

WHO-IRAQ NEWSLETTER

**JULY...** Like no other month  
The month of success

“Thanks to the hard-working WHO Iraq team both in Iraq and Jordan, ... the success we have done would not have been accomplished without a true team effort.”

WHO Representative in Iraq, Dr. Naeema Al Gasseer

Success is the result of perfection, hard work, learning from failure, loyalty, and persistence.  
read Iraq Success stories



**New Book Released**

Chronic Non- Communicable diseases Risk Factors Survey

**News**

6 Workshops of different topics were held on July  
over than 170 Iraqi Officials trained  
i book released

Peer Review Scientific Meeting on Iraq Family Health Survey (IFHS 2006) Results  
03 - 05 July



Training Workshop of RED APPROACH STARETGY AND MEASLES SURVEILLANCE  
8 - 12 July



Workshop on TB Global Fund  
10 - 12 July

Training of Trainers in the field of Planning and Design of Environmental Awareness  
16 - 25 July



H.E. Mr Al Yayani, Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan  
Dr. Naeema Al Gasseer, WHO Representative in Iraq

Training workshop for Diyala and Baghdad - Kerkh districts on EPI and disease surveillance  
18 - 19 July

Training of Admin and Finance for MOH Staff  
23 - 28 July



Training of Trainers (TOT) Workshop on “Essential Newborn care in Erbil”  
21- 26 July

## Peer Review Scientific Meeting on Iraq Family Health Survey (IFHS 2006) Results

Date: 03 - 05 July  
Place: Amman Jordan

Nineteen persons participated in Peer Review Scientific Meeting on Iraq Family Health Survey (IFHS 2006) Results organized by the WHO/ Iraq office and led by WHO representatives with financial support of European Commission through UNDG ITF.

The expert meeting attended by temporary advisers from Iraq Ministry of Health, Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation/COSIT, other WHO department, research institutes and other UN agencies

The main objective of the meeting was to develop consultation with national and international survey experts, to review the Iraq Family Health Survey's methodology and preliminary results And to agree on future steps needed for releasing the IFHS result.



## TRAINING WORKSHOP OF RED APPROACH STRATEGY AND MEASLES SURVEILLANCE

Date: 8-12 Jul/2007

Place: Amman - Jordan

A meeting was held in Amman during the period of 8-12/ July/2007. The workshop was attended by all EPI and Communicable Diseases Control managers, as well as surveillance officers and the directors of the majority of PHC's in all of Iraq's governorates, Iraqi experts from the consultation committee of Vaccines Importation, and all WHO focal points in Iraq. WHO Iraq office had invited a number of experts from WHO regional office (Dr Mohsoni, Dr Andrej, Dr Tayeb, Mr Bikhit and Dr Hinda-VPI/EMRO), and Jordan (Dr Jaarour, and Dr Muhaidat) to facilitate the activities of this workshop. UNICEF had participated through three of their officials in to inform the attendants on areas where UNICEF can provide support. The total number of participants was 97 from all over Iraq representing both Ministry of Health and Higher Education.

The main objectives of this workshop were:

- To review EPI vaccination coverage for 2005-2007 among children and women in Iraq. Compile and prepare Jan-June/2007 EPI coverage report.
- Train on the new WHO strategy- the Reach Every District (RED) approach for improving EPI coverage. Review update and approve DOH plans and look into the needed support.

- Discuss and approve the plan for the introduction of Hib vaccine, improved vaccine and review the age for MCV as well as harmonize the EPI schedules between northern, central and southern regions.
- Discuss and approve the plan for updating the demographic data for PHC centres catchment's areas. Prepare a sampling frame for evaluation of EPI activities including coverage surveys for routine and SIAs.



policy group meeting

A number of plenary sessions including updated data on global, regional and national measles and EPI situations were presented in the first day. The attendants were divided into four groups to start working on the second and third days to fulfill the objectives of this workshop, and to present their group work on the fourth day.

The workshop was funded by European Commission through UNDG ITF



## Workshop on TB Global Fund

Date: 10 -12 July

Place: Amman Jordan

A three day meeting was held in Amman under the patronage of H.E. Mr Al Yayani, Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan and Dr Naeema Al Gasseer, WHO Representative in Iraq. Thirty Representatives from the Iraqi Ministry of Health (MoH), TB coordinators from different governorates of Iraq, staff of the National TB programme, administrative staff from MOH, members of the Country Coordination Mechanisms (CCM) and the World Health Organization (WHO) participated in the meeting from 10th to 12th July 2007 to discuss the technical & administrative issues related to the implementation of the Global Fund Grant to fight Tuberculosis in Iraq.

