

Syrian Arab Republic: Health Systems Profile

Health status (2013)

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------|------|
| Life expectancy at birth in years | total | 76.0 |
| | males | 73.0 |
| | females | 78.0 |
| Maternal mortality ratio per 100 000 live births | total | 49.0 |

Communicable diseases (2014)

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Tuberculosis notification rate per 100 000 population | 12.0 |
| Incidence rate of malaria per 100 000 population | ... |
| Number of newly reported HIV cases | 23.0 |

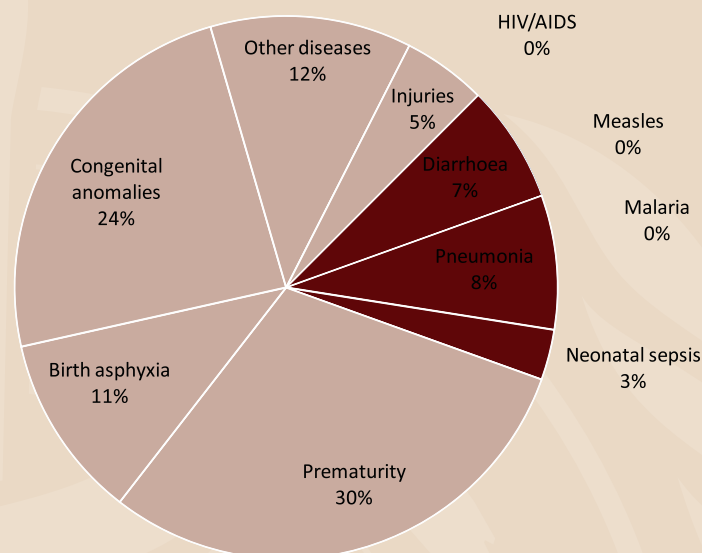
Behavioural risk factors

| Prevalence (%) | males | females | total |
|----------------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Current tobacco smoking (2011)* | ... | ... | ... |
| Insufficient physical activity (2008-) | ... | ... | ... |

Metabolic risk factors

| 2014 estimated prevalence (%) | males | females | total |
|-------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Raised blood pressure | ... | ... | 21.3 |
| Raised blood glucose | ... | ... | 13.9 |
| Overweight | ... | ... | 58.5 |
| Obesity | ... | ... | 23.5 |

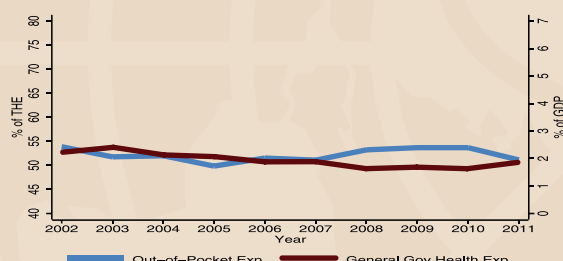
Distribution of causes of death among children aged <5 years (%)



Communicable diseases are estimated to account for 49% of all deaths among children aged <5 years

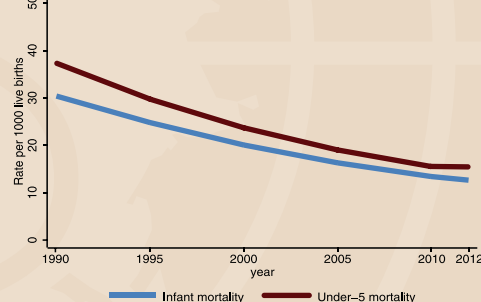
Expenditure and mortality trends

Health finance



*GGHE%GDP is the general government expenditure on health as % of gross domestic product
**OOP%THE is the out-of-pocket expenditure as % of total health expenditure

Infant and under 5 mortality rates per 1000 live births



Health system: selected coverage interventions

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Antenatal care visits (4+ visits) (2013) | ... |
| Measles immunization coverage among 1-year-olds (2014) | 71 |
| Treatment success rate of new bacteriologically confirmed TB cases (2014) | 53 |
| DPT3-containing vaccine / Pentavalent coverage group among children under 1 year of age group (2014) | 62 |

Health system: finance (2013)

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| General government expenditure on health as % of general government expenditure | 5.3 |
| Out-of-pocket expenditure as % of total health expenditure | 53.9 |
| Per capita total health expenditure at exchange rate (US\$) | 43 |

Health system: workforce (2014)

| | |
|----------------------------------------|------|
| Health workforce per 10 000 population | |
| Physicians | 13.3 |
| Nurses/midwives | 19.8 |
| Dentists | 7.6 |
| Pharmacists | 12.7 |

