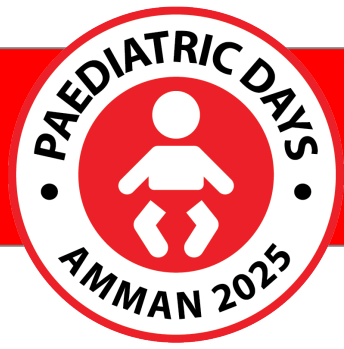


Using a community-based surveillance program to rapidly screen internally displaced children for malnutrition and under vaccination in Northwest Syria

Karan Parikh
Epidemiological Activity Manager
MSF Spain - Syria Mission



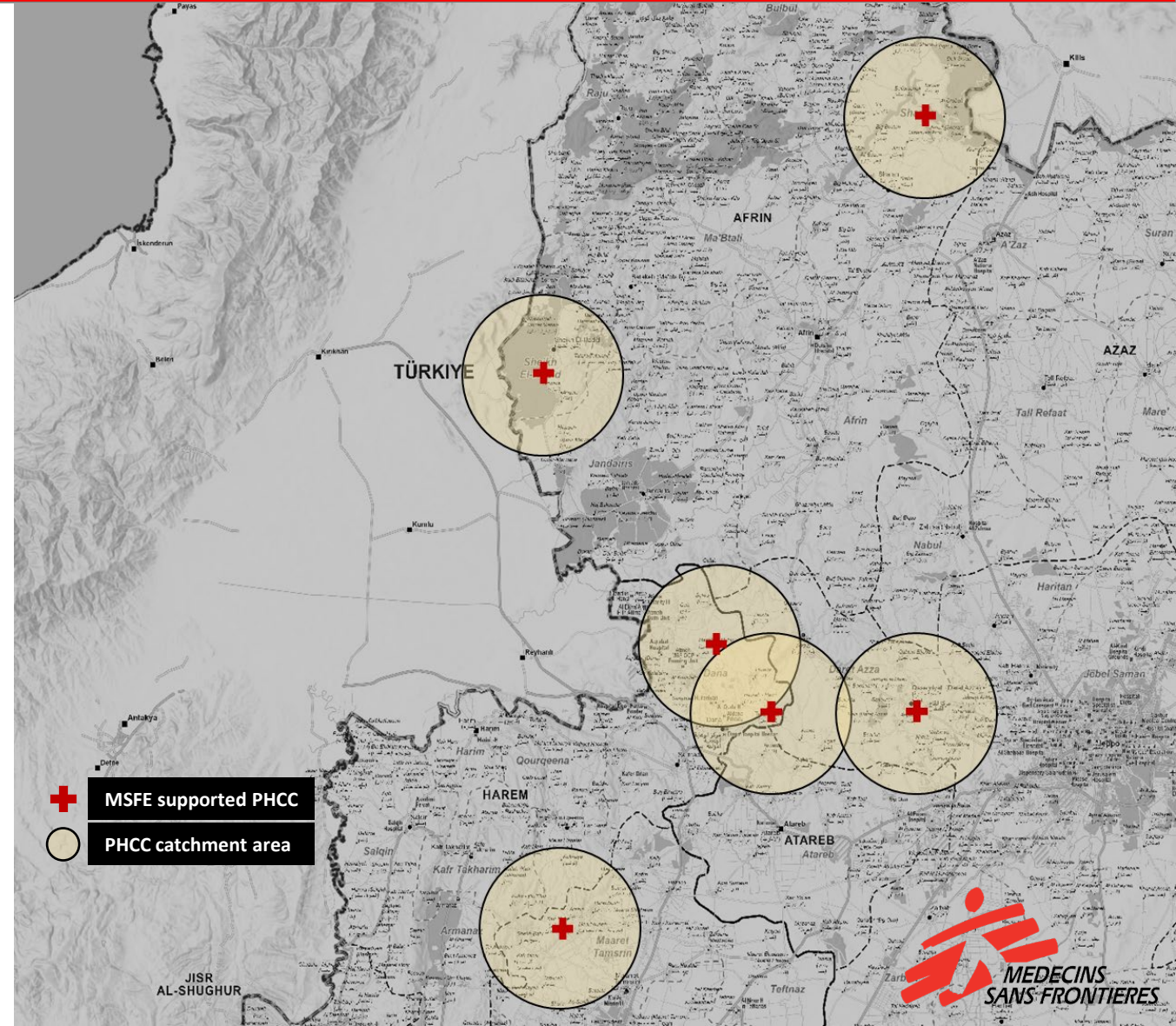


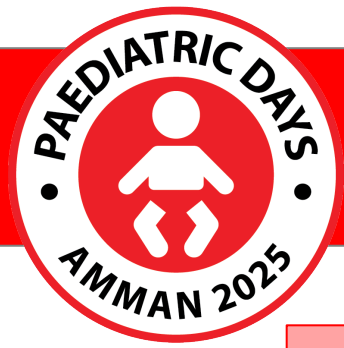
Background

Community outreach in NWS, 2024

- 6 Primary Health Centres
- 54 IDP camps
- >40,000 individuals
- 45 community health workers

