

# Situation Report

## Iraq



Week 25 (ending 26 June 2022)

### Key figures (As of 26 June 2022)

# 2.33M

confirmed cases of COVID-19 registered since February 2020



# 219

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



# 47

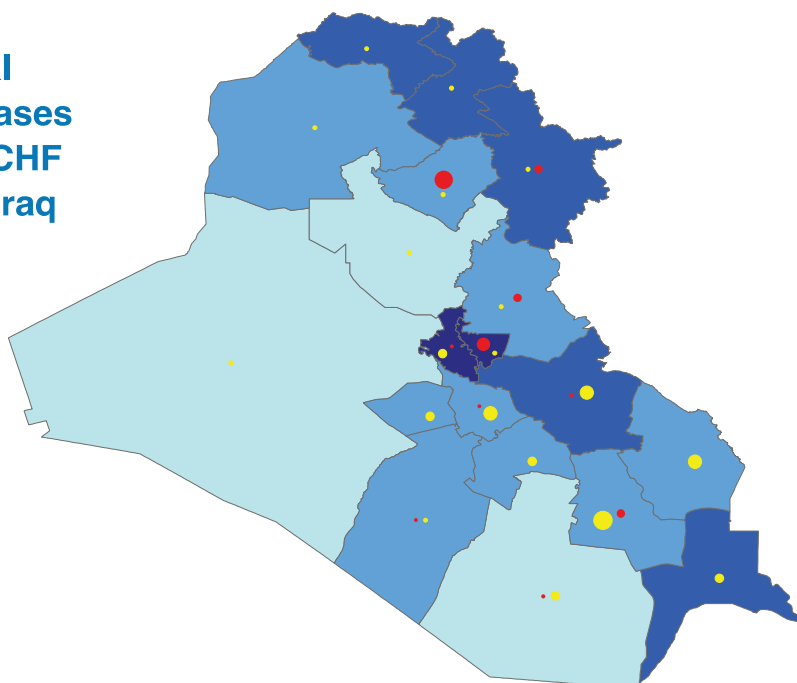
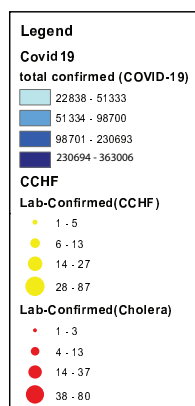
lab-confirmed cases of cholera reported as of week 25



### Epidemiological situation update:

- As of 26 June 2022, Iraq reported 47 confirmed cases of **cholera** out of 73 suspected cases, with no associated deaths. The most affected areas are Sulaymaniyah and Kirkuk governorates. Acute diarrhea cases in camps were also reported through the Early Warning, Alert and Response Network (EWARN), representing 4.6% of all medical consultations.
- To date, 793 suspected cases of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (**CCHF**) were reported, of which 219 were confirmed by laboratory. 36 deaths were recorded among confirmed cases, representing 16.4% of case fatality rate. All governorates reported confirmed cases except for Sulaymaniyah and Salah Al-Din.
- During the reporting period (20 - 26 June 2022), the number of new **COVID-19** cases has sharply increased by 195% compared to the previous week. However, the death rates remain low with three deaths reported in week 25.

