

Northwest of Syria Cholera Outbreak

Situation Report No.4

Epidemiological Week 42 (16 - 22 Oct 2022)

Date of Onset of Outbreak: 16 September 2022

Reporting Date of outbreak: 17 September 2022

Confirmation Date: 19 September 2022

Key Highlights

- Cumulatively, a total of **2272 suspected** cases including **159 confirmed** have been reported by EWARN team since 16 September, including **2 death** case.
- **Jarablus** and **Harim** districts are on the top reporting areas.
- 762 total suspected cases (including 322 new cases in Epi week 42) were reported from **camps**.
- 52% Of the suspected cases are in age group <5 years, versus 30.8% of the confirmed cases are in age group <5 years.
- Since the outbreak started, surveillance and reporting from facilities are being supported and strengthened. For better understanding of the background and context, [please read pervious sitreps](#).
- Suspected cholera cases are being investigated by Rapid Response Team, either in areas of outbreak or in areas where new cases have been reported.
- Line list is shared with WHO and WASH team to aid Targeted response at household level being conducted for identified cases.
- Active case search is ongoing especially in the camps.

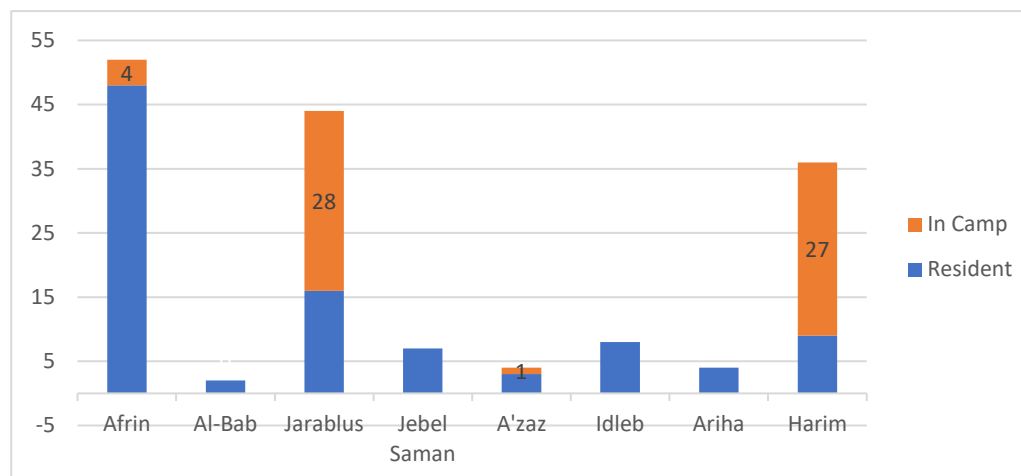
Suspected Cases: 2272

Confirmed Cases: 159

Cholera Death : 2

Case Fatality Rate: 0.09%

NWS Attack Rate: 0,05%



Situation Updates

1. Epidemiology

Case definition has been adapted: A resident of outbreak areas with sudden onset of acute watery diarrhea with or without vomiting.¹

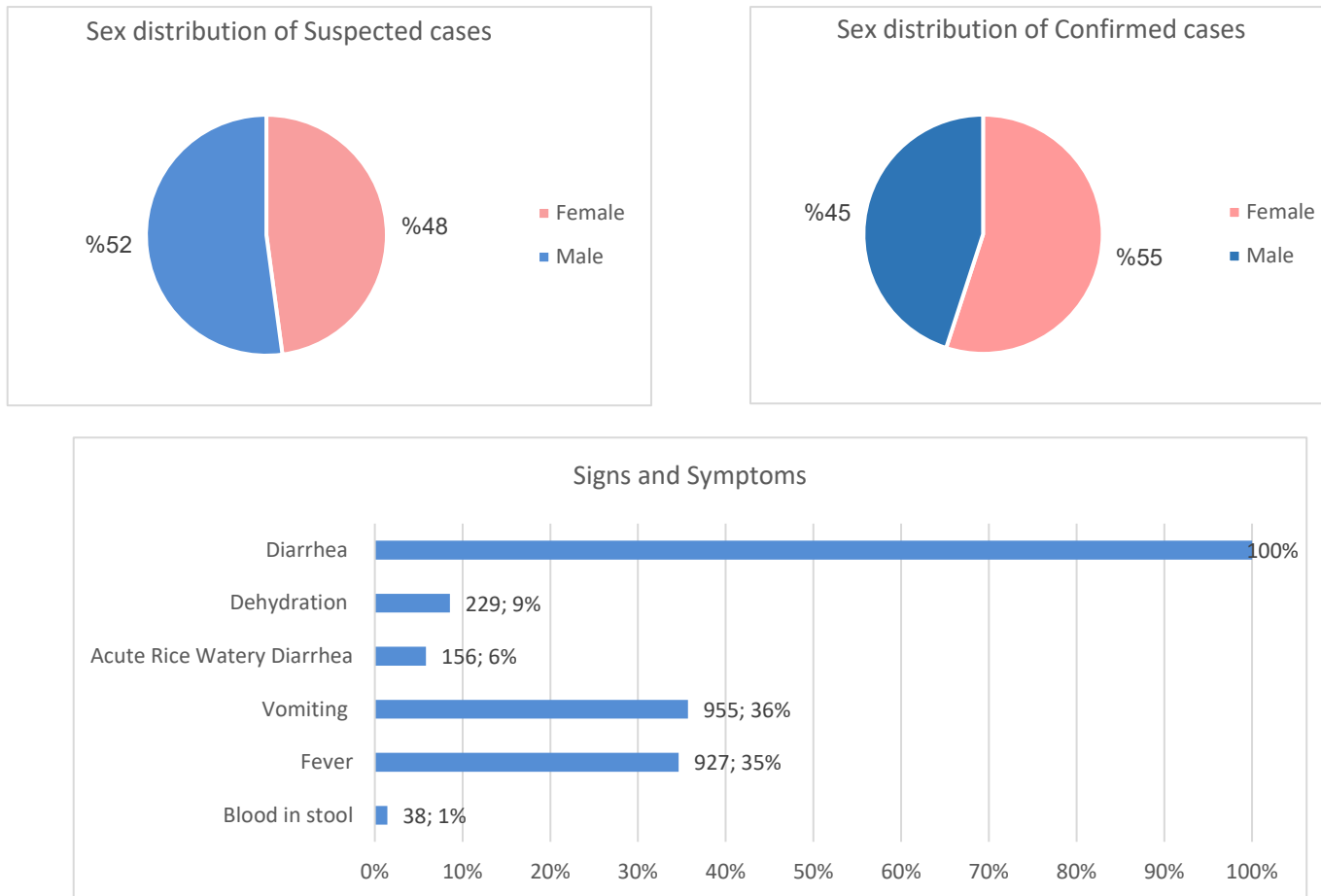
In Epi week 42, **985 suspected cases of cholera were reported, including 38 positive cases**. The affected governorates are Aleppo (618 suspected and 28 confirmed), and Idleb (367 suspected and 10 confirmed). 1 Cholera death was reported in Epi week 42 on 19 October from Harim district, Idleb. A 62 years old woman resident of Mashhhad Rohin village, she presented on 17 October with acute diarrhea and vomiting, and was admitted on the next day in Al-Quds Hospital in bad condition and hypovolemic shock. Stool specimen was not collected but she was classified as Cholera death.

The overall sex distribution of the suspected cases is 52% Male, and 48% Female, whereas sex distribution of the confirmed cases is 45% Male, and 55% Female.

100% of the line listed cases were presented as Acute Diarrhea, including 6% as rice watery diarrhea, and 9% were dehydrated.

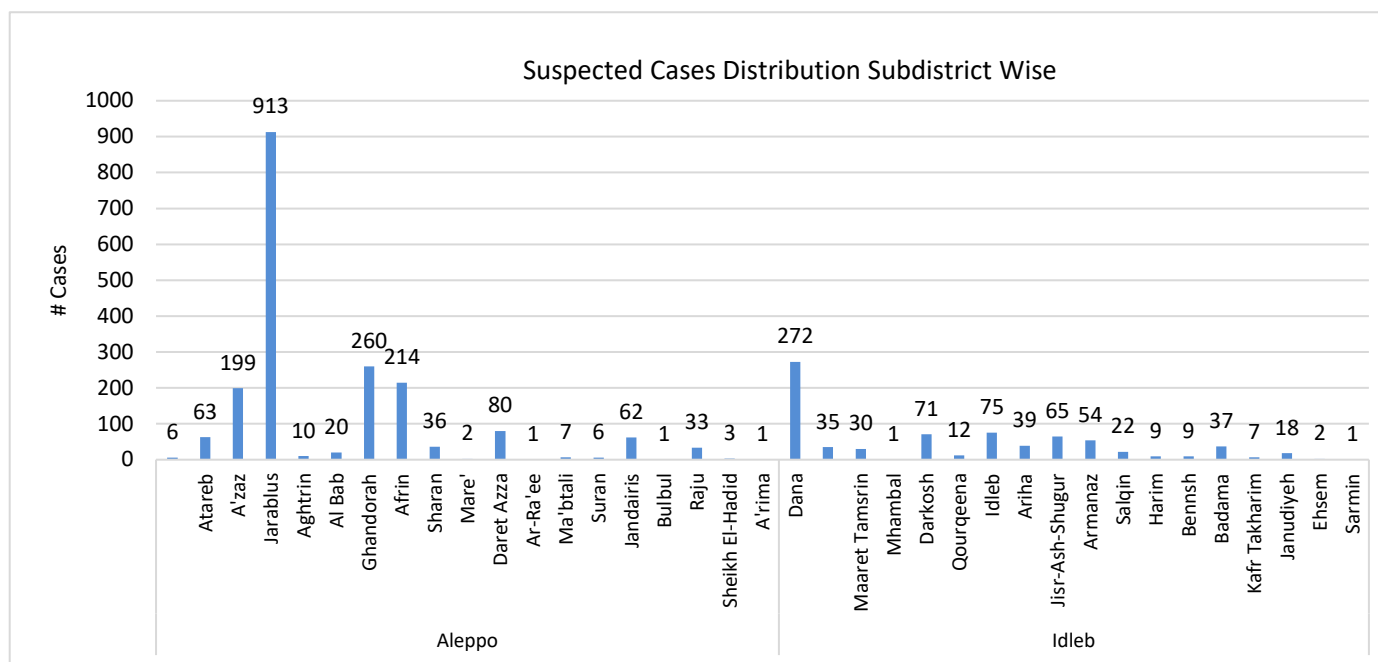
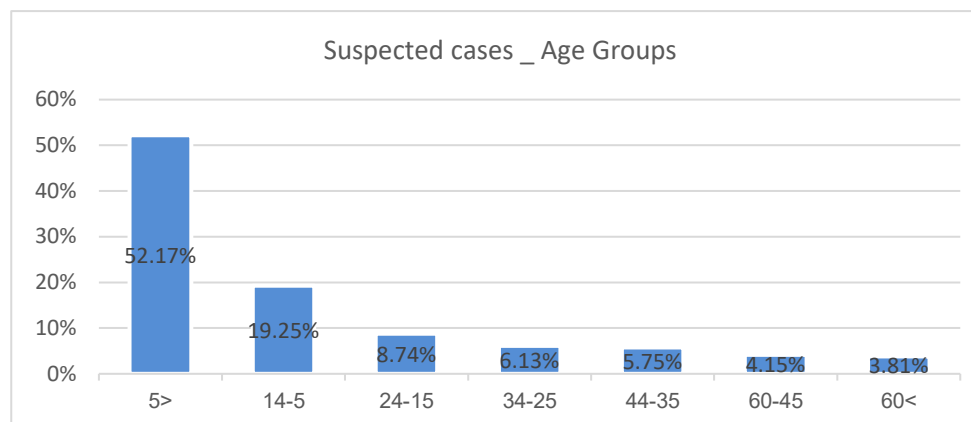
¹ [who-surveillancevaccinepreventable-02-cholera](http://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/cholera)

As the outbreak progresses, sensitivity should be increased by including smaller age groups and mild / moderate symptoms groups in order to estimate the burden of the outbreak. According to WHO, in areas where a cholera outbreak has been confirmed, any person presenting with or dying from acute watery diarrhea considered as a suspected cholera case.²

