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## Advanced Health Managerial Skills Training for Health Professionals in Iraq

20 April 2012- Beirut- 20 health care managers and decision makers representing different senior departments at the Ministry of Health in Iraq and Ministry of Health KRG Iraq received their diplomas on advanced health managerial skills from American University of Beirut (AUB). As part of an agreement done by the Ministry of Health in Iraq and World Health Organization Office Iraq to strengthen the health management skills of a core group of health professionals, the leadership of Ministry of Health and WHO office for Iraq are pleased to mark the successful end of this strategic capacity building endeavor. This program aimed to strengthen the skills of the decision makers in strategic planning, health care financing, hospital reform, decentralization and change management. The advanced knowledge in the mentioned areas will enable this core team of health professionals to carry out the evidence based analysis of organizational and institutional functioning and governance in order to streamline service delivery structures, procedures and decision-making as part of the overall modernization efforts ... etc

The six months diploma program consists of nine modules whose contents are adapted to reflect the needs of Iraq and the plans to reform the Iraqi health sector. Each module spanned over five days and is conducted jointly by two faculty members with experience in adult learning. All training activities featured interactive training techniques as well as emphasis on practical application skills that incorporate both adult learning pedagogy and material specifically tailored to the needed technical and managerial skills. Furthermore, the content of the training featured exercises and case studies adapted to reflect the health sector in Iraq and some others from the Middle East and other regions as appropriate.

The 20 trained health professionals with advanced knowledge in management especially in strategic planning will be considered as a core team to assist the various departments of MOH in the development process of National Health Policy and revision of National Health Strategy. Due to the rich knowledge on major managerial functions especially pertaining to health sector management they will contribute to strengthening the governance and leadership role of the Ministry of Health at National and governorate levels. Similarly due to the knowledge on effective information use and newly acquired analytical skills the trained team will make sure that new policies, strategies and plans are based on evidence and true realities on the ground. In addition, the advanced knowledge and skills they have gained during the course of this training will enable the MOH to successfully accomplish the objectives of modernization process which is currently underway and thus establish an effective health system which is responsive to the current and emerging health care needs of Iraqi population.

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