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

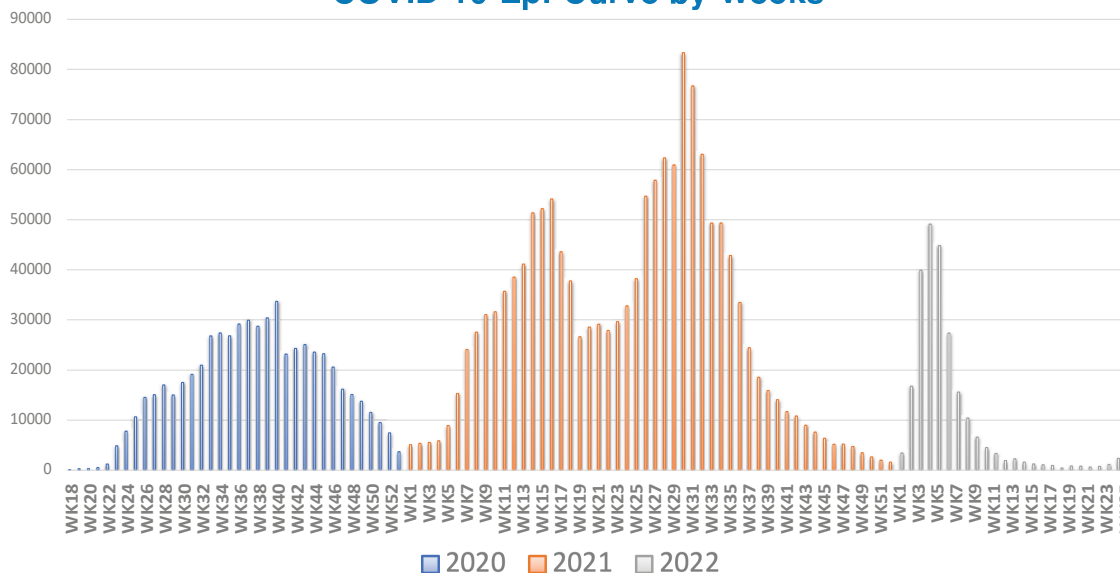


## COVID-19 update:

- The level of community transmission all over the country shifted from low to moderate since week 24. The community transmission remained low for 13 consecutive weeks (from week 11 to 23). The results were analyzed based on three indicators: cases per 100,000 of population, deaths per 1 million of population, and positivity rate.
- Case fatality rate is still within the accepted limit with only three deaths reported in week 25, compared to six deaths reported in week 24.
- The COVID-19 positivity rate (PR) in week 25 stood at 14.2%, compared to 5.6% in week 24. The highest PR in week 25 was reported in Diyala and Ninewa governorates (38% each) followed by Baghdad (34%). Muthanna and Diwaniya governorates reported the lowest PR in week 25 (1% and 2% respectively).

Week No	Case per 100000	Death Per 1 M	Positivity Rate	Case per 100001	Death Per 1 M	Positivity Rate	Score 1	Score 2	Score 3	Total Score	Rank
1	20.9	2.5	3.5	Moderate	Low	Low	2	1	1	4	Moderate
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

