

General developments & political & security situation

- US-led Coalition's air force killed civilians and some paramedics in Tal Ash-Shayer area of Al-Duaiji village in rural Deir Ez-Zor, on the Syrian-Iraqi border.
- Russian and US Presidents affirmed their commitment to Syria's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity; stressing that political settlement of the crisis would take place within framework of the Geneva process - in a joint statement issued on sidelines of the APEC summit in Vietnam.
- Trump says U.S. deal with Russia on Syria will save many lives.
- Moscow: Conclusions of the report of the UN-OPCW Joint Investigative Mission (JIM) on allegations of Syrian government's use of sarin gas had no basis.
- Russian Defense: Russian experts are contributing to clearance of mines, left behind by ISIS, in Abu Kamal.
- Zakharova: Syria's national dialogue conference is under preparation.
- Algerian Prime Minister stressed that some countries in the region spent \$ 130 billion to destroy Syria, Libya and Yemen.
- Chinese Ambassador in Damascus stressed that a Syrian-Syrian dialogue, that guaranteed political solution, was the only way to end the crisis.
- The United States has no plans to carry out military patrolling in Syria's de-escalation zones, US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said.
- The Syrian army, with support from the Russian Aerospace Forces, has recently retaken the city of Abu Kemal, the last ISIS stronghold in the eastern Syrian governorate of Deir Ezzor.
- ISIS militants regained control of Abu Kemal, their last stronghold in Syria, after Iranian-backed militias who claimed to have captured the city a few days earlier.
- Saudi Arabia will host what it called an "expanded" conference for the Syrian opposition this month, aiming to unify its position ahead of United Nations-backed peace talks.
- Dozens of civilians have died in artillery fire and Russian bombardment of two displacement camps and surrounding territory in eastern Syria.
- Ten reportedly killed in US-led coalition shelling of village in eastern Syria.
- Violent clashes broke out between HTS and Nour al-Din al-Zanki (NDZ), in an attempt from HTS to break into the villages and towns under NDZ control in western rural Aleppo.
- Shells target the outskirts of the capital Damascus and its suburbs kill and wound several persons.
- The UN is concerned about the protection and well-being of civilians in Atareb, rural Aleppo, following reports of infighting between different non-state armed groups over the past five days. Shelling on populated cities and towns in the area is affecting civilian movement, including commercial activities and interrupted humanitarian activities in the area due to the clashes and road blocks. The UN continues to remind all parties to the conflict in Syria of their obligations to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure under the international humanitarian law and human rights law.
- The UN is concerned for the protection and well-being of civilians in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate where fighting and military operations continue to kill and injure civilians. Multiple airstrikes between 10 and 12 November are reported to have killed some 75 people, including 35 children). This includes reported shelling on an IDP camp in the Al Sukkariyeh area of rural Abou Kamal city on 11 November. Some 150 civilians in Hawija Katea island on the Euphrates River reportedly remain trapped by ISIL as military activity intensifies. The UN continues to remind all parties to the conflict in Syria of their obligations to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure under the international humanitarian law and human rights law.

