



# World Health Organization

Regional Office for  
the Eastern Mediterranean

## Syria crisis

WHO'S RESPONSE IN

AL-HOL CAMP, AL-HASAKEH GOVERNORATE

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A WHO staff member administers deworming pills to children in Al-Hol camp during the recent deworming campaign.

73,255

Internally  
displaced people  
in Al-Hol camp

11

Medical mobile  
teams/static health  
points supported

6473

Health care services  
and  
consultations  
provided

3202

Beneficiaries  
reached with  
medicines

17,700

Children between 6 and 15  
years of age received  
deworming pills during the  
WHO-supported campaign

## SITUATION

- Another 600 people have recently arrived at Al-Hol camp following an upsurge in violence between different armed groups. The camp population now stands at 73 225.
- A total of 249 deaths have been recorded. Most fatalities were due to infected wounds, severe burns and acute diarrhoea.
- Medical triage services in the reception area have been expanded and are working smoothly. However, there remains an acute shortage of health care services in this area. This is a major concern since many new arrivals are in critical need of health care.
- Eight mobile medical teams, one static medical point and two mobile clinics are providing health care services in the camp. However, the foreign annex has no static or mobile medical teams. There is an urgent need to establish a static medical point in the annex for the purpose of providing sustainable health care services in the annex. This still requires the approval of the camp administration.

- Critically ill patients are being referred to the WHO-supported Al-Hikma and Al-Hayat private hospitals in Al-Hasakeh governorate, but both hospitals have limited capacity and are currently unable to admit new patients.
- The WHO-supported deworming campaign has been completed. A total of 17,700 children between 6 and 15 years of age received deworming pills during the WHO-supported campaign in the camp.
- Disease surveillance and health care teams are following up all patients with suspected tuberculosis (TB), watery diarrhoea and other critical illnesses.
- The nutritional stabilization unit in the camp admitted 243 new patients in March 2019. The mortality rate was 4.4% and the mean weight gain of discharged infants was 472 grams.

## RESPONSE:

- The health sector has prepared a plan to scale up the emergency response in the camp. WHO is continuously analysing health care gaps and reviewing the capacity of health care services inside and outside the camp with a view to optimizing the response and making the best possible use of limited resources.
- WHO has delivered emergency medicines and distributed 60 wheelchairs for patients with disabilities. An ultrasound device delivered by WHO has been installed in the reception area.
- The Health sector is working to establish throughout the camp.
- WHO is preparing for the upcoming summer season by conducting awareness campaign inside the camp as well as strengthening the capacity of health care services to treat patients with seasonal communicable diseases such as diarrhoea, leishmaniasis and waterborne diseases.
- WHO is also helping the DoH follow up TB patients under treatment.
- Disease surveillance teams are screening all patients with diarrhoea and collecting specimens for laboratory analysis. WHO has trained camp health care workers on the collection and analysis of stool samples.
- A fixed medical point is treating patients with leishmaniasis. Thus far, 784 patients have been registered and are receiving treatment.
- Twelve health care workers are providing psychological first aid and counselling. WHO is providing remote supportive supervision to health care workers providing mental health services.
- WHO is supporting the integrated management of childhood illnesses, newborn care at home and neonatal resuscitation services.
- WHO has trained 16 health care workers on the case management of noncommunicable diseases.

## PRIORITIES:

- Continue advocating for the establishment of a 2050- bed field hospital.
- Strengthen health information and data collection in the camp.
- Negotiate the emergency airlifting of another 12 tons of medical supplies.
- Distribute additional bed nets to help prevent leishmaniasis infections.
- Expand health care services by mobilizing additional partners. Plans are underway to launch one static medical point, six mobile teams and two mobile medical clinics in the different areas of the camp.
- Coordinate with the camp administration to establish a static medical point in the annex to provide sustainable health care services.
- Support a one-week childhood vaccination campaign in the camp as a part of “World Immunization Week” that will take place during the week of 24 April 2019. WHO is airlifting almost seven tonnes of vaccines to support the campaign.

## ADVOCACY:

WHO is advocating for additional funds to support the health response in the camp. WHO has submitted a proposal to the Syrian Humanitarian Fund (SHF) in the amount of \$ 491,753.80 to be used to:

- ✓ Support the early detection of and prompt response to cases of epidemic-prone diseases.
- ✓ Support the establishment of a field hospital with other health partners.
- ✓ Strengthen the provision of essential health care services, including psychosocial support, through WHO’s NGO partners.



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