

IOM IRAQ

COVID-19 RESPONSE OVERVIEW #14

1 - 31 July 2021



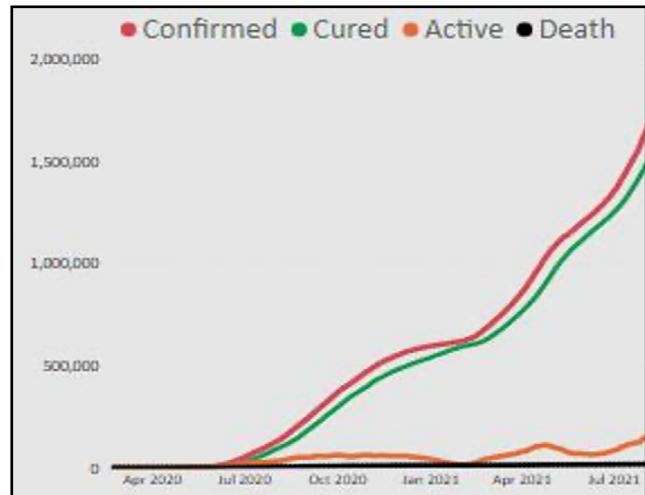
 **IOM**
UN MIGRATION

SITUATION OVERVIEW

IOM IRAQ COVID-19 Strategic Response Plan¹ February-December 2020, USD 20.45 million
1,626,599 Confirmed Cases | 143,669 Active Cases | 1,464,273 Cured Cases | 18,657 Deaths²

There were several changes to mobility restrictions and public health measures throughout March and May 2021. Following a rise in case numbers, from 29 March the Government of Iraq (GoI) introduced new measures including the mandatory use of masks in public spaces including government offices, and the closure of marketplaces and malls across Federal Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). Cafes, restaurants and clubs were permitted to provide services outdoors, while gatherings such as funerals were prohibited in confined spaces such as alleys and homes. In addition, travel between KRI and Federal Iraq governorates was prohibited between Thursdays and Saturdays. Violations are subject to fines.

International airports in Baghdad, Basra, Erbil, Najaf, and Sulaymaniyah are open for commercial flights but are running at lower capacity. Travellers from all countries are permitted to enter contingent on public health requirements, including testing and quarantine periods.³



Cumulative Distribution of Cases in Iraq by Health Status



1 For IOM Iraq COVID-19 Strategic Response Plan, please visit www.iomiraq.in

2 WHO Iraq COVID-19 Dynamic Infographic Dashboard for Iraq, The dashboard is updated daily based on data from the Ministry of Health (MoH) <https://bit.ly/2Oy1eC8>

3 IOM Iraq - COVID-19 Mobility Restrictions and Public Health Measures Report (1 March – 31 May 2021): http://iraqdpm.iom.int/COVID19/MovementRestrictions_HealthMeasures

Ensure a well-coordinated, informed and timely response through mobility tracking systems and strengthening partnership and coordination structures established at the community, national and regional levels

Coordination and Partnerships



Several Coordination Meetings Conducted

- IOM Iraq is working with the World Health Organization (WHO) to align COVID-19 activities, including through the UN Country Team (UNCT). IOM continued to co-lead the Health Cluster Taskforce for health partners, WHO, Ministry of Health (MoH), and Camp Coordination and Camp Management

(CCCM) partners for COVID-19 related activities for IDPs, migrants and host communities, including for the preparedness and response plans. IOM continued to coordinate with Health Cluster partners, camp management agencies, and other stakeholders.

Tracking Mobility Impacts

The following main activities were implemented:

- IOM Iraq's [Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\)](#) collected information on mobility restrictions within Iraq as well as at Points of Entry (PoEs), these restrictions include limitations on mobility across governorates as well as on commercial and trade activity, curfews, government and residency office operating hours,

and legal regulations, and assessed 31 locations including PoEs along land borders and maritime boundaries. DTM publishes a mobility restriction report every three months, and the collected data will be published in a report covering 1 June – 31 August 2021 during September. The last published report covered the period 1 March - 31 May 2021.⁴



⁴ http://iraqdtm.iom.int/COVID19/MovementRestrictions_HealthMeasures

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

Contribute to global, regional, national and community preparedness and response efforts for COVID-19 to reduce associated morbidity and mortality

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

The following main activities were implemented:

- Awareness/sensitization sessions on COVID-19 held for individuals in camp and non-camp settings in Anbar, Baghdad, Erbil, Dohuk, Ninewa, Kirkuk, Basra, and Salah Al-Din. These activities were organized jointly in collaboration with community-based organizations (CBOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), the Directorates of Health (DoH), community leaders, and youth and women groups
- Information, education, and communication (IEC) materials printed and distributed, along with hygiene kits to increase awareness on COVID-19 precautionary



Over **900** awareness/sensitization sessions, reaching more than **7,000** individuals in camp and non-camp settings in **8** governorates.

