need for orthopedic devices reported from Wadi Barada. While no changes in the civilian or commercial movement situation were reported this week, sources on the ground have reported needs for artificial limbs, crutches, and wheelchairs, as well as medication for patients with brain paralysis. OCHA is expected to share the information with ICRC and the health sector for verification and response purposes.
- Camp population in north-east Syria has doubled this month, with severe overcrowding in IDPs camps (some four times more than camp capacity) and severe ongoing restrictions of movement.
- Limited access to so called “newly accessible areas” remains a challenge.
- Getting the approvals to dispatch WHO prepared 80 tons shipment of lifesaving medicines, trauma kits and equipment to Al Hassakeh governorate.

## **RESPONSE PRIORITIES**

- Access to Ar Raqqa city is pending upon the approval of controlling forces.
- HIS unit is to finalize the HRP 2018 log frame with targets and indicators of health sector of Syria hub.
- HIS unit is to finalize the development of III quarter monthly key infographics of WHO response in north-east Syria.
- Discussions and WHO internal preparations for the options of non-renewal of the UNSC Resolution 2165.