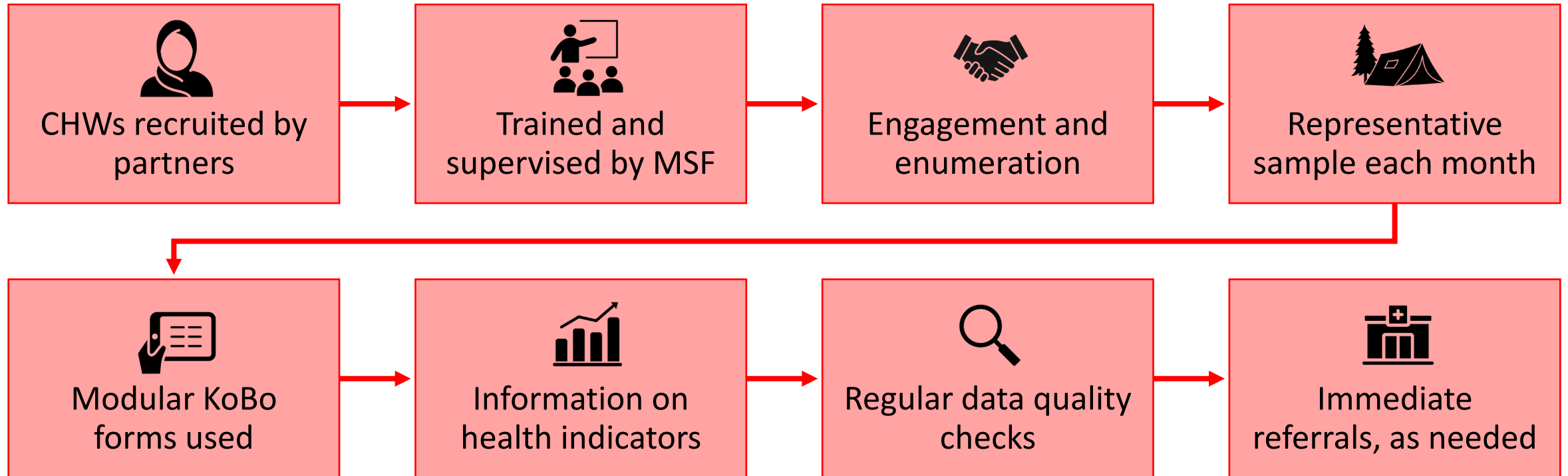
NWS – Northwest Syria



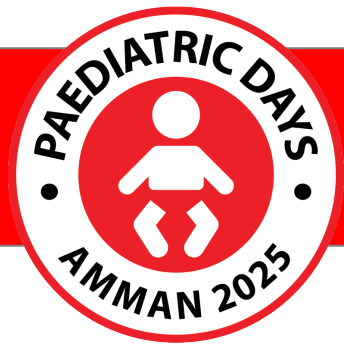


Background

The Community Based Surveillance (CBS) model in NWS: 2022-2024



CHW – Community Health Workers



Objectives

1. Use the CBS infrastructure to rapidly screen for malnutrition and undervaccination.
2. Using the KoBo form logic, recommend referrals for individuals at-risk in real-time.
3. Collect information on malnutrition rates and vaccination coverage rates.
4. Continue disease surveillance and monitoring of health indicators



