

Highlights:

An increase on reported Leishmania cases was noticed for the 2nd week. This might be due to the improvement of reporting from sentinel sites in Aleppo where the disease is most endemic.

I. Completeness & Timeliness of Reporting

The reporting completeness was 78%; (102 out of 131 EWARS sentinel surveillance sites) In the 10 governorates, from where data were received, 102 out of 112 (91%) EWARS sentinel sites reported this week. The timeliness among reporting governorates was 100%.

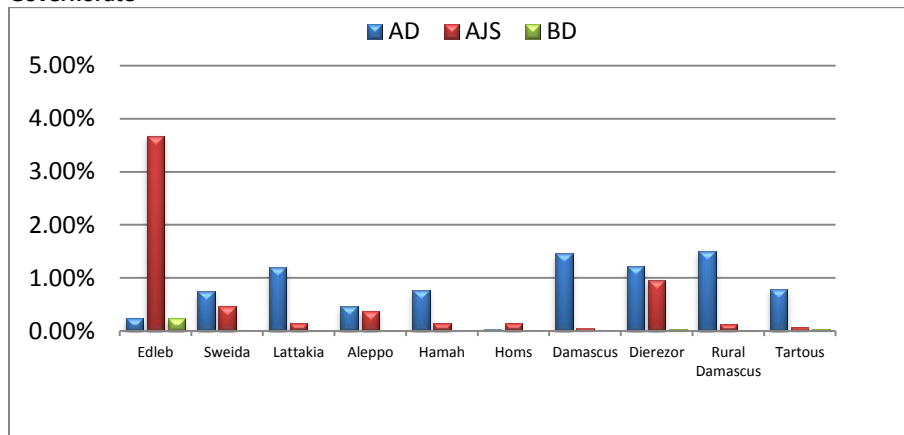
II. The Morbidity

Out of 65,568 consultations, 4,357 were for EWARS reportable health conditions. If we rule out reported cases as “other diseases” (1953), we find that most cases were for ILI 67%, AD (Acute Diarrhoea) 27%, 137 hepatitis_A cases, 9 BD (Bloody Diarrhoea), 6 SM (suspected measles) and 3 cases of AWD (Acute Watery Diarrhoea). The reported “other cases” were 1953 most of which were Leishmanias (1294), lice (376) scabies (259), Brucellosis (10), TB (7), typhoid (4), and Pneumonia 3. See graph 1 which shows the distribution of the proportion of water and food born diseases to the total consultations by Governorates. Table-1 illustrates the proportion of all cases to the total consultations according to disease and governorate.

The majority of the cases were among over 5 age group (61%, 2668 cases out of total cases). Ruling out reported cases as “others” (1457), most of these cases were for ILI 69%, (837 out of 1211) and then AD cases 24%. While 39 % of the cases were for under 5 year age group (1689 out of total cases).

Ruling out the reported cases as “others” (496), we found that the majority of cases of this age group were ILI 64.5% (769 out of 1193 cases), and AD (Acute Diarrhoea) 30%. Table no. 2 illustrates details of the reported cases for this week.

Graph-1: the proportion of AD, BD and AJS Cases to the total consultations by Governorate



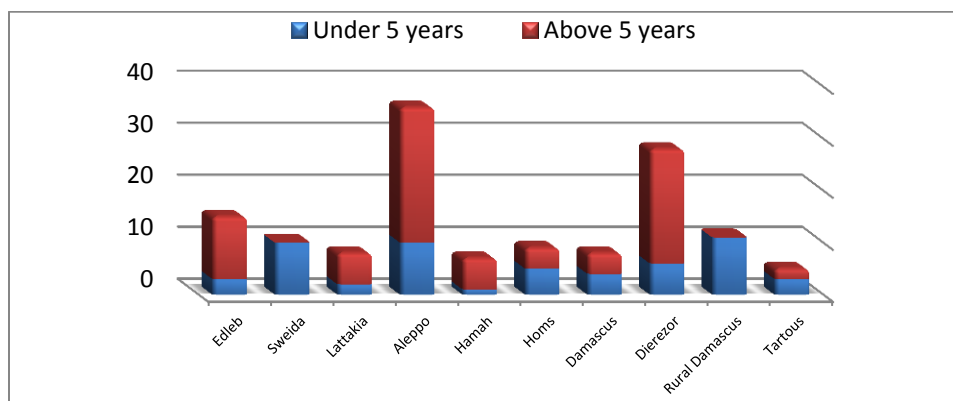
OC: Other consultations, OD: Other diseases

Table 1: The proportion of all cases to the total consultations in all reporting governorates

Governorate	ILI	AD	AJS	BD	AWD	SM	OD	OC
Idleb	8.58	0.25	3.68	0.25	0.49	0	0	86.76
Sweida	10.4	0.74	0.46	0	0	0	0.18	88.21
Lattakia	5.93	1.2	0.15	0.02	0	0.02	0	92.68
Aleppo	0.43	0.47	0.38	0.01	0	0.01	16.59	82.11
Hama	2.04	0.77	0.14	0	0	0	3.69	93.37
Homs	0.14	0.03	0.14	0	0	0	0.11	99.59
Damascus	2.65	1.46	0.05	0	0	0.01	0.21	95.64
DeirEzoz	0	1.22	0.95	0.03	0	0	2.24	95.54
Rural Damascus	3.62	1.51	0.13	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.68	93.99
Tartous	1.4	0.8	0.06	0.04	0	0	0.1	97.6