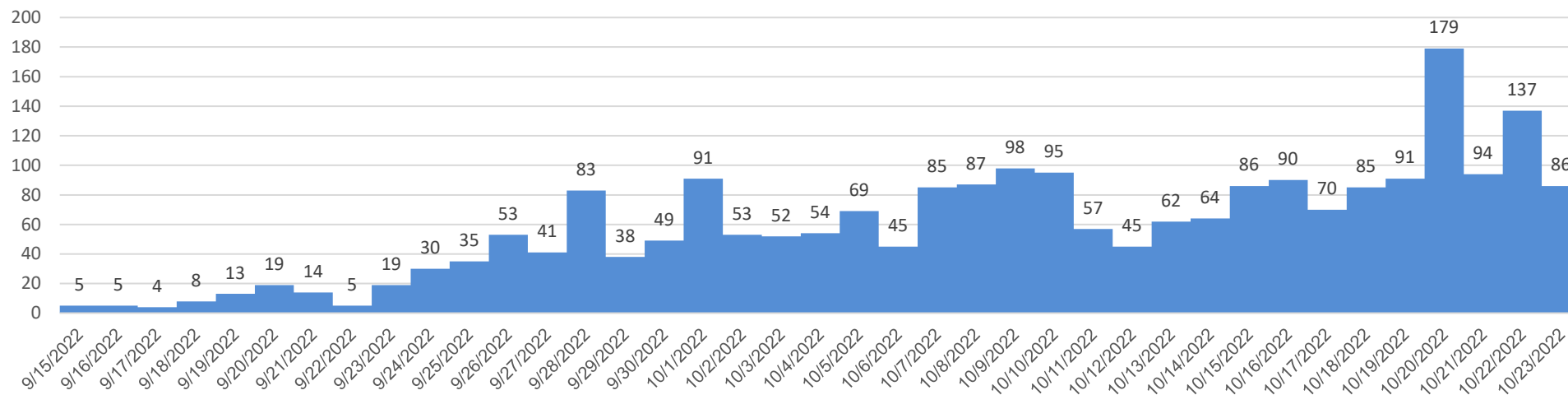


² [who-surveillancevaccinepreventable-02-cholera](http://www.who-surveillancevaccinepreventable-02-cholera)

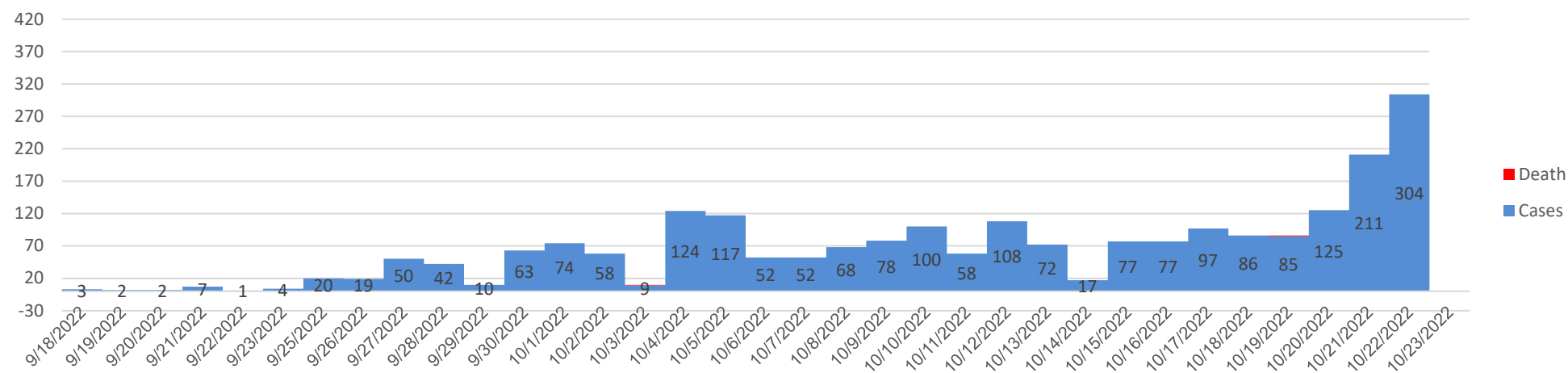
Epi Week	Governorate	District	Date of Onset	Population	New Suspected cases	Cumulative Suspected Cases	New Death	Cumulative Deaths	Case Fatality Rate	Weekly Incidence Rate (per 100.000)	Attack Rate
W42	Idleb	Ariha	20-Sep	185,668	25	37	0	0	0.00%	13.46	0.02%
		Harim	6-Sep	1,586,820	183	301	1	1	0.33%	11.53	0.02%
		Idleb	14-Sep	713,933	31	54	0	0	0.00%	4.34	0.01%
		Jisr-Ash-Shugur	25-Sep	310,973	128	133	0	1	0.75%	41.16	0.04%
	Aleppo	A'zaz	9-Sep	648,600	129	149	0	0	0.00%	19.88	0.02%
		Afrin	21-Sep	467,090	130	340	0	0	0.00%	27.83	0.07%
		Al Bab	17-Sep	339,812	9	22	0	0	0.00%	2.64	0.01%
		Jarablus	12-Sep	121,938	315	1132	0	0	0.00%	258.32	0.93%
		Jebel Saman	10-Sep	251,785	35	104	0	0	0.00%	13.90	0.04%
		Total		4,626,619	985	2272	1	2	0.09%	21.28	0.05%

