

Week 4, 19-25 January 2018

General developments & political & security situation

- Russia's special envoy, Alexander Lavrentiev, announced the guarantor states had agreed on lists of participants in Sochi conference, to be held 30 January.
- Syrian troops and allied militias captured a strategic airbase from militants in Idlib province.
- Turkish troops and allied rebels escalated their attacks on a Kurdish enclave in northern Syria, marking the start of an operation to drive the YPG Kurdish militia from near Turkey's border. Erdogan's regime forces committed new aggression against Syrian sovereignty yesterday, bombarding villages and towns in rural Aleppo and Al-Hassakeh. Syria strongly condemned the brutal Turkish aggression on Afrin.
- The UN is deeply concerned by reports of fighting and military operations in Afrin District in northwest Syria near the Syria-Turkish border. There are 324,000 men, women and children, including 126,000 displaced in the district. Fighting has placed thousands of civilians in Afrin in northwestern Aleppo Governorate at risk of death and injury. Many of those living in the area have already been displaced, and are at risk of further displacement. Even before the recent escalation in violence, 60 per cent of the population in Afrin was assessed to be in need of humanitarian assistance.
- The administration of the Bab al-Hawa crossing announced on 23 January the closure of the crossing from the Turkish side.
- On 20 January the UN placed its cross-border shipments from Turkey temporarily on hold because of the security situation. The bulk of assistance for neighbouring Idleb Governorate passes through the crossings from Turkey (Bab al-Salam and Bab al-Hawa) [under UN Resolution 2165], providing much needed assistance to tens of thousands of newly displaced in that governorate. This has affected 123 truckloads of UN shipments, comprising food, shelter and health assistance that were planned for Syria this week.
- The United States has not sufficiently addressed Turkish concerns over a Washington-led plan to establish a Kurdish-led border security force in Syria, Ankara said, as the US has started training and recruiting personnel for a 30,000-strong security force that would be deployed along the borders of a region controlled by the US backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in Syria.
- Al-Hassakeh: Polio vaccination campaign, carried out last week by the Health Directorate, achieved its goal of reaching 241,000 children; in addition to vaccinating 7,000 children living in temporary residence centers for families displaced from Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zoir
- The U.S. government's aid chief, Mark Green, made an unannounced visit to Raqqa in Syria on 22 January. Without the approval of the Syrian government the US military cannot stay in the country, Russia's Special Presidential Envoy to Syria Aleksandr Lavrentiev said.
- The SAA military operation supported by airstrikes and artillery shelling against NSAGs positions in East Ghouta are expected to continue as no major cease-fire agreement has been reached yet.
- At least 21 civilians have been killed by government airstrikes on and shelling of the besieged rebel-held suburbs east of the capital over the past 48 hours. Attacks over the weekend brought the total death toll in Eastern Ghouta to 219 civilians since the government escalated its offensive against the rebel enclave on December 29.
- US blames Russia for Syria chemical weapons attacks. Russia has drafted a United Nations Security Council resolution on the establishment of a new structure to investigate chemical attacks in Syria.
- The UN's refugee agency has confirmed that at least 13 Syrians, including women and children, have lost their lives during a snowstorm while trying to flee their war-stricken country into neighboring Lebanon.
- Reports were received that people in Duma and Harasta now permanently shelter in basements and underground shelters. Intensified shelling reportedly triggered internal displacement movement of some 15,000 individuals from locations in the eastern part of the besieged enclave (Harasta, Modira and the Al Marj area) towards other areas in the enclave.
- Minister of Health revealed that 42 health centers affected by terrorism were rehabilitated, and 5 new centers were opened in rural Aleppo, Homs, Tartous and Rural Damascus ... nationally produced medications now covered 90% of

local market's need, and the Ministry's hospitals and health centers provided 40 million free medical services last year, at a cost exceeding 81 billion SYPs.

