

# Situation Report

## Iraq



Week 30 (ending 31 July 2022)

### Key figures (As of 31 July 2022)

**2.44M**

confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported since February 2020



**280**

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



**668**

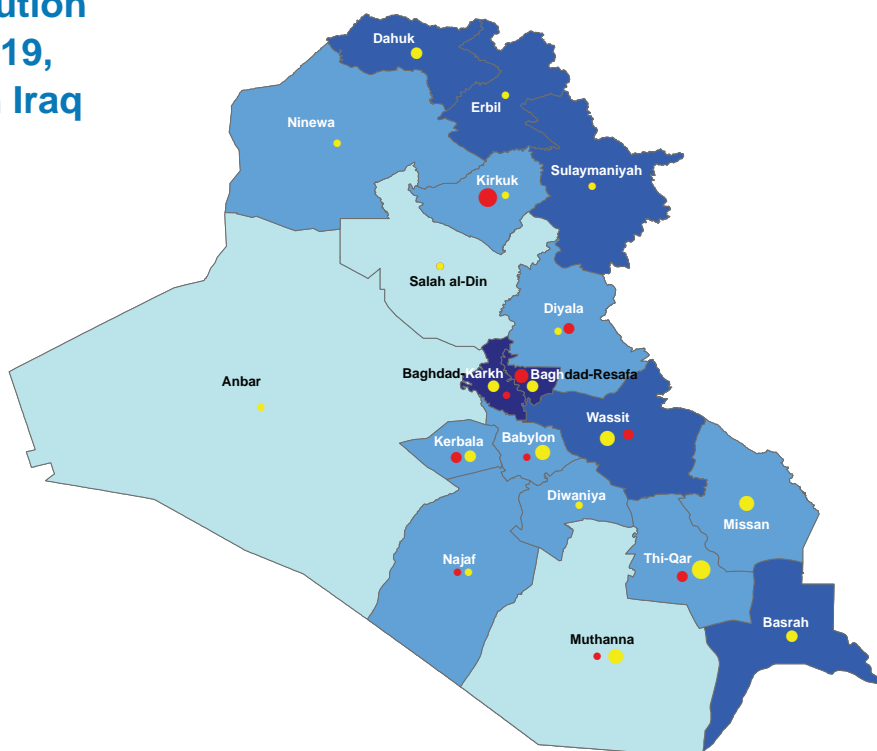
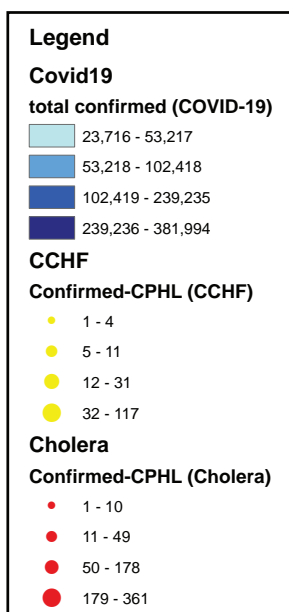
lab-confirmed cholera cases reported since 19 June 2022



### Epidemiological situation update:

- As of 31 July 2022, Iraq reported 668 confirmed cases of **cholera**, with four associated deaths. The most affected governorates are Kirkuk (361 cases and three deaths), Baghdad-Rasafa (178 cases and one death) and Thi Qar (79 cases). Acute diarrhea cases in camps were also reported through the Early Warning, Alert and Response Network (EWARN).
- To date, 1055 suspected Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever cases were reported, of which 280 were confirmed by laboratory, with 81 related suspected deaths and 50 deaths among confirmed cases (representing 17.8% of case fatality rate). All governorates reported confirmed cases, except for Sulaymaniyah.
- During the reporting period, 14 965 new **COVID-19** cases were reported, representing a decrease of 39% compared to the previous week. 25 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