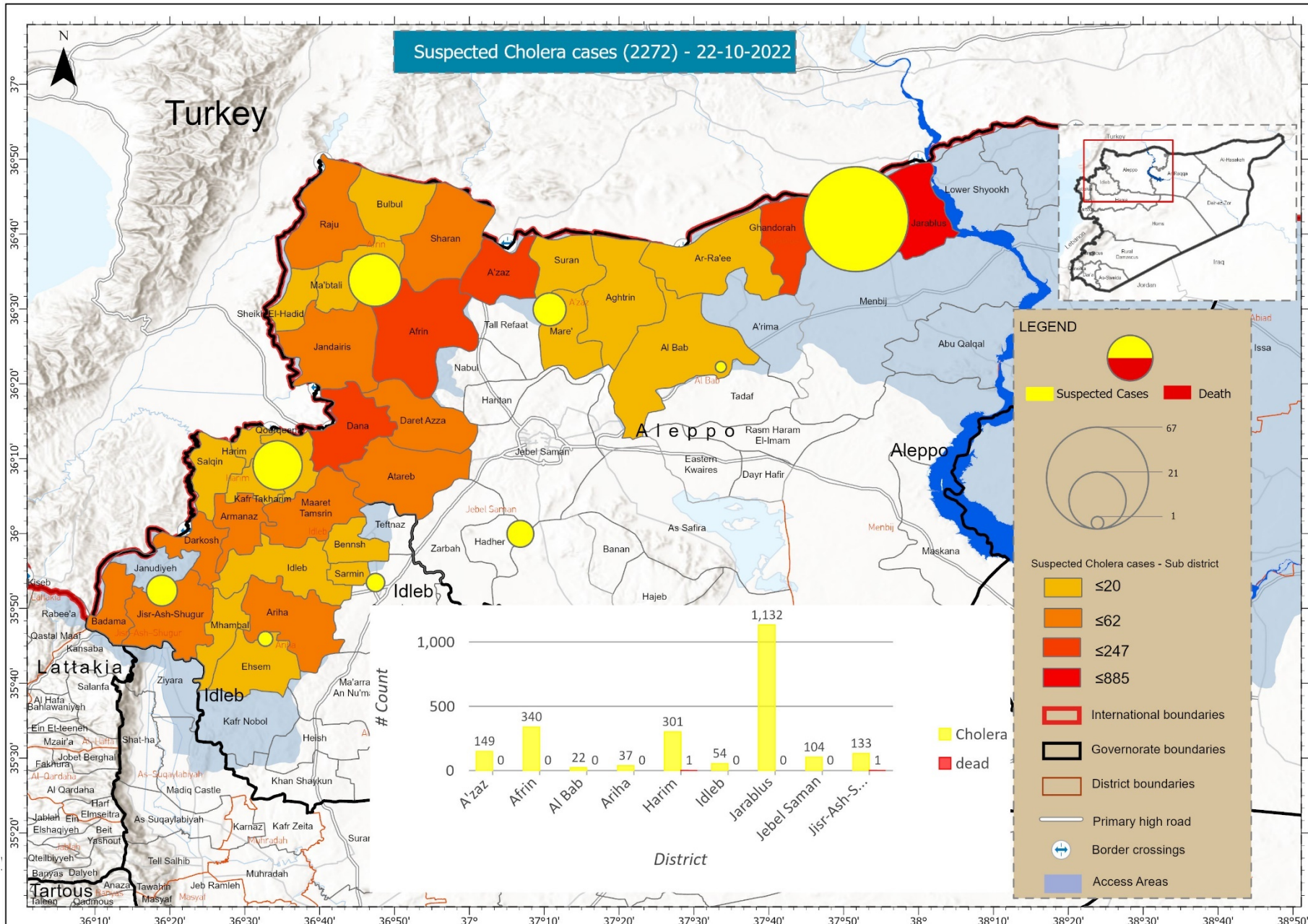


Epi Curve_Date of Onset



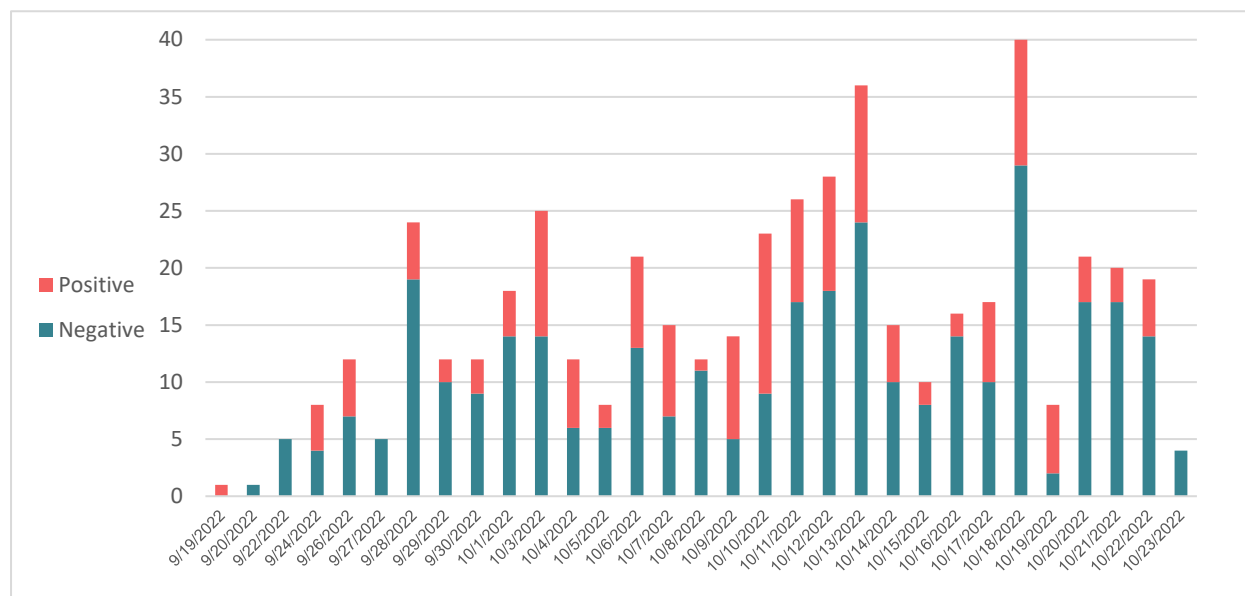
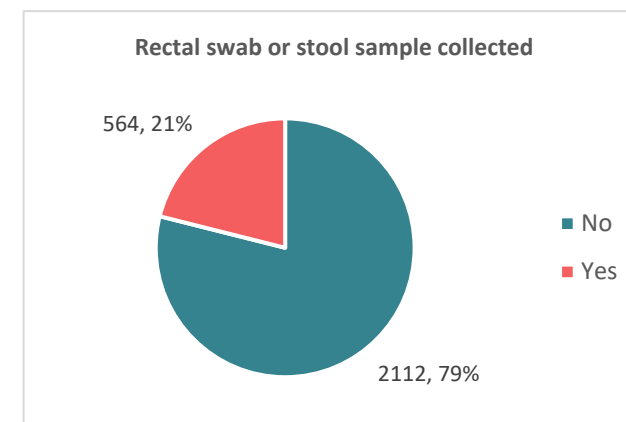
Epi Curve_Reporting Date





2. Laboratory:

- In Epi week 42, the total number of collected stool specimens or rectal swabs is 155, of which 32 have tested positive for *Vibrio Cholera*.
- A cumulative of 530 samples were collected since the start of the outbreak (21% of overall line listed cases), of which 159 have tested positive by stool culture.
- The Total number of negative cases by stool culture is 325, and the remaining 46 are still pending.
- Once the outbreak is declared, there is no need to confirm all suspected cases. The clinical case definition is sufficient to monitor epidemiologic trends³.
- All samples examined by the RDT in NWS, tested positive for O1.
- All samples are being cultured on selective media like TCBS and Oxidase test, sometimes Gram stain and sensibility test.



³

- The **culture sensitivity** results came sensitive for the following antibiotics: Azithromycin, Ciprofloxacin, and Chloramphenicol. **The resistance** is to Tetracycline, Doxycycline, and Sulfamethoxazole _Trimethoprim. The Lab's teams keep monitoring the stool culture sensitivity, and resistance to antibiotics.
- The laboratory team is handling the specimens and waste management according to infection control standards.