Target populations

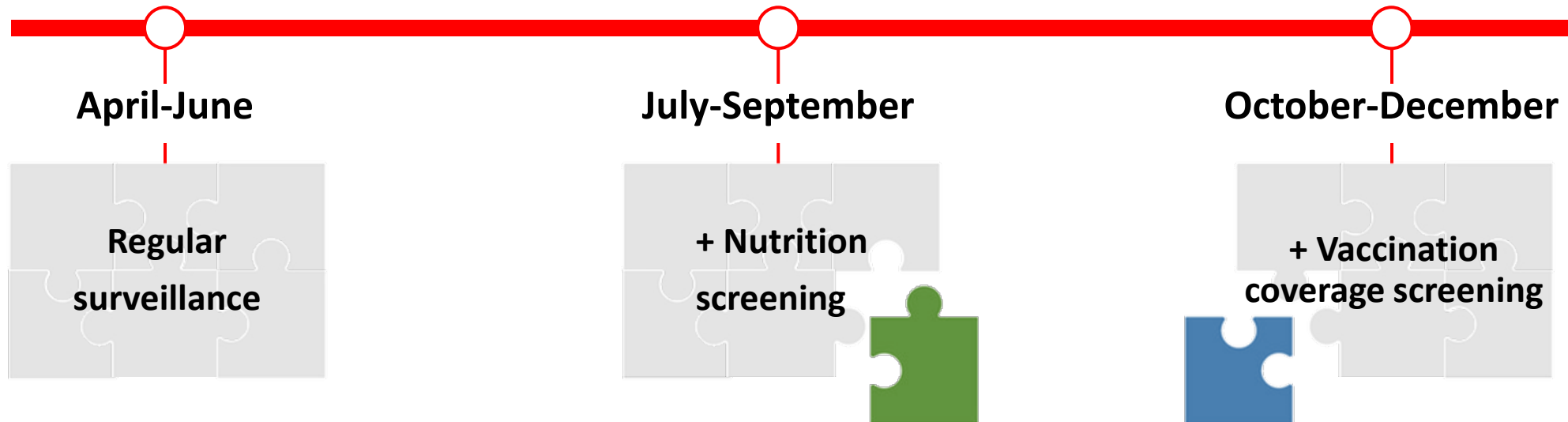
- Children aged 6-59 months
- Pregnant & breastfeeding women & girls

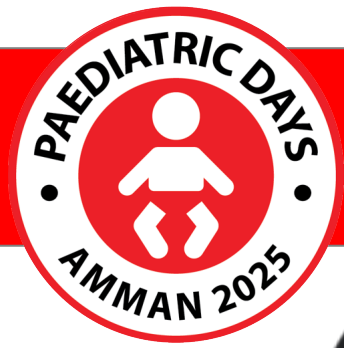


Methods

- Screening modules added to the main KoBo form
- Training for specific technical competencies – measuring mid-upper arm circumference, Expanded Programme for Immunization etc.
- Piloting and testing of forms
- Implementation and regular follow-up

Timeline





Methods



Pictures to assist caregivers in recalling vaccinations, if card unavailable

Module 5: Nutrition in Children > 1

This child is malnourished

Outcomes calculated on-site

Module 6: Vaccination in Children > 1

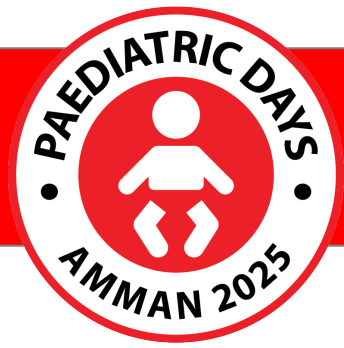
This child is under vaccinated

Please refer the child to the nearest EPI center: [redacted] PHCC

* Was the child referred to the nearest EPI center?

- Yes
- No

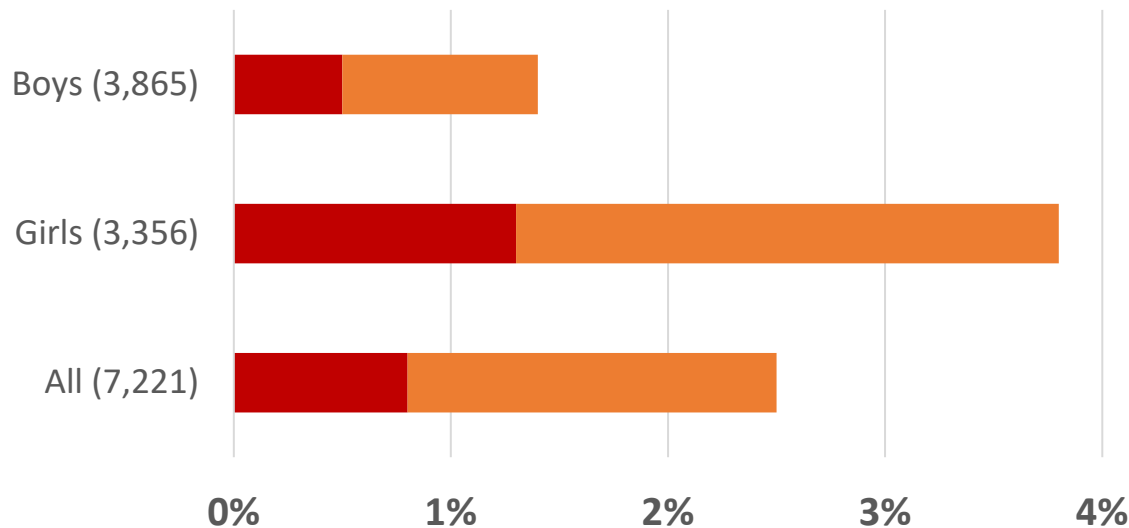
Referrals based on calculations



Results: Malnutrition in children aged 6-59 months

	90.7%	
	7,221 reached and screened	7,964 targeted

SAM and **MAM** rates by sex
(n=7,221)



