

Situation Report

Iraq



Week 31 (ending 7 August 2022)

Key figures (As of 7 August 2022)

2.45M

confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported since February 2020



287

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



783

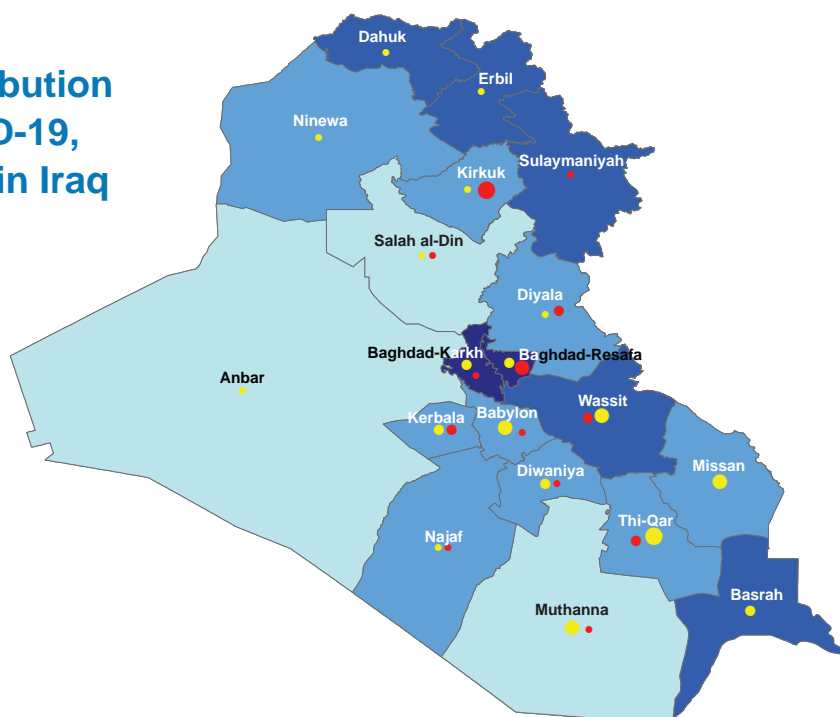
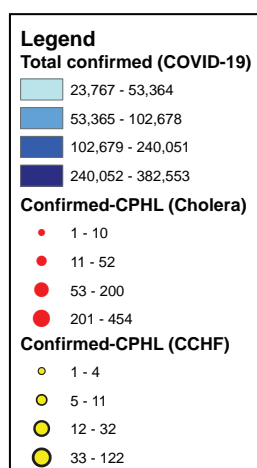
lab-confirmed cholera cases reported since 19 June 2022



Epidemiological situation update:

- As of 7 August 2022, Iraq reported 783 confirmed cases of **cholera**, with four associated deaths. The most affected governorates are Kirkuk (450 cases and three deaths), Baghdad-Rasafa (193 cases and one death) and Thi Qar (52 cases). Acute diarrhea cases in camps were also reported through the Early Warning, Alert and Response Network (EWARN).
- To date, 1085 suspected Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever cases were reported, of which 287 were confirmed by laboratory, with 83 related suspected deaths and 52 deaths among confirmed cases (representing 18.1% of case fatality rate). All governorates reported confirmed cases, except for Sulaymaniyah.
- During the reporting period, 6380 new **COVID-19** cases were reported, representing a decrease of 57% compared to the previous week. 11 deaths were reported during the week, representing a decrease of 56% compared to the previous week.

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



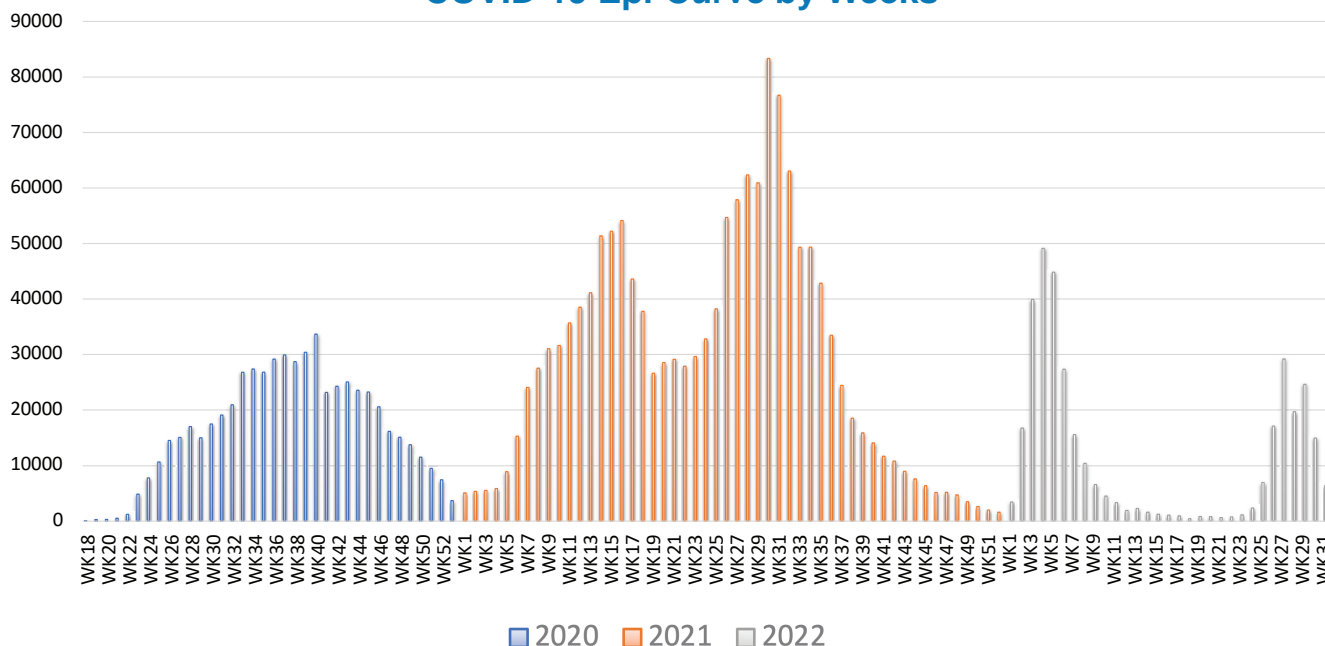
COVID-19 update:

- The level of community transmission all over the country has shifted to moderate in week 31 after being substantial for five consecutive weeks. The transmission level is determined based on three indicators: cases per 100,000 population, deaths per 1 million people, and the positivity rate.
- The COVID-19 positivity rate (PR) in week 31 stood at 16.1%, compared to 25.2% in week 30. The highest PR in week 31 was reported in Ninawa (39%) and Basrah (30%) and Missan (27%). Kirkuk and Muthanna reported the lowest PR in week 30 (2% and 3% 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
30	36.3	0.6	24.8	Moderate	Low	High	2	1	4	7	Substantial
31	15.5	0.3	15.5	Moderate	Low	Substantial	2	1	3	6	Moderate

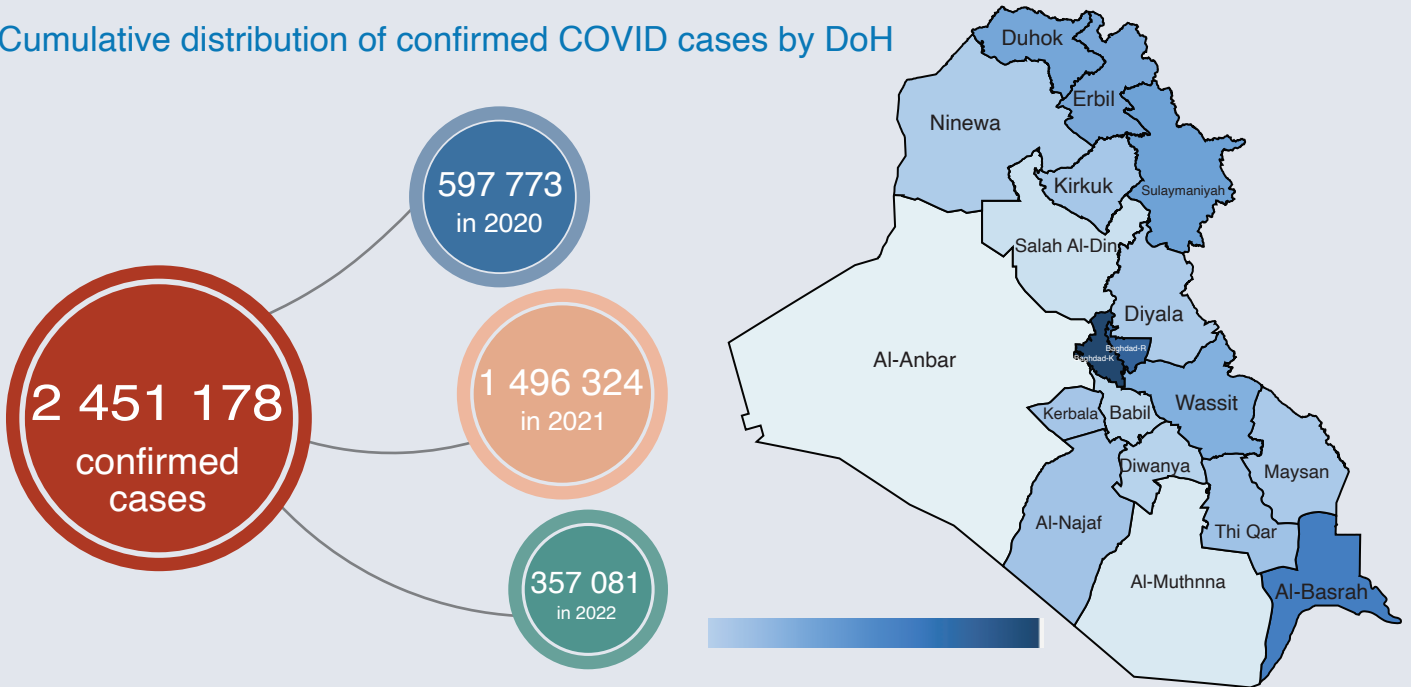
COVID-19 Epi-Curve by Weeks



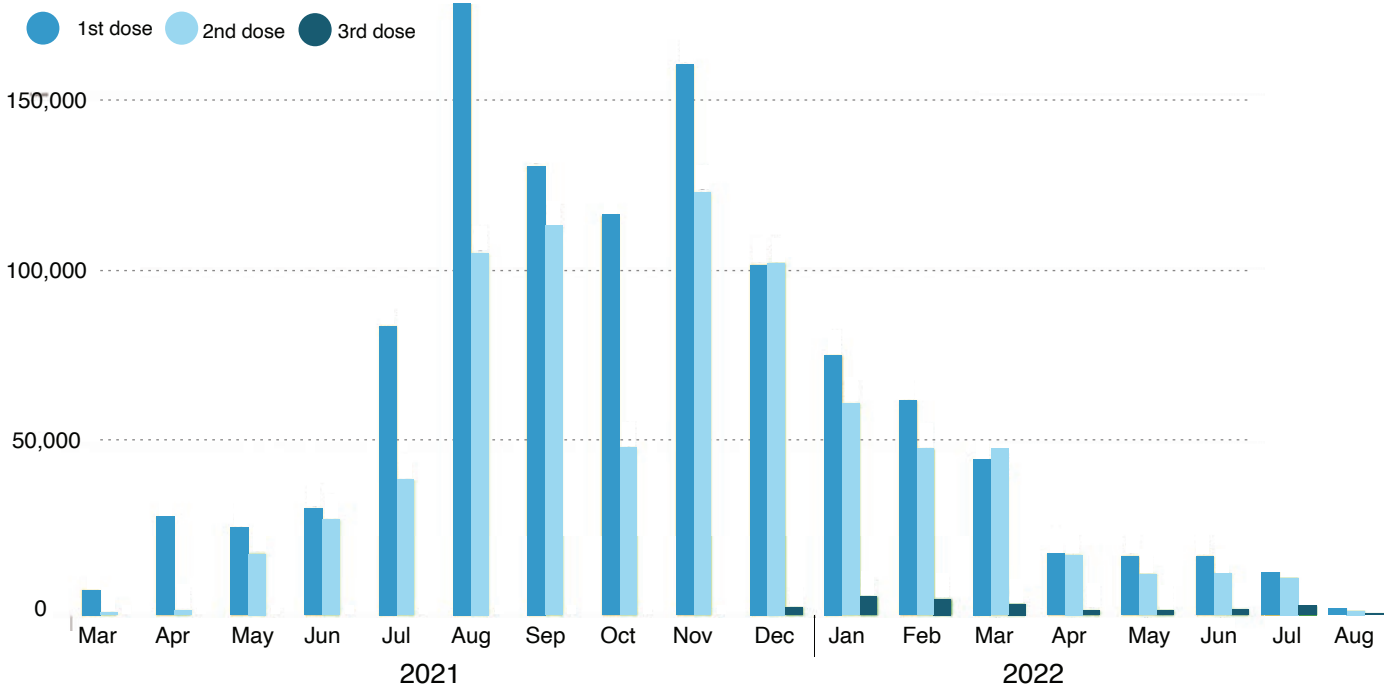
COVID-19 vaccination:

- As of 7 August 2022, a total of 18,982,116 vaccine doses were administered countrywide. A total of 11,014,427 people -- 26.1% of the population -- received the first dose, while 7,741,261 -- 18.3% of the population -- have received the second dose.
- Vaccine administration statistics showed that 6,715,019 males (61%) and 4,299,197 females (39%) were vaccinated.
- A total of 31 578 people received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine during week 31, representing an 8% increase compared to the previous week.

Cumulative distribution of confirmed COVID cases by DoH



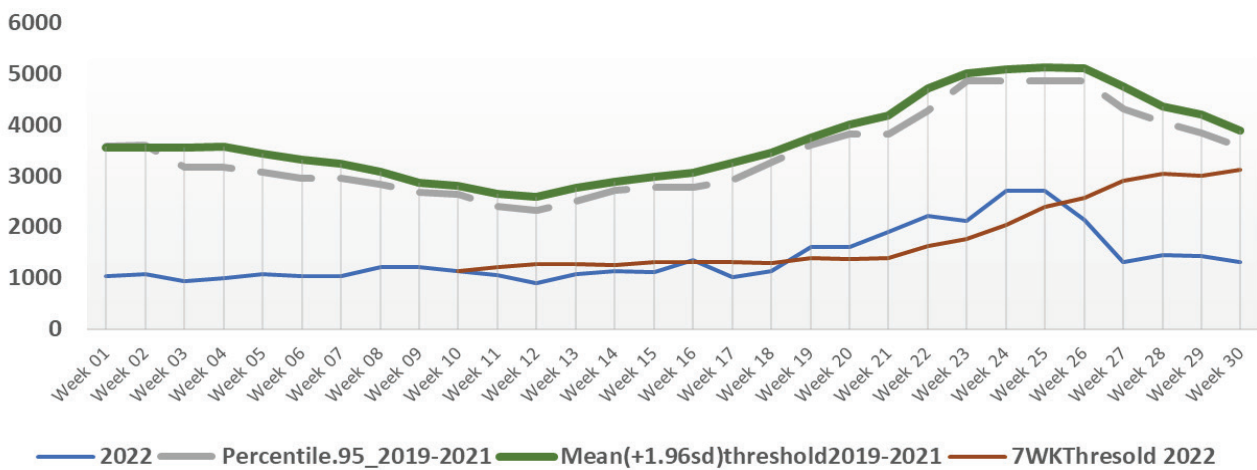
COVID-19 monthly vaccination by doses



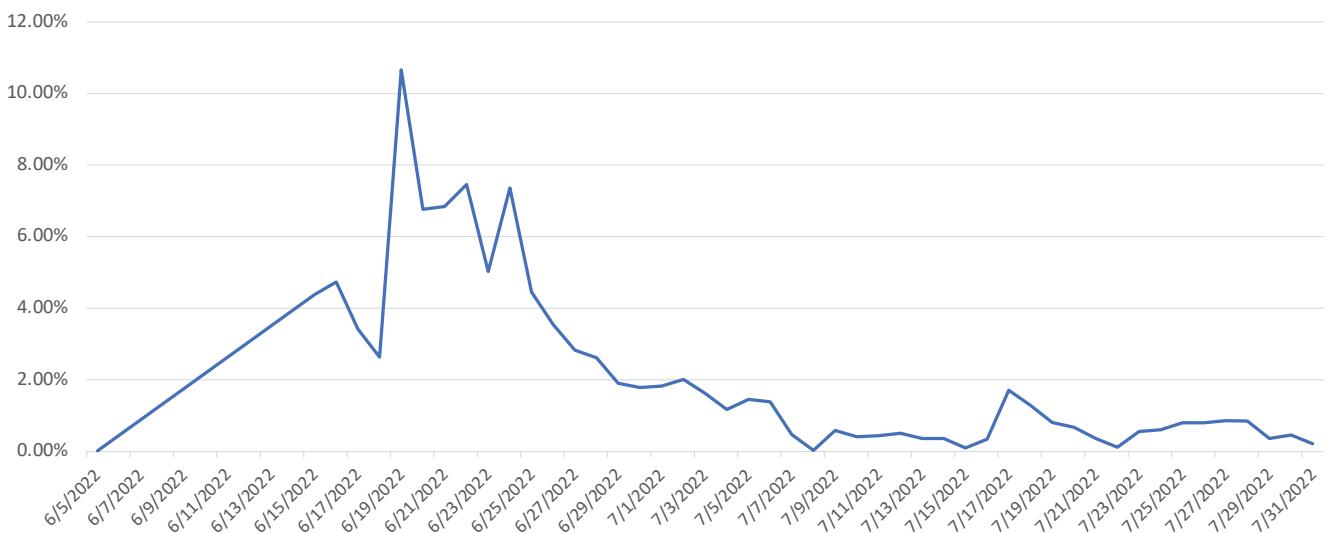
Cholera update:

- A total of 115 confirmed cholera cases were reported in week 31, representing a 47.5% decrease compared to week 30.
- Active surveillance teams from three hospitals in Sulaymaniyah collected real-time data on 6085 patients with acute diarrhea (AD) from 5 June to 7 August 2022.
- More than two-thirds (68%) of admitted cases were reported among housewives, children, and daily workers. More than half (52%) of the admitted cases were 15 - 44 years of age.
- Acute diarrhea among the displaced population in the camps decreased and returned to below the thresholds during week 31. A total of 1386 acute diarrhea cases (representing 3.4% of total consultations compared to 3.8% during week 30) were reported through 79 reporting sites in nine governorates.

Acute diarrhea compared to the alert threshold by week in Iraq



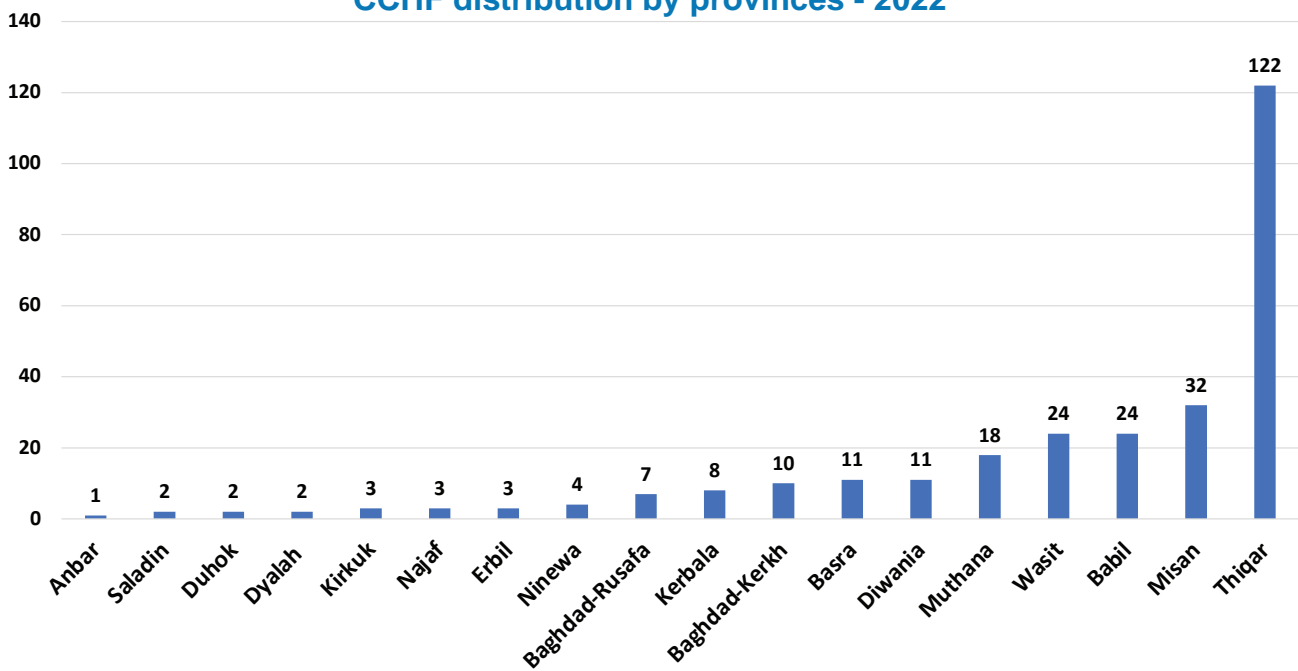
Hospital admissions due to acute diarrhea



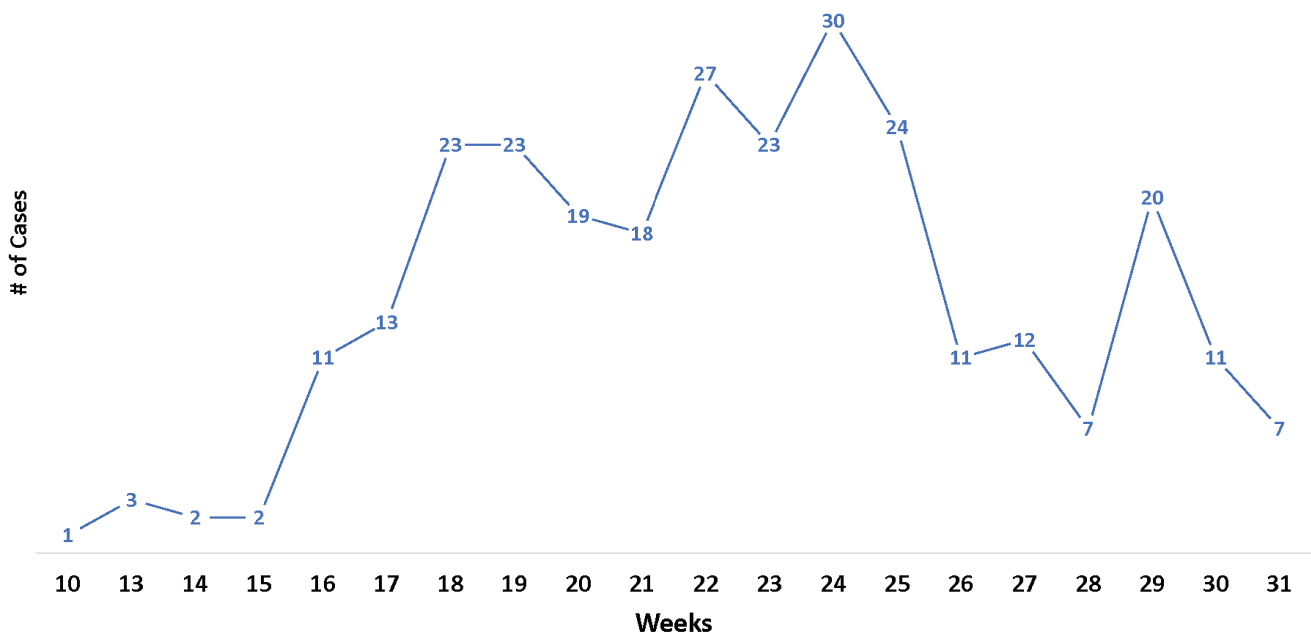
CCHF update:

- A total of seven confirmed cases of CCHF were reported in week 31, representing a decrease of 36% compared to the previous week. This is the lowest number of weekly confirmed cases since week 16. Deaths in weeks 30 and 31 remain the same (two deaths per week).
- Thi-Qar is on the top of the list of the governorates affected by the CCHF outbreak, with 122 confirmed cases, representing 42.5% of the total cases. Missan, Babil, Wassit and Muthanna governorates also reported a significant number of cases.
- Housewives, butchers and livestock breeders and traders represent 84% of those reported to be infected with CCHF across Iraq. No cases were reported among health workers.

CCHF distribution by provinces - 2022



CCHF epi-curve by weeks - 2022



WHO preparedness and response:

- WHO, in coordination with the Ministry of Health, concluded on 4 August a three-day workshop in Erbil to support the mid-year review of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPDs) surveillance, including polio. The workshop, attended by EPI and VPDs surveillance integration representatives from 10 Directorates of Health, also reviewed the performance during first half of 2022 in comparison with last 5 years in term of EPI and VPDs surveillance.

