



Photo 1. WHO dispatching blood bags procured with the support of Hellenic Aid. @WHO

WHO Syria Country Office

Final report to Greece

“Ensuring procurement of life-saving essential medicines and medical supplies for the vulnerable populations in Syria”

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project title	Ensuring procurement of life-saving essential medicines and medical supplies for the vulnerable populations in Syria
Project location	Al Hasakah, Al Sweida, Ar-Raqqa, Daraa, Deir Er-Zor, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Quneitra, Rural Damascus, Tartous.
WHO responsible officer	Christina Bethke – WHO Representative a.i dupinc@who.int Gerald Reyes – Partnership Officer greyes@who.int
Amount of contribution	200,000 EUR
Duration of project	5/29/2025 - 31/12/2025
Project beneficiaries	310,925
Goal	To improve health outcomes and reduce preventable morbidity and mortality among vulnerable populations by ensuring the timely availability and distribution of essential medicines and medical supplies across all health care levels in Syria.

I. SHORT BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT

Fourteen years of conflict and underinvestment have left Syria's health system severely weakened, with an estimated 16.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Severe droughts – the worst in 36 years, and persistent instability have put the health system at risk. The implementation of this project was marked by intensified population movements, expanded humanitarian needs, and heightened public health risks.

Despite efforts to rehabilitate facilities, only about half of hospitals and primary health care centers remain fully functional. Many are non-operational due to damaged infrastructure, outdated equipment, shortages of qualified staff, and persistent gaps in essential medicines. The collapse of local pharmaceutical production, coupled with sanctions and import restrictions, has further constrained access to life-saving treatments. With nearly 90% of the population living below the poverty line, the cost of medicines is prohibitive, forcing many to delay or forego care.

Against this backdrop, WHO, supported by the Government of Greece, implemented the procurement and distribution of essential medicines and medical supplies to vulnerable populations across Syria. The intervention aimed to address both acute and chronic health needs, prioritizing trauma care, emergency and surgical services, noncommunicable diseases, and other essential treatments at hospital and primary care levels. This approach aligns with WHO's strategic objectives for Syria: enhancing access to life-saving health services, scaling up outbreak prevention and response, and reducing risk factors through multi-sectoral coordination.



Photo 2. Haemodialysis life-saving supplies procured with the support of Hellenic Aid prepositioned at WHO warehouse in Damascus. @WHO

The project was implemented in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Health Sector Coordination Group to ensure alignment with national priorities and avoid duplication. Allocation of medicines and supplies was guided by epidemiological data and needs assessments, focusing on governorates most affected by insecurity, displacement, and service disruption. Gender, equity, and protection considerations were integrated throughout, aiming to reduce financial and access-related barriers to care.

II. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

The project achieved tangible results in improving access to life-saving health services for vulnerable populations across multiple governorates in Syria. Through the procurement and distribution of essential medicines, medical kits, and specialized supplies such as blood bags and supplies, WHO supported health facilities in maintaining critical services during a period of heightened demand and constrained resources.

Governorate	IEHK ^a beneficiaries	TESK ^b beneficiaries	Dialysis beneficiaries	Blood bags and supplies beneficiaries	Total beneficiaries
Rural Damascus	45,000	550	0	0	45,550
As-Swida	60,000	2,000	0	0	62,000
Deir Er-Zor	3,000	1,050	0	0	4,050
Hama	0	350	0	0	350
Lattakia	40,000	650	0	0	40,650
Al Hasakah	0	500	100	0	600
ArRaqqa	10,000	950	0	0	10,950
Homs	40,000	550	0	0	40,550
Qunitra	10,000	150	0	0	10,150
Tartous	50,000	1,400	0	0	51,400
Daraa	35,000	300	0	0	35,300
Damascus	0	0	0	9,375	9,375
Total	293,000	8,450	100	9,375	310,925

a. Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK)

b. Trauma and Emergency Surgery Kits (TESK)

Overall, the project supported an estimated 310,925 beneficiaries across twelve governorates, including Damascus, Rural Damascus, As Sweida, Deir Er-Zor, Hama, Lattakia, Al Hasakah, Ar-Raqqa, Homs, Quneitra, Tartous, and Daraa. Assistance reached patients requiring outpatient essential medicines, chronic disease management, inpatient emergency medicines, trauma care, dialysis, blood transfusion and t, , and other essential health services delivered through public hospitals and primary healthcare facilities. Beneficiaries received treatment supported by WHO standard medical kits, including trauma and emergency surgery kits (TESKs), Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHKs), hemodialysis care, and blood supplies.

