



20 June 2021 – The clinical management pillar of WHO’s regional incident management support team has recently completed training of trainers for intensive care doctors and nurses in Iraq as part of its ongoing response to surge demand for intensive care beds and critical care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Like in other complex emergencies, COVID-19 has highlighted a significant need for intensive care and critical care capacity-building among health care professionals in the country. To address this need, 6 rounds of 3-day workshops were held between 16 May and 4 June to train 87 health care professionals who are currently working in COVID-19 intensive care units (ICUs) from all governorates in Iraq. These included 42 doctors and 45 nurses and anesthesia technicians.

The training of trainers provided an introductory course on intensive care and critical care for COVID-19 patients, and covered core life support skills and the management of critically ill patients. The training agenda was designed to be flexible and adaptive to local needs and responsive to the requests made by participants and the Ministry of Health to best meet the gaps in ICUs and critical care in the country.

A variety of training methods were used, including lectures, demonstrations, group discussions and feedback, interactive question and answer sessions, practical learning stations and quizzes. All materials used during the lectures, along with additional electronic textbooks, were provided to participants for subsequent cascade training at subnational level.



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