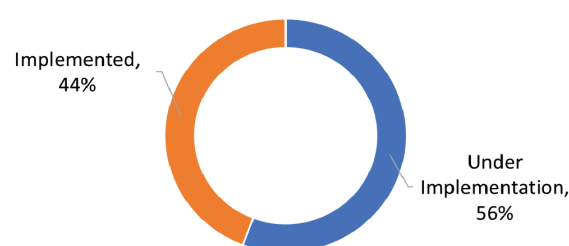


A mid-year review of the expanded programme on immunization and vaccine-preventable diseases conducted in Erbil governorate

Health system strengthening:

- As part of the Health Resources Availability Monitoring System (HeRAMS) implementation progress, 2050 out of 4663 health facilities have so far completed the data entry into the system, representing over 44% of the total facilities in Iraq. WHO continues to conduct daily monitoring and evaluation meeting with the national supervisor's team of the HeRAMS project currently under implementation in Iraq to evaluate the progress and provide technical and logistical support to overcome challenges and ensure the quality of data.
- WHO conducted several discussion meetings with the central and regional ministries of health to finalize preparations for piloting DHIS2 platform in Iraq. DHIS2 experts from WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) are visiting Iraq during 8 - 25 August 2022 to finalize the DHIS2 implementation plan with partners.

HeRAMS Implementation Progress



Health cluster coordination:

- The activities planned by WHO and the Health Cluster under the transition plan include inviting the Durable Solution Technical Working Group (DSTWG) to interact with cluster partners, working on digitalizing the health information system and establishing a baseline for health service availability and readiness, mapping of camp project closures and partner phase-out, etc., are mostly on track. Due to decreasing humanitarian funding, many partners are phasing out of locations. However, the sustainability of services in these locations is in doubt as the DoH/MoH are not likely to continue providing quality services or any services in some areas.

The Cluster has revamped the Strategic Advisory Group into a Transition Advisory Group, including Federal MoH focal persons. The first meeting is expected to be held on 22 August, where transition/handover of services, sustainability of these services, and the challenges faced by partners, such as procurement/transport of medicines/ supplies, are expected to be discussed.

- On 5 August 2022, the Health Cluster Coordinator met with the independent team of consultants who will be conducting a study to examine COVID-19 vaccination in humanitarian settings, in which Iraq is participating.
- On 7 August, the Health Cluster and WHO EWARN team met with focal persons from the Federal Ministry of Health and EMPHNET to discuss the action points to be implemented based on recommendations of the Ministry of Health's survey on COVID-19 surveillance in IDP camps.

Conclusions:

- The fifth wave of the COVID-19 outbreak in Iraq is on the decline during the reporting period, as shown by the current level of community transmission, which shifted from substantial to moderate.
- The swift and adequate preparedness and response activities in Sulaymaniyah dramatically changed the epidemiology of acute diarrhea in the governorate with a significant decrease in hospital admissions. During week 31, a 33% decrease was reported by the Directorate of Health.
- The recent decline in the reported cases of CCHF is likely due to the spraying activities performed by the Ministry of Agriculture as well as the extensive RCCE activities conducted by the Ministry of Health and WHO. However, a significant movement of livestock and animal slaughtering is taking place during the Ashura and Arbaeen events, increasing the risk of further transmission of CCHF.

Recommendations:

- As cholera cases historically are reported to increase during the last quarter of the year, increased vigilance and effective surveillance activities during the upcoming weeks are critical for monitoring the cholera situation.
- Advocating for WASH interventions and daily monitoring of drinking water sources are recommended to ensure enough safe drinking water for the population. RCCE activities must be enhanced to inform people about prevention measures, including avoiding unsafe water.
- Coordination between health and agriculture sectors needs to be further enhanced to target the animal spraying and dipping in the villages and districts reporting the highest number of cases.
- As the mass gathering for Arbaeen visit will take place for about four weeks, enhanced public health, preparedness and response should be coordinated among the Ministry of Health, the religious institutions and other stakeholders.

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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For the latest data and other updates on COVID-19, please see:

COVID-19 vaccination dashboard in Iraq

COVID-19 dynamic infographic dashboard in Iraq