It needs to be noted that it was the first time in more than two years where all the TB focal points have met together as a team. The outcome was consensus on commitment to implement the program and continue intense communications.

The objectives of the workshop included:

- Orienting and updating the TB Focal Points with the STOP TB Programme,
- To support the utilization of the existing successful implementation modalities and good practices in implementing the TB programme in Iraq
- To train TB focal points in essential skills.
- To successfully implement Round 6 TB Global Fund Grant for Iraq, and to agree on the roles and responsibilities at each level for the successful implementation of the Global Fund Grant.



H.E. Mr Al Yayani, Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan and Dr Naeema Al Gasseer, WHO Representative in Iraq



## Training of Trainers in the field of Planning and Design of Environmental Awareness

Date: 16- 25-Jul-07

Place: Amman- Jordan

The Ministry of Environment in Iraq in cooperation with the World Health Organization and Jordan Environment Society organized a 10 day workshop on Training of Trainers in the field of Planning and Design of Environmental Awareness as part of Water Quality Control project funded by the European Commission. The main objective of the workshop was to assist and train the participants in development and implementation of an environmental awareness programme, including schemes for production of materials in appropriate languages and environmental messages, dealing with media, developing sustainable educational materials and organizing environmental activities

The workshop included a two day field study, with emphasis also given to enhancing the participants' interpersonal skills, as well as developing existing communication and training skills.

The 25 participants who represented health, NGOs, Environment and Human right were trained as master trainers to enable them to utilize skills and effectively address environmental issues in their day-to-day work.

The outputs of the workshop included the formation of three detailed campaign work plans to solve critical problems in Iraq and Kurdistan



## Training workshop for Diyala and Baghdad – Kerkh districts on EPI and disease surveillance

Date: 18 -19 July

Place: Amman Jordan

Sixteen participants from DoH (Baghdad – Kerkh and Diyala districts) completed a two day meeting on 18-19 July 2007 in an effort to build strong channels of communications and personal relations between Diyala and Baghdad-Kerkh EPI and surveillance staff, from district levels up to MoH and WHO.

During the training workshop, the participants were given the opportunity to review and discuss the progress of the polio and measles eradication plan, as well as scrutinize the strategies and surveillance indicators for Diyala and B-Kerkh in order to better understand and respond to the challenges especially security during these difficult conditions faced by these two governorates. Methods to strengthen AFP surveillance were discussed with the aim of developing special district by district work plans for the respective DoH's. The work shop provided an opportunity to update staff on the global, regional and country situation.

The outcomes of the meeting were:

- Detailed district by district work plans for Diyala and B-Kharkh for the period August December 2007.

- Training package for training of peripheral staff
- Standardization of reporting mechanism (timelines and training and supervisory activities)
- Effective use of the email for data and information exchange.



## Training of Admin and Finance for MOH Staff

Date: 23 – 28 July

Place: Amman- Jordan

The Ministry of Health with the cooperation of WHO organized a 5 day workshop for 29 participants aimed at strengthening coordination between MOH-Iraq Admin/Finance and logistics units and other technical units with WRO Iraq and its sub-offices. in an effort to implement standardized working procedures and formats and up-grade/ update MOH national staff knowledge and skills with regard to WHO standard operating procedures and effective utilization of available software, and to establish a more effective monitoring and follow up system.



## Training of Trainers (TOT) Workshop on “Essential Newborn care in Erbil”

Time: 21- 26 July

Place: Erbil

Joint WHO/UNICEF Second national Training of Trainers(TOT) Workshop on “essential Newborn care in Erbil” in collaboration with central level and Kurdistan region for 21 Iraqi professionals (pediatricians , gynecologists and Nurses) in Erbil from 21-26 July 2007 trained by 10 National facilitators who received previous training by WHO consultant on January 2007 in Amman .

Expected Outcome:

- clinical skills on essential newborn care acquired
- Case management skills of health professionals improved.
- National facilitators on newborn care provided

Course description:

- The course is based on the newborn sections of Pregnancy, Child-birth and Newborn Care (PCPNC). Activities and teaching methods included lecture presentations, demonstrations, pair and group work, role play, clinical practices, discussions, practice reviews and study exercises (case studies).

Through joint WHO/UNICEF support, MOH Erbil in collaboration with MOH Baghdad has initiated a national training of trainers (TOT) workshop in Erbil for the period 21-26 July 07 at the maternity and pediatric

hospital in Erbil. The workshop is carried out through 12 facilitators from teaching and health institutions from Iraq with participation of 17 health professional and university teachers from different governorates. The workshop preceded a three day preliminary meeting starting the 18th July for facilitators, and was officially sermonized by HE the Minister of Health Erbil (photos attached).



Access to Quality Health Services in Erbil:

Construction of first Aid unit in Suleymanya, Arbat sub district has begun, with a total cost of \$80,298. 5% of the work has been accomplished.



## Quotes from Iraqi health professionals

During a recent workshop in Amman, a number of Iraqi doctors were approached to give a first hand account of the challenges they face in their daily routines. The stories reflected the incredible strength and resilience of the many professionals who deal with the constant threat of being kidnapped or assassinated as they negotiate blocked roads and curfew restrictions to attend the needs of the vulnerable. Iraqi healthcare professionals tell a quotes steeped in heroism that provides a ray of light in an otherwise bleak situation.

"Despite the poor security situation, communities are still willing to come together to help the vulnerable. On one occasion, a boy was hit by a stray bullet as he was standing in the doorway of his house. The neighbours helped transport this wounded teenager to Ibn al Nafees hospital where he was treated and saved, an indicator that in the same way that all doctors present try their utmost to fulfill their obligations and more often than not go far beyond the call of duty, communities are honoring their role of stepping into the vacuum left by the over-burdened emergency medical services.

Regardless of all the difficulties we face, I still see that people exhibit loyalty and remain steadfast in their duty to help the vulnerable; this spirit is an invaluable component whose continued existence reflects an ability

-to deal with extraordinary situations. This is illustrated in the Polio Vaccination Campaigns in which over 5 million children under the age of 5 were reached. Several colleagues were killed during the programme, the success of which is owed largely to the ability to adapt to the situation at hand, which in this example, entailed using fixed vaccinating teams in ".hot" areas like Al-Karkh district in Baghdad

"Though I have been threatened by disgruntled employees in the past and continue to fear for my safety due to the poor security situation, I have never experienced any form of gender discrimination that has hindered my progress as a female doctor.

Generally, the public has faith in the medical providers, particularly in nurses and vaccinators who continue to work despite the constant threats made against them. The successes of the polio and MMR vaccination programmes are testament to the dedication of these brave people.



Though transport has become extremely difficult, medicines, vaccinations and supplies continue to reach us. At times it is near impossible to get these supplies to centres in the "hot areas"; however it is encouraging that vaccinations are being procured from excellent sources, a vast improvement when compared to previous years.

None of the health centres in my district have closed, reflecting on the sheer will of the brave doctors and nurses who keep them running. However we often face difficulties supplying centres such as "Mikaneek" in Dora due to the prevailing security situation."

The situation is difficult, but I will continue to be thankful because there are people who continue to do all they can to work for a better future.

"Despite the current situation and all the obstacles we face in performing our duties, we all strive to carry out what is required of us."

"Children are the seeds of a society, if we care for them and treat them with the respect they deserve then society will have a bright future."

"The Emergency Medical Services never let us down with their responses to emergency situations. The crews often put themselves in the line of fire to help victims of violence, irrespective of the potential risk to their own lives."

"We have faced major problems in trying to combat the negative social stigma surrounding TB, and its subsequent adverse psychological effects on sufferers. One patient I had returned to good health, and donated chocolates to other TB-sufferers, a gesture that had important implications the psychological wellbeing of the patients. Coming from a source they can relate to, from someone who has experienced the difficulties they themselves are going through, signified that the struggles they face are surmountable and can be overcome. The effects were uplifting, seeing the change in patients and the confidence they gained in confronting their illness gave me, as their doctor, the reinforcement I need to carry out my work effectively. That altruistic moment from a cured TB sufferer will forever stay with me."