KEY HEALTH ISSUES

- More than 437 people require urgent, advanced medical care, including 29 who need immediate medical evacuation, from the besieged eastern Ghouta. WHO calls on all parties to allow the safe evacuation of the sick and wounded. WHO hubs in Damascus and Gaziantep are on a day to day contact. At this stage, no approval for evacuations has been received.
- Release a statement, 12 September, “WHO calls for immediate and unimpeded access to save lives in eastern Ghouta, Syrian Arab Republic”
WHO response to eastern Ghouta: a total of 11 IA convoys took part to the besieged eastern Ghouta in 2017. Additionally to WHO, each of these convoys contained health supplies provided by UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM and ICRC. All 11 convoys contained 67.22 tons of WHO health supplies, or almost 366,028 medical treatments. 33.22 tons, or 311,743 medical treatments were fully rejected. During the latest (November 12) convoy to Douma, the besieged eastern Ghouta the national authorities approved delivery of 58 medical items to provide 13,128 medical treatments while rejecting 3,440 treatments and medical equipment such as ultrasound machine, adult ventilator, portable x-ray machine, autoclave. In coordination with SARC and MoH, the delivery of the second part of TB medicines to treat 79 patients was achieved. In addition, a shipment of vaccines was delivered (bOPV, IPV, meningitis, BCG, Hepatitis B, MMR and Vitamin with needed syringes and safety boxes).
- In general, in 40 UN interagency convoys of 2017 to besieged and hard-to-reach areas, an estimated 123 tons of WHO health supplies were delivered, while 50 tons were rejected. This means medical equipment, surgical material and medicines for almost 500,000 treatments have been removed or reduced in quantity this year.
- On 14 November delivered 1.5 tons of health supplies (or 32,000 medical treatments) through the IA convoy to the besieged Al Rastan in Homs.
- Access with health is imperative: since the 1 November, a total of 69,047 individuals have been displaced from Abu Kamal sub-district located in the south-eastern part of Deir-ez-Zor governorate. The displacement was triggered by clashes between the Government of Syria (GoS) and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). As a result of the fighting, individuals fled to other locations within the governorate as well as towards the governorates of Al-Hassakeh, Idleb and Ar-Raqqa.
- III quarter WHO Syria donor report was released with the following highlights:
 - Delivered over 1.4 million treatments from Damascus, of which 68% went to hard-to-reach and besieged locations. Around one million treatments were delivered through cross-border operations.
 - Participated in 13 inter-agency convoys and five cross-border missions.
 - Supported at least 74 271 outpatient consultations (68 326 inside Syria and 5945 through cross-border support).
 - Supported the treatment of over 358 700 trauma cases inside Syria.
 - Expanded the number of sentinel sites reporting to EWARS/EWARN from 1619 in Q2, 2017 to 1649 in Q3, 2017.
 - Donated 214 pieces of medical equipment to health facilities across the country.
 - Rehabilitated five primary health care (PHC) centres in two governorates.
 - Supported over 53 200 mental health and psychosocial support consultations.
 - Screened 145 795 children under five years of age for malnutrition.
 - Vaccinated 515 517 children in Ar-Raqqa and 103 720 children in Deir-ez-Zor against polio. Another 75 557 children were vaccinated against various childhood illnesses through cross-border activities.
 - Tested the quality of water in 464 points across the country.
 - Continued to advocate for unhindered access to people in need.
 - Monitored attacks against health care facilities and personnel, and advocated for their protection.
 - Trained 7445 health care staff (6371 inside Syria and 1074 through cross-border activities).
- No new cases of cVDPV2 were reported this week. The total number of cVDPV2 cases remains 63. All confirmed cases to date have had onset of paralysis before 25 August, 2017. IPV activities aimed at reaching children aged 2-23 months are ongoing. IPV will be offered alongside bOPV as part of the SNIDs in 6 (six) districts of Damascus and 200 hotels in the city, 3 (three) areas of Rural Damascus, 2 (two) districts of Homs and 1 (one) district of Aleppo with large IDP populations from Deir Ez-Zor. A joint mission between the World Health Organization and the local Health Authority to visit newly accessible areas of Aleppo was conducted this week. The mission also met with the Aleppo University Hospital and Aleppo Pediatric Association to advocate for AFP surveillance and to support ongoing immunization activities to reach IDPs from infected areas. The Advisory Group on mOPV2 vaccine provision have

met to review the revised risk assessment for Syria cVDPV2 outbreak and discuss contingency plans for outbreak response. The group endorsed, in principle, the proposal to preposition approximately 1 million doses mOPV2 in Damascus (*pending receipt of formal vaccine request from the Ministry of Health*) to enable rapid response in the event of any ongoing outbreak response activities.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Coordination:

- Prepared an overview of WHO response in NES for III quarter of 2017 (July, August, September)
- Review of WHO project for the 2017 second allocation paper under the Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF) for the response in north-east Syria.
- Participated in a number of meetings as part of the visit to Syria by Mr. Panos Moutziz, the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria Crisis.
- Coordinating information exchange between WHO and XB partners seeking WHO support for immunization in north-east Syria; response with mobile teams and static health clinics in Mabrouka, Ein Issa and Al Hol camps.
- Preparing feedback to the Lancet and Fox News on the range of questions including: immediate needs and concerns, e.g. eastern Ghouta, access to healthcare and situation fragmentation across Syria, efforts made to prevent the “weaponisation” of healthcare, health sector funding situation, details of removed health supplies by the authorities from the convoys, etc.
- Completed the technical review of health sector Syria hub project for 2018 HRP and approved the following projects:

Organization	Project Title	Original Request 2018	Original Request 2017
ADRA	X - Restoring Health Care for Syrians (RHCS)	1214712	1214712
AKF	X- Crisis Support for Non-Communicable Diseases & Mental Health Patients	96600	89600
Al-Birr Association	X- Provision Health services through Al-Birr association health fund	250000	0
Al-Birr Association	X- Rehabilitation of Al-Birr Hospital in Al-Wa'er	1500000	0
Armadilla	X - Providing medical and special assistance for people with physical and cognitive disabilities, with a special focus on children, through the reinforcement of the territorial services.	775943	634724
DAI	X - Access to quality health services in Aleppo, Homs and Rural Damascus	569862	0
EPDC	X - Providing health care and awareness services to vulnerable population and equipping a clinic with advanced equipment	352753	0
IMC UK	X - Life-Saving Response and Protection of Conflict-Affected Youth, children and Persons with disabilities	1017000	2851175
IMC UK	X - Increase access of conflict affected Syrian Population to Health care and Disability aid services	1602370	1107213
IMC UK	X - Health support for displaced and vulnerable population in Syria	1642608	1914398
IOM	Provision of Emergency Health Care to Displaced and Affected Populations	4000000	4171627
MEDAIR	X - Life saving health assistance to relieve suffering, prevent unnecessary deaths and improve coping strategies for IDPs, returnees and crisis affected host populations	2838528	2367390
MSJM	X - Provide life-saving medical assistance to the most vulnerable people in HTR areas in Syria	1360000	0
MSJM	X - Resilient health response for people with disabilities	1599500	0
Rescate	X - Rehabilitation of Salah-Alden Health Center in Aleppo :Infrastructure - Re-Provision of Health Service	469100	0
Tamayouz	X - Medical referrals supported and PHC services provided to vulnerable population in Northern and Rural Damascus	157338	0
Tamayouz	X - Health status of vulnerable population in Damascus and Rural	766490	381800

	Damascus improved		
TdH - IT	X - Promoting primary-secondary Reproductive Health care for women in Rural Damascus and Rural Homs	550000	376105
TdH - IT	X- Promoting Primary and Secondary Health care through Hospital in Al Nabk	1525000	0
UNHCR	X - Support access of vulnerable IDPs and returnees to basic and life-saving health services	25075271	14430490
UNRWA	X-Access to hospital care, drugs and medical supplies to 438,000 Palestine refugees in Syria	14376720	3300000
	Total:	61739795	32839234

Information and planning:

- Produced a snapshot of WHO key indicators for October 2017.
- Conducted a workshop on statistical analysis and ToT in Damascus for 25 MoH participants.
- Conducted a workshop on “Automated HR information system in MoH” in Damascus for 25 MoH participants.
- Developed maps on: 1) Distribution and Functionality of public health facilities (Hospitals + Centres) in Aleppo governorate; 2) Distribution of St. Ephrem Patriarchal Development Committee centre (NGO) in Al-Hassakeh.

Health operations:

Aleppo response:

- A separate weekly update is being provided.
- Dispatched four shipments from Aleppo hub for 3 hospitals and non-governmental organizations (NCD, winter medications, IV fluids, standard health kits, anesthetic and life-saving medications, analgesics, nutrition supplies and specific life-saving medicines) to support mobile medical clinics and health centers. The total number of treatments is 53,500.

