

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Eastern Mediterranean

# Syria crisis: Al-Hol Camp, Al-Hasakeh Governorate Issue 8

25 May-7 June 2019



A WHO-supported mental health team provides daily psychosocial support sessions to children in Al-Hol camp. ©WHO Syria, 2019

**3094** Consultations provided 3022 Beneficiaries reached with medicines 38 Children with severe acute malnutrition referred for specialized treatment 867 First-aid and emergency services provided **1085** Mental health and psychosocial support services provided

## Situation

- Over the past two weeks, a total of 633 people have left the camp. This number includes 107 people who returned to their homes in north-east Syria. There were no new arrivals during the reporting period.
- Nine medical points are reporting regularly to the disease Early Warning And Response System (EWARS). Leishmaniasis, acute diarrhoea, bloody diarrhoea and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) remain the most commonly reported diseases.
- 38 new cases of leishmaniasis were detected. All patients are being treated by a WHO-supported mobile team in coordination with the Al-Hasakeh Directorate of Health.
- Seven suspected cases of measles were reported. No new cases of tuberculosis were detected during the reporting period.
- 30 children with severe acute malnutrition with medical complications were admitted to Al-Hikmah hospital during the reporting period, of whom 22 were discharged, one died and the remainder are still under treatment. Mortality rates related to severe acute malnutrition remain below the emergency threshold.
- Two new static health care points have been established, bringing the total number to 12. There is still an acute shortage of health care points in the Foreign Annex.
- 35 water sources were tested for microbial contamination in Al-Hasakeh water national laboratory during the reporting period. All 35 samples tested negative for contamination. WHO continues to test the quality of water from different sources in the camp.
- Stool samples from patients with diarrhoea were tested for salmonella, *E-coli* and cholera, with all samples testing negative. Blood samples from patients with suspected measles were also sent for testing, and all samples tested negative.

• Following intensive negotiations by WHO, the local authorities have given their approval in principle to evacuate a patient requiring advanced mental health treatment.

### Coordination

- WHO is convening weekly meetings with health partners to coordinate the distribution of essential health care services, review the overall health situation and track and analyse mortality rates.
- The WHO-contracted Al-Hikmah private hospital is continuing to admit and treat children with SAM.
- WHO and the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector are jointly conducting a health education campaign focusing on the prevention of waterborne diseases. The health and WASH sectors are also collaborating on water safety. Water samples are being randomly collected and sent to the laboratory in Al-Hasakeh governorate for testing.
- WHO and other health partners ensured that primary health care services were available for those kept in the in the holding area at the camp reception area until they are granted final approval to exit. The services provided included trauma management and emergency stabilization of severely injured patients.

#### Response

- Three newly-established field hospitals are providing health care services in different areas of the camp. The hospitals have a total capacity of 80 beds, relieving the pressure on other health care points.
- 12 WHO-supported mental health workers are providing psychological first aid and mental health services in the camp.
- With WHO support, a shipment containing mainly emergency health and trauma kits (enough to cover more than 50 000 treatments) were delivered to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent for distribution to one of the new field hospitals in sector 7 of the camp.
- With WHO support, 30 health volunteers, 12 health workers and 18 mobile medical teams are providing daily health care services including mental health, vaccination and treatment for leishmaniasis.
- More than 11 200 IDPs were enrolled in a WHO-supported health education campaign focusing on good hygiene practices and the prevention of waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea.
- WHO has pre-positioned 18 noncommunicable disease kits in its warehouse in Qamishli for distribution to health care points inside the camp.

#### **Priorities**

- Continue to scale up the health response in collaboration with health partners and local health authorities.
- Provide health workers with key educational messages and materials on the prevention of summer diseases, particularly waterborne diseases, to be used during health education sessions for the camp inhabitants.
- Deliver intravenous fluids to Al-Hikmah private hospital to support treatment of severe acute malnutrition.
- Dispatch vaccines and additional treatments for leishamaniasis and diarrhoea to cover increasing health needs.

#### For more information, contact:

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