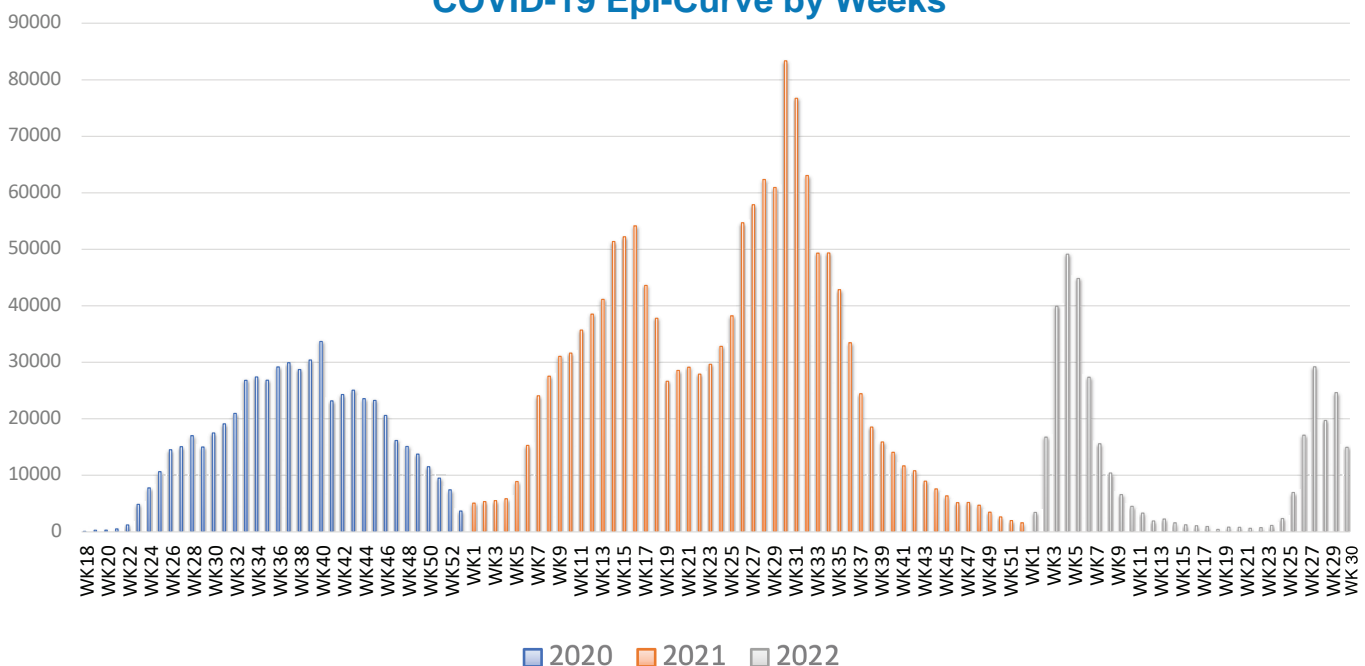
## COVID-19 update:

- The level of community transmission all over the country has been substantial for the fifth consecutive week. 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 30 stood at 25.2%, compared to 33% in week 29. The highest PR in week 30 was reported in Baghdad and Basrah (41% each) and Diyala (33%) and Missan and Sulaymaniyah governorates (32% each). Kirkuk and Muthanna governorates reported the lowest PR in week 30 (6% each).