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

- Working on consolidation of key performance indicators of WHO for NES response for III quarter 2017.
- Reviewing the request to support with medical equipment from Al Hassakeh emergency center.
- Reviewing the update of information on completed and pending deliveries of health supplies to Qamishli for NES response from other warehouses in the country.
- Continued health coverage support to Abu Khashab informal camp (90 km south of Hassakeh city) as a collection point for IDPs from Deir-ez-Zoir governorate.
- Following the news of displacement of some 120,000 people from Abu Kamal area in Deir-ez-Zoir, an estimated 50,000 people are reportedly residing in the eastern part of Al Sur town under ISIL control that is not accessible and an estimated 70,000 people are displaced to areas near to their villages in western Al Sur town in western Al Khabour river under SDF control. WHO jointly with other agencies collect more information on the estimated numbers and locations to plan the response.
- There are reports of 500 people requiring humanitarian corridor (from ISIS to GoS or SDF controlled areas) from Huijat Kate’a around Deir-ez-Zoir city (close to Hussinia village). Jointly with AHCT WHO looks at this issue.
- Launching “Raqqa community health initiative through outreach teams” providing a series of capacity building support (in Qamishli) to identified teams. In November the members of the teams will undergo training on EWARS, mental health, trauma, health information, nutrition, secondary health care.
- Training on Group Counseling was conducted to 25 psychosocial community workers. The trainees were from NGOs’ from Al Hassakeh governorate.
- Training on Psychological First Aid was conducted in Qamishli for health care providers from Ar Raqqa.
- Preparations are in place for the sub-national polio campaign to be carried out from 19 to 23 November 2017.

- Completed delivery of 3 water tanks (with capacity of 2000 liter for each) to emergency center in Al- Hassakeh city.
- Supported the DoH of Al-Hassakeh with 3 computers.
- Al Qamishli National Hospital: Drilling work will start this week. Project execution period 60 days.
- Field quality monitoring in NES IDPs camps is progressing. Number of tested reservoirs is being monitored and reported monthly.
- Conducted in Deir-ez-Zoir a workshop on “Service Availability and Readiness Assessment” (SARA) survey for 25 DoH participants from Deir-ez-Zoir.
- Conducted site visits to Deir-ez-Zor governorate to assess resource availability, health services, supporting agencies, infrastructure monitoring and rehabilitation potential; to assess the health profile of public health facilities; to follow up SARA training and field data collecting works in health centres.
- Supported national NGOs provided the following support:

Governorate	Area	# of PHC	# of beneficiaries of medicines	# of SHC	# of trauma	# of MHPSS	# of assistance for disabled	# of vocational training
Hassakeh	Al-Hol camp	450	435	14	3	25	0	0
	Rural of Hassakeh	70	69	1	1	0	0	0
	Al-Areesha camp	636	631	25	3	128	0	0
	Hassakeh city center	673	653	411	59	0	120	0
	Al-Shaddadeh	316	316	4	0	16	0	0
	Qamishly	589	589	10	0	0	0	33
	Amuda	254	244	0	0	0	0	0
	Qahtanyah	288	288	1	0	0	0	0
	Ras Al-Ain	797	797	22	0	17	24	0
	Mabruka camp	278	278	0	0	23	16	0
Mabruka village	97	97	0	0	20	13	0	
Raqqqa	Jazrat	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Al-Karama	2247	2164	1	0	174	0	0
	Ain Issa camp	2080	1894	0	0	119	0	0
	Al-Kasrat	977	863	0	0	23	0	0
	Al-Tabqa	583	575	69	0	79	0	0
	Al-Mansoura	599	550	0	0	12	0	0
	Al-Jarnyah	588	540	0	0	18	0	0
	Twehena	516	605	0	0	60	0	0
Suluk	248	248	0	0	7	9	0	
Dier Ezzor	Marat	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Al-Husainiyah	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	Al-Bsyra	0	0	2	3	0	0	0
	Al-Mayadeen	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
	Hatla	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Dier-Ezzor	40	35	4	5	0	0	0
	Abo Khashab	0	0	23	0	0	0	0

Homs response:

- A separate report is being produced.
- Participated in WASH sector meeting: UNICEF WASH achievements in 2017 for Homs and Hama; Partners’ achievements; List of proposed projects from Homs and Hama Water Authority for 2018; Challenges, difficulties and the way forward; Briefing of WHO activities in Homs and Hama governorates. Needs shared by the Directorate of Water Resources was sent to the country office in Damascus.
- Conducted a sub-national health sector coordination meeting in cooperation with the DoH, UN agencies and NGOs.

- Participated in the workshop on health facilities' sterilization and disinfection (14-16 November) for 25 DoH staff.
- Participated in the workshop on disease surveillance for private sector health providers.
- Delivered health supplies for WHO implementing partners in the governorate (e.g. Adod Fukara'a NGO/Poor Orthodox). Plans to send health supplies to Qaryateen public hospital and Al Bir NGO.
- Finalized Services Availability & Readiness Assessment (SARC) plan in cooperation with the DoH. Follow up visits to health facilities are conducted to monitor assessment process.
- Conducted a field visit to the social center for disabled people supported by Al Zarzouria NGO. A list of needs is shared to follow up. The NGO is currently covering Zarzouria area, next to Al Waer neighborhood.
- Field assessment visits conducted to local NGOs which submitted new project proposals.

Lattakia response:

- Attended a conference organized by Lattakia DoH on the occasion of "World Diabetics Day".
- Participated in the awareness campaign on early diagnosis of breast cancer organized by Lattakia DoH.
- Dispatched from the main warehouse insulin to Lattakia and Tartus DOH; 9 incubators to the children hospital in Damascus.
- Received new 2.2 tons of medicines from the seaport.
- Conducted training on mental health for Tartus DOH and two trainings in Lattakia on the screening of dropouts in vaccination campaigns.
- Conducted field visit to Al-Zahraa NGO in Al-Datour area to make an assessment and study the NGOs project proposal in the field.

Immunization:

- The sub-national polio campaign will start next week 19-23/11/2017 in all governorates targeting 925,007 children under 5 in hard-to-reach and besieged areas. 1313 mobile and 262 fixed teams will participate in this campaign. WHO will cover the campaign operational cost including transportation cost, vaccines delivery, incentives for fields officers.
- During November sub-national immunization campaign IPV activities will target children aged 2-23 months in specific areas in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs and Aleppo hosting displaced people from Deir-ez-Zoir.
- Work continues to support the upgrade of polio laboratory: WHO has provided the equipment. Renovations are ongoing to enable the room for receiving specimens and the training for lab staff will be conducted in early December to enable full implementation of new processes before the end of 2017.

Mental health program:

- Three trainings on mhGAP intervention guide were conducted to three groups of health professionals working at PHC centers in Tartous, Hama and Rural Damascus.
- 20 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 Tartous, Rural Damascus, Damascus and Hama.

Nutrition program and child health:

- Conducted a workshop on Growth Assessment and IYCF counselling in Tartous governorate for 25 health workers.
- Conducted a technical meeting with MoH to develop the implementation of the National Code of Marketing the Breast-milk Substitutes and Subsequent as per World Health Assembly Resolutions (Net Code).
- Preparing a survey concerning the neonatal resuscitation program: The data received from 14 hospitals in 8 governorates: 2,485 newborn children (69.8% - cesarean, 15.3% - premature births, 81 - received simple resuscitation, 49 - received advanced resuscitation).

Secondary health care program:

- Conducted two days technical meeting with MoH, MoHE experts on update of EML (Essential Medicines List) 2018 to meet the country needs and adapt to the health needs.
- Supported Children Hospital in Damascus (ICU department) with incubators.
- Delivered psychotropic medicines to the MoH hospitals.
- Conducted workshops on management skills development, hospitals sterilization and disinfection, rational use of Medicines.
- Monitored warehouse storage practices in the main WHO warehouse in Damascus.

Disease surveillance:

- A total number of 9 samples were collected (in the period of September - 15 November) from H1N1 suspected cases (SARI cases admitted to ICU) and sent to the reference laboratory in Damascus. The results showed negative for H1N1 for all the cases.
- Facilitated coordination and technical support for the winterization preparedness between WHO and the MoH. The Ministry of Health sent official circular to the health directorates in all governorates to undertake the following preparedness procedures:
 - Strengthen the surveillance of Sever Acute Respiratory infections, ILI, and MERS – Coron.
 - Prepare isolation wards for suspected cases.
 - Ensure the availability of medicines, PPE and laboratory diagnosis for all suspected cases in ICUs in the governorates.
 - Case management algorithm to be distributed to the hospitals receiving SARI cases.
 - Training activities on the surveillance and managing of SARI cases are planned to be conducted in 10 governorates.
 - Posters and brochures for Influenza prevention will be distributed through health facilities.
 - H1N1 medicines have been distributed to MoH hospitals in most governorates.
- Supported anti-lice campaign for schools in Hama by delivering related medicines with coordination with NNGOs.

Trauma:

No update is provided.

National NGO coordination:

- In coordination with WHO sub-office in Homs, 3 grant agreements to respond to the health needs of the internally displaced people and vulnerable groups are in process especially in the southeast of Rural Homs.
- DOH staff who are applying SARA survey on primary health care centers was escorted to one of NGOs health facilities in Damascus along with the NGOs consultant to oversee the process at the community level.
- Training needs assessment tool was developed jointly with an international consultant to better assess both health needs / gabs which will eventually lead to developing a capacity building plan for 2018. The first version of this tool will be tested by 7 NGOs as a pilot assessment to measure the reliability of the tool.

WASH:

- Specifications developed for procuring medical waste bins for Aleppo. Global procurement in progress.
- Water quality monitoring system: Memorandum for Collaboration received from Ministry of Local Administration and Environment. Issues related to translation of document are being resolved.
- Field monitoring of groundwater wells in Aleppo is progressing. Monitoring of groundwater wells in progress after having completed testing drinking water of 407 wells. Old Aleppo is currently in progress. Over 70 wells tested to date.

Capacity support (details):

- Provided support to 22 training events for 535 participants

Date	Number of participants	Subject	Program
11/11/2017	10	Polio lab committee meeting in Damascus	PHC
11-12/11/2017	25	Training course to enhance surveillance and effective detection for Leishmania in Damascus	EWARS
11-13/11/2017	25	Adults Life Support "ALS" in Damascus	Trauma
11-16/11/2017	25	Statistical analysis and ToT in Damascus	HIS
11/11/2017	25	Seminar on diseases surveillance (Polio, cVDPV2, immediate reporting) for Private sector Doctors in Homs	PHC
14-16/11/2017	25	Data Entry for Nutrition surveillance in Hama	NUT
12-14/11/2017	25	Disability Management training course in Damascus	Trauma
12-16/11/2017	25	mhGAP-IG phase 1 for MoH R. Damascus in Damascus	MH
12-16/11/2017	25	ToT training course for Surveillance Technicians in Damascus	PHC
12-16/11/2017	25	mhGAP-IG phase 2 for MoH Tartous in Tartous	MH
12-14/11/2017	25	mhGAP for heads of health centers for MoH Hama	MH
12-16/11/2017	25	Group counselling for NGOs Hassakeh & Qamishli	MH
13-15/11/2017	25	Management Skills Development for Damascus, Sweida, Homs, Hama, Lattakia, Tartous in Damascus	SHC
13-14/11/2017	25	Training course to enhance surveillance and effective detection for Leishmania in Damascus	EWARS
13-14/11/2017	25	EML 2017 update in Damascus	SHC
13-16/11/2017	25	Workshop on the diagnosis & treatment of Chronic respiratory diseases in Sweida	PHC
14-16/11/2017	25	Hospitals Sterilization and disinfection in Homs	SHC
14-16/11/2017	25	Training course on Leishmania treatment manual in Aleppo	EWARS
15-16/11/2017	25	Training course to enhance surveillance and effective detection for Leishmania for rural Damascus in Damascus	EWARS
16-20/11/2017	25	Wounded War Injuries Management "WWM" in Homs	Trauma
13-15/11/2017	25	Training workshop for launching SARA survey at governorate level in Deir-ez-Zoir	HIS
14-16/11/2017	25	Automated HR information system in MoH workshops in Damascus	HIS

External Relations, Coordination and Communications:

- Following up on the implementation of visibility media products on the implementation of the grant funded by the Government of China.
- Participating in the official joint WHO, MoH and MoHE mission to Iran. The objectives of the mission are to review lessons learnt from the implementation of the model of family physicians in Iran and to observe the role of Family Physicians in Primary Health Care Programs. The mission aims to review the education model for training Family Physicians, as well as exploring the opportunities of collaboration between Syria and the Islamic Republic of Iran on moving towards the implementation of family physicians model in Syria.
- Preparing the weekly media briefing on WHO main operational activities to be published in the "UN Syria: A week in a focus".
- Finalized and published Q3 WHO Syria Donor Update.
- Briefed the Japanese mission in Syria on the recent developments and progress of the grant implementation.