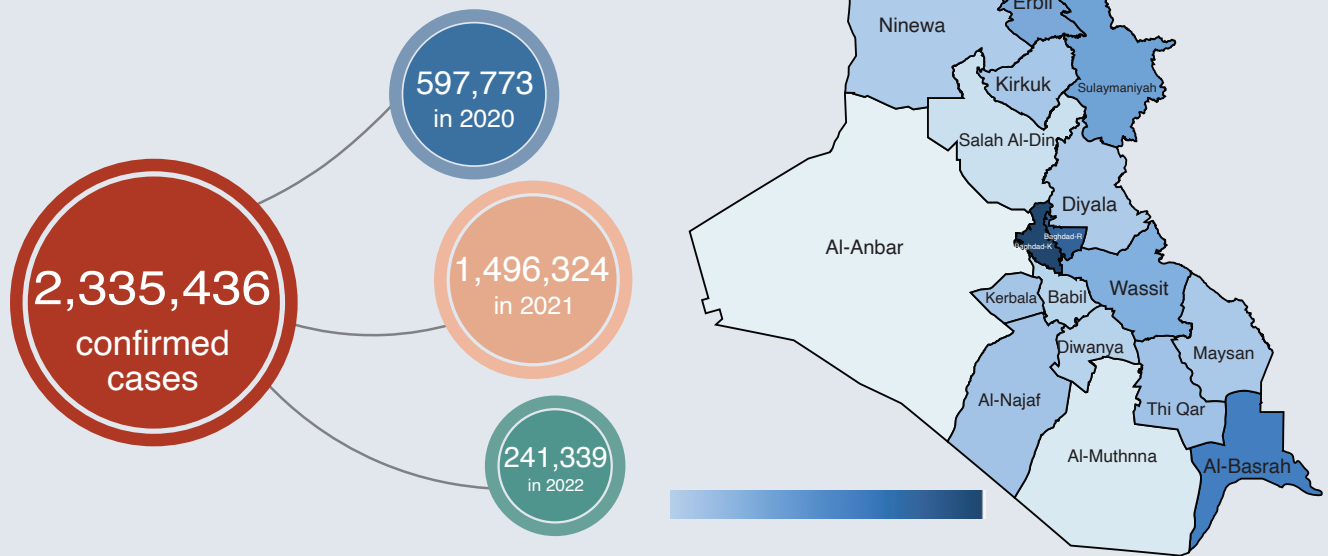
### COVID-19 Epi-Curve by Weeks



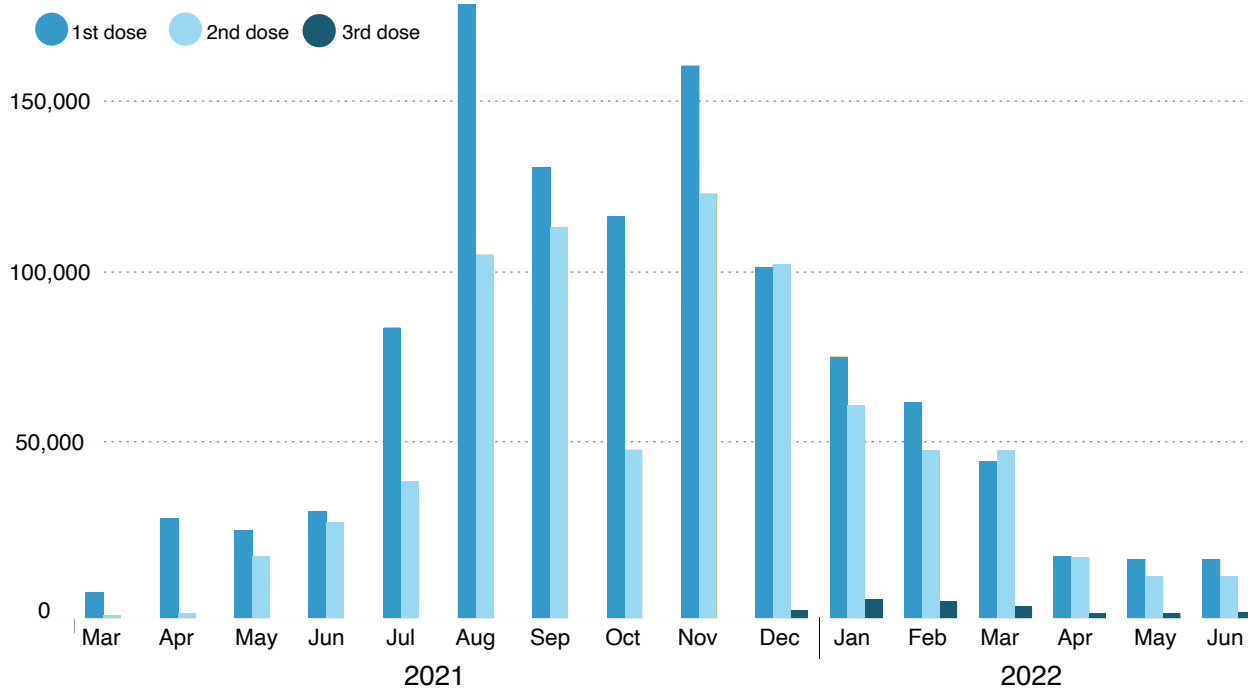
## COVID-19 vaccination:

- As of 26 June 2022, a total of 18,651,074 vaccine doses were administered countrywide. A total of 10,841,393 people -- 26.3% of the population -- have received the first dose, while 7,615,061-- 17.8% of the population -- have been fully vaccinated.
- Vaccine administration statistics showed that 6,621,088 males (61%) were vaccinated with the first dose against 4,220,094 females (39%).

