Supplies were delivered by the WHO Turkey Hub and distributed to health cluster partners in northern Syria.

Routine immunization with pentavalent vaccine.

Medical staff and community health care workers.


1. In September 2017, 16 verified incidents of violence against the health care infrastructure were reported, resulting in the deaths of at least 10 people including three health workers.

2. Movement through Celvegozu/Bab-Al-Hawa crossing stays limited for non-humanitarian goods. The corridor for humanitarian aid and some categories of people is not affected.

3. In September 2017, 857 doctors, nurses, midwives were trained by Health Cluster partners.

4. During September, 10,812 people were displaced from Oqirbat sub-district of Hama Governorate towards Idleb Governorate in northern Syria. With the support of Health Cluster partners 5 340 consultations were provided for the newly displaced, 171 critical cases were referred for further care, 112 children received Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV), Penta, B.C.G, TD, Hepatitis B and Measles and Rubella (MR) vaccines.

5. Assessment of the most critical needs in supplies in health care facilities in Aleppo governorate was conducted.

6. In September 2017, 12.8 million people were in need of health assistance, 700,000 children aged <5 were deprived of vaccine, 6.3 million were internally displaced, and 4.54 million were besieged and hard-to-reach.

HIGHLIGHTS

HEALTH SECTOR

- 63 HEALTH CLUSTER PARTNERS
- 2 900 MEDICINES DELIVERED
- 145 964 TRAUMA CARE TREATMENT COURSES
- 165 FUNCTIONING FIXED PRIMARY HEALTH CARE FACILITIES
- 78 FUNCTIONING HOSPITALS
- 80 MOBILE CLINICS
- 937 388 HEALTH SERVICES
- 9 204 DELIVERIES ASSISTED BY A SKILLED ATTENDANT
- 13 727 REFERRALS
- 14.2% MEDICAL PROCEDURES IN HARD TO REACH AREAS
- 32 084 VACCINATION
- 857 CAPACITY BUILDING
- 466 DISEASE SURVEILLANCE
- 101.4 MILLION FUNDING $US

(All figures are for the Whole of Syria)
Situation update

Movement through Celvegozu/Bab-Al-Hawa crossing stays limited for non-humanitarian goods. The corridor for humanitarian aid and some categories of people is not affected.

During September, due to a rise in military clashes increased displacements have been recorded from Oqeirbat sub-district of Hama Governorate towards Idleb Governorate in northern Syria. Since 1 July 2017, total 22,385 people were displaced, of these, 10,812 have taken place since 1 September 2017.

Public health risks, priorities, needs and gaps

Communicable diseases

The trend of diarrhoeal diseases shows a decrease in the seasonal trend and within the expected range, the age distribution shows that more than 50% of the reported cases are in <5 years old age group. In addition to the regular update of the cholera risk scale map, the Early Warning, Alert and Response Network (EWARN) team is monitoring any conversion in children aged >5 years to those aged <5 years as a warning sign of a possible cholera outbreak. Fig. 1 shows the trends in diarrhoeal diseases, influenza-like illness (ILI), severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) and leishmaniasis.

The incidences of ILI and SARI observed among the affected population are within the seasonal baselines, despite the minor decline of SARI trend and increase in ILI trend. The trends on the sub-national level are monitored regularly to investigate and response to any possible outbreak.

Due to the military operations in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-Ez-Zor governorates some of the sentinel sites either stopped or were re-allocated to other areas. EWARN team is continuously mapping the newly established settlement to add any new suitable health centres to the network.

Needs and gaps

Local health providers reported a shortage of medical supplies, including anti-tuberculosis medicines for 150 cases.

Several health care facilities in Idleb, Aleppo and Homs governorates are at risk of discontinuing their services owing to lack of funding.5

Assessment of the most critical needs in supplies in health care facilities in Aleppo governorate was conducted during August and September. It includes estimated needs in essential medicines and supplies, anti-tuberculosis medicines, neurosurgery equipment, hospital maintenance items. Detailed list could be provided by Health Cluster upon request.

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5 Tall Ad-Damman Hospital in Aleppo governorate, Al-Ghanto Hospital in Homs governorate; 4 hospitals and 4 PHCs in Idlib governorate, dental clinic and a Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation center, as well as Al-Iman Hospital in Idlib governorate.
Health Cluster action

Health Cluster coordination

The Health Cluster conducted two coordination meetings in September. Among the issues discussed were: displacement from Oqeirbat; coordination at governorate level, health needs, gaps and advocacy for resource mobilization, prevention and management of water borne diseases, NCD/PEN monitoring tool, PSW Standard Training Manual, centralized information system for health directorates, IPV campaign in Aleppo, Idlib and northern Hama, chronic gaps in funds for ambulance system, north west Syria Preparedness and Response plan, CHW task force and outcome of HNO/HRP 2018 workshop.

Support to health service delivery

In September, Health Cluster partners provided 937 388 outpatient consultations and supported 24 500 hospital admissions. 6 388 people living with disabilities were supported with rehabilitation services.

Routine immunization. The expanded programme of routine immunization was revitalized in three additional health centres in northern Syria, making a total of 39 operational centres by the end of September.

Displacement from Oqeirbat. Health Cluster partners mobilized 25 ambulances to the receiving points, to provide medical evacuation to identified three primary health care centres and four hospitals in Idlib and western rural Aleppo governorates. Medical triage was arranged at two points and additional medical point was established in receiving camps. In total 171 critical cases were referred for further care.

Also, eleven mobile clinics were mobilized along the evacuation route. In total, 5 340 consultations were provided for the newly displaced.

112 children who were displaced to Kafr Aleppo, rural western of Aleppo and Maaret Elekhwan in Idlib governorate were provided with ad-hoc vaccination with Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV), Penta, B.C.G, TD, Hepatitis B and Measles and Rubella (MR) vaccines.

Cluster partners of Turkey hub are present in 10 governorates, 45 districts, 99 sub-districts and 275 communities in northern Syria providing support to 374 health care facilities, including 80 mobile clinics.

As of September, 39 primary health care facilities are providing services of expanded programme of routine immunization.

Find out more

https://www.facebook.com/healthclusterturkeyhub

Paediatrician in Idlib treating infant.
Photo: Syrian American Medical Society Foundation
Monitoring of violence against health care

In September 2017, 26 incidents of violence against the health care infrastructure were reported: 16 of them were verified. Among the verified attacks, seven incidents were identified on hospitals; three of them were impacted on the 19th of the month.

In total, from January to September 2017, 88 verified incidents of violence against the health care infrastructure were reported. For more details, see the [Monitoring violence against health care, September report, 2017](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/stima/health).

Capacity building

**Plans for future response**

The Health Cluster TRC reviewed 17 projects and recommended 11 projects for allocation from an envelope of USD 4 million under HPF 2nd Standard Allocation. The projects address the critical health needs of people in besieged and in addition to newly displaced people.

1. Support and advocate for Medical Evacuation of critically ill patients from East Ghouta — with focus on coordination, procedures, list of patients and their protection rights.
2. Finalizing Cluster Coordination Performance monitoring in Oct/Nov 2017
3. Health Cluster response planning for HRP 2018

From January to September 2017, 88 verified incidents of violence against health care infrastructure were reported.