



Baghdad, 16 December 2020 – The World Health Organization (WHO) has today handed over essential medical supplies to the Iraqi Ministry of Health to strengthen its capacity to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The supplies, which included personal protective equipment (58 800 face shields, 9800 protective goggles, 10 600 isolation gowns and 28 000 N95 face masks), were handed over to the Ministry of Health by the WHO Representative in Iraq, Dr Adham Ismail.

“WHO’s priority is to support the Iraqi health authorities to control the spread of COVID-19 among its population, including the most marginalized and vulnerable. By providing medical supplies, WHO commits to strengthening the health system by equipping health workers with lifesaving equipment,” said Dr Adham.

“December is a long holiday season for many families, during which people travel to spend time together. This could be dangerous at this time of COVID-19, especially if none of the family members or friends know their infection status. At times like this, it is essential for health facilities to have the much needed medical supplies and personal protective equipment to facilitate the work of health care providers while keeping them safe from COVID-19,” added Dr Adham.



Currently, Iraq is facing a shortage of personal protective equipment amidst the increasing number of COVID-19 cases and deaths. Since Iraq recorded its first case of COVID-19 in February 2020, the country has registered 577 363 cases, with 511 639 recoveries and 12 614 deaths (to date).



https://www.who.int/news/item/20-04-2020-who-hands-over-essential-health-commodities-to-the-ministry-of-health-to-contain-covid-19
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