### 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

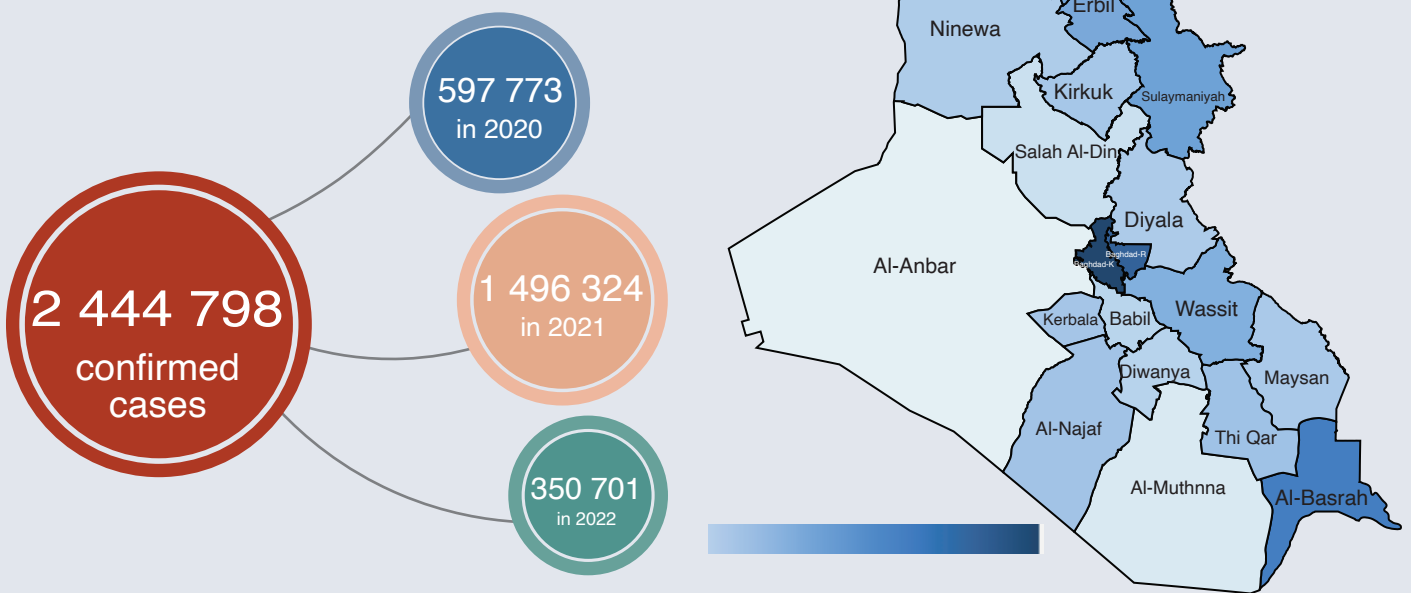
### COVID-19 Epi-Curve by Weeks



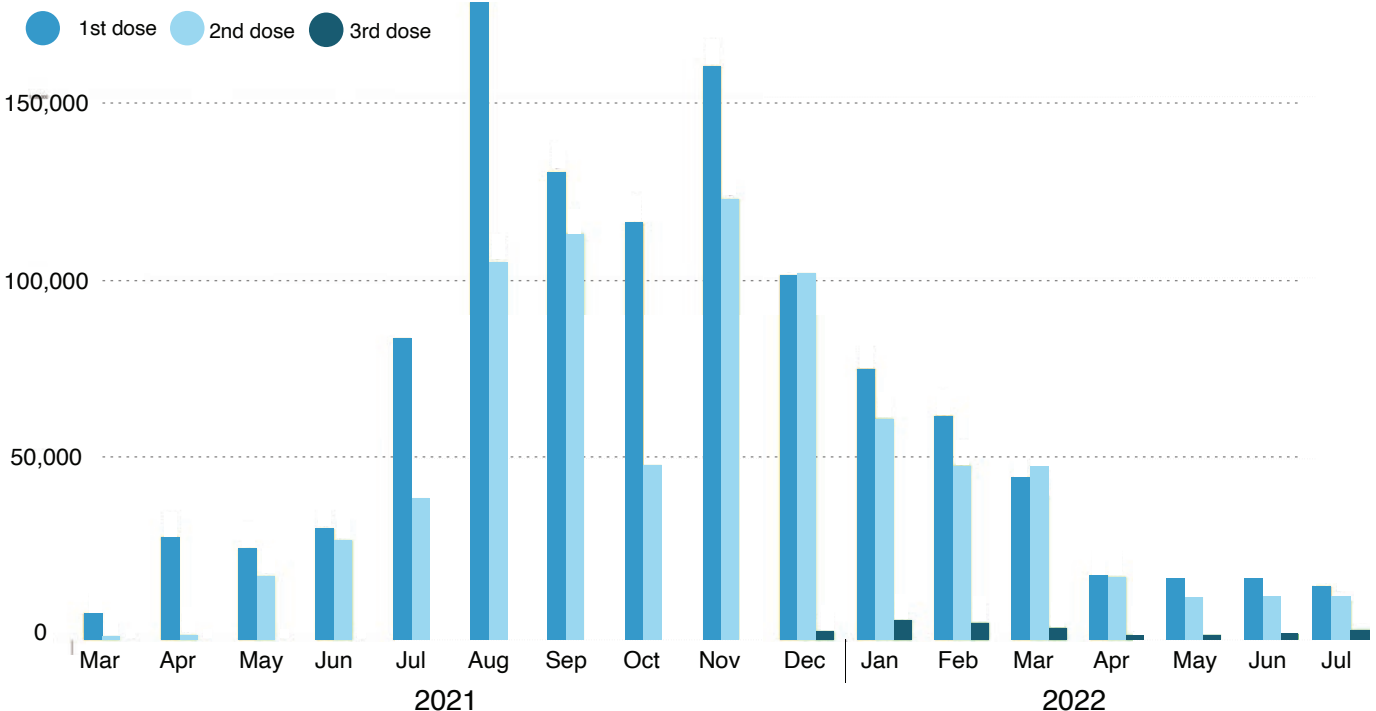
## COVID-19 vaccination:

- As of 31 July 2022, a total of 18,949,465 vaccine doses were administered countrywide. A total of 10,995,478 people -- 26% of the population -- received the first dose, while 7,730,169 -- 18.3% of the population -- have received the second dose.
- Vaccine administration statistics showed that 6,704,793 males (61%) and 4,290,474 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

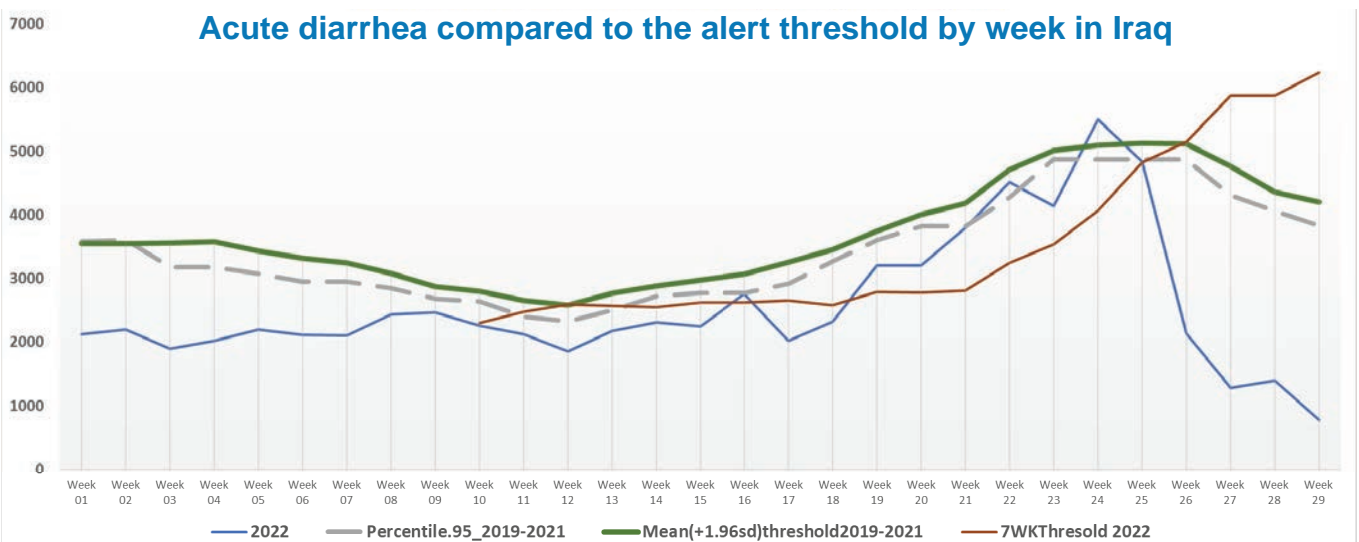


### COVID-19 monthly vaccination by doses

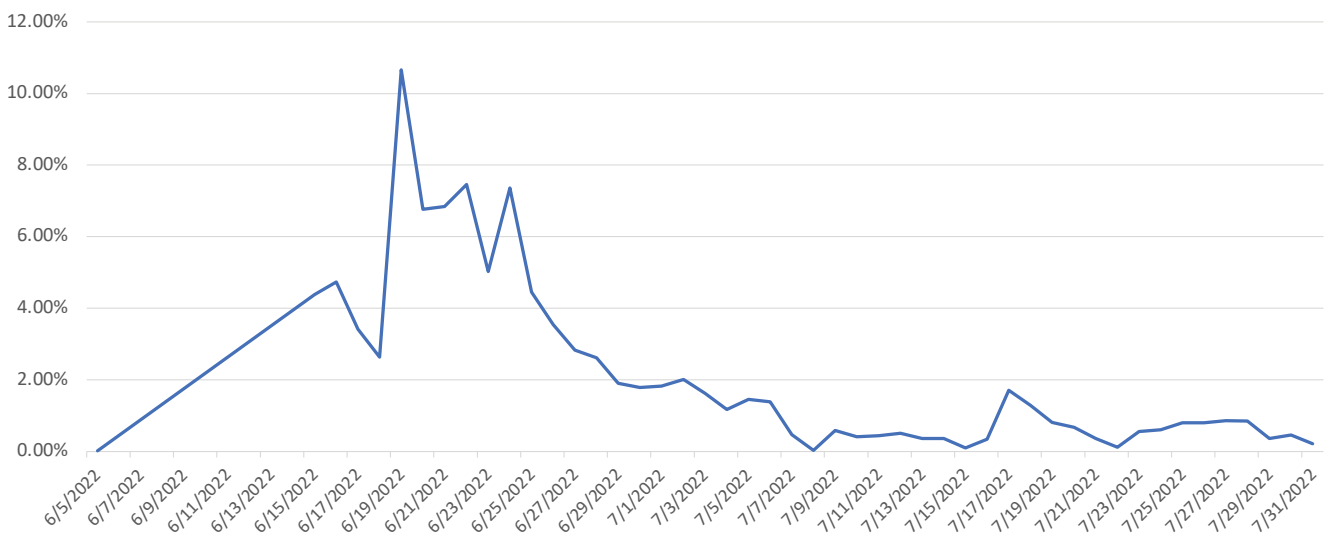


## Cholera update:

- A total of 219 confirmed cases of cholera were reported in week 30, representing a 68.5% increase as compared to week 29.