KEY HEALTH ISSUES

- There was an alleged attack with chlorine in Douma, eastern Ghouta. According to SAMS, 4 women, 7 children and 10 men received medical care in ER in Douma with symptoms indicative to chlorine. All patients were treated and no fatality was reported. There are no other reports available. Technical units at HQ and the RO levels are informed and engaged.
- Mental health hospital in A'zaz sub district, Aleppo impacted by a mortar shells resulted in huge structural damages. Initial report showed one patient killed and twelve were injured all of them are females. The affected unit went out of service. Monthly, the hospital is providing an average of 140 consultations, of them 40 new mental health consultations and about 125 admissions. The mentioned area in rural Aleppo governorate is under the control of Turkish military forces. This defines the challenges related to cross-line and cross-border access to provide assistance and support to the patients and the facility. Five of 12 injured female patients are reported in a serious medical condition. Ongoing steps and coordination were put in place.
- Idleb governorate is home to 1.7 million people in need, including over one million IDPs. The security situation in the governorate remains precarious and with more and more IDPs reaching the governorate, living space and scarce resources are being stretched beyond their limits.
- Development of the preparedness and response plan of health sector to Afrin and other part of Kurdish controlled areas of Aleppo governorate. There are some 320,000 people residing in Afrin and Tall Refaat. As per current scenario planning, up to 30,000 people could be displaced towards Aleppo city, particularly the Kurdish-controlled neighborhoods, if crossing points were opened. Some 37,500 individuals arrived to GoS-controlled areas in Hama governorate, where they joined some 40,000 individuals who returned to Hama governorate in the past six months. OCHA developed situation report is here:
https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/latest_developments_in_north-western_syria_final_20180123.pdf
- Prepositioned 42 tons of health supplies for 200,000 medical treatments for IA convoys to any locations inside the besieged eastern Ghouta. Planned IA convoys to Duma (70,000 targeted beneficiaries); Nasrabiyyeh (7,200 targeted beneficiaries) and Dar Al-Kabirah (33,500 targeted beneficiaries) were postponed.
- Health sector Syria hub continues to advocate that medical evacuation should stand second next to the issue of humanitarian convoys and access to the besieged locations. The medical evacuation plan submitted in Note Verbale 648 should be approved by the Government of Syria. Our position remains the same that in medical evacuation, under the international laws related to armed conflict, the need of the patient should be the only factor in consideration and no other agendas should come into play. Regular delivery of life-saving medicines and health supplies to eastern Ghouta will lead to the decrease of number of patients in need of medical evacuation.
- Situation in Ein Issa camp in north-east Syria should be re-assessed as the camp has 16,000 people (300% increase of its initial capacity).
- No new cases of cVDPV2 were reported this week. The total number of cVDPV2 cases remains 74. The most recent case (by date of onset of paralysis) is 21 September 2017 from Boukamal district, Deir Ez-Zor governorate. The first round of the second phase of the outbreak response has been completed in all governorates (Deir Ez-Zor, Homs, Hassakeh and Raqqa) with vaccination activities finishing on 21 January. Administrative data has been received from all areas except eastern Deir Ez-Zor. Post-campaign monitoring began 21 January in all governorates. Preparation for the second round (IPV) continues. Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners continue to assist.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Coordination:

- Took part in the internal technical meeting on access to besieged locations, including eastern Ghouta with the list of follow up actions developed: To share the list of the members of the triage technical committee inside EG as

received from health cluster to consider and their next steps and follow up actions inside EG. Health sector is to send the list of removed items in 2017 to MSF as requested. To receive a formal request from health cluster GZT on utilization of expired medicines highlighting this issue and necessity of follow up actions. To follow up to have a sustained system of supply of hemodialysis treatment; solutions for thalassemia patients, NCD medicines. To follow up with WHO nutrition, SARC, UNICEF and nutrition sector on the practice of distributing therapeutic food with food baskets instead of targeting health facilities. To provide feedback on Damascus based response in routine vaccination in northern Homs. To share the bimonthly plan of IA convoys.

- Updated health sector with the medical evacuation plan for eastern Ghouta and to further enhance the technical knowledge and awareness on the required steps shared the most recent available triage guidance recommended by WHO: Report, WHO/ICRC Technical Meeting for Global Consensus on Triage 11-12 January 2017, WHO Headquarters – Geneva, Switzerland; The prehospital triage criteria in a chart. Both documents will be posted under Syria hub web page at the following site: www.humanitarianresponse.info.
- Shared the WoS health team prepared document presenting the health objectives, activities and indicators proposed to be monitored and reported on during 2018, based on the agreements and participation of the hubs in 2017.
- As developed by OCHA, maps on areas on influence are here: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/m4gqn5hgwfibtc8/AADNukm5FZk6-s210YHWlmlja?dl=0>
- Participated in the WHO Whole of Syria: Strategic Review – Re-boot Follow up Meeting in Amman, 21 January 2018.
- Undertaking a field visit to the north-east Syria.