More than **10,000** IEC materials printed and distributed.

350 hygiene kits distributed

measures in targeted governorates. This included leaflets, posters, contact/calling cards with hotline numbers, coloring books, board and card games distributed to children, adults and the elderly (women and men, girls and boys) in IDP camps, informal settlements, host communities, schools, healthcare centers and catchment areas, markets, and through door-to-door and

Disease Surveillance



CBS activities conducted in **4** supported IDP camps in Ninewa, Anbar, and Erbil.

suspected cases, of which 55 individuals who were referred by the CBS team visited the clinics where an in-depth assessment by clinicians indicated that 33 were either probable or suspected COVID-19 cases.

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)



More than **24,100** individuals screened or triaged for COVID-19 at supported health clinics.



The following main activities were implemented:

- Screening and triage processes continued at five IDP camp clinics and six community clinics throughout Anbar, Baghdad, Erbil, Dohuk, Kirkuk, and Ninewa, ensuring patients are screened for COVID-19 prior to consultations.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

Ensure access of affected people to basic services and commodities, including health care, and protection and social services

Case Management and Continuity of Essential Services

The following main activities were implemented:

- Support continued for 11 health facilities (clinics) in Anbar, Erbil, Dohuk, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Baghdad. This included human resources and technical support, capacity building, supplies and equipment.



11 health facilities supported in Anbar, Erbil, Dohuk, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Baghdad governorates..



Protection

The following main activities were implemented:

- Case management provided to 28 victims of trafficking (VoT), 80 general protection cases, and 223 survivors of gender-based violence in Dohuk, Ninewa, and Salah Al-Din. This included individual services for critical and urgent cases, including people with known suicide risk, those experiencing psychological consequences of domestic violence, and people with severe or chronic pre-existing mental health disorders. Assistance was delivered through protection safe spaces and home visits when possible, and otherwise by phone.



331 beneficiaries received case management support

- Protection support continued for vulnerable cases in Jeddah camps.
- Several coordination meetings held by IOM's Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) team with partners working in Jeddah 1 camp; a rapid MHPSS needs assessment in the camp was also concluded. Follow-up coordination meetings with the MoH on the draft national strategy on suicide prevention. Continued training and support provided to the National Protection Cluster (NPC), GoI, local Ninewa authorities, and WHO



Support international, national, and local partners to respond to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19

Addressing Socio-Economic Impacts of The Crisis

The following main activities were implemented:

- IOM Iraq's Enterprise Development Fund (EDF) approved 11 businesses to receive 192,500 USD of financing. The injection of additional capital allows businesses to grow their operations and improve service delivery and will directly create 53 new jobs in their communities. SMEs were selected from Kirkuk, in economic key sectors including manufacturing, food, service and textile industry. IOM undertakes rigorous analysis on businesses financial and operational plans and selects those that have the greatest potential to create new jobs. IOM continues to select SMEs that applied to various EDF calls launched this year, including EDF-Women, EDF-Agriculture, EDF-Culture, and EDF-Renewable Energy.
- IOM Iraq selected 675 individuals to receive Individual Livelihood Assistance (ILA) in the form of either Business Support Packages (BSP) or vocational training. ILA beneficiaries were selected from a number of governorates in Iraq, including Anbar, Babylon, Dohuk, Diyala, Erbil, Kerbala, Kirkuk, Najaf, Ninewa, Sulaymaniyah and Thiqar.
- Overall, 32 projects related to WASH and Health community infrastructure have been identified since the start of the pandemic to support COVID-19 response efforts. The projects are in the following governorates; Anbar, Baghdad, Dohuk, Diyala, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah Al Din, Sulaymaniyah. Out of the 32 identified projects, 8 projects have been completed while the rest are ongoing. They will contribute to strengthen basic services in health and WASH sectors in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic.

IOM is mainstreaming gender and disability inclusion. This includes encouraging female participation, tracking disability prevalence, and supporting that programming is responsive and inclusive to the needs of females and persons with disabilities. Specifically, in this reporting period, IOM has been shifting CfW activities to implement activities more suitable to female participants. These activities are in safe and socially acceptable spaces for women to work at.

IOM takes a number of approaches to ensure appropriate and respectful participation of persons with disabilities in all activities, including those related to the COVID19- response, including: 1) avoiding conducting separate activities for persons with disabilities; 2) ensuring that persons with disabilities are consulted about the planned activities and how they would like to participate; 3) using accessibility checklist to assess venues used to implemented the listed activities; 4) allocating budgets for reasonable accommodations; 5) encouraging the hiring of people with disabilities as focal points and sharing focal point information; 6) ensuring people with disabilities are informed about all activities.

IOM Iraq COVID-19 Response Supported By:



For more information please contact us at IRAQPSU@iom.int



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