Operational support and logistics:

- Dispatched 26.1 tons of health, lab supplies, standard kits, medical equipment, jerry cans and printing materials covering 8 governorates (Al-Hassakeh, Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Tartous, Sweida, Damascus and Rural Damascus). The recipients included 7 MoH facilities, 3 MoHE facilities, 2 IA convoys, 11 NGOs, 2 NGO hospitals and SARC. The total number of treatments is 230,110 treatments. The dispatched supplies included:
 - 2 pneumonia kits type B, 5 sphygomometer + stethoscope, 1 mechanical scale and different types of mental health, PHC, STHC & Trauma medicines & medical supplies were delivered to Duma in rural Damascus as an IA convoy through SARC.

- 1 examination bed/table for patients, 1 mother/child scale (DEXA-0030), 1 pediatric scale (DEXA IM-014), 1 digital baby scale (EBSC-20), 2 mechanical scales, 3 Mercurial sphygmometer + stethoscope (Fazzini), 11 adults & children wheelchairs, 1 burn dressing kit and different types of EWARS, nutrition, PHC, STHC & Trauma medicines, medical supplies & printing materials were delivered to Ar-Rastan in Homs as an IA convoy through SARC.
- 13 cholera kits & 453,000 capsules of Tetracycline hydrochloride BP 250 delivered to MoH central warehouse in Damascus in favor of directorate of communicable diseases.
- Different types of anesthetic medicines delivered to MoH central warehouse in favor of Sweidaa national hospital, Damascus hospital & Al-Razi hospital in Aleppo.
- 8,350 bottles of Rifampicin 100 mg /5 ml, 7,000 vials of ketamine hydrochloride, 17,000 ampoules of tramadol hydrochloride, 2,802 prefilled syringes of human tetanus, 500 vials of streptokinase powder for injection, 1700 vials of Anti-D immunoglobulin (Human) injection, 2,340 pre-filled syringes of interferon beta 1A injection, 33,000 different types of insulin were delivered to MOH central warehouse in Damascus.
- Different types of insulin vials delivered to Tartus DoH.
- ICT equipment delivered to Al-Hasakah DoH.
- Lab supplies delivered to MoH – public health labs.
- 1,272 pre-filled syringes of interferon beta 1A injection, 300 vials of Anti-D immunoglobulin (Human) injection & 150 ampoules of Atracurium delivered to MoHE central warehouse in Damascus.
- 10 infant incubators (BabyLife BLF-2001), 2 M7 diagnostic ultrasound system, 1 autoclave (Uniclave 77 Ø 50X80), 3 infant ventilators (Mindray E5), 2 adult ventilators (Mindray Synovent E5), 1 oxygen concentrator, 720 bottles of sevoflurane 250 ml, 240 bottles of halothane 250 ml and 550 ampoules of Atracurium were delivered to MoHE – children hospital.
- 504 bottles of both halothane 250 ml & sevoflurane 250 ml and 250 ampoules of Atracurium were delivered to MoHE – Al-Birouni university hospital.
- 1 adult ventilator, 480 bottles of halothane 250 ml, 381 bottles of sevoflurane 250 ml and 200 ampoules of Atracurium were delivered to Al Mwasat al Kherea Non Gov. Hospital in Damascus.
- 1 adult ventilator delivered to Al-Kalimeh Non Gov. non Hospital in Aleppo.
- 6 pneumonia kits type B, 12 adult sphygmomanometer, 1 sterilizer bench-top hot air type capacity 105 liters, 1 family doctors kit (Paracetamol & hydrocortisone only), 1 BeneHeart R12 12-channel electrocardiograph, 1 M7 diagnostic ultrasound system, 25 adult and children wheelchairs, 10 mother/child scales, 10 portable stadiometers and different types of EWARS, MH, nutrition, PHC, STHC & trauma medicines, medical supplies & printing materials were delivered to 11 NGOs in Aleppo, Damascus & Homs.
- 1 IDDK of both basic & infusion module, 3 burn dressing kits, 1 IEHK supplementary kit, 2 mini IDDK basic module kits and different types of EWARS, nutrition, PHC, STHC & Trauma medicines were delivered to Aleppo SARC.