Information and planning:

- Provided trend analysis of attacks on health care for 2018 annual report.
- Produced a narrative report about the status of displaced persons from the eastern and southern countryside of Idlib and the southern north of Hama.
- Produced HeRAMS snapshot for December 2017 of the public hospitals across Syria.
- Provided consolidated WHO 4Ws by NGO program in 2017.
- Developed maps on: 1) Drinking water status of uncontrolled groundwater wells in the City of Aleppo; 2) Afrin current situation and HFs functionality; 3) Number of children screened, 2017.

IM (health sector)

- Created partner's presence map for Aleppo governorate to identify health sector organizations and activities in each sub-district level.
- Drafted 4W 2018 health indicators for partner's feedback with coordination of WoS IM team.
- Compiled health sector achievement for IDP and refugees population.
- Created a monitoring tool for WHO Syria response for 4 planning scenarios.

Health operations:

Aleppo response:

- A separate weekly update is being provided.
- The work plan for the first quarter of 2018 has been submitted.
- Prepared a contingency plan to response to the evolving situation in the north-west Syria.
- Following the status of mental health patients in A'zaz, and coordination with stockholders to facilitate the delivery of psychotropic medicines and the evaluation of cases
- As a part of winterization plan educational and awareness materials for influenza have been distributed to 8 NNGOs.

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

- Follow up actions are being put in place for recommendations of field visit report to Markada area, a town in southern Al-Hassakeh Governorate, 100 km southern of Hassakeh city. US-led Coalition airstrikes against ISIL targeted the town in September 2017, In 19 October SDF attacked town capturing part of it. Town was fully taken by the Syrian Democratic Forces in 9 November 2017.
- Follow up actions are in place on the outcome of coordination meeting in Areesha camp,
- Response for the suspected cases (21) of measles in Areesha camp: DoH team started the vaccination campaign on 15 Jan and the campaign goes on. The latest reported cases (7) are from drop children from routine vaccination program. DoH team will visit the camp on regular basis, 4 days a week through static vaccination point and a mobile team. Engaging with UNICEF teams on a joint response.
- A notification about suspected measles cases was reported from Raqqa, Al Karrama area. WHO will support the collection and transportation of blood samples for laboratory confirmation. Outreach vaccination teams of Raqqa initiative will conduct vaccination sessions.
- Summary of key performance indicators for WHO response in north-east Syria in 4th quarter is available.
- In process to procure additional 100 hospital beds.
- Dispatched shipment of health supplies to Tal Abiyad national hospital and Menbij hospital.
- Following up with technical advice on opened private pharmacies in various IDP camps.
- To provide inputs to the contingency plan to respond to the potential displacement from Menbij to accessible areas by UN in NES.
- Preparations in place for WHO Regional Emergency Director visit: The purpose of the mission: a) to follow up on the activities supported by WHO Syria and health sector partners on strengthening the health response (IDP and refugees) in north-east Syria (Ar Raqqa, Al Hassakeh and Deir-ez-Zoir governorates); b) to assess/review the implementation of WHO operational plan in NES Syria.
- The Governor's Office agreed with the Self Administration to permit all national NGOs to resume the work in NES (earlier the KSA has suspended the operations of 25 NNGOs (11 of them are UN partners).
- Follow up on the referral of the injured girl (4 years old) from one of the camps in NES for further hospitalization in Damascus.
- Working on operational solutions to identify appropriate medical treatment of 3 patients with burns from Roj camp as reported by some partners.
- Facilitating provision workshops on EWARS for Al Hassakeh (25 participants), Counselling and SH+ for NGOs in Al Hassakeh (25 participants), Hospital Infection Control for DoH (25 participants), preparation on public health assessment (35 participants from NGOs).
- Nutrition surveillance campaign was conducted in Areesha camp. A similar one will start in Mabrouka camp.
- Conducted first phases of public health assessment in Areesha and Al-Hol camps using 4 types of questionnaires.
- NGO supported activities:

Governorate	Area	# of PHC	# of beneficiaries of medicines	# of SHC	# of Trauma	# of MHPSS	# of disable people received support	# of vocational training
Hassakeh	Al-Hol camp	355	322	0	0	16	0	0
	Al-Areesha camp	1393	1390	1	0	53	0	0
	Hassakeh city center	570	439	61	1	0	3	0
	Al-Tabqa	102	102	0	0	20	0	0
Raqqa	Hamran Nasser village	1140	824	0	0	66	0	0

	Ain Issa camp	1418	1388	0	0	135	0	0
	Maadan/Al-Kasrat	1037	900	0	0	55	0	0
	Al-Jariyah	246	246	0	0	13	0	0
	Al-Mansoura	399	392	0	0	25	0	0
	Suluk	44	44	0	0	14	0	0
	Manbij	1072	767	0	0	50	0	0
Deir-ez-Zoir	Abo Khashab	501	482	2	1	50	0	0
	Dier-Ezzor city center	492	457	0	0	0	0	0

Homs response:

- A separate weekly SitRep is being produced.
- Followed up mOPV campaign in Palmyra district targeting Omoor Mountain, so-call Abo Rajmin Mountains, and Eastern Palmyra in coordination with DOH Homs. WHO supported operational costs of mobile teams. The total vaccinated U-5 children reached 903 out of targeted 973 children; due to inaccessibility for security situation. Coverage rate 90%.
- Follow up visits carried out to EWARS SSs to ensure adherence to CDs guidelines in terms of case definition & notification to DOH for suspected alerts.
- Shared consolidated humanitarian response to newly IDPs & returnees fled towards Hama from Northern rural Hama & Idleb.
- Facilitated provision of the workshop on chronic respiratory diseases workshop for DOH Homs and local NGOs.
- Filed visit conducted to IDPs shelters in Der Ba'lba neighborhood; assessment completed using the health assessment tool.
- Assessment visit conducted to the medical point run by Adod Fukara' NGO in Eown Al Wadi, Western Rural Homs, for further evaluation of priority of health services in the area. The NGO submitted a project proposal to WHO.
- Dispatched medical shipment (22,000 medical treatments) to Social Care NGO in Hama in response to the situation in the northern Hama in Soran district and Hama city.
- Al Insha'a MOU is still ongoing in cooperation with WHO, providing PHC services, PSS services & vocational courses. The project covers beneficiaries in Homs city, Hesya city & Hesya industrial city.
- Received reports about the increase in the number of Hepatitis A cases in the northern rural Homs (NSAG controlled areas). The notification attributed the increase to contamination in drinking water, weak health awareness and hygiene practice, and difficulties in accessing to health facilities. WHO communicated with SARC in rural Homs to confirm on this alerts. SARC indicated about increase in the average of cases has been noticed since the beginning of November 2017. SARC will provide detailed information about the average number of cases reported per week. Aqua tablets are being distributed on the households in areas by SARC. WHO is in process of printing educational materials about the prevention procedures of Hepatitis A.

Lattakia response:

- Conducted sub-national health sector coordination meeting in Lattakia DoH.
- Conducted two coordination meetings with Lattakia DoH on lice campaign.
- Dispatched 131 Desktops and 72 Fax machines to MoH, two Water Tanks 5m3 and 10m3 for Aleppo DOH.
- Conducted the following workshops: PFA and Self-care strategies for MOH, two mhGAP-IG follow-up for MOH, PFA and Self-care strategies for MOH, one mhGAP-IG phase 2 RH for MOH-PHC.

Immunization:

- The first mOPV campaign of second phase of the outbreak response has been completed in 4 governorates (Deir Ez-Zoir, Homs, Hassakeh and Raqqa),

Area	Administrative coverage
DZ east bank (mainly DZ city)	101%
Tadmor district of Homs	93%
Ein Al-Arab (Kobani) district of Aleppo	91%
Hassakeh governorate	102%
Raqqa governorate	104%

- Post-campaign monitoring is currently conducted by independent monitors from NGOs in Raqqa and Hassakeh governorates while in Deir Ez-Zoir teachers were selected due to unavailability of NGOs in the whole area. Post-campaign monitoring began 21 January in all governorates.
- Preparation for the second round (IPV) in February 2018 continues in three governorates: Damascus, Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh. Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners continue to assist.

