

Northwest of Syria Cholera Outbreak

Situation Report No.5

Epidemiological Week 43 (23 - 29 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 **4526 suspected** cases including **159 confirmed** have been reported by EWARN team since 16 September, including **3 death** case.
- **Jarablus, Harim, and A'zaz** districts are the top reporting areas respectively.
- 1517 total suspected cases (including 753 new cases in Epi week 43) were reported from **camps**.
- 53.5% Of the suspected cases are in age group <5 years, versus 30% 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.

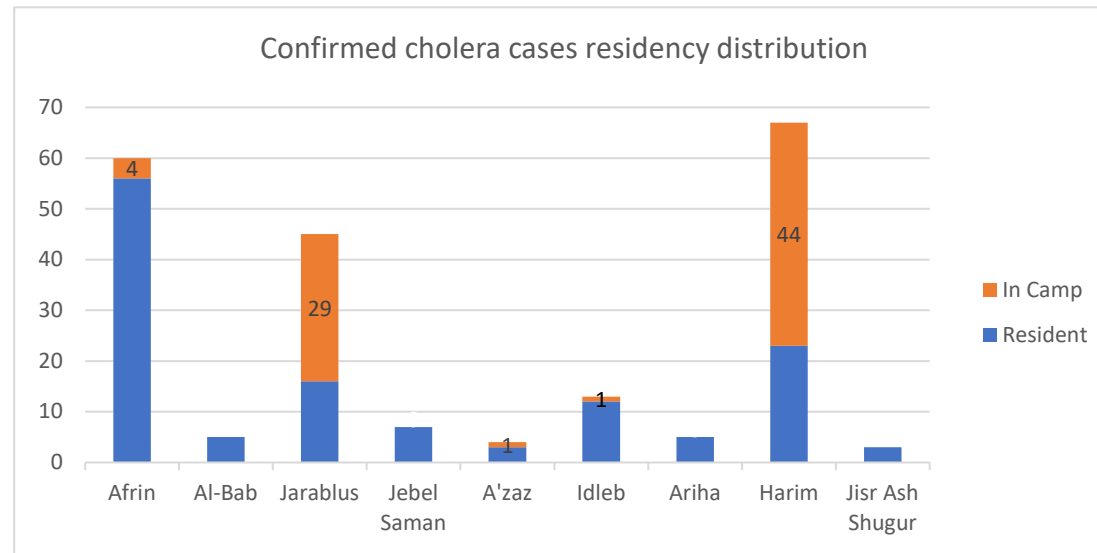
Suspected Cases: 4526

Confirmed Cases: 209

Cholera Deaths : 3

Case Fatality Rate: 0.07%

NWS Attack Rate: 0.10%



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

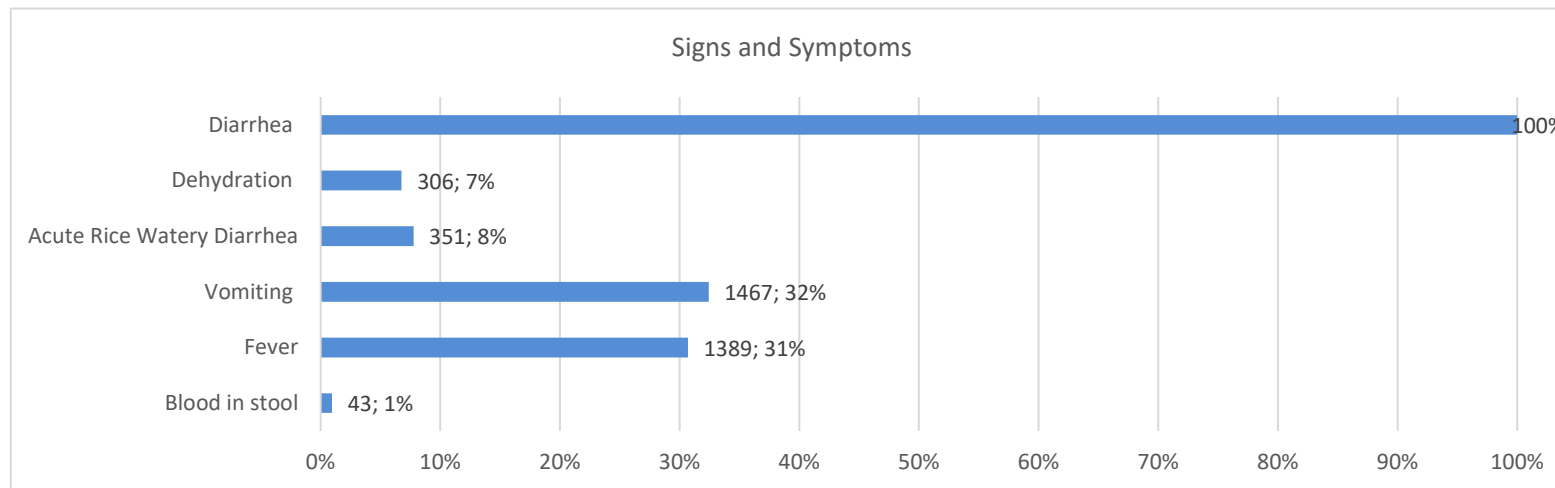
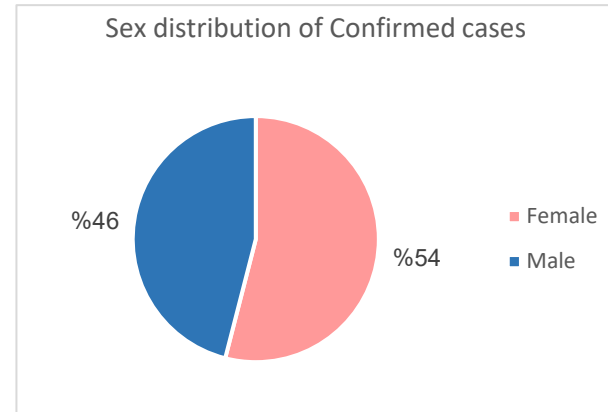
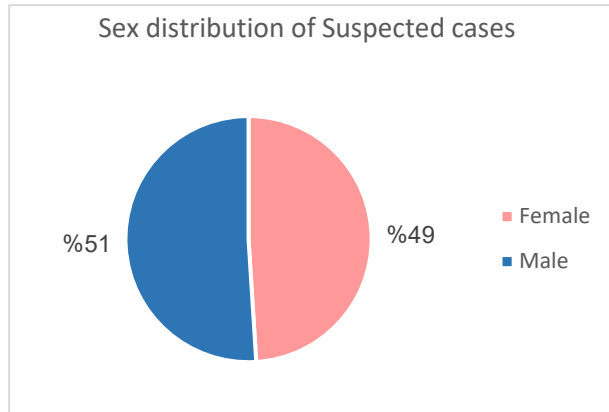
In Epi week 43, **2254 suspected cases of cholera were reported, including 45 positive cases**. The affected governorates are Aleppo (912 suspected, 10 confirmed), and Idleb (1342 suspected, 35 confirmed). 1 Cholera death was reported in Epi week 43 on 23 October from Afrin district, Aleppo. A 7 years old thalassemic girl resident of Afrin, she presented on 19 October with acute diarrhea, and was admitted on the next day to the Hospital in bad condition, hypovolemic shock, and hemolysis crises. Stool specimen was collected, and result came negative, but **she was classified as Cholera death**.

The overall sex distribution of the suspected cases is 51% Male, and 49% Female, whereas sex distribution of the confirmed cases is 46% Male, and 54% Female.

100% of the line listed cases were presented as Acute Diarrhea, 38% with vomiting, 8% as rice watery diarrhea, and 7% were dehydrated.