- Catch-up round could reach more
- Rates much higher in girls than boys
- Nutrition treatment availability limited
- Follow-up not done, LTFU likely high

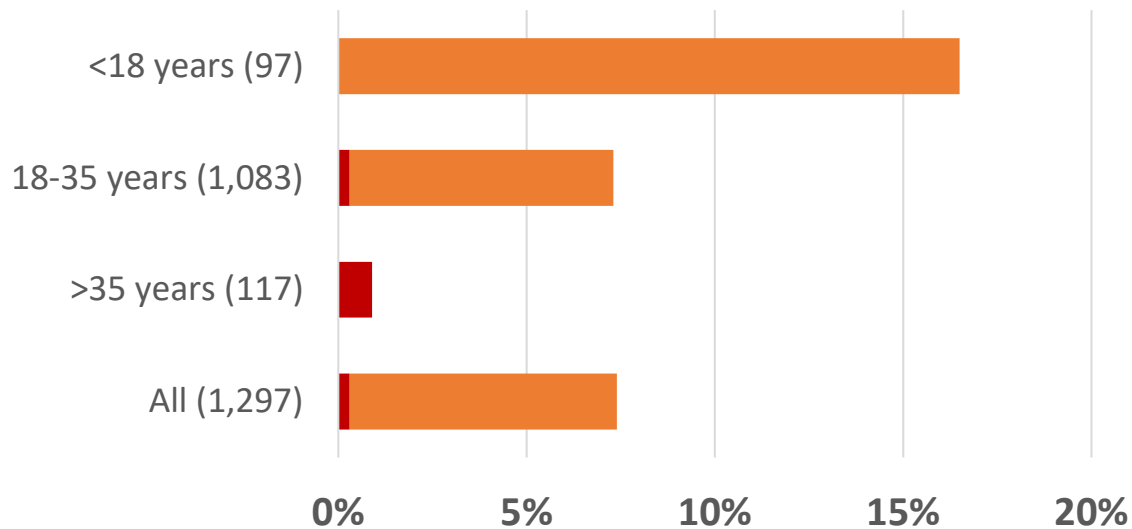
SAM – Severe Acute Malnutrition
MAM – Moderate Acute Malnutrition
LTFU – Loss to follow-up



Results: Malnutrition in pregnant & breastfeeding women & girls

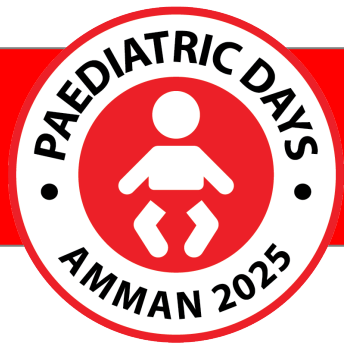
44.7%	84.3%	
1,297 screened	2,463 reached	2,900 targeted

SAM and **MAM** rates by age group
(n=1,297)



- Rates much higher in <18 group
- Only ½ screened since ½ CHWs male
- Nutrition treatment availability limited
- Follow-up not done, LTFU likely high