- Since week 20, the weekly EWARN acute diarrhea (AD) surveillance shows an increase in the trend of AD cases among IDPS, refugees, and returnees, in Sulaymaniyah governorate. However, the AD proportion out of the total consultations declined to 2.3% during week 29.
- About two-thirds (67%) 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.
- Hospital admission through active surveillance in three hospitals slightly decreased by 0.1% during week 30, compared to the previous week.
- In the last four weeks, acute diarrhea incidence declined to below the thresholds after passing the alert threshold for current year since week 19. This can be referred to the true decline in diarrhea incidence, or a decrease in reporting sites.



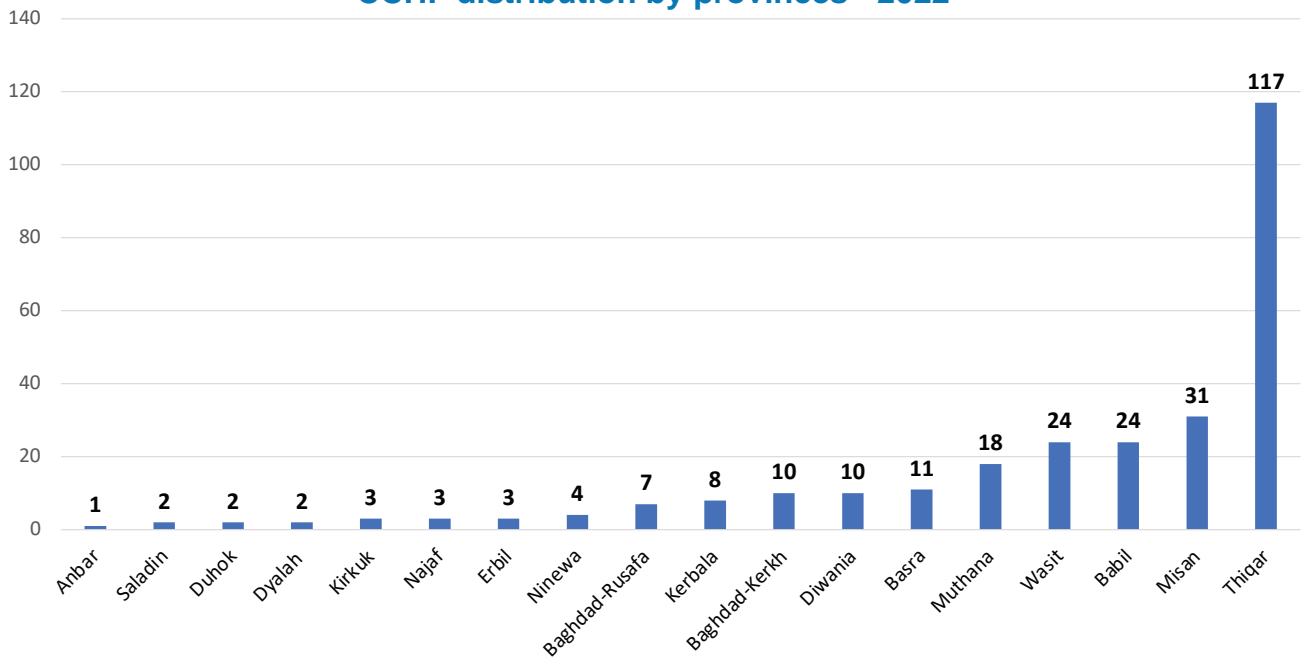
## Hospital admissions due to acute diarrhea, Sulaymaniyah, 5 Jun – 31 July 2022