Trauma-related interventions constituted a significant component of the response, reflecting the continued impact of insecurity and explosive hazards on civilian populations. More than 8,000 trauma cases were supported across targeted governorates, enabling hospitals to provide 16,800 medical interventions, including timely surgical and emergency care. This support was particularly critical in areas experiencing active hostilities or recent escalations, where health facilities were overwhelmed by sudden increases in

injury-related admissions. Additionally, the funding enabled immediate response to security incidents that required procurement and distribution of trauma supplies, blood bags and supplies, including the terror attack on Mar Elias Greek Orthodox Church in Damascus, in June 2025.

In Northeast Syria (NES), the project provided critical support to health facilities operating in a highly complex and resource-constrained environment. The assistance enabled the treatment of trauma cases, the provision of essential medical kits, and the continuation of specialized services, including hemodialysis for patients with chronic kidney disease receiving treatment at Al-Hasakeh Dialysis Center and Qamishli National Hospital . By addressing both emergency and chronic health needs, the intervention helped sustain the functionality of public health facilities in Al Hasakah and Ar-Raqqa governorates, mitigate service disruptions, and reduce preventable morbidity and mortality among some of the most vulnerable communities in the region.

By ensuring the availability of essential medicines within health facilities, WHO helped reduce financial barriers to care for the poorest households, improved treatment adherence for patients with chronic conditions, and strengthened trust in the health sector. Furthermore, the project reinforced coordination mechanisms with national authorities and health partners, contributing to a more strategic and needs-based allocation of limited resources.

In conclusion, the project funded by the Government of Greece made a meaningful contribution to safeguarding access to essential health services in Syria during a critical period. Through its focus on life-saving medicines and medical supplies, the intervention helped address urgent health needs, reduce preventable deaths, and support the resilience of the Syrian health system in the face of ongoing and complex humanitarian challenges.

III. VISIBILITY

WHO Syria provided clear and timely communications highlighting Greece's vital support in expanding access to essential medicines and strengthening health services across Syria.

The strategic partnership was amplified through an announcement of a press release, a coordinated multi-platform social media rollout, and follow-up visibility on the arrival and dispatch of medical shipments. Messaging remained people-centred, dignified, and aligned with WHO's visibility guidelines, while ensuring the role of Greece was clearly communicated so audiences understand how this support is contributing to health services across Syria. This approach strengthens transparency around how public funds are used and reinforces confidence in the impact of Greece's contribution.

In total, WHO Syria generated one press release, seven dedicated social media posts, two photo-based supply-chain visibility updates featuring Hellenic Aid branding, and one global feature story showcasing Greece's support. The partnership was highlighted across WHO Syria and WHO EMRO digital channels, creating four rounds of visibility at key points in the project – announcement, supply arrival, dispatch, and year-end acknowledgment. This multi-touchpoint approach ensured clear and consistent public recognition of Greece's contribution across audiences and platforms.

The [press release](#) generated strong traction across WHO Syria and WHO EMRO channels, highlighting how Greece's contribution is helping sustain lifesaving services amid continued pressures on the health system. This was supported by social media posts on [X](#) and [Facebook](#), reaching diverse audiences and reinforcing

donor visibility through consistent acknowledgment of Greece's support.

As supplies were delivered and dispatched to hospitals and health facilities, WHO issued regular updates documenting progress on the ground. These posts showcased logistics operations, coordination, and the branding of the consignment, which included Hellenic Aid visibility before dispatch to facilities—strengthening transparency, donor recognition and trust. A dedicated photo set of the shipments further supported visibility and can be used for future donor reporting, stories, pitches and archives.

In addition, Greece was prominently featured in a global [WHO appreciation story](#), which spotlights partners whose support is helping sustain critical health services across Syria. This feature – shared globally through WHO channels – underscored the impact of Greece's contribution and reinforced their role as a committed partner in protecting the health and dignity of communities across the country.

Table 2. Communication and Visibility Snapshot

Category	Description	Links
Press release	Announcement of Greece–WHO partnership	Link
Announcement – social media	WHO Syria posts announcing partnership	X [formerly Twitter] Facebook
Amplification by WHO EMRO	Regional resharing of announcement	Facebook
Supplies update (August 2025)	Visibility on arrival and dispatch of Greece-funded supplies	X [formerly Twitter] Facebook
Supplies update – Recent shipment (December 2025)	Continued updates on essential medicines reaching facilities	X [formerly Twitter] Facebook Instagram
Photo documentation	Images of Greece-funded supplies, including Hellenic Aid branding, and earlier dispatch photos	Link to Google Drive with photos
Global donor appreciation feature	Greece featured prominently in WHO's end-of-year donor thank-you story	Link to story X (formerly Twitter) Facebook

End of report