



Ministry of Health and National Immunization Technical Advisory Group representatives with mission members from the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean and PIVI. Photo credit: WHO/WHO Bahrain

29 January 2024, Manama, Bahrain – A 2-day mission was conducted in Manama, Bahrain, on 23–24 January 2024 to pilot a rapid mini evaluation of Bahrain’s seasonal influenza vaccination programme.

Seasonal influenza causes high morbidity and mortality around the world each year. Although safe and effective influenza vaccines are available and have been in use for more than 60 years, uptake of influenza vaccines in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region remains suboptimal. There are several challenges to improving the coverage rate, such as lack of local evidence, competing health priorities, limited collaboration among stakeholders, and vaccine hesitancy and misconceptions.





Visiting the pilot site at the Al Waha Clinic, Al Baraka Health Center on the second day of the mission. The photo is courtesy of WHO EMRO.

### Useful links

[Immunization Agenda 2030: a global strategy to leave no one behind](#)

[Influenza vaccine post-introduction evaluation \(IPIE\)](#)

[Partnership for International Vaccine Initiatives](#)

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