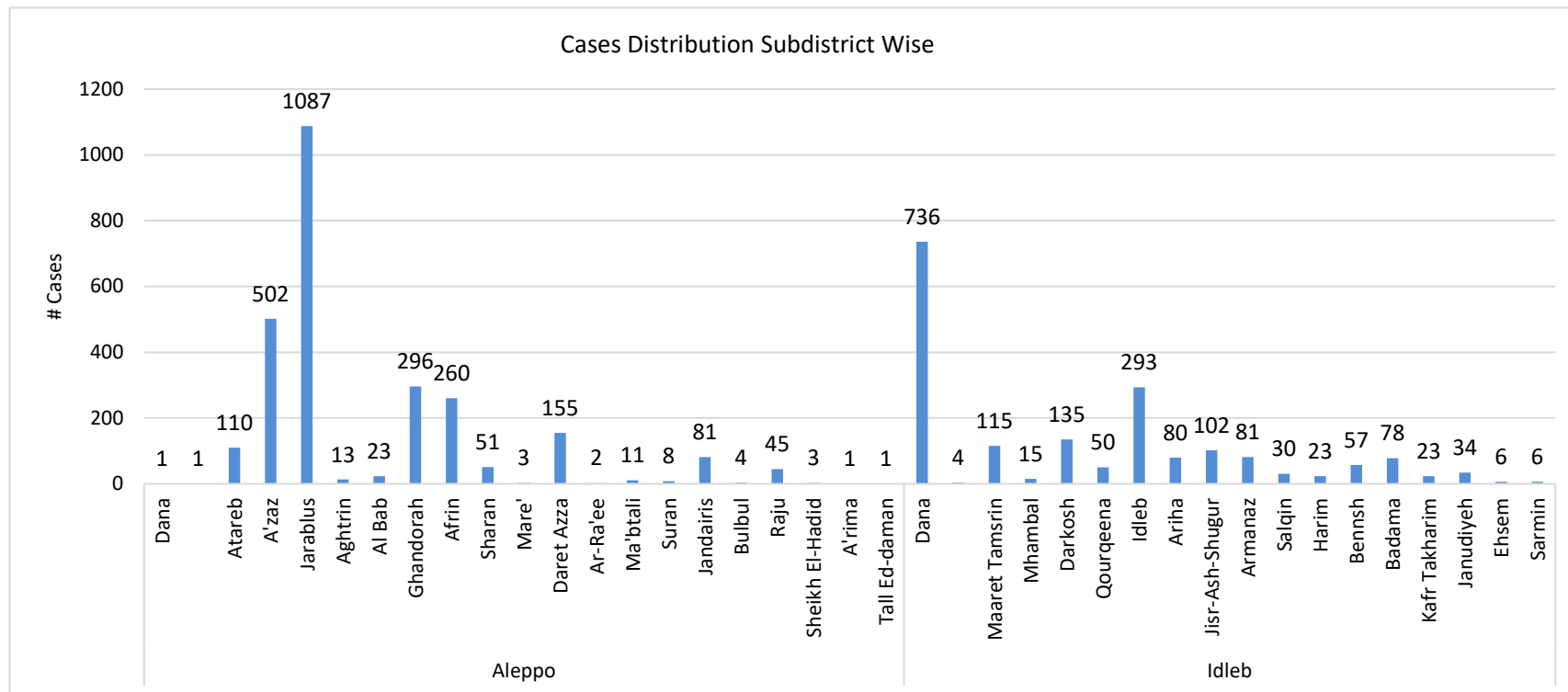
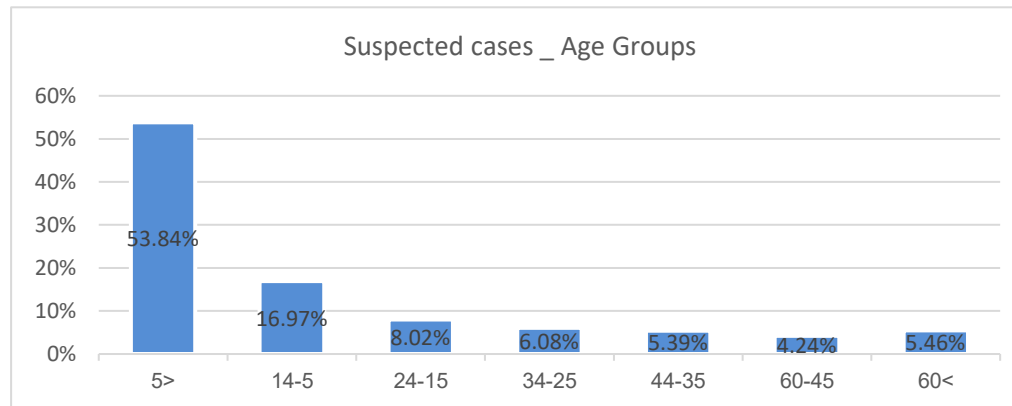
¹ [who-surveillancevaccinepreventable-02-cholera](http://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports)

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

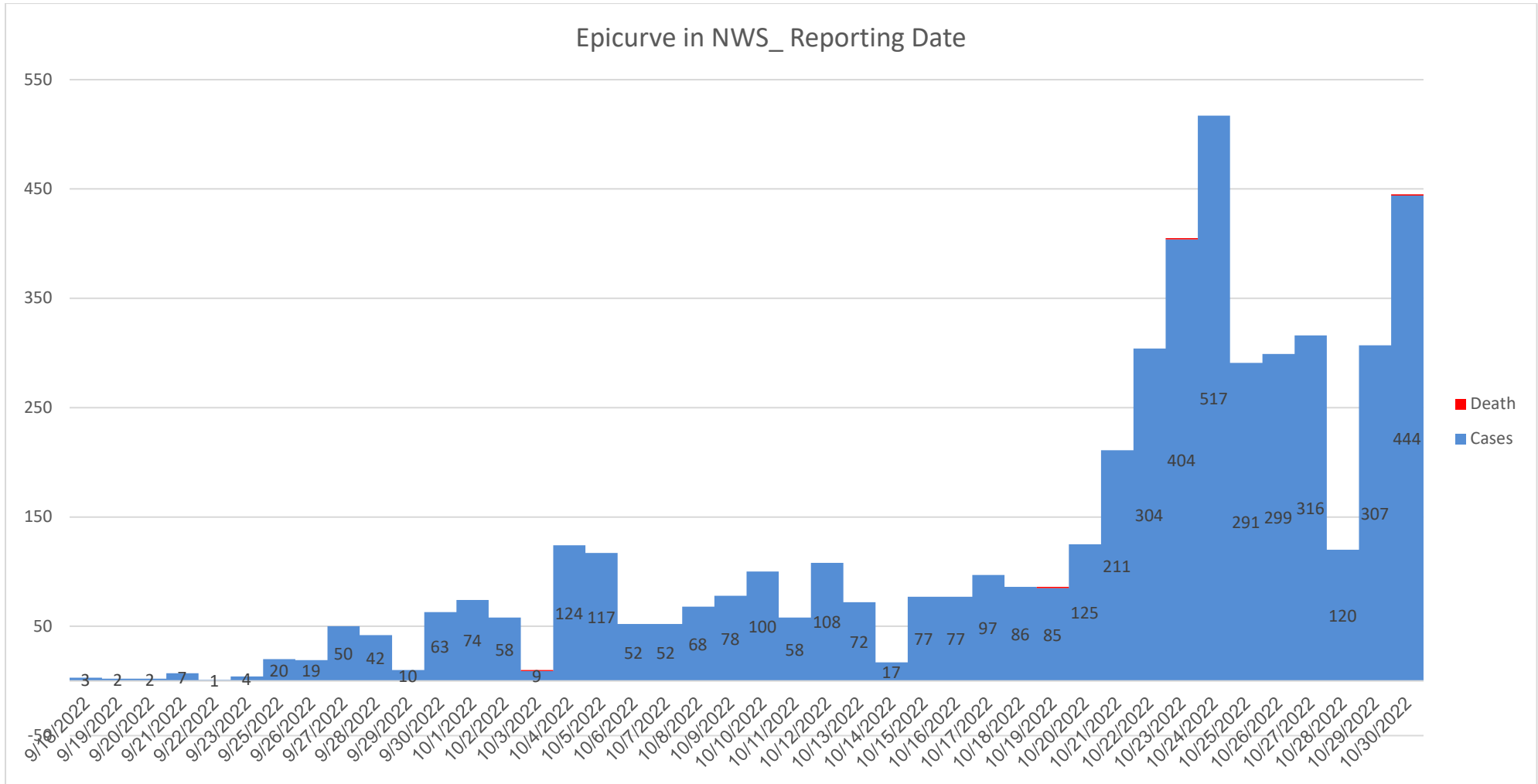


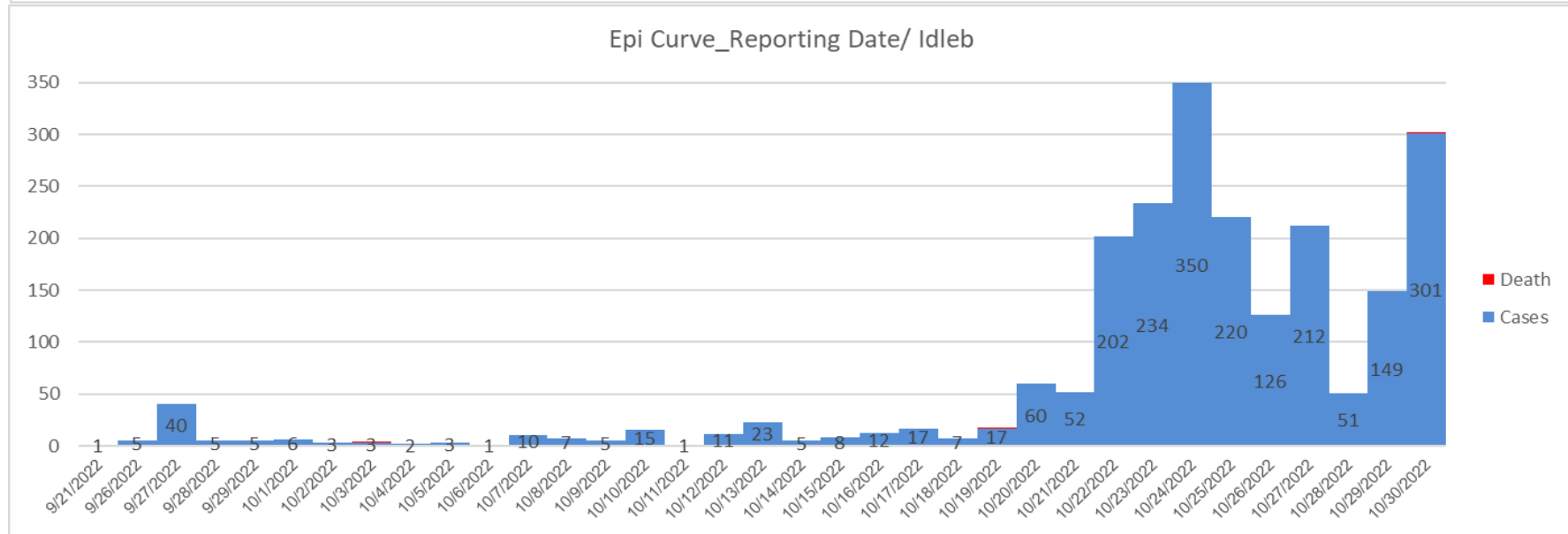