Nutrition program and child health:

- National nutrition surveillance results (2017): 743,952 children screened, of whom 18,445 are Global Acute Malnutrition, 3,952 children are Severe Acute Malnutrition and 14,493 children are Moderate Acute Malnutrition. 1,023 patients were referred to stabilization centers across the country.
- Conducting a workshop on the national code of breast milk substitute.

Secondary health care program:

- Infection control workshop conducted in Qamishli.
- 500 hemodialysis sessions delivered to Al Mwasat hospital. 350 hemodialysis sessions delivered to Aleppo. 50 sessions delivered to Ar-Raqqa (Tal Abiad national hospital).
- Around 12,000 treatment of life saving medicines (secondary health care) delivered to support health facilities in Damascus, Hama, Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa and Hassakeh.
- Attended AHCT for Rural Damascus meeting.

Disease surveillance:

An assessment for the procurement and supplies management (PSM) activities of the national control programs of TB and HIV has been conducted through the technical support of the Regional Office. The main objectives of the assessment are: Provide support to the programs in the assessment of current stock of medicines (existing stock balances and validation of these balances from the sub-national levels). Review the status of medicines orders for 2018, and estimate the needs for 2019. Develop transition plans and accelerate the introduction of new MDR-TB drugs. Review the implementation of transition plan for the new pediatric formulations, including re-estimation of quantities and analyses of costs. Conduct a rapid assessment of the central labs items, identify the current status of devices focusing on what's functioning and/or needs replacement and validating needs.

In line with WHO plan of 2018 to strengthen the detection of HIV and TB in hard to reach areas and among IDPs settlements, WHO has initiated the preparatory steps to implement two screenings of TB & HIV among vulnerable population in hard to reach areas and IDPs settlements. The aim of these activities is to ensure diagnostics and treatment of TB and HIV in general population and vulnerable population. The following steps were conducted: The draft questionnaires of the screening TB and HIV have been developed. A meeting with the Central Bureau of Statistics was conducted to design the screening's samples, estimate the number of needed field workers, and estimate the duration of field works based on sample size, questionnaires, and areas covered.

Mental health:

- Two trainings on mhGAP intervention guide were conducted to about 50 health professionals working at PHC centers in Damascus and rural Hama.
- About 80 health professionals previously trained on mhGAP intervention guide working at PHC centers received follow-up and on the job trainings by WHO mental health professionals in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Lattakia, As Sweida'a and Quneitra.
- Training on basic psychological interventions to GBV survivors was conducted to 25 community psychosocial support workers. The trainees were from WHO supported NGOs' mobile teams in Al Hassakeh governorate.
- Training on psychological first aid and self-care strategies was conducted in Lattakia for about 25 health care providers working at PHC centers.
- MHPSS TWG conducted a meeting to exchanging information about the latest attack on mental health hospital in Azaz area in rural Aleppo governorate and to discuss options for the response and propose different solutions, including evacuation of the patients from Azaz to Ibn Khaldoun hospital in Aleppo city.

Trauma:

- Participated in a TC including WHO-HQ, East Mediterranean Regional Office, WCO Amman, Gaziantep Hub, to discuss and update WHO activities and response to the latest development; and have a briefing on spectrum of issues, including operations, human resources and admin.
- Followed up with WHO regional office on the fourth Global Status Report on Road Safety, GSRRS4, regarding the requested information (by HQ) for road safety legislation analysis and validation.
- Presented the main Trauma and Disability program activities across Syria to the Humanitarian Programme Officer in the Embassy of Sweden in Damascus.

National NGO coordination:

- Briefing on WHO's humanitarian response through our local partner NGOs in Syria has been presented to Humanitarian Programme Officer in Embassy of Sweden.
- AHCT meeting in UNHCR in residence of UN agencies, SARC, INGOs and NNGOs has been attended. Main action points was: OCHA to present the new IM online 4ws tool; Update on East Ghota; Discuss the humanitarian response in Saasaa sub-district.
- Mission to Al Hassakeh governorate to apply the assessment tools in the four IDPs camps has been conducted.

