

Situation Report

Iraq



Week 29 (ending 24 July 2022)

Key figures (As of 24 July 2022)

2.42M

confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported since February 2020



269

lab-confirmed cases of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) reported



449

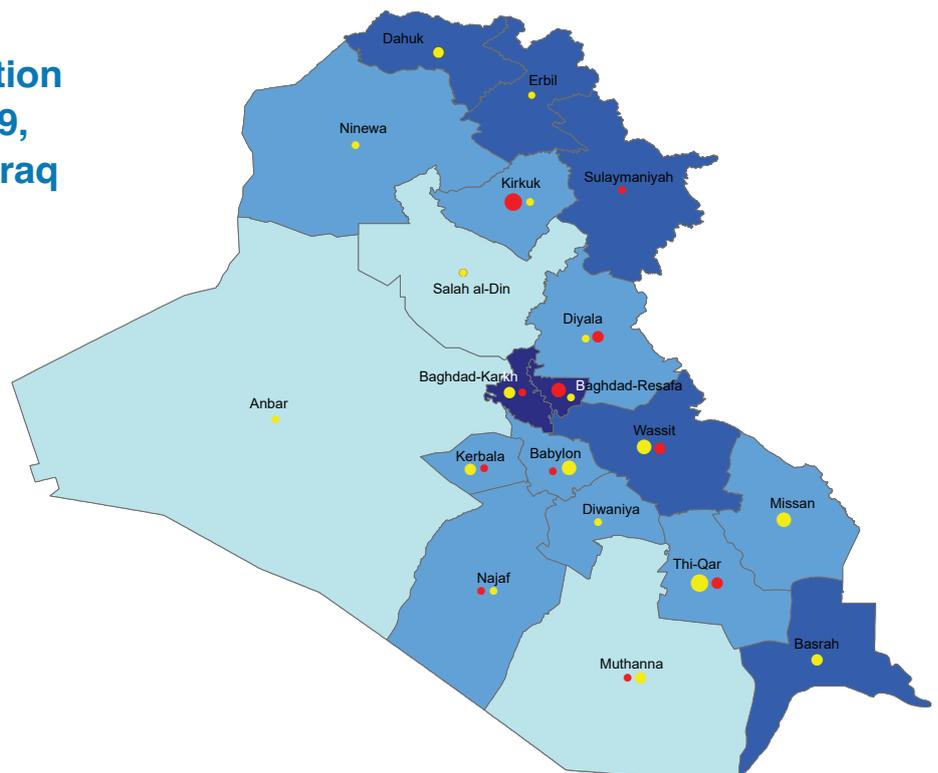
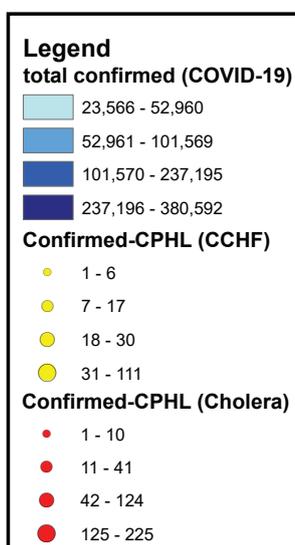
lab-confirmed cholera cases reported since 19 June 2022



Epidemiological situation update:

- As of 24 July 2022, Iraq reported 449 confirmed cases of **cholera**, with three associated deaths. The most affected governorates are Kirkuk (225 cases and two deaths), Baghdad-Rasafa (124 cases and one death) and Thi Qar (61 cases). Acute diarrhea cases in camps were also reported through the Early Warning, Alert and Response Network (EWARN).
- To date, 1062 suspected Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever cases were reported, of which 269 were confirmed by laboratory, with 78 related suspected deaths and 48 deaths among confirmed cases (representing 17.8% of case fatality rate). All governorates reported confirmed cases except for Sulaymaniyah.
- During the reporting period, 24 647 new **COVID-19** cases were reported, representing an increase of 25% compared to the previous week. 20 deaths were reported during the week, representing an increase of 25% compared to the previous week.

Geographical distribution of cases of COVID-19, CCHF and cholera in Iraq



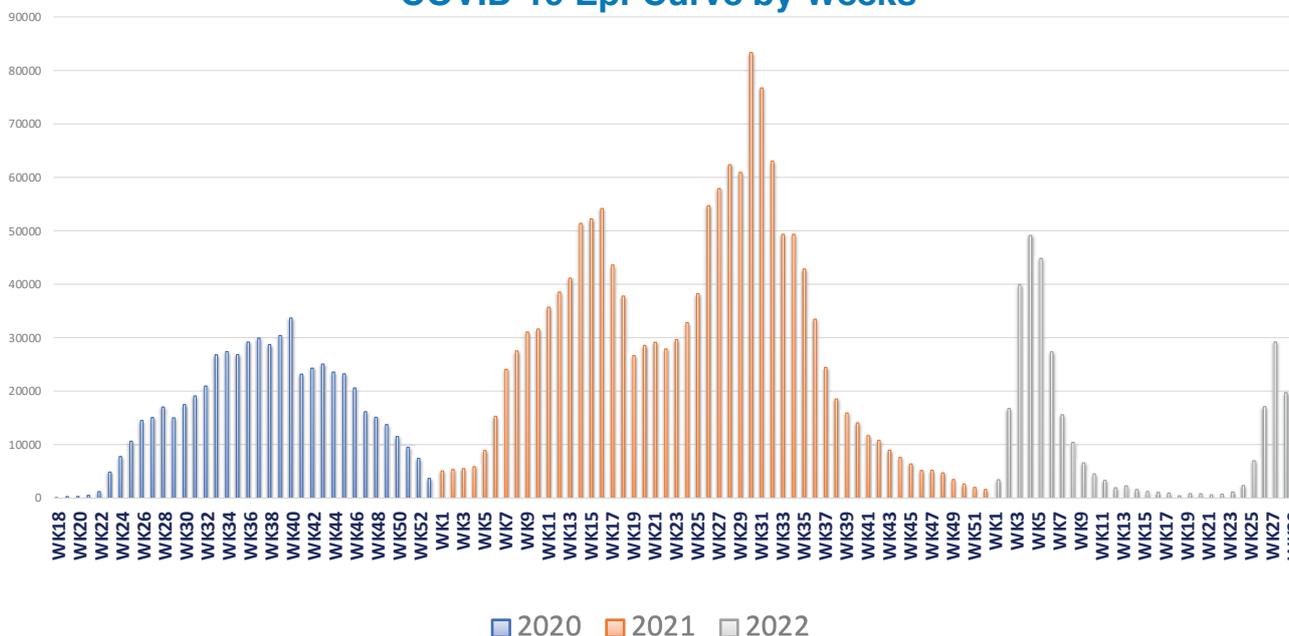
COVID-19 update:

- The level of community transmission all over the country shifted from low (in week 24) to moderate (in week 25) and then to substantial (from week 26 and onwards). The transmission level is determined based on three indicators: cases per 100,000 of population, deaths per 1 million of population and the positivity rate.
- The COVID-19 positivity rate (PR) in week 29 stood at 33%, compared to 38% in week 28. The highest PR in week 29 was reported in Baghdad, Basrah and Missan (48% each) and Anbar and Wassit governorates (39% each). Muthanna and Erbil governorates reported the lowest PR in week 29 (10% and 12% respectively).

Community Transmission in IRAQ 2022 by Weeks

Week No	Case per 100000	Death Per 1 M	Positivity Rate	Case per 100000	Death Per 1 M	Positivity Rate	Score 1	Score 2	Score 3	Total Score	Rank
1	8.4	1.0	4.5	Low	Low	Low	1	1	1	3	Low
2	40.7	1.0	13.5	Moderate	Low	Substantial	2	1	3	6	Moderate
3	96.9	1.0	23.4	Substantial	Low	High	3	1	4	8	Substantial
4	119.3	2.2	27.1	High	Low	High	4	1	4	9	Substantial
5	108.8	3.4	25.1	High	Low	High	4	1	4	9	Substantial
6	66.5	4.6	17.3	Substantial	Low	Substantial	3	1	3	7	Substantial
7	37.9	3.7	11.9	Moderate	Low	Substantial	2	1	3	6	Moderate
8	25.3	2.8	9.5	Moderate	Low	Moderate	2	1	2	5	Moderate
9	16.0	1.8	6.7	Moderate	Low	Moderate	2	1	2	5	Moderate
10	11.0	1.2	4.9	Moderate	Low	Low	2	1	1	4	Moderate
11	8.1	0.7	3.8	Low	Low	Low	1	1	1	3	Low
12	4.7	0.5	3.2	Low	Low	Low	1	1	1	3	Low
13	5.5	0.6	3.8	Low	Low	Low	1	1	1	3	Low
14	3.9	0.3	4.1	Low	Low	Low	1	1	1	3	Low
15	3.1	0.3	3.8	Low	Low	Low	1	1	1	3	Low
16	2.6	0.2	3.8	Low	Low	Low	1	1	1	3	Low
17	2.3	0.1	3.4	Low	Low	Low	1	1	1	3	Low
18	1.1	0.0	2.4	Low	Low	Low	1	1	1	3	Low
19	2.0	0.1	2.8	Low	Low	Low	1	1	1	3	Low
20	2.0	0.0	2.9	Low	Low	Low	1	1	1	3	Low
21	1.6	0.1	2.3	Low	Low	Low	1	1	1	3	Low
22	1.8	0.0	2.7	Low	Low	Low	1	1	1	3	Low
23	2.8	0.0	3.9	Low	Low	Low	1	1	1	3	Low
24	5.7	0.1	5.7	Low	Low	Moderate	1	1	2	4	Moderate
25	16.9	0.1	14.4	Moderate	Low	Substantial	2	1	3	6	Moderate
26	41.6	0.3	26.1	Moderate	Low	High	2	1	4	7	Substantial
27	70.9	0.3	34.2	Substantial	Low	High	3	1	4	8	Substantial
28	47.8	0.4	38.5	Moderate	Low	High	2	1	4	7	Substantial
29	59.8	0.5	32.7	Substantial	Low	High	3	1	4	8	Substantial

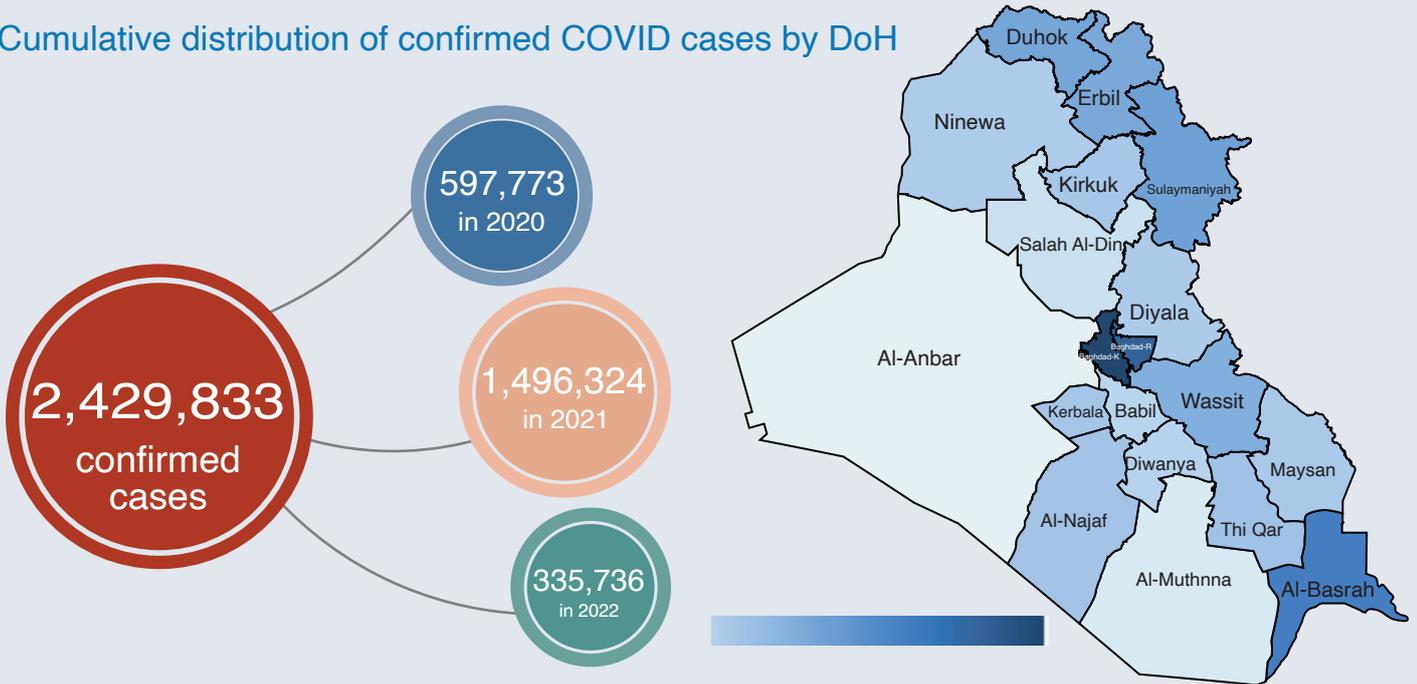
COVID-19 Epi-Curve by Weeks



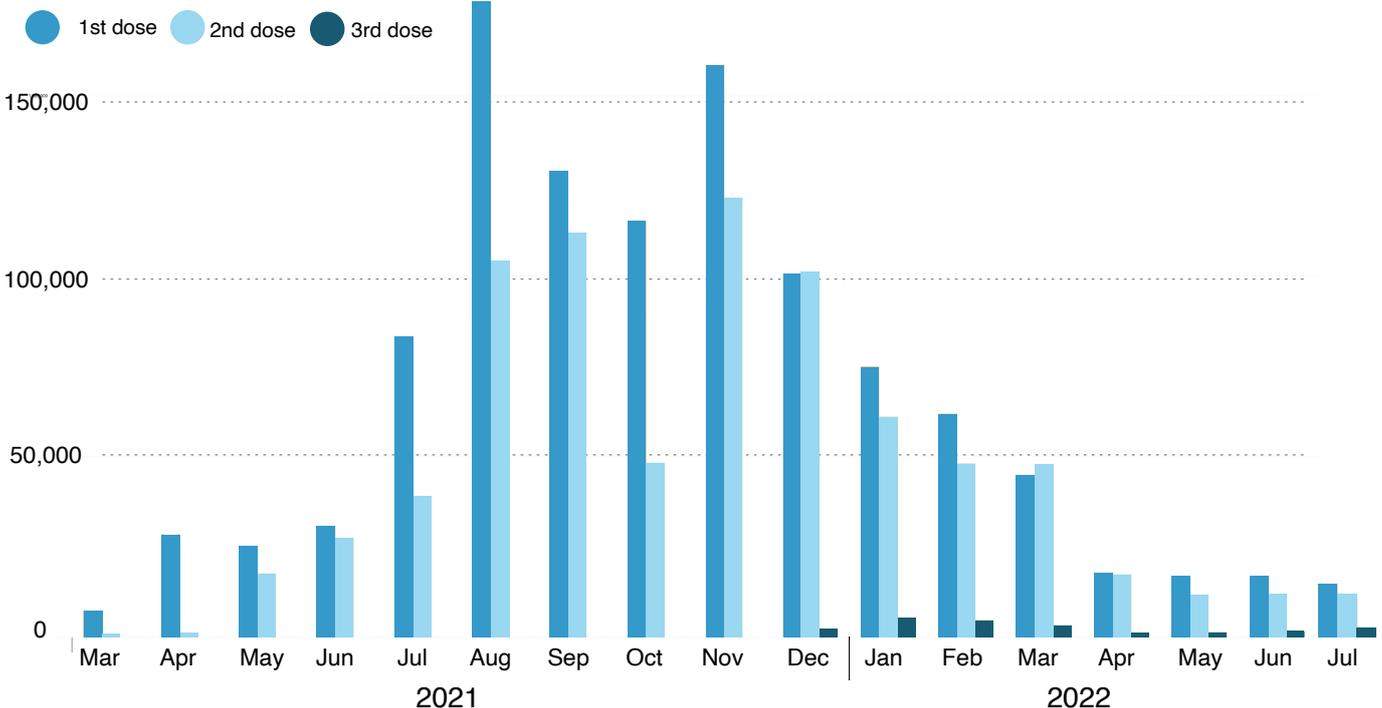
COVID-19 vaccination:

- As of 24 July 2022, a total of 18,889,686 vaccine doses were administered countrywide. A total of 10,966,257 people -- 26% of the population -- received the first dose, while 7,705,957-- 18.2% of the population -- have been fully vaccinated.
- Vaccine administration statistics showed that 6,688,727 males (61%) and 4,277,319 females (39%) were vaccinated.
- After the end of the mass vaccination campaign led by WHO and the Ministry of Health in November 2021, a downward trend in number of vaccinations is observed with no impact of the recent flare-up of cases.

Cumulative distribution of confirmed COVID cases by DoH

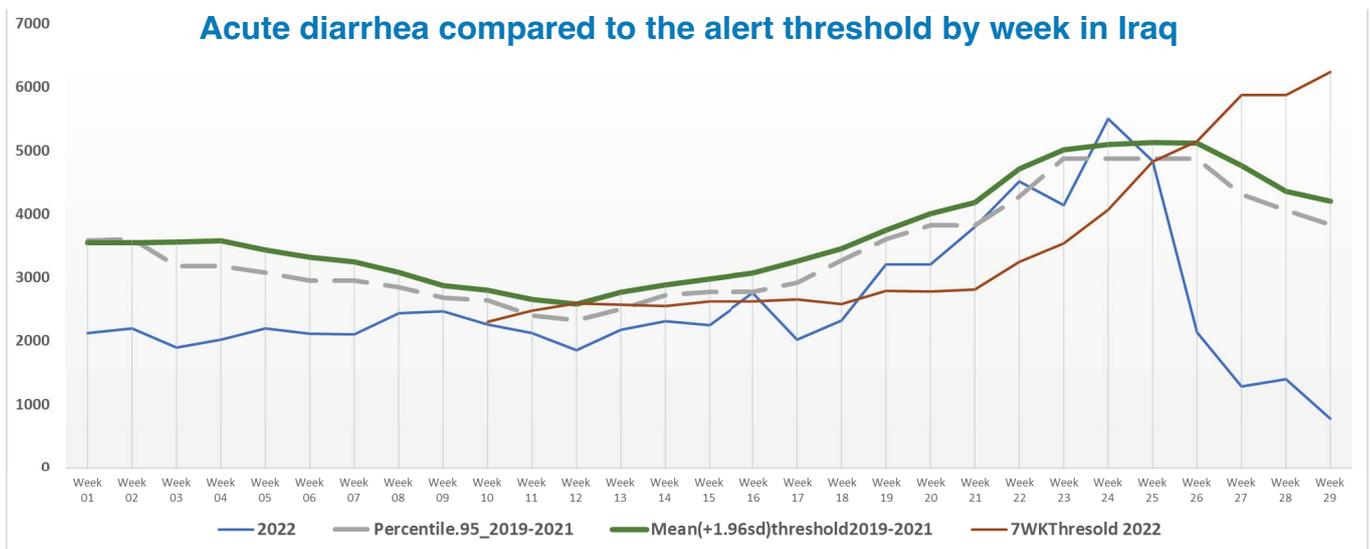


COVID-19 monthly vaccination by doses

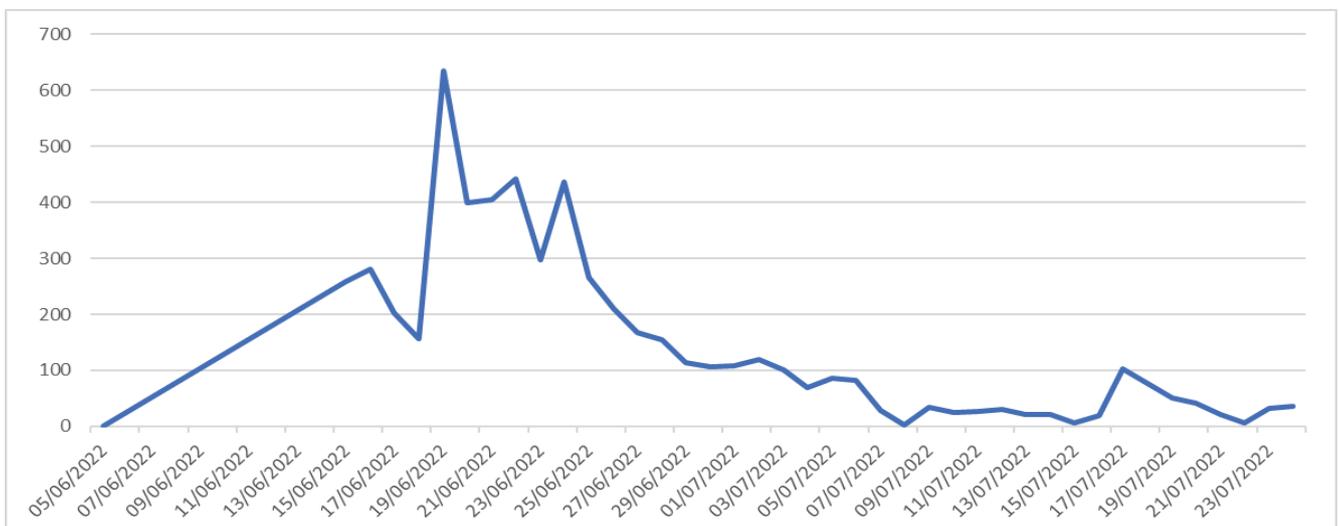


Cholera update:

- A total of 852 acute diarrhea (AD) cases were reported in week 29, representing a 44% decrease as compared to the previous week. In the last three weeks, cases declined below the emergency thresholds.
- The weekly EWARN AD surveillance shows an increase in trend of acute diarrhea cases among IDPs, refugees, and returnees in Sulaymaniyah governorate. AD proportion out of the total consultations reached 8.2% during week 24 and reached 12.4% during week 25. The proportion declined to 2.8% during week 29.
- 608 water samples tested from 15 June to 17 July 2022. 11% of those samples were contaminated. The source of these samples were from artesian wells, house tanks, shallow wells in mosques or water samples taken directly from tankers sold to people.



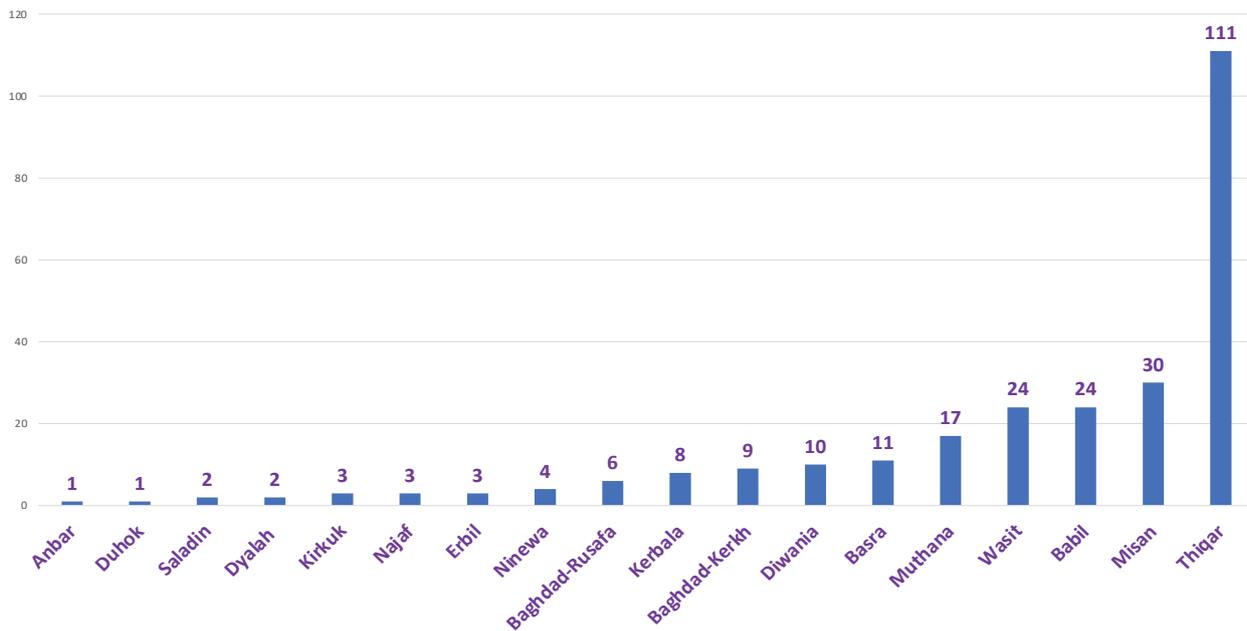
Hospital admissions due to acute diarrhea, Sulaymaniyah, 5 Jun – 24 July 2022



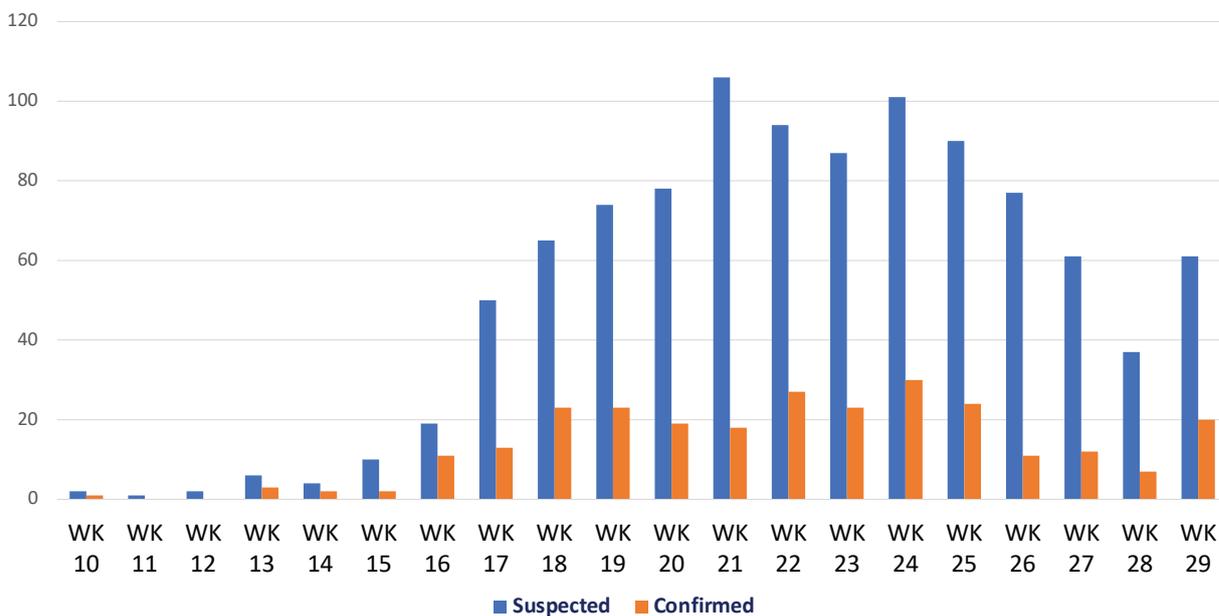
CCHF update:

- The number of CCHF cases continue to increase at a steady pace since the start of the epidemic, while the mortality ratio has slightly slowed down as shown in the graph below.
- Thi-Qar is on the top of the list of the governorates affected by the CCHF outbreak, with 111 confirmed cases representing 41.2% of the total cases. Missan, Babil, Wassit and Muthanna governorates also reported a significant number of cases.
- Coordination between health and agriculture sectors is being scaled up in the frame of One Health to ensure adequate prevention and control within the animal health sector as well as improving case management amongst humans.

