

Syrian Arab Republic



Country context*	Population (000s)	21,898	Life expectancy at birth (years)	76
	GNI per capita (PPP Int \$)	—	Total health expenditure (% GDP)	3.3
	Physician density (per 10 000 population)	1.46	ICT Development Index rank	102
	Nurse & midwife density (per 10 000 population)	1.87	Mobile-cellular subscriptions (% population)	59.30
	Hospital bed density (per 10 000 population)	15	Internet users (% population)	24.3

1. eHealth foundations

National policies or strategies			
	Country response	Global "yes" response [§]	Year adopted
National universal health coverage policy or strategy	Yes	75%	1975
National eHealth policy or strategy	No	58%	N/A
National health information system (HIS) policy or strategy	Yes	66%	1990
National telehealth policy or strategy	No	22%	N/A
Funding sources for eHealth			
	Country response	Global "yes" response [§]	Funding source %**
Public funding	No	77%	Zero
Private or commercial funding	No	40%	Zero
Donor/non-public funding	Yes	63%	<25%
Public-private partnerships	No	42%	Zero
Multilingualism in eHealth			
	Country response	Global "yes" response [§]	Year adopted
Policy or strategy on multilingualism	N/A	28%	N/A
Government-supported Internet sites in multiple languages	N/A	48%	
eHealth capacity building			
	Country response	Global "yes" response [§]	Proportion**
Health sciences students – Pre-service training in eHealth	No	74%	N/A
Health professionals – In-service training in eHealth	Yes	77%	<25%

2. Legal frameworks for eHealth

Policy or legislation – purpose	Country response	Global "yes" response [§]
Defines medical jurisdiction, liability or reimbursement of eHealth services such as telehealth	No	31%
Addresses patient safety and quality of care based on data quality, data transmission standards or clinical competency criteria	No	46%
Protects the privacy of personally identifiable data of individuals irrespective of whether it is in paper or digital format	Yes	78%
Protects the privacy of individuals' health-related data held in electronic format in an EHR	No	54%
Governs the sharing of digital data between health professionals in other health services in the same country through the use of an EHR	No	34%
Governs the sharing of digital data between health professionals in health services in other countries through the use of an EHR	No	22%
Governs the sharing of personal and health data between research entities	No	39%
Allows individuals electronic access to their own health-related data when held in an EHR	No	29%
Allows individuals to demand their own health-related data be corrected when held in an EHR if it is known to be inaccurate	No	32%
Allows individuals to demand the deletion of health-related data from their EHR	No	18%
Allows individuals to specify which health-related data from their EHR can be shared with health professionals of their choice	No	28%
Governs civil registration and vital statistics	Yes	76%
Governs national identification management systems	Yes	65%

3. Telehealth

Telehealth programmes country overview

	Health system level**	Programme type**
Teleradiology	‡	‡
Teledermatology	‡	‡
Telepathology	‡	‡
Telepsychiatry	‡	‡
Remote patient monitoring	‡	‡

4. Electronic Health Records (EHRs)

EHR country overview

	Country response	Year introduced
National EHR system	No	N/A
Legislation governing the use of the national EHR system	‡	
Health facilities with EHR	Use EHR	Facilities with EHR %**
Primary care facilities (e.g. clinics and health care centres)	N/A	‡
Secondary care facilities (e.g. hospitals, emergency care)	N/A	‡
Tertiary care facilities (e.g. specialized care, referral from primary/secondary care)	N/A	‡
Other electronic systems	Country response	Global "yes" response§
Laboratory information systems	N/A	35%
Pathology information systems	N/A	18%
Pharmacy information systems	N/A	33%
PACS	N/A	26%
Automatic vaccination alerting system	N/A	10%
ICT-assisted functions	Country response	Global "yes" response§
Electronic medical billing systems	Yes	58%
Supply chain management information systems	No	58%
Human resources for health information systems	Yes	69%

5. Use of eLearning in health sciences

eLearning programmes country overview

Health sciences students – Pre-service	Country response	Global "yes" response§
Medicine	N/A	58%
Dentistry	N/A	39%
Public health	N/A	50%
Nursing & midwifery	N/A	47%
Pharmacy	N/A	38%
Biomedical/Life sciences	N/A	42%
Health professionals – In-service	Country response	Global "yes" response§
Medicine	N/A	58%
Dentistry	N/A	30%
Public health	N/A	47%
Nursing & midwifery	N/A	46%
Pharmacy	N/A	31%
Biomedical/Life sciences	N/A	34%



6. mHealth

mHealth programmes country overview

Accessing/providing health services	Health system level**	Programme type**
Toll-free emergency	National	Established
Health call centres	National	Established
Appointment reminders	National	Established
Mobile telehealth	‡	‡
Management of disasters and emergencies	National	Established
Treatment adherence	‡	‡
Accessing/providing health information	Health system level**	Programme type**
Community mobilization	National	Established
Access to information, databases and tools	International	Established
Patient records	‡	‡
mLearning	‡	‡
Decision support systems	‡	‡
Collecting health information	Health system level**	Programme type**
Patient monitoring	‡	‡
Health surveys	‡	‡
Disease surveillance	National	Established

7. Social media

Social media and health	Country response	Global "yes" response§	Year adopted
National policy or strategy on the use of social media by government organizations	No	18%	N/A
Policy or strategy makes specific reference to its use in the health domain	‡	5%	
Health care organizations – use of social media	Country response	Global "yes" response§	
Promote health messages as a part of health promotion campaigns	No	78%	
Help manage patient appointments	No	24%	
Seek feedback on services	No	56%	
Make general health announcements	No	72%	
Make emergency announcements	No	59%	
Individuals and communities – use of social media	Country response	Global "yes" response§	
Learn about health issues	Yes	79%	
Help decide what health services to use	No	56%	
Provide feedback to health facilities or health professionals	No	62%	
Run community-based health campaigns	No	62%	
Participate in community-based health forums	No	59%	

8. Big data

Policy or strategy – purpose	Country response	Global "yes" response§	Year adopted
Governing the use of big data in the health sector	No	17%	N/A
Governing the use of big data by private companies	No	8%	N/A

LEGEND

* Country context indicators

ICT Development Index Rank. 2015 - <https://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/idi/2015/>
All other country indicators. Global Health Observatory. 2012-2014 - <http://www.who.int/gho>

** Glossary

§ Indicates the percentage of participating Member States responding "Yes"

— Don't know

N/A Not applicable

‡ Indicates question was unanswered

□ Question not asked

Zero No funding

International level: Health entities in different geographic regions

Regional level: Health entities in countries in the same geographic region

National level: Referral hospitals, laboratories and health institutes (mainly public, but also private)

Intermediate level: District or provincial facilities: public and private hospitals and health centres

Local or peripheral level: Health posts, health centres providing basic level of care

Informal: Use of ICT for health purposes in the absence of formal processes and policies

Pilot: Testing and evaluating a programme

Established: An ongoing programme that has been conducted for a minimum of 2 years and is planned to continue