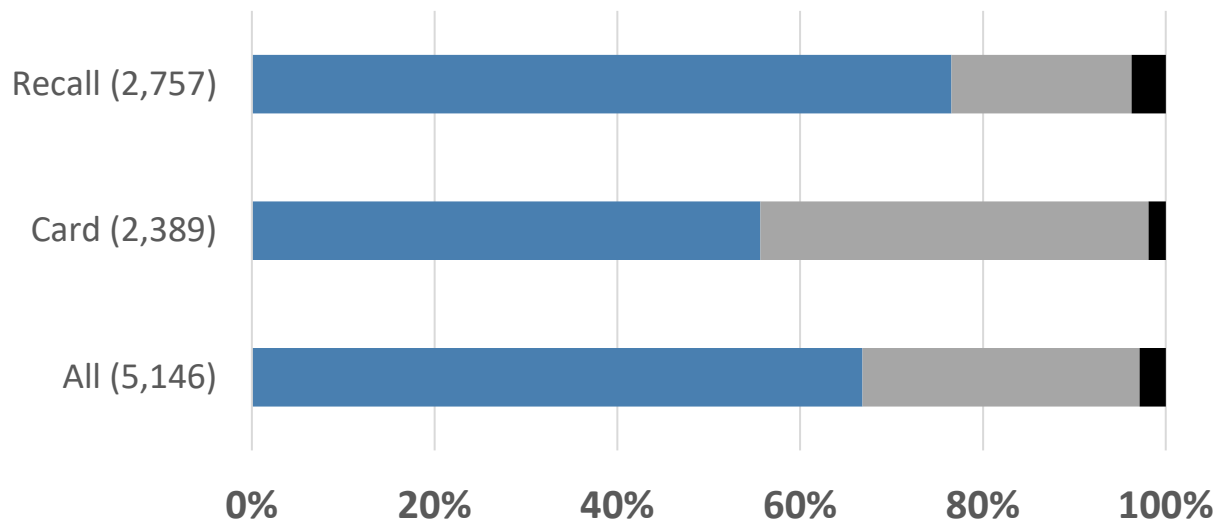
SAM – Severe Acute Malnutrition
MAM – Moderate Acute Malnutrition
LTFU – Loss to follow-up



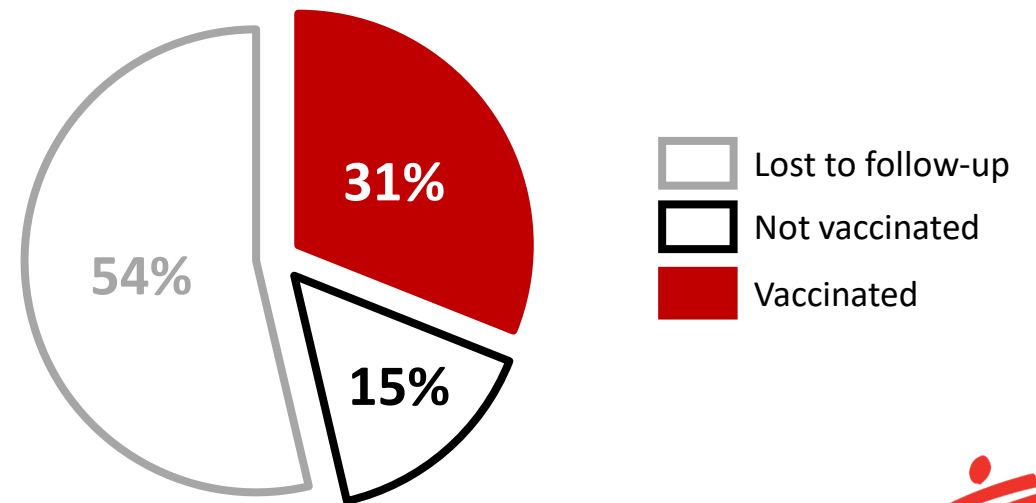
Results: Undervaccination in children aged 6-59 months

66.8%	
5,146 reached	7,703 targeted

% of children **fully vaccinated**, **undervaccinated**, and **zero-dose** (n=5,146)



Referral outcomes on follow-up (n=561)

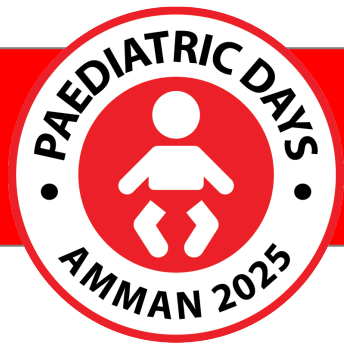




Limitations



- Remote management from Jordan
- Lack of a field supervision team
- Limited vaccination and nutrition services
- Security challenges limited access to camps
- Major shift in context led to operational changes



Conclusions

- Digital forms **disseminated rapidly** to all area of operations
- Data **collected, saved, and shared securely** with all managers daily
- Form logic enables **real-time decision-making**
- Modular format allows for a **systematic and interdisciplinary** approach
- **Automated** quality control checks and reports for **regular monitoring**
- Leveraging existing CHW networks requires **fewer additional resources**



Future





Acknowledgments

- Coauthors and colleagues - Geie Daniel, Wisal Khaled, Samar Hassoun, Muhammad Aziz, Ibrahim Ibrahim, Jumana Farhat, and Laurence Campeau.
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- MSF Syria mission staff, past and present.
- Idlib Health Directorate, Al Ameen, and Syria Immunization Group.
- The people of northwest Syria.



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