CCHF distribution by provinces - 2022

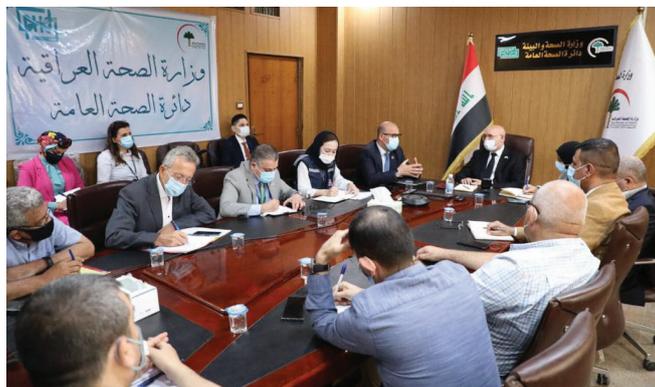


Suspected and confirmed CCHF cases by weeks



WHO preparedness and response:

- A WHO team representing regional and global levels visited Iraq to scale up preparedness and response to the CCHF outbreak. On 24 July, the team met with the Director General of the Public Health and his team in the Ministry of Health to discuss advancing the multisectoral intervention efforts to control the disease.
- On 18 July 2022, WHO team visited the preventive health department in Sulaimaniyah to meet health officials and food/ water lab managers to assess the situation and ensure adequate coordination to control the cholera outbreak.
- WHO delivered laboratory and hospital equipment and medical supplies (worth US\$ 37,000) to the Directorate of Health in Sulaimaniyah to respond to the population's health needs.
- Five one-day training sessions were conducted in Duhok governorate during the period between 17 – 21 July 2022 to train 125 doctors and nurses working in different Duhok hospitals on case management for COVID-19 and cholera cases.
- WHO continues to enhance risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) activities, including producing online and TV/ radio materials on cholera, COVID-19 and CCHF outbreaks.
- A WHO monitoring and evaluation missions continue to conduct field visits to primary health care centres and mobile clinics in Ninawa, Duhok, Sulaimaniya, Kirkuk, Anbar and Erbil governorates with the aim of monitoring the quality of services provided and challenges faced by WHO implementing partners.



A WHO team representing regional and global levels visits the Director General of the Public Health Directorate in Iraq's Ministry of Health



Laboratory and hospital equipment and supplies to Directorate of Health in Sulaimaniyah to respond to the population health needs



A WHO team continue to conduct a monitoring & evaluation visits to primary health care centres and mobile clinics in six governorates

Health cluster coordination:

- The Health Cluster in Iraq is invited to participate in two studies commissioned by the Global Health Cluster:
 1. COVID-19 vaccination in humanitarian settings (conducted by the research group 'hera').
 2. Multisectoral collaboration for COVID-19 response in humanitarian settings (conducted by the research group 'Operations Partnership').

The aim of the studies is to better understand how the health clusters were able to support COVID-19 response and document best practices, and challenges faced. Findings from all studies will be used for health clusters and partners at country and global level to better inform future COVID-19 response as well as preparedness for outbreaks or pandemics.

Conclusions:

- A surge in COVID-19 has been reported since week 24. The current level of community transmission is substantial.
- Reported diarrhea cases and hospital admission are significantly decreasing.
- During the past Eid Al Adha, large movements of livestock occurred during and before the festival as Muslims across Iraq sacrificed significant numbers of animals, increasing the risk of further transmission of CCHF.

Recommendations:

- It's recommended to advocate for WASH interventions and daily monitoring of drinking water sources to ensure enough safe drinking water for the population.
- RCCE activities need to be enhanced to inform people on prevention measures, including avoiding unsafe water.
- There is a need to monitor the bed capacity in hospitals and wards dealing with infectious diseases in the context of a new surge of COVID-19.
- To control the CCHF outbreak, it's paramount to strengthen the collaboration between the health and agriculture ministries and to operationalize the One Health initiative. This includes launching a comprehensive anti-tick campaign, enhancing case management, stopping the movement of animals from the affected governorates to other governorates, increasing the awareness activities on slaughtering animals at home.

The response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other outbreaks in Iraq is made possible with the generous contributions from WHO Iraq's long-term partners:



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