Epi Week	Governorate	District	Cumulative Samples Collected	Stool Culture Positive	Stool Culture Negative
W42	Idleb	Ariha	24	4	14
		Harim	101	36	58
		Idleb	32	8	16
		Jisr-Ash-Shugur	8	2	8
	Aleppo	A'zaz	26	4	16
		Afrin	127	52	70
		Al Bab	8	2	2
		Jarablus	175	44	133
		Jebel Saman	29	7	8
	Total		530	159	325

3. WASH:

Targeted response including water quality testing at household level being conducted for identified cases.

Total number of investigations: 15.

All WASH activities are being implemented in close coordination with WASH cluster & Cholera taskforce.

Jarablus District:

- Number of Investigations: 3
- Ghandorah / Ghandorah: main water resources are safe to drink. However, the patient has a private well used for non-drinking purposes and it was contaminated.
- Ghandorah / Ghandorah: Al Kanawi Camp (CP000906). The camp has been supplied with water by organization and isn't contaminated (Safe to drink) as there is disinfection and FRC within the acceptable range.

- Jarablus / Marma Alhajar: Al Bonyan1, coded CP002153, the camp has been supplied with water by organization and isn't contaminated (Safe to drink) as there is disinfection and FRC within the acceptable range.

Afrin District:

- Number of Investigations: 3
- Jandairis (Sub-district) /Jandairis (Community): Number of confirmed cases reached more than 10 cases from the same neighborhood (the old neighborhood), located in Jandairis community. The water supplied (private wells with no disinfection) to this neighborhood is contaminated bacteriologically and not safe to drink.
- Raju/ Haj Khalil: The water resources is safe to drink, and the water isn't contaminated in the village (community).
- Afrin/Afrin: Confirmed case in Jisr Afrin camp, coded CP001450. The camp has been supplied with water by organization and isn't contaminated (Safe to drink) as there is disinfection at level of resource.

Harim District:

- Number of Investigation:6
- Dana/ Mashhad Ruhin: Al Hanan (Mashhad Ruhin) camp, coded CP001992, the drinking water (private well) was contaminated and not safe to drink.
- Harim/ Harim: Jabal Harim (Sabiroon) camp, coded CP000258, the camp is supplied with water through organization and the water delivered is safe to drink.
- Dana/Dana: Aqrabat (Dana) camp, coded CP002132, the camp is supplied with water through organization and the water delivered is safe to drink.
- Harim/ Harim: the community is supplied with water through main station. The water is safe to drink as there is disinfection.
- Armanaz/ Biret Armanaz: the community is supplied with water through main station. The water is safe to drink.
- Kafr Takharim/ Kafr Kila: The water supplied to the community isn't contaminated and safe to drink.

Idleb District:

- Number of Investigation:1
- Maaret Tamsrin/ Ram Hamdan: Confirmed cases are from IDPs who live in tents installed within Ram Hamdan community. The water supplied is safe to drink and not contaminated.

Ariha District:

- Number of Investigations: 2
- Ariha/Korin: Water resources in the community are safe and drinkable.
- Ariha/ Kafr Shalaya: Water resources in the community are safe and drinkable.

- Most of the investigations showed that the water resources are safe, and the confirmed cases (patients) might contract the infection (disease) from non-drinking water resources (For example: Eating vegetables irrigated by wastewater, visiting relatives and friends in other communities...).
- ACU team, during the investigation, provided Aqua tabs, 155 strips (Each strip: 10 tablets) for households, and use instructions.

Challenges

- Conflict between armed groups in northwestern Syria last week, which led to negatively affected the access of cases to the health facilities.
- Many patients are self-discharged from the hospital, especially women, because of the embarrassment of their frequent need to go to the toilet.
- Many patients refuse to give samples and some of them escape from the hospitals.
- Continuous random use of antibiotics will increase bacterial resistance.
- Some doctors refuse to manage dehydrated children, which is still a challenge due to their believe that managing children requires a pediatrician, who may not be available in the health facility.
- Continues movements of population.
- No Vibrio Cholera O139, O1 Antisera so far to identify the vibrio serotype.

Recommendations

- Strengthening Surveillance and initiate active case search.
- Laboratory support with consumables and supplies.
- Daily updates, and weekly situation report.
- Enhancement coordination mechanisms with WHO and Taskforce members.
- Defining the potential sources of Cholera death reporting.