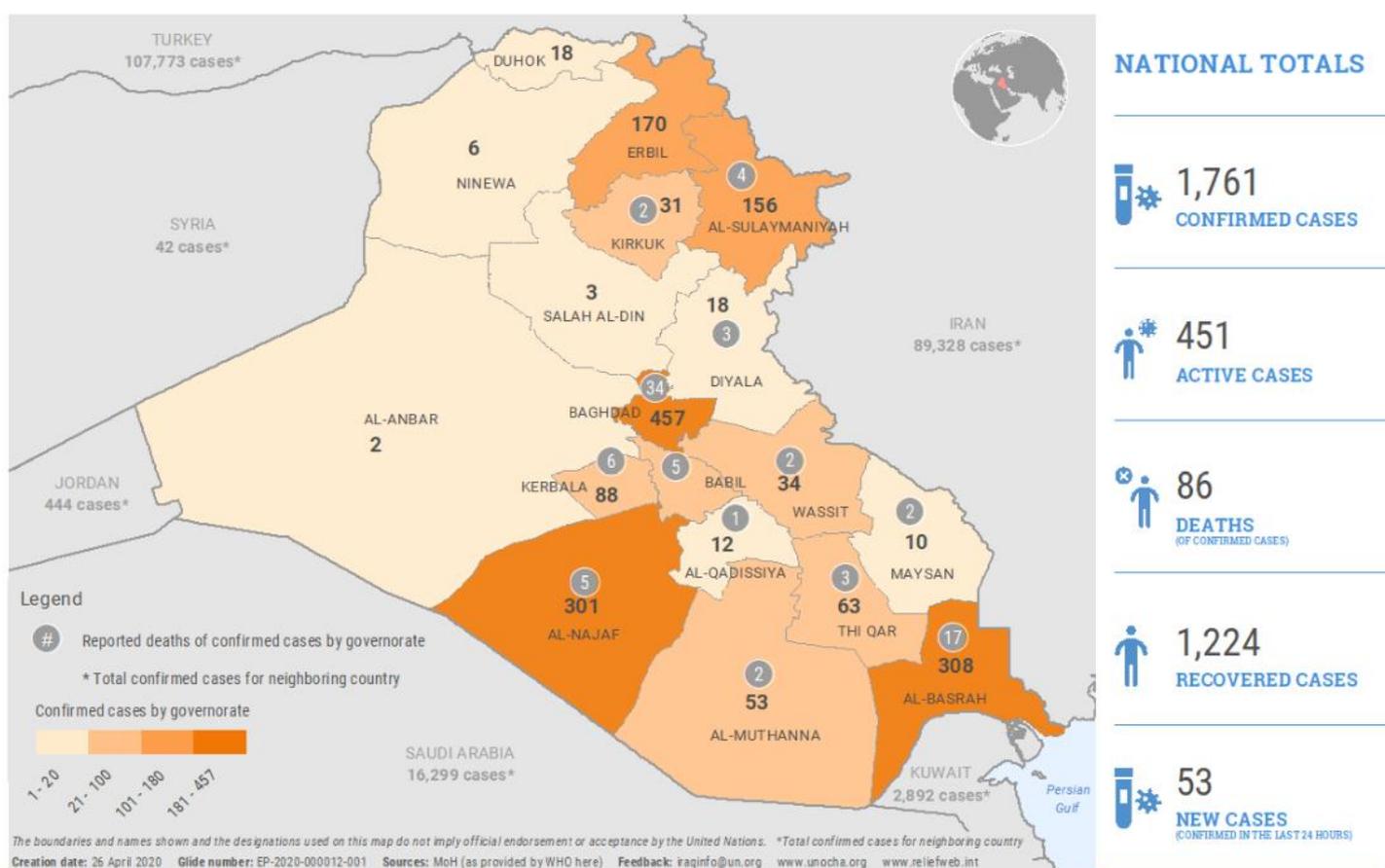


This report was produced by OCHA Iraq in collaboration with humanitarian partners and from news sources

KEY MESSAGES

- 1761 confirmed cases of COVID-19 as of 26 April 2020
- 86 fatalities confirmed due to COVID-19 as of 26 April 2020
- 1224 patients who have recovered from the virus
- Partial lifting of curfew; airport closures extended
- Food production and supply reported to be stable
- IOM Dashboard tracks impact of COVID-19
- GHRP operational update published



SITUATION OVERVIEW

As of 26 April 2020, the WHO has confirmed 1761 cases of COVID-19 in Iraq; 86 fatalities; and 1224 patients who have recovered from the virus. Approximately 20 per cent of the cases have been recorded in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). There have been 68,224 COVID-19 tests carried out in both federal Iraq and KRI.