Reported cases were distributed equally between males and females for this week (51% and 49%), while we find that 54% of cases of diseases communicated by water and food (Acute Diarrhoea, Bloody Diarrhoea and Acute Jaundice Syndrome AJS) was for males. Reported hepatitis cases for this week for over 5 age group equalled 60% (82 out of 137 cases), with more percentage for males (58%). Most cases were in Aleppo 26% (36 cases), DeirEzoz 20% (28 cases) and Idleb 11% (15 cases). See graph 2 and tables 1 and 2. Reported Leishmania cases for this week (1294) were distributed in governorates where this disease is endemic. 86% of these cases were reported from Aleppo this week (1112 cases), out of total consultations (9588), finding that percentage of leishmania cases among consultations of one health centre in Aleppo reached 63% (1054 cases out of 1682 consultations). The proportion of leishmania cases were 58% among males and 80% were among above 5 age group.

Graph-2: Distribution of hepatitis cases by governorate and age group



III. The Response:

MOH communicated with the Heads of Communicable Diseases Sections in the governorates that reported Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) (3 cases), and it was confirmed that those cases are not cholera cases rather Acute Diarrhoea. Thereby, emphasis was made on necessity of informing all reporting sites about adherence to the standard case definition as well as on immediate reporting for any suspected case of AWD.

Investigation forms were filled and blood and oral fluid samples were collected from reported SM cases (6), in addition to the routine procedures undertaken by the Investigation team in the governorates of Damascus (1), Rural Damascus (3, from one centre), Aleppo (1) and Lattakia (1). Three cases were positive. As a response, a vaccination campaign was carried out in the area (measles vaccination for over 6-month age and MMR for 1-15 years) see table below:

As for pneumonia cases reported by Sweida National Hospital, cases and contacts were investigated (3 cases) and proper treatment was given, knowing that cases were not linked and they did not need to be referred to intensive care.

Proper measures were taken for BD detected in the governorates. Some suspected shigellosis cases were revealed to be **amebic dysentery**, and were treated with proper antibiotics while severe cases were referred to the hospital. Places where these cases reside were also investigated to check the water chlorination. Water samples were collected for bacteriological testing while surveillance efforts for detecting new cases are going on. Other response measures were also taken with regard to case management of Leishmaniasis in addition to ensuring the implementation of sanitation measures in accordance with available capacity.

Table 2: results of lab investigation for measles cases

Governorate	Sex	Age	Vaccination Status	Results	Response measures
Damascus	Female	10 Yrs	Not known	Positive	vaccination campaign (measles vaccination for above 6 months and MMR for 1-15 years)
Rural Damascus	Female	10 Yrs	Vaccinated	Negative	Case investigated and blood and oral fluid samples collected
Rural Damascus	Female	2 Yrs	Vaccinated	Negative	Case investigated and blood and oral fluid samples collected
Rural Damascus	Female	4 Yrs	Vaccinated	Negative	Case investigated and blood and oral fluid samples collected
Aleppo	Female	4 Yrs	Not vaccinated	Positive	vaccination campaign (measles vaccination for above 6 month and MMR for 1-15 years)
Lattakia	Male	13 Yrs	Not known	positive	Case investigated and blood and oral fluid samples collected

Table-3: Distribution of cases per age group, and by Governorate-week-15, 2013

Disease	Age	Idleb	Sweida	Lattakia	Aleppo	Hama	Homs	Damas	DeirEzzor	R. Damas	Tartous	Total	
AD	M < 5	0	4	24	14	15	2	58	17	38	13	185	355
	F < 5	0	6	16	12	8	0	51	8	50	19	170	
	M > 5	0	3	13	6	5	0	53	8	19	13	120	
	F > 5	1	3	13	13	10	0	85	3	23	17	168	
AFP	M < 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F < 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	M > 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	F > 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
AJS	M < 5	2	5	1	5	1	2	2	2	10	3	33	55
	F < 5	1	5	1	5	0	3	2	4	1	0	22	
	M > 5	8	0	2	14	1	3	2	14	0	2	46	
	F > 5	4	0	4	12	5	1	2	8	0	0	36	
AWD	M < 5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
	F < 5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	M > 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	F > 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
BD	M < 5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	5	7
	F < 5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	
	M > 5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	
	F > 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
ILI	M < 5	13	39	125	16	34	1	55	0	92	40	415	769
	F < 5	9	39	87	9	46	0	70	0	53	41	354	
	M > 5	8	67	44	9	12	1	134	0	70	13	358	
	F > 5	5	80	69	7	9	7	190	0	97	15	479	
MAL	M < 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F < 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	M > 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	F > 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SM	M < 5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
	F < 5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	
	M > 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	F > 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	
SMN	M < 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F < 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	M > 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	F > 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Others	M < 5	0	2	0	247	27	0	6	10	8	0	300	496
	F < 5	0	0	0	155	21	0	1	9	10	0	196	
	M > 5	0	0	0	604	66	3	20	29	28	4	754	
	F > 5	0	2	0	585	69	4	8	18	13	4	703	
TotalM < 5		16	50	152	282	77	5	121	29	150	59	941	1689
TotalF < 5		12	50	104	182	75	3	124	21	117	60	748	
TotalM > 5		16	70	59	634	84	7	209	52	117	32	1280	
Total F > 5		10	85	86	617	93	12	286	29	134	36	1388	
Grand Total		54	155	401	1715	329	27	740	131	518	187	4357	4357