



2026 Syria Humanitarian Response

Situation Report #1

September 21, 2026

After 14 years of conflict, Syria's health system faces urgent challenges. Project HOPE is working with local partners and frontline health workers to improve healthcare access and the quality of care. Together, we are strengthening the capacity of physicians, nurses, midwives, lab technicians, and other health workers in topics like reproductive health, systems strengthening, and mental health and psychosocial support.

Situation Overview

Syria's health system has been significantly weakened by more than 14 years of conflict. The vulnerabilities facing the health system are compounded by widespread displacement, economic decline, disease outbreaks, and comprehensive damage to health infrastructure. Roughly 15.6 million will need humanitarian assistance in 2026 and more than 7 million face acute food insecurity. Overall need is high and the Syrian health system does not have the resources it needs to ensure access to adequate healthcare, which is a foundational anchor of peace and social cohesion.

Ongoing shortages of medicines, outdated medical equipment, and a depleted health workforce have greatly limited access to essential health services, particularly in conflict-affected and under-resourced areas. Only 57% of hospitals and 37% of primary healthcare centers are fully operational, limiting access to essential health services across the country. Mental health needs remain high due to years of displacement, conflict, and instability, and access to specialized mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services is limited.

Key Updates

- Project HOPE recently completed the Syria Capacity Building Initiative, **training 249 health and humanitarian workers** in topics like mental health and psychosocial support, reproductive health, ultrasound services, and laboratory skills.
- Health worker training was delivered through **13 courses and 40 facilitated training days** in Amman and Aleppo.
- Project HOPE continues to strengthen locally led health workforce capacity through practical, needs-based training.
- **Project HOPE is assessing additional health system needs in Syria**, including opportunities for clinical deployments, hands-on training, facility support, and light rehabilitation projects.

Project HOPE's Response

Project HOPE continues to strengthen the capacity of health and humanitarian workers in Syria through targeted training activities, which have been implemented in partnership with local organizations and in coordination with Syria's Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and local health authorities. Capacity building activities were completed through two complementary training streams: an MHPSS training in Amman for Syrian frontline workers and an integrated health workforce capacity building package in Aleppo for physicians, nurses, midwives, and lab technicians.

Across all activities, 249 participants completed trainings. A total of 13 cohort-level courses were delivered over 40 facilitated training days, providing health and humanitarian workers with practical skills in psychosocial support, frontline responder well-being, integrated reproductive health services, basic ultrasound orientation, laboratory information systems, and safe blood collection. Over 87% of trainees were women, with 218 women health workers participating. This demographic breakdown is reflective of the initiative's strong focus on midwives and reproductive health providers.

This initiative focused on practical competencies directly linked to the quality and safety of frontline health and humanitarian services. Reproductive health training strengthened midwives' capacity in antenatal and postnatal care, identification and referral of obstetric risks, family planning, reproductive care, sexually transmitted infections, infection prevention and control, and respectful and confidential care. Basic ultrasound orientation introduced doctors and midwives to fundamental obstetric and gynecological assessment concepts to support clinical decision-making and referral. Laboratory training strengthened practices related to information management, sample tracking, safe blood collection, infection prevention, and specimen handling. Together, these activities improved provider readiness and supported more standardized and quality-focused service delivery.

Through this initiative, Project HOPE and its partners are strengthening the knowledge, skills, resilience, and service readiness of Syrian health and humanitarian workers in areas directly affected by prolonged conflict and long-term pressures on the health system. By investing in locally led capacity building and strengthening competencies across reproductive health, diagnostic services, laboratory systems, and MHPSS, this work ensures that populations in vulnerable positions have access to safe and effective care, while contributing to the longer-term resilience of Syria's health system.

Building on these achievements, Project HOPE continues to assess evolving health needs across Syria's health system and identify opportunities for further support.

Project HOPE is working to deploy additional health professionals to hospitals and primary healthcare centers in Syria to provide on-the-job training, hands-on clinical practice, and mentorship for local health workers. Planned support also includes an MHPSS Training-of-Trainers program for staff at Syrian NGOs, with cascading supervision as the training is subsequently delivered across the country. The team is also planning targeted capacity building for nurses and midwives in primary healthcare centers. Project HOPE is also assessing opportunities to support the rehabilitation and operationalization of selected hospital departments through the provision of essential medical supplies, equipment, and light rehabilitation projects. These efforts will build on knowledge gained through the recent initiative and provide health workers with practical, sustained opportunities to strengthen their skills and improve health services.