The Government of Iraq (GOI) has partially lifted the stringent curfews and movement restrictions which have been in place for several weeks. The Government announced that until 22 May, a total curfew will be in place between 19:00h and 06:00h each evening of the work week, and all day on Fridays and Saturdays, with limited movements permitted at other times.

Restaurants can now operate delivery services, shops and factories can come back online if they implement preventive measures, and government offices have re-opened at reduced capacity. Gatherings of more than three people are banned; facemasks are mandatory. Schools, places of worship, cafes and malls remain closed. The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) has extended curfews and movement restrictions until 1 May, and the closure of government offices until 2 May. The KRI lockdown had previously allowed for some easing of conditions, with a total curfew between 00:00h and 06:00h, and some limited movements permitted at other times. The KRG has also eased the total prohibition on movement between governorates in KRI; there is an online application form that citizens can submit to petition for permission to carry out critical travel. Airports throughout Iraq will remain closed to commercial travel until 22 May.

The weekly COVID-19 Food Security Monitor report issued by FAO, WFP and the World Bank indicates that the GOI has taken measures to allow the food supply chain to function normally even among movement restrictions, and thus food production and supply (including imports) are generally stable and adequate. The outlook for the upcoming barley and wheat harvests is good, and the GOI continues to facilitate the harvest and storage of the crops, in addition to purchasing and selling farmers' products at subsidized prices. However, farmers are concerned about the drop in oil prices and resulting loss of fiscal revenue, as it may affect the government's ability to purchase their crops.

IOM DTM has created a new interactive dashboard which provides information on the status of healthcare services, public awareness levels, access to services, and the overall economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic across Iraq. Data was collected for all of Iraq at sub-district level, via phone interviews. Public awareness of COVID-19 is high, with over 90 per cent of respondents saying they felt they had sufficient information. The most commonly reported challenges were the interruption of education (89 per cent), followed by loss of livelihood (81 per cent).

The first operational update of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) for COVID-19 has been published. Slightly over \$600 million has been received, out of the \$2.01 billion requested. The first revision of the GHRP will be published on 7 May, with a request to significantly scale up global transport and logistics networks to help move people and supplies more quickly and efficiently. The GHRP is expected to be revised regularly as the global impact of the virus becomes clearer.

IMPACT ON HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS

Humanitarian clusters in Iraq have mapped out the challenges encountered in implementing humanitarian activities in the face of COVID-19 movement restrictions. As of 13 April, at least 17 activities identified within the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan have been reprogrammed and another 32 activities have been delayed.

- **CCCM:** lack of access to formal and informal sites due to a combination of non-issuance of national access letters and COVID-19 related movement restrictions remains the biggest impediment for camp management partners to prepare camps for a potential outbreak, as well as the need for agreement on establishment of quarantine / isolation areas in camps as risk mitigation and contingency measures
- **CCS:** the Common Coordination Services cluster reports that COVID-19 related movement restrictions have compounded challenged existing coordination mechanisms, hindered planned data collection, and jeopardized coordinated needs assessments.
- **Education:** the Education Cluster notes that all schools across Iraq are closed and every learning related activity is currently suspended, resulting in delayed implementation of educational support nationwide, including for those children identified within the 2020 HRP
- **Emergency Livelihoods:** thousands of highly vulnerable in-camp IDPs and returnees are at risk of not being able to access cash-based and in-kind asset replacement grants due to the inability of livelihoods actors to obtain access letters to enter camps, low availability of certain assets in markets as a result of store closures, and the inability to access financial service providers for payments or purchase of in-kind assets.
- **Protection:** overall protection programming has been hampered by the lack of access due to movement restrictions and associated measures such as closure of community centers and relevant government offices
- **WASH:** Movement restrictions imposed in March 2020 prevented WASH actors from reaching as many as 18,000 people with hygiene promotion services and 13,000 people in camps with adequate water and sanitation services.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ON COVID-19

WHO Dynamic Dashboard for Iraq:

- <http://ow.ly/6Ghn50z9UTh> [link abbreviated for ease of reference]¹

HumanitarianResponse.info page on COVID-19 Resources in Iraq:

- <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/iraq/covid-19>

Link to the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19:

- <https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/Global-Humanitarian-Response-Plan-COVID-19.pdf>

Overview of funding for Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19:

- <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/952/summary>

Global HRP Information Update 20 April 2020

- https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/GHRP_Update_20APR2020.pdf

IOM DTM Iraq interactive COVID-19 Dashboard:

- <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/COVID>

¹ Full link: <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiNjJiMDhiYmItZTlhMS00MDIhLTg3MjltMDNmM2FhNzE5NmM4IiwidCI6ImY2MTBjMGI3LWJkMjQlNGIzOS04MTBILTnkYzI4MGFmYjU5MCIsmMiOjh9>