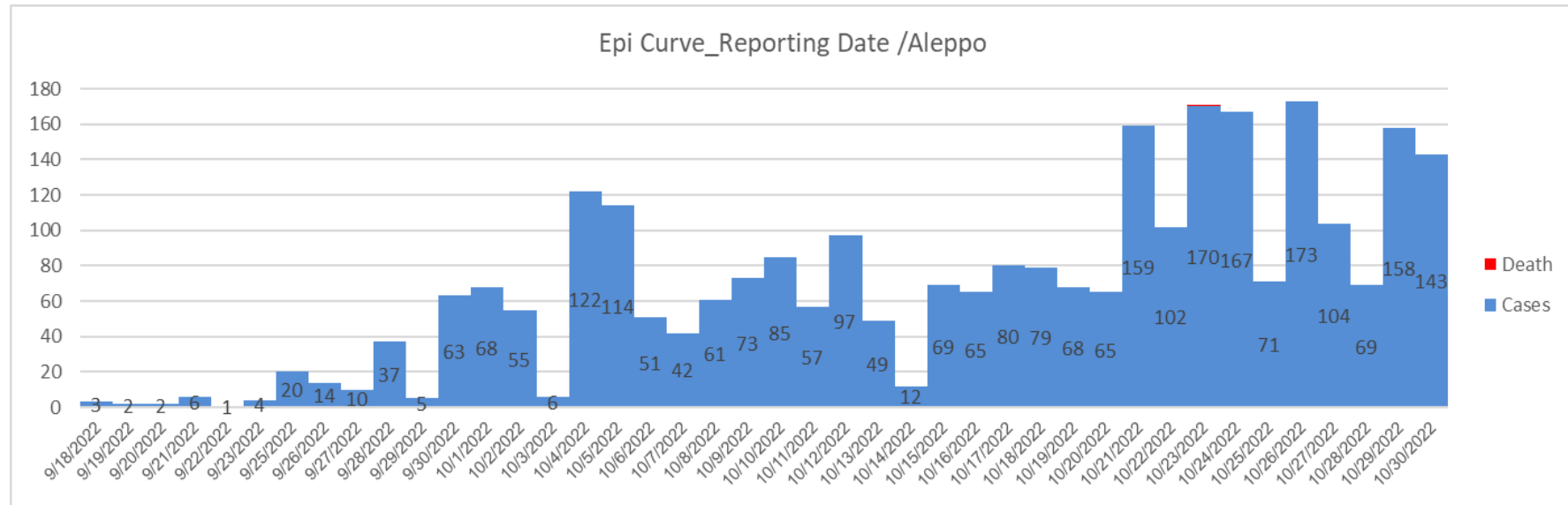
² [who-surveillancevaccinepreventable-02-cholera](http://www.who-surveillancevaccinepreventable-02-cholera)

