



Iraq, 3 November 2022 – The Infectious Hazard Prevention (IHP) programme at the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean recently conducted a mission to Iraq to review the different processes of the influenza sentinel surveillance system, including looking at the effectiveness of its integrated surveillance and ensuring optimal use of resources.

Mission members identified best practices and challenges and provided recommendations to enhance the system following consultative meetings with national teams at the [National Influenza Centre](#) Department of Communicable Disease Control and the

During the mission, field visits were conducted with Ministry of Health and WHO country office teams to an influenza-like illness sentinel surveillance site and the National Influenza Centre, during which the importance of timely data and specimen sharing was highlighted. A needs assessment was also conducted and recommendations proposed to build national capacity in genomic sequencing.

[Eastern](#) The influenza data management component was discussed and the importance of using a timely information system platform, such as WHO’s regional platform [Mediterranean Flu \(EMFLU\)](#), which is an online platform that facilitates real-time data sharing, unlike the current data capturing system “Epi Info” used in Iraq.



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