### Cumulative distribution of confirmed COVID cases by DoH

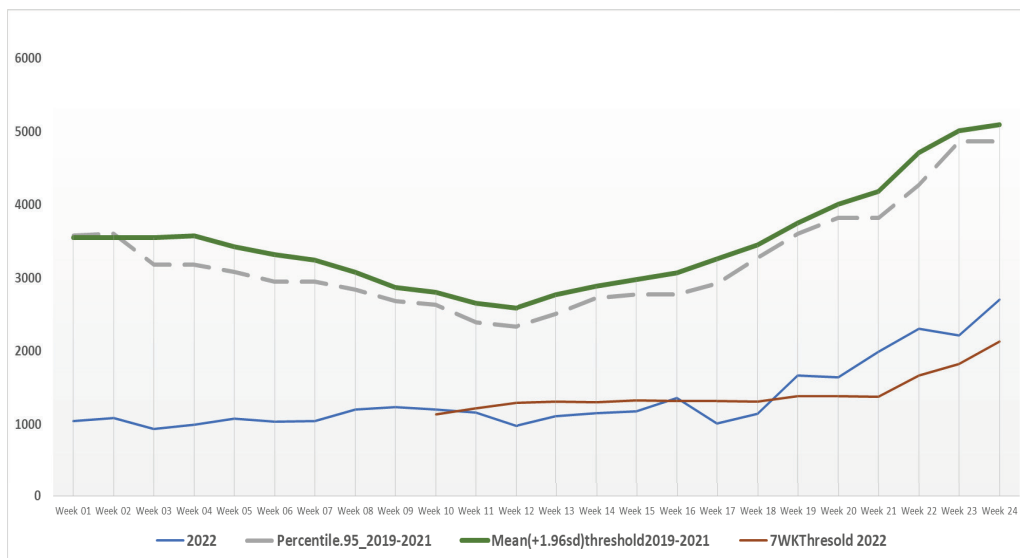


### COVID-19 monthly vaccination by doses



## Cholera update:

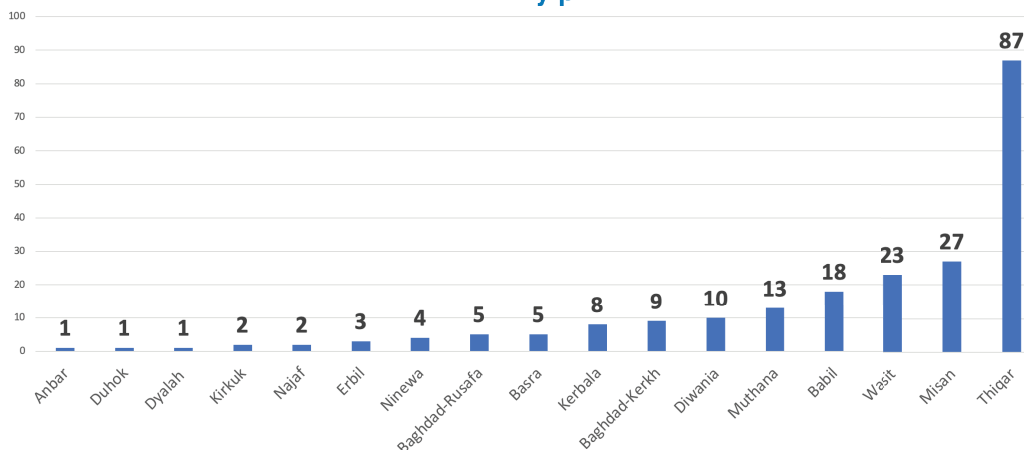
- The Water Department in Sulaymaniyah indicated that due to the drought and water scarcity, the department is only able to supply about 20% of the needs of the populations, leaving millions of people in the governorate to rely on water trucking from formal and informal sources.
- Public Health Department identified seven contaminated water sources of drinking water distributed by tanker vehicles, which were closed later by the authorities as a step to contain the source of the outbreak.
- The data support the hypothesis that gastroenteritis among under-five case is the beginning of an outbreak of acute diarrhoea in Ashti camp in Sulaymaniyah governorate. Further risk assessment and investigation from a rapid response team are needed to find the source of the outbreak and exclude epidemic diarrhea and Rotavirus while applying the known preventive and control measures related to WASH and appropriate case management.



