The opening of East Erbil Emergency Hospital in Erbil Governorate, Kurdistan Region, Iraq, on 24 November 2020 WHO Iraq Erbil, Iraq, 24 November 2020 – The World Health Organization (WHO), in partnership with the Ministry of Health in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, today celebrated the completion of renovation works at East Erbil Emergency Hospital in Erbil Governorate.

The hospital is currently functioning as the main facility providing life-saving emergency services to a population of approximately 1 million people, including refugees and internally displaced people, while other health facilities have been dedicated to managing COVID-19 patients.

“WHO Iraq has built a fruitful partnership with the health authorities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, reflected in the construction and rehabilitation of health facilities in the Region,” said Dr Adham Ismail, WHO Representative and Head of Mission in Iraq.

“The project that we are jointly inaugurating today for the resumption of full capacity functioning in Erbil will support a large segment of the in-need population for essential and specialized health care services. We also believe the facility will go a long way to filling the gap created by the designation of the majority of health facilities in the Region to COVID-19 treatment,” Dr Ismail added.

As in the rest of the world, the emergence of the new severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has overwhelmed the health system in Iraq in general and in the Kurdistan Region in particular, which is already coping with the presence of hundreds of thousands of refugees and internally displaced people. This, coupled with a growing need for advanced health care services, has necessitated a massive mobilization effort and the securing of resources to improve the existing health facilities, both functionally and structurally.

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