

Plans for 2018

1. Consolidate the re-establishment of routine immunization services:

- **95 vaccination centres to be operational** by the end of 2018 (about 45 more in 2018, expanding the geographical coverage)

2. Support SIAs to prevent and respond to outbreaks:

- polio campaign: four OPV rounds
- polio campaign: one IPV round (2-23-month-olds)
- measles campaign (under-5-year-olds)
- measles campaign (5-14-year-olds)
- vaccination of evacuees from eastern Ghouta/Douma (OPV)

WHO's immunization activities are kindly funded by the governments of Japan and Norway, the United States Agency for International Development, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department, and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development.



Read more on WHO's health services for northwestern Syria at <http://www.euro.who.int/en/syria-crisis>

Protected Together

#VACCINESWORK

Main challenges

- **Insecurity** due to ongoing conflict
- **Population estimates** difficult to obtain due to population movements
- **Outbreaks** (such as circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2))
- **High costs and lack of funds:** unmet needs for 2018 amount to US\$ 3 million (as of May 2018)
- **Poor sustainability**

Facilitating factors

- Strong partnerships
- Community demand
- Support from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance
- Strong commitment of staff at all levels
- Strong community trust in vaccines and vaccination teams

Increasing childhood immunization in northwestern Syria



After receiving polio immunization, a Syrian child shows her vaccination certificate. Photo: Syria Immunization Group

Poor vaccination coverage in Syria, due to the ongoing conflict, has lowered immunity and caused outbreaks of highly contagious diseases such as measles and poliomyelitis (polio).

From Gaziantep in Turkey, WHO works with UNICEF and health partners to protect children across the border in northwestern Syria from vaccine-preventable diseases.

2017 in figures

- ✓ **Routine immunization services re-established**
 - More than 50 centres running as of end 2017.
 - More than 250 000 doses of pentavalent vaccine administered.
- ✓ **Supplementary immunization activities (SIAs)**
 - Five vaccination rounds held: four with oral polio vaccine (OPV), one with inactivated polio vaccine (IPV).
 - Each round administered to more than 750 000 children under five years (coverage: >95%).
 - About 2.8 million OPV doses provided to children in north-western Syria by partners after WHO training.
- ✓ **2 rounds of accelerated implementation of routine immunization** for children under five years in Aleppo.