WASH:

- Upgrading water supply and storage system of St Louis hospital in Aleppo. Technical meeting is being held with the potential winning supplier in order to better understand the scope of his offer.
- Procurement of medical waste bins for DoH Aleppo. Discussions underway with global procurement and potential supplier for the quality of offered bins.
- Medical waste trucks. Trucks arrived to Dubai. Letter sent to MoFA informing it of final destination of trucks to Damascus Solid Waste Directorate.
- 10 m3 and 5 m3 water tankers are ready for transfer to DoH Aleppo. DoH Aleppo has sent its people to Lattakia warehouse to officially receive these trucks on 24 January 2018.
- Field quality monitoring in NES IDPs camps is progressing. Work in progress for year 2018. Indicator data being provided monthly
- Field monitoring of groundwater wells in Aleppo is progressing. To date, over 730 groundwater wells have been tested. A map showing locations of contaminated wells provided. Next meeting to be held on 28 January 2018.

Capacity support (details):

- Support to 14 training events for 475 participants.

Date	Estimated No of participants	Details/Field	Program
21/01/2018	25	mhGAP-IG follow-up for MOH Lattakia in Lattakia	MH
21-25/01/2018	25	mhGAP-IG phase 2 for MOH Damascus in Damascus	MH
22-25/01/2018	25	Counseling and SH+ for NGOs Al Hassakeh	MH
21-25/1/2018	25	ToT - Vaccination in Damascus	PHC
21-23/01/2018	25	EWARS Reporting for Al hasakeh in Al Hasakeh	EWARS
22/01/2018	25	mhGAP-IG follow-up for MOH Lattakia in Lattakia	MH
22-24/1/2018	25	Chronic respiratory diseases for the Medical & Technical Corp in Homs	PHC/NCD
22-24/01/2018	25	Training the physicians on updated National HIV Treatment Protocol	EWARS
22-28/1/2018	25	Infection control in hospitals in Qamishli	SHC
21-25/01/2018	25	mhGAP-IG phase 2 for MOH Hama/Misyaf in Hama	MH
23-14/01/2018	25	PFA and Self-care strategies for MOH Lattakia in Lattakia	MH
23-25/1/2018	25	First aid and basic life support training course in Damascus	Trauma
25/01/2018	25	EWARS Reporting for Aleppo in Aleppo	EWARS
25/01/2018	150	Update the Syrian blog for milk alternatives in Damascus	NUT

External Relations, Coordination and Communications:

- Presented the health sector needs on behalf of the health sector in a meeting organized by the Japanese Ambassador to Syria and attended by UN agencies, NGOs and representatives of Japan private sector.
- Organized a briefing on WHO operations and areas of interventions for the humanitarian counsellor of the Embassy of Sweden in Syria.

Operational support and logistics:

- Dispatched 30.6 tons of medical supplies, equipment, health kits, printing materials & ICT equipment covering 5 governorates (Al-Hassakeh, Raqqa, Aleppo, Hama & Damascus). The recipients included 7 MoH facilities, 1 MoHE facility 13 NGOs, SARC, KRC and non-governmental hospital. The total number of treatments is 127,240 and 435 trauma case. The dispatched supplies included:
 - 1 BeneHeart R12 12-channel electrocardiograph, 1 Binocular Microscope Olympus CX23, 1 Defibrillator, 1 baby scale, 5 pneumonia kits B, 1 M7 Diagnostic Ultrasound System, 5 Mercurial Sphygmometer + Stethoscope Sphygmomanometer adult cuff, 1 tabletop centrifuge PLC-025, 2000 ampoules of Atropine Injection (sulphate) 1mg/1ml, 1000 bottles of Benzyl Benzoate 25 g / 100 ml, 802 tubes of silver sulphadiazine USP 10 mg tube and different types of trauma and PHC consumables were delivered to KRC in Al-Hassakeh.
 - 1000 vials of Propofol 10mg/ml delivered to MoH – Al Razi hospital in Aleppo.
 - 300 Fresenius hemodialysis complete sessions for children delivered to MoH - General assembly for Kidney dialysis in Aleppo.
 - 50 Fresenius hemodialysis sessions and 1 M7 diagnostic ultrasound system for adults delivered to Manbej hospital in Aleppo.
 - 4 different types of cholera kits, 2 IEHK Kits (supplementary unit), 3 pneumonia kits (A), 10 pneumonia kits (B), 4 minor surgery instruments and different types of PHC, STHC, mental health, EWARS and trauma medicines & medical supplies delivered to Tabqa hospital in Raqqa.
 - 4 different types of cholera kits, 50 Fresenius hemodialysis sessions for adults, 3 IEHK Kits (supplementary unit), 4 pneumonia kits (A), 10 pneumonia kits (B), 1 trauma kit both A & B, 1 M7 diagnostic ultrasound system, 5 minor surgery instruments and different types of EWARS, PHC, STHC & Trauma medicines and medical supplies delivered to Tell Abiad hospital in Raqqa.
 - 131 desktop computers with UPS, 72 fax multi-function black and white (HP LASERJET), 74 Printers (Brother HL2365DW) delivered to MoH central warehouse in Damascus.