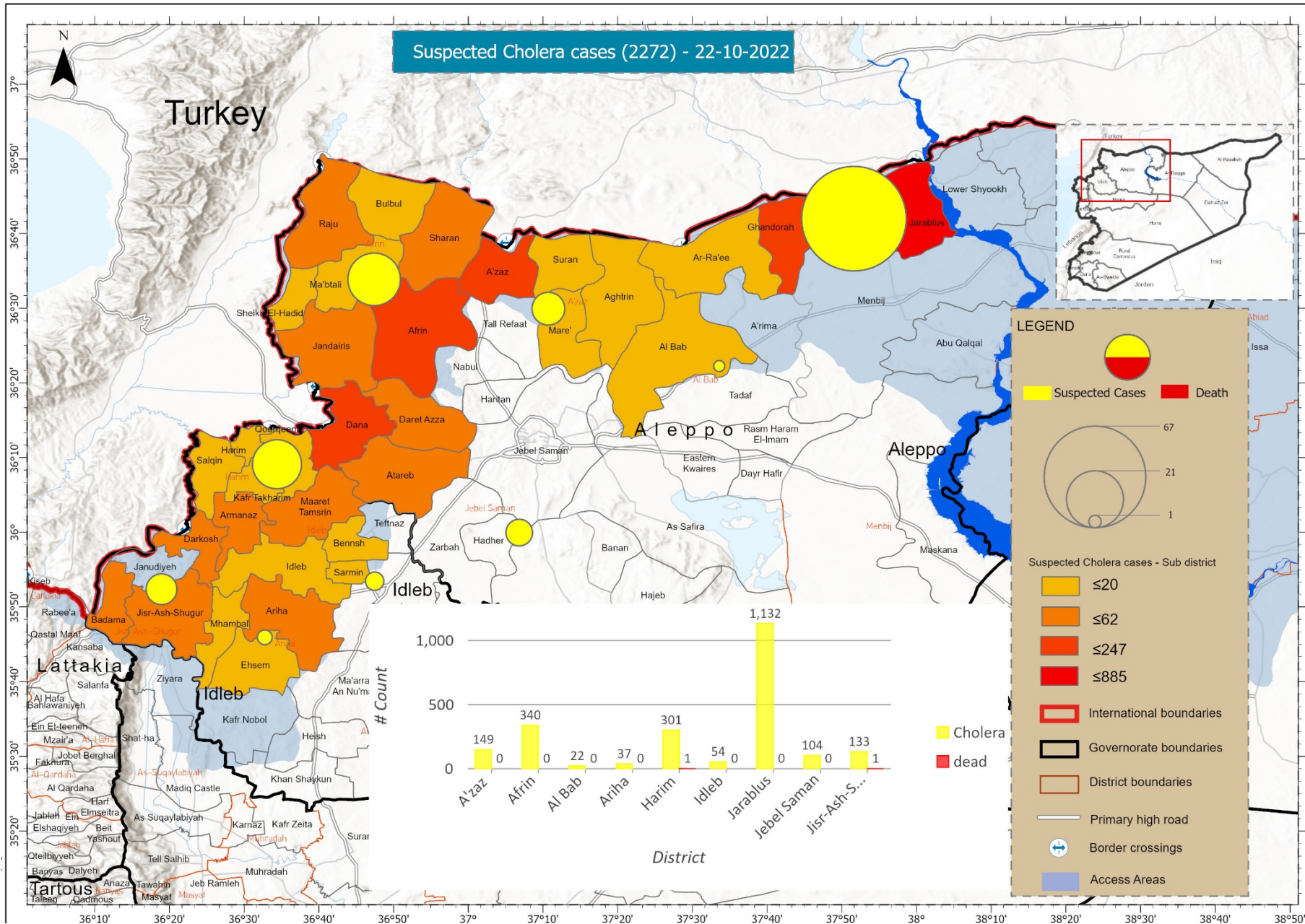
Epi Week	Governorate	District	Date of Onset	Population	New Suspected cases	Cumulative Suspected Cases	New Death	Cumulative Deaths	Case Fatality Rate	Weekly Incidence Rate (per 100.000)	Attack Rate
W43	Idleb	Ariha	20-Sep	185,668	64	101	0	0	0.00%	34.47	0.05%
		Harim	6-Sep	1,586,820	644	946	0	1	0.11%	40.58	0.06%
		Idleb	14-Sep	713,933	418	472	0	0	0.00%	58.54	0.07%
		Jisr-Ash-Shugur	25-Sep	310,973	216	349	0	1	0.29%	69.45	0.11%
	Aleppo	A'zaz	9-Sep	648,600	377	526	0	0	0.00%	58.12	0.08%
		Afrin	21-Sep	467,090	115	455	1	1	0.22%	24.62	0.10%
		Al Bab	17-Sep	339,812	4	26	0	0	0.00%	1.17	4.00%
		Jarablus	12-Sep	121,938	251	1383	0	0	0.00%	205.84	1.13%
		Jebel Saman	10-Sep	251,785	165	268	0	0	0.00%	65.53	0.11%
	Total				4,626,619	2254	4526	1	3	0.07%	48.71



Epicurve in NWS_ Reporting Date

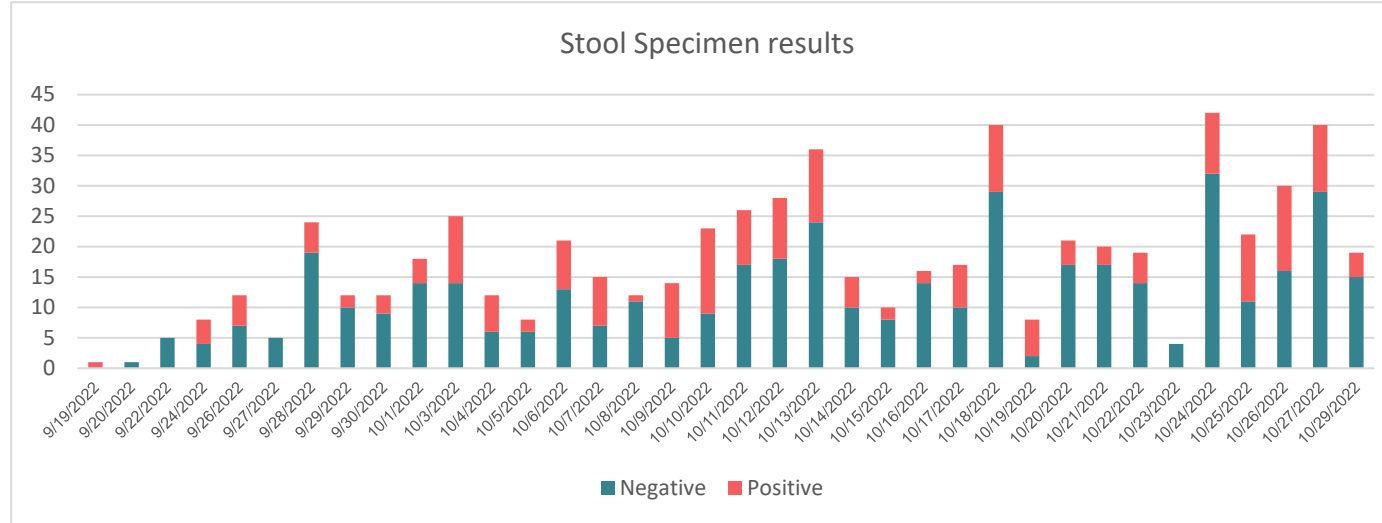
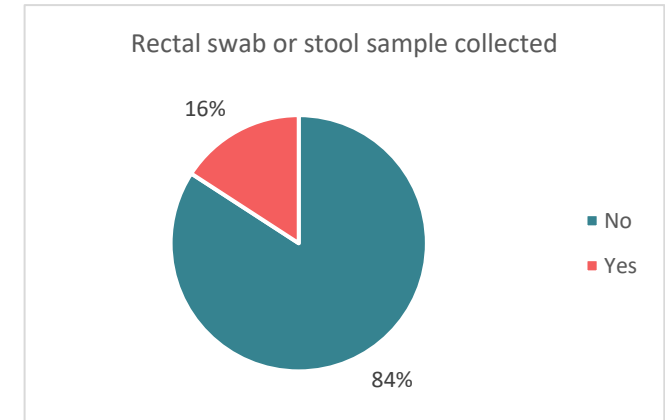