Health system: information

| | |
|----------------------------------------|------|
| Percentage of births registered | 0.95 |
| Percentage of causes of death recorded | 0.81 |

Health system: medicines and medical devices (2013)

| | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|------|
| Availability of selected essential medicines and medical products in health facilities (%) | public | 93 |
| | private | 98.2 |
| Number of scanners (in public facilities) per million population ^c | CT | ... |
| | MRI | ... |

Health system: service delivery (infrastructure) (2014)

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Primary health care facilities per 10 000 population | 0.88 |
| Hospital beds per 10 000 population | 15 |

... No data available

^a International Classification of Diseases

^b Gross domestic product

^c Computed tomography (CT) and Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)

* Age-standardized estimated

Please note the data sources are in the attachment

Health System Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Challenges, and Priorities - Syrian Arab Republic¹ 2015

| Strengths | Weaknesses |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Pre-events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long tradition and practice of developing five-year medium-term planning for health as part of the national planning process in elaborated public sector health care infrastructure in terms of primary care facilities and hospitals • Availability of health workforce with adequate density of physicians, dentists and allied workers • Significant improvement in infant mortality and maternal mortality between 1970 and 2010 <p>Current</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts to enhance community ownership in local planning and decision-making • Develop a new organizational structure for the Ministry of Health including administrative framework, workflow diagrams • Reviewing the database related to damaged health facilities in collaboration with stakeholders at the governorate level • Assessing hospital care status in the selected provinces • Establishing a web-based application and national data base management system for pharmaceutical products • Working on establishing bioequivalence studies centre as well as clinical studies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Health's capacity to undertake essential health functions is not supported by its organizational structure and functions of its departments. • Disrupted health system due to the current crisis which has caused weak governance, damaged health facilities, low access and coverage. • Acute drainage of health professionals and shortage of health care workers and lack of qualified personnel (management skills, communication skills, computer skills.....) • Reduced financial resources for health sector • Increased cost of health care delivery beyond the reach of the average Syrian • Sharp reduction of budget for imported medicines and reduction of locally manufactured medicines resulting in inadequacy of medicines being provided free of charge for patients • Breakdown of the referral system • The capacity of the Health Management Information and Surveillance System is reduced, compromising the use of quality data • 59% of public hospitals are either partially or non-functioning, and 46% of the health centres are either partially or non-functioning. The public health sector is overburdened as the majority of people cannot afford private health services. • No proper needs assessments have been conducted since 2011 |
| Opportunities | Challenges |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support of different UN agencies, international and national NGOs • Donor interest in supporting the health sector in Syria • High level commitment for Global Polio Eradication • Availability of basic health care staff across all governorates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Escalated violence impedes access to many hard-to-reach areas • Access of the vulnerable people to the basic health services • Timely detection and proper investigation and response to disease outbreaks • Shortage of qualified health personnel • In sufficient supervision and monitoring • Lack of reliable data on the burden of trauma and injuries. • Difficulties in estimating population figures at national, governorate and district levels due to large population movements • Frequent power cut, severe shortages of generators and fuel hamper the functionality of the hospitals and health centres • Sustaining demand for vaccination among IDPs and host communities • Side effects of imposed sanctions are affecting the procurement of vaccine, essential medicines and supplies • Implementing small-scale rehabilitation of infrastructure in partially damaged hospitals that will enable the hospitals to function by providing required equipment and spare parts • Introducing standard package of medicines for treating NCD diseases especially on the PHC level |
| Priorities | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the delivery of essential and emergency health care including: trauma, primary health care, reproductive and child health, nutrition services, management of chronic illness and mental health • Assess and improve hospital care services to facilitate access to emergency care • Promote and facilitate the access to preventive care including vaccine preventable diseases, anti-natal care, safe delivery, child care, care of the patients suffering from chronic diseases • Fill priority gaps for essential medicines, life saving medical equipment and supplies and spare parts needed for the provision of maintenance services and the functionality of machines • Strengthen the early warning system for outbreak alert and response of disease and public health emergencies • Coordinate the health sector response through consistently updated information on health needs, health sector response capacities and gaps • Revitalization and early recovery of health services and restoration of health facility services in affected areas while enhancing health sector readiness for emergency response • Support the country's health authority in building a responsive sustainable health system | |

¹ This profile depicts the state of the Syrian health system prior to recent events as well as mentioning challenges as a result of them.

Jointly developed by:

Department of Health Systems Development (HSD) and
Department of Information, Evidence and Research (IER)



World Health Organization

Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean