



# Health Crisis in Syria

## Situation Report #1

December 23, 2024

**Project HOPE is on the ground in Syria following the fall of the Assad regime, delivering critical medical supplies to health facilities in communities lacking access to health care.**

### Situation Overview

On December 8, 2024, an offensive led to the fall of the 24-year regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. This marked the end of a decade of civil war, altering the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East. While this has sparked hope for millions of Syrians, it has exposed significant gaps in health and humanitarian needs.

Before the fall of Assad's regime, over 16 million people needed urgent humanitarian assistance in Syria. Additionally, Syria had been the epicenter of the world's largest displacement crisis over the past decade. Nearly 13 million Syrians had been displaced, including 7 million internally displaced people (IDPs) and 6 million living as refugees abroad. Now, many Syrian refugees and IDPs are opting to return home, while others are fleeing the country due to fears of what may come with a change in leadership.

Now, impacted areas across Syria – including Aleppo, Hama, Homs, and Damascus – are facing critical gaps in healthcare, nutrition, mental healthcare, and water, hygiene, and sanitation (WASH). There is an urgent need for specialized medical staff, essential medications, functional infrastructure, and psychosocial support, compounded by malnutrition, inadequate shelter, and logistical barriers to aid delivery.

### Project HOPE's Response in Syria

### Key Updates

- Project HOPE, with partner JHASi, is delivering **critical, lifesaving medical supplies** to hospitals and health facilities in Syria.
- Recent escalations in hostilities have intensified the humanitarian crisis in Syria, where **over 16 million people** were already in urgent need of assistance.
- The most impacted areas in Syria are facing **critical gaps in healthcare, nutrition, WASH, and mental health** services.

Project HOPE, in collaboration with the Jordan Health Aid Society-International (JHASi), is addressing urgent humanitarian needs in Syria by delivering essential medical supplies and coordinating with local partners and stakeholders to assess outstanding health and humanitarian needs.

Through ongoing assessments of hospitals and health facilities, the team has identified shortages of lifesaving medicine, basic medical supplies, and staff. Additionally, many facilities lack modern equipment and electricity and have sustained severe damage due to conflict.

This week, in partnership with JHASi, Project HOPE delivered the first NGO-led medical supply shipment into Syria since the fall of the regime. These supplies will be delivered to hospitals and health facilities as part of the ongoing assessment to identify and address health gaps.

Prior to this, Project HOPE responded in northern Syria to support communities and health workers impacted by the devastating earthquakes that struck in February 2023. Project HOPE imported three Interagency Emergency Health Kits to support local healthcare facilities and funded local partners, including Sened and Syrian Relief and Development, to operate mobile medical units and provide psychosocial support in Afrin district.

Project HOPE and JHASi have been partnering to provide specialized emergency and surgical surge staffing in Gaza over the past year. Established in 2005, JHASi has been at the forefront of responding to emergencies around the globe, including providing health, protection, and WASH programming.



*Project HOPE and JHASi staff receive a shipment of health supplies in Syria.*

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