2. Laboratory:

- In Epi week 43, the total number of collected stool specimens or rectal swabs is 157, of which 45 have tested positive for Vibrio Cholera.
- A cumulative of 715 samples were collected since the start of the outbreak (16% of overall line listed cases), of which 209 have tested positive by stool culture.
- The Total number of negative cases by stool culture is 432, and the remaining 74 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.
- The **culture sensitivity** results came sensitive for the following antibiotics: Azithromycin, Imipenem, Ciprofloxacin, and Norfloxacin. **The resistance** is to Tetracycline, Doxycycline, Chloramphenicol, 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.



³ [gtfcc-cholera-outbreak-response-field-manual](#)

Epi Week	Governorate	District	Cumulative Samples Collected	Stool Culture Positive	Stool Culture Negative
W43	Idleb	Ariha	29	5	22
		Harim	182	67	90
		Idleb	58	13	37
		Jisr-Ash-Shugur	18	3	13
	Aleppo	A'zaz	30	4	25
		Afrin	157	60	89
		Al Bab	11	5	5
		Jarablus	181	45	135
		Jebel Saman	51	7	16
	Total			717	209

3. WASH:

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

Total number of investigations: 16.

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

Jarablus District:

- Number of Investigations: 2
- Jarablus: Jarablus 4 (Jbel) camp, coded CP000017. Supplied with water by an organization. Water supplied is safe to drink.
- Ghandorah/ Sabuniyeh (Farqalas): The water resource (private well) located in the household is safe to drink.

Afrin District:

- Number of Investigations: 3
- Afrin / Ghazawiyet (Community): The water resource (private well) located in the household is safe to drink.
- Ma'btali/ Awwad El Arab - Arab Oshagi: The water resource (private well) located in the household is safe to drink.
- Afrin/Afrin: The main water resource (Water Station) is safe to drink and not contaminated in Afrin community.

Al-Bab District:

- Number of Investigations: 1
- Al Bab/ Qabasin: Drinking water is safe to drink and not contaminated.

A'zaz District:

- Number of Investigations: 2
- A'zaz/ Suran: Water resources (Tank and public well) are safe to drink and not contaminated.
- Aghtrin/ Eastern Tal Aar: The water of water resource (private well) is safe to drink, but there is a tank to collect water which is contaminated.

Jebel Saman District:

- Number of Investigations: 1
- Atareb/ Abin Samaan: The water resource (private well) located in the household is contaminated and not safe to drink.

Harim District:

- Number of Investigation:3
- Dana/ Atma: Ruhin: Al Aqsa (Mashhad Ruhin) camp, coded CP000107. The camp is supplied with water through an organization and is safe to drink.
- Dana / Qah: Al Rayan (Qah) camp, coded CP000421, the camp is supplied with water through organization and the water delivered is safe to drink.
- Dana / Qah: Al-Omuma (Maternity) and Mawada hospitals. The water resources (private wells) are safe to drink. However, there is tank installed in the Al-Omuma hospital is contaminated.

Idleb District:

- Number of Investigation:3
- Maaret Tamsrin/ Kafr - Kafrehmul: The water supplied is safe to drink and not contaminated. Water resource is water station.
- Maaret Tamsrin/ Zardana Mashehad: The water supplied is safe to drink and not contaminated. Water resource is water station.
- Maaret Tamsrin/ Kafr Jales: The water supplied is safe to drink and not contaminated. Water resource is water station.

Jisr-Ash-Shugur District:

- Number of Investigations: 1

- Janudiyeh /Qanniyeh: The community is supplied with water through water station. The result showed that water of water station is safe to drink. However, the water at patient's household (water tank) is contaminated.
- 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, 67 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

- Initiate reporting from functioning treatment centers (CTCs, CTUs, and ORPs).
- Laboratory support with consumables and supplies, especially for **O139, O1 Antisera**.
- Issuing daily updates, and weekly situation report.
- Enhancement coordination mechanisms with WHO and Taskforce members.
- Enhancing the potential sources of Cholera death reporting.