



COUNTRY PROFILE

SYRIA

MENTOR has been operating in Syria to support the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of leishmaniasis in line with national strategies and humanitarian health priorities since 2013. MENTOR's approach focuses on strengthening primary healthcare services and community level capacity to reduce morbidity, prevent complications, and limit transmission in high risk areas. Activities are implemented in close coordination with health authorities and partners with a primary focus on areas with high leishmaniasis transmission in northwest and northeast Syria.

MENTOR's activities in Syria include:

- **Support to selected health facilities**, including provision of essential medicines and supplies for leishmaniasis diagnosis and treatment, training of medical staff, supervision, and quality assurance.
- **Health worker support**, including training, supervision, data collection, and early identification and referral of suspected leishmaniasis cases.
- **Disease surveillance and data strengthening**, supporting routine reporting, case monitoring, and analysis to inform timely and targeted responses.
- **Vector control and environmental management**, including targeted interventions such as indoor residual spraying to reduce disease transmission and sandfly breeding sites in high risk communities.
- **Solid waste management**, including rehabilitation and operation of waste disposal systems, distribution of waste collection materials, and coordination with local authorities and service providers to improve environmental health conditions and reduce disease risks in affected communities.
- **Health education and community sensitisation**, with Information, Education and Communication (IEC) sessions focused on leishmaniasis prevention, early care seeking, treatment adherence, and stigma reduction.
- **Operational and logistical support** to ensure continuity of services in hard to reach and insecure areas.
- **Support to early recovery and humanitarian innovation**, including the establishment of centralised (VBD) Management Units to standardise and strengthen the leishmaniasis response while reinforcing local health-systems, alongside the integration of Guardian Spatial Repellents into local market systems to enhance sustainable disease prevention.

Cumulative Programme Impact from 2013

Over **18 million** people reached through life-saving health and WASH activities

Over **9 million people** protected from disease transmission

Over **375,000 cases** of leishmaniasis cases diagnosed and treated

Over **200 health facilities** and mobile clinics supported annually

Over **1,400 healthcare workers** trained

Five governorates reached across Syria

Since 2013, MENTOR has delivered a sustained, large-scale response to one of Syria's most severe public health crises. Amid conflict, displacement, and collapsing health systems, leishmaniasis spread rapidly across the country - leaving millions at risk. Over more than a decade, MENTOR has reached millions of people through life-saving health and WASH services, combining treatment, prevention, and community engagement to reduce disease transmission and strengthen local health systems.

Through support to health facilities and mobile clinics, hundreds of thousands of cases have been diagnosed and treated, while large-scale vector control campaigns have protected millions from infection. At the same time,

more than 1,400 of healthcare workers and community actors have been trained, ensuring continued access to care even in the most challenging environments.

MENTOR's sustained and impactful disease control responses in Syria demonstrates that even in conflict, consistent, community-based action can save lives and reduce suffering. This impact has been made possible through close collaboration with national health authorities and a wide network of partners and donors. Together, these partnerships have strengthened coordination, expanded reach, and ensured that life-saving services are delivered to those who need them most.



CURRENT PROGRAMME LOCATIONS



- 1 Idleb Governorate
- 2 Aleppo Governorate
- 3 Ar-Raqqa Governorate

PROGRAMME RESULTS IN 2025



71

health facilities supported



191,905

consultation for cutaneous leishmaniasis



144,628

households reached through large-scale vector control



779,428

people protected



144,628

spatial repellent units distributed

In 2025, MENTOR continued to scale up its integrated health, WASH, and vector control response across Syria, strengthening local health systems while expanding access to life-saving services in underserved areas.

Across northwest Syria, MENTOR expanded support to **71 health facilities**, ensuring continuous access to diagnosis and treatment for leishmaniasis and other possible vector-borne diseases. Service quality was reinforced through regular supervision, training, and adherence to WHO protocols. As a result, MENTOR treated **13,319 (CL) cases** and provided **191,905 consultations** enabling thousands of patients to receive timely care.

Prevention and community engagement remained central. Through outreach teams and community health workers, thousands of people were reached with health education to promote early detection and safer practices. Large-scale vector control campaigns further reduced transmission risks, with **144,628 households** reached and sprayed, protecting **799,428 people** in campaigns.

Specialised Vector-Borne Disease Units (VBDUs) became operational hubs for case management, technical oversight, and coordination, improving the consistency

and quality of services across supported areas. **Five VBDUs** were established and supported in Aleppo and Idlib. At the same time, WASH interventions - including waste management system support - helped address environmental drivers of disease.

MENTOR also advanced innovative approaches through the GCC programme, combining **humanitarian distribution of spatial repellents** with early steps toward **market-based solutions**. Over **32,000 households** were reached, alongside efforts to integrate products into local supply chains and promote environmentally responsible recycling.

These achievements have been made possible through close collaboration with key partners and donors, alongside strong coordination with the Syrian Arab Republic Ministry of Health to ensure a more effective, aligned, and sustainable response. Despite this progress, significant gaps and unmet needs remain, with leishmaniasis continuing to affect vulnerable populations across Syria. MENTOR is working closely with its partners to raise awareness and strengthen coordinated efforts to address persistent gaps in prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

PAST AND CURRENT DONORS

- UN OCHA-managed funds
 - Humanitarian Pooled Fund (HPF)
 - Türkiye Humanitarian Fund (THF)
 - Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF)
 - Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF)
- Aid Fund for Syria (AFS)
- Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance / Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (OFDA/BHA)
- European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)
- UK Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM)
- Grand Challenges Canada (GCC)



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