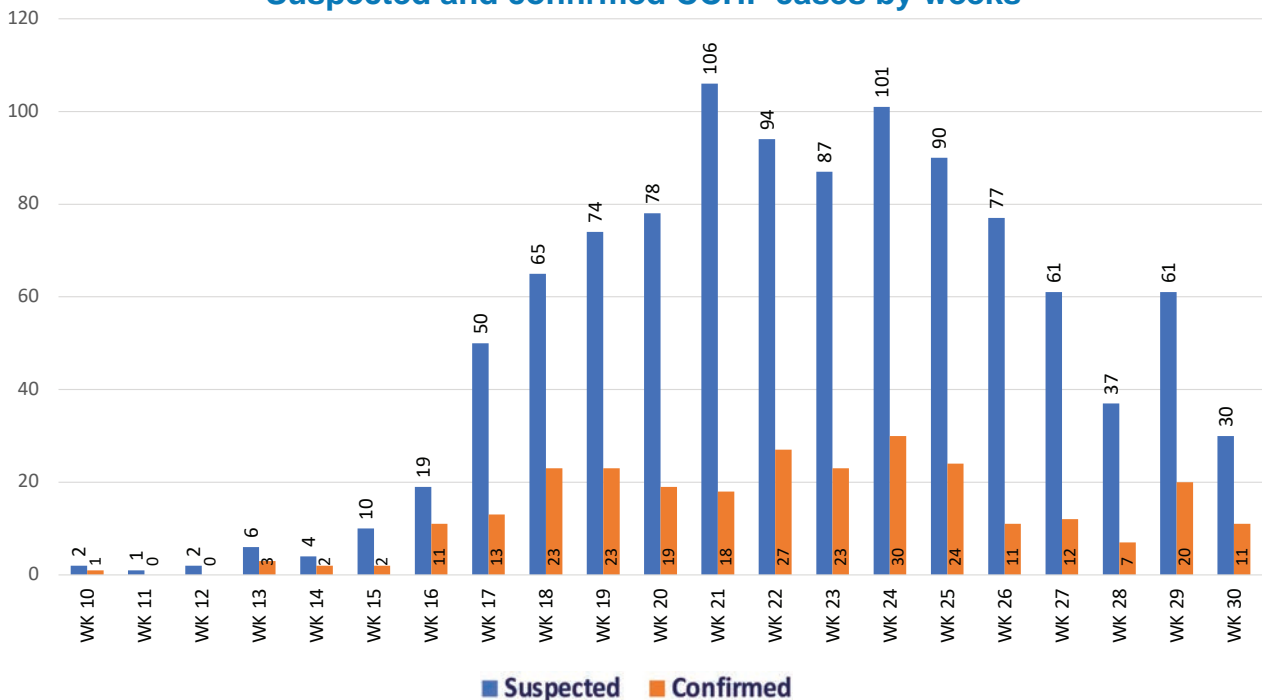
## CCHF update:

- A total of 11 confirmed cases of CCHF were reported in week 30, representing a decrease of 45% compared to the previous week. This is the lowest number of weekly confirmed cases since week 17.
- Thi-Qar is on the top of the list of the governorates affected by the CCHF outbreak, with 117 confirmed cases, representing 41.2% of the total cases. Missan, Babil, Wassit and Muthanna governorates also reported a significant number of cases.
- Housewives, butchers and animal owners represent 66% of those reported to be infected with CCHF across Iraq. No cases were reported among health workers.