- 3393 mosquito nets delivered to MoH central warehouse in favor of Raqqa DoH.
- 500 hemodialysis sessions delivered to MoHE – Al Mowasat hospital in Damascus.
- 8500 influenza flayers and 330 influenza posters delivered to several SARC, NGOs and nongovernmental hospital in Aleppo.
- 2 pediatric scales, 1 otoscope device, 5 Mercurial Sphygmometer + Stethoscope Sphygmomanometer adult cuff, 3 portable stadiometer – measuring scales, 6 adult wheelchairs, 1 rapid diagnostic test for cholera, 2 digital baby scales, 1 burn dressing kit and different types of PHC, STHC, trauma, nutrition & EWARS medicines, medical supplies and printing materials delivered to social care charity in Hama.

KEY GAPS & CHALLENGES

- Treatment of patients with burn injuries remain a significant gap in NES, especially factored if these patients are refugees or without any documents. The referral outside of NES presents serious security concerns. Overall, WHO received a lot of requests from different partners to provide support with referrals of patients.
- The temporary ban of operations of national NGOs in NES decreased provision of health services in Hassakeh city, its rural area and camps while Ar Raqqa based services were continued.
- No convoy has been delivered since the last update to the HCT on 20 December 2017. The last UN inter-agency convoy was to Al-Houla and Harbanisfeh on 14 December 2017.
- No medical evacuations have taken place since the small-scale evacuations on 26/28 December. The caseload of people requiring medical evacuation continues to grow.
- MoFA expressed their interest in finalizing the HRP before the end of the month of January.
- MoH decree (2 January 2018)/REF: 4/176: It is not allowed to import or purchase the medicines which are manufactured in the Syrian local market. Hold a meeting between Ministry of Health and representatives from the International Organizations to agree on the list of essential medicines with the importance of commitment, credibility in providing the mentioned medicines. International organizations must import medicines with two-thirds validity period. Send medicine samples for analysis. The ministry stresses that it is not allowed for the organizations and international donors to purchase any of the medicines which are manufactured locally either by importation or by purchasing from the Syrian factories.

The issue of the MoH ban on importation of medicines and medical consumable locally manufactured has been ongoing throughout 2017. There were a series of different bilateral and joint meetings among the involved stakeholders. WHO international consultant has extensively worked to find alternatives and workable solution and a separate NV from RC/HC office was submitted to the MoFA. A way forward is at the levels of heads of UN agencies and ICRC (as being affected by this decision) to agree on the best way to proceed. This should be escalated to the level of UNCT and HCT while exploring other options to find a solution.

RESPONSE PRIORITIES

- Development of standardized health indicators to monitor the progress of WHO emergency response in 4 planning scenarios for IA convoys; north-east, north-west and southern governorates.
- 16 tons of health supplies, including 30 IEHK supplementary kits, are being dispatched by air to Qamishli to support key health sector partners on the ground.
- Follow up with WoS health to improve the content of the health inputs for OCHA situation reports on north-east Syria.
- Consider preparation of a separate health convoy to the besieged eastern Ghouta (with participation of other UN agencies and ICRC).
- Finding options to provide support with oxygen generating station for the alternative hospital location as requested by the Governor's Office in Al Hassakeh.