## CCHF update:

- Thi-Qar is on the top of the list of the governorates affected by the CCHF outbreak, with 87 confirmed cases representing 40% of the total cases. Missan, Al Muthanna, Wassit and Babel governorates also reported a significant number of cases.

CCHF distribution by provinces - 2022



## WHO preparedness and response:

- WHO dispatched on 20 June 2022 urgent medicines and medical supplies to Sulaymaniyah governorate to support the regional Ministry of Health respond to the sudden cholera outbreak in the Region. The shipment included infusion sets, antibiotics, and intravenous fluid (ringer lactate) to cover the needs of a population of approximately 5000 people for three months.
- On 19 June 2022, a WHO team visited Khalefan sub-district hospital in Soran District, Erbil Governorate, to assess the situation of CCHF cases, including the one death from a village west-north of Khalifan. The team also visited the Health Directorate of Soran District to discuss the preparedness and response to epidemic-prone diseases.
- On 20 June 2022, WHO visited the Drashakran refugee camp in Erbil to sensitize the healthcare workers on reporting epidemic-prone diseases through EWARN and enhance the coordination of the response with the public health department.
- A total of 25,000 oral rehydration solutions (ORS) were sent to Sulaymaniyah.
- The WHO team in Duhok governorate visited the WHO-supported mass vaccination site at Duhok Sport Complex hall to monitor COVID-19 vaccination activity and the supply chain condition. The team also visited Kabarto 1 IDP camp to sensitize the medical team in the primary health care centre on EWARN.
- Coordination meeting conducted among Duhok Directorate of Health, UN agencies (WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR, and IOM), and NGOs managing primary health care centres in the IDP and Refugee camps in Duhok governorate to discuss acute watery diarrhea situation in camps and the role of each health partner to respond in case of any outbreak.
- WHO continues to coordinate the response to the cholera outbreak with the Ministry of Health in the Kurdistan Region, and the WASH and health cluster partners.
- To advance health management information systems in Iraq, WHO and the Ministry of Health, with support from USAID, launched on 25 June 2022 a series of workshops to train 168 data specialists from all governorates on applying the Health Resources & Services Availability Monitoring System (HeRAMS).



WHO dispatched medicines and medical supplies to Sulaymaniyah governorate to respond to the cholera outbreak in the Region



A WHO team visited Khalefan sub-district hospital in Soran District, Erbil Governorate, to assess the situation of CCHF cases

### WHO prepared a response plan for cholera with following strategies:

- Case management strengthening
- Enhancing active and passive surveillance
- Public health laboratory strengthening
- Risk communication & community engagement
- Logistic and supply supporting
- Coordination and management improvement
- Water quality monitoring strengthening

## Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE):

- WHO concluded a four-day training workshop on raising awareness about CCHF, targeting 120 healthcare workers from 18 governorates working in the health promotion departments and primary health centres. The activity was held in collaboration with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and the Ministry of Health.



## Conclusions:

- A surge in COVID-19 has been reported since week 24. The current level of community transmission is moderated and might shift to substantial.
- The upcoming days will witness an increase in CCHF cases unless strict preventive measures are taken. Eid Al-Adha, Followed by Muharam, are a season of religious events with mass gatherings and extensive slaughtering of animals.

## Recommendations:

- To stop the further spread of cholera, there is a need for timely and appropriate treatment of acute diarrhea or suspected cholera cases, WASH interventions, daily monitoring of drinking water sources, chlorination of water sources and raising awareness of the population.
- 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 in the houses and monitoring the bed capacity in the infectious hospitals and wards in the context of a new surge of COVID-19.

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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