CCHF distribution by provinces - 2022



Suspected and confirmed CCHF cases by weeks



## WHO preparedness and response:

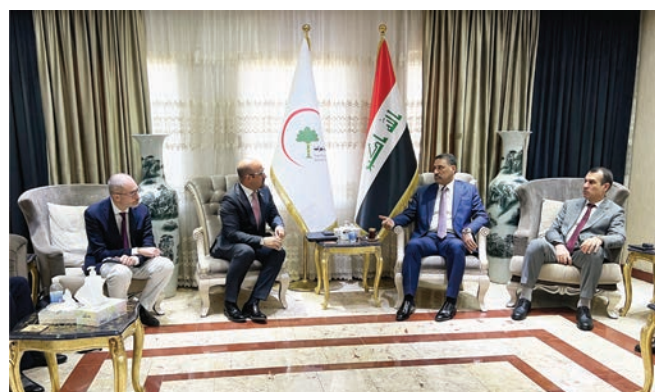
- WHO, in coordination with Duhok's Directorate of Health, conducted a series of one-day training workshops during the period from 17 to 28 July 2022 to build the capacity of 238 healthcare workers on case management, preparedness and response to epidemic-prone diseases, including cholera and COVID-19.
- A WHO team representing the country, regional and global levels visited Basra, Dhi Qar and Muthanna governorates to scale up preparedness and response activities and advance the multisectoral intervention efforts to control the disease.
- WHO Representative in Iraq Dr Ahmed Zouiten met with the Minister of Health H.E Dr Hani Al-Aqabi to discuss advancing public health considerations for the upcoming Ashura and Arbaeen religious events. The two sides agreed on enhancing high-level multisectoral coordination to ensure reducing the impact of mass gatherings on public health.
- Different awareness and risk communication messages were posted and disseminated on different diseases and events, including breastfeeding, cholera, COVID-19 and CCHF. The risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) team is working with the Ministry of Health and Red Crescent's communication focal points to produce tailored awareness products for Ashura and Arbaeen events.



120 health workers trained on preparedness and response to epidemic-prone diseases, including cholera and COVID-19.



A WHO team visited Basra, Dhi Qar and Muthanna governorates to scale up preparedness and response to CCHF.



Dr Zouiten meets with the Minister of Health to discuss preparedness for the upcoming Ashura and Arbaeen events.

## Health cluster coordination:

- On 26 July, the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) coordinated a multi-partner call on cholera, with the participation of WHO HQ focal persons, country health clusters from Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen, in addition to UNICEF and MSF country, regional and global offices. The forum met to present the current Cholera situation within the countries mentioned above, the response and coordination gaps, and how countries addressed any challenges. Specific objectives of the call were:
  - To discuss Cholera Outbreak response in the region, with a focus on Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen
  - To discuss ways to work together in operationalization of this response
  - To discuss how to strengthen the cross-border surveillance and outbreak response activities.

## Conclusions:

- Despite the decline in COVID-19 cases in week 30 compared to the previous week, the current level of community transmission is still substantial.
- A number of suspected, confirmed cholera cases and deaths continue to increase since week 29.
- The recent decline in CCHF cases might be attributed to the start of spraying the animals and extensive RCCE activities by the Ministry of Health and WHO. However, a large movement of livestock and animal slaughtering might occur during Ashura and Arbaeen events, which will increase the risk of further transmission of CCHF.

## Recommendations:

- Coordination between health and agriculture sectors need to be further enhanced based on the frame of One Health approach to ensure adequate prevention and control within the animal health sector as well as improving case management amongst humans.
- Advocating for WASH interventions and daily monitoring of drinking water sources is 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.
- 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.

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:



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

 **European Union**



Foreign Affairs, Trade and  
Development Canada

**BILL & MELINDA  
GATES foundation**

### For more information, please contact:

Dr Wael Hatahit, WHO Emergency Team Lead,  
+964 7729 814 999, hatahitw@who.int

Sadeq Al-Wesabi, Communications officer,  
+964 7833528326, hasansa@who.int

Ms. Ajyal Sultany, Communications Officer,  
+9647740892878, sultanya@who.int

### 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