KEY GAPS & CHALLENGES

- Lack of approvals for access to Ar Raqqa city area and Deir-ez-Zoir rural areas as people are reported to return. Ready for assessment activities while expecting approvals. Mashlab area is the first district of Ar Raqqa city experiencing return.
- Destroyed and not functioning health facilities in NES (the public health care system of Al-Hassakeh governorate includes 98 PHC centers. Of these, only 3 PHC centers are classified as fully functioning; 57 PHC centers are partially functioning; 38 PHCs are not functioning. There are also 5 national hospitals (3 fully functioning, 1 partially, 1 non-functioning). The public health care system of Ar Raqqa governorate includes 73 PHC centers. Only 3 PHC centers in Tal Abyad district are classified as partially functioning. 54 PHC centers are partially damaged, 4 PHCs are fully damaged and 15 PHCs are intact. There are 4 national hospitals in Ar Raqqa governorate. All four hospitals are partially functioning. Three hospitals are partially damaged, while one is intact. All four hospitals are categorized as accessible. The public health care system of Deir-ez-Zoir governorate includes 103 health centres. Only 59 PHC centers in are classified as partially functioning. 11 PHC centers are partially damaged, 14 PHCs are fully damaged

and 76 PHCs are intact, while 2 PHCs are not confirmed. There are 7 national hospitals in Deir-ez-Zoir governorate. Only four hospitals are partially functioning. 2 hospitals are partially damaged, 3 hospitals are fully damaged, while 2 are intact.

- 60% of rural areas are reported to have no medical point or health center.
- Minimum health services for population of Al Tabqa city are reported with only one functioning health facility for population of more than 100,000 people now.
- Evolving situation around camps/settlements in NES as per UNHCR, the current population in camps is of double-size of the original capacity. With the developments in the region, it is expected that the camp population should get decreased with more people to return to their areas of origin. This would affect the requirement to align the health response accordingly.
- Necessity to coordinate locally among XL and XB partners the set-up of health clinics, mobile teams for example, in Ein Issa, Mabrouka, Al Hol camps.
- The latest message from Hassakeh governor to Qamishli UN agencies to put all the humanitarian relief activities on hold until further notice. The reason for the suspension is currently unknown. This decision affects the work of all WHO implementing partners Ar Raqqa and Al Hassakeh. The issue is being followed at AHCT, HCT and RC/HC levels. "Al-Hassakeh Governor banned all charitable and non-governmental organizations in the governorate from distributing food and non-food items, until further notice; except for flour, medicines, wheelchairs and mobility aids for people with disabilities, health and educational services, and funding surgical operations in private hospitals".
- There is a need of better understanding of the reported presence of "stabilization actors" (as US contractors/private companies) focused on large infrastructure works including hospitals and water pumping stations, roads clearance, rubble removal, etc. in north-east Syria.
- The problem is pending with the local health committee of self-administration in Tal Abiad blocking the work of one of WHO implementing partners.
- Rukban (Syria/Jordan border) response: under the discussions the operationalization of the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance to the outskirts of Rukban camp using unaccompanied commercial, pending the official approval from MoFA and the guarantees of safe passage from all actors in the ground.

RESPONSE PRIORITIES

- Prepared with health supplies to participate in inter-agency convoys to the following HTR and besieged locations: Ar-Rastan; Nashabiyeh; Kafr Batna; Saqba; Tall Refaat + Afrin; Masmiyeh.
- Health sector preparation for UNSCR resolution 2165 (possible renewal, amendment or non-renewal of the extension United Nations Security Council Resolution 2165 (2014) expiring on 10 January 2018): strengthening the complementarity of humanitarian operations from within Syria and cross-border operations: identify existing gaps in the response, map the existing capacity to address and ensure complementarity of service delivery, protection interventions and aid.