Baghdad, 28 November 2018 – The World Health Organization (WHO) has dispatched a consignment of lifesaving medicines, medical kits and other supplies to Shirqat General Hospital in the north of Salah al-Din Governorate. The consignment contained more than 13 tons of supplies, including trauma, surgical and health emergency kits, sufficient to treat a population of 10 000 for three months. The supplies will help local health authorities meet the increased demand for first line and emergency health care services following the flash floods that have severely affected the district of Shirqat.

“WHO is committed to supporting the Ministry of Health and local health authorities in providing urgent health care services to the in-need population throughout Iraq,” said Dr Adham Ismail, Acting WHO Representative in Iraq. “WHO and its health partners still need to deliver more and make further interventions to ensure the availability of, and easy access to, health services, including referral and ambulatory services in IDP camps, as well as remote and hard-to-reach areas,” added Dr Ismail.

The wave of heavy rains and flash floods that has recently hit a number of governorates in Iraq has severely affected under-recovery areas and caused significant damage to property, in addition to causing disruption in transportation, water and power supplies. In Salah al-Din governorate, over 1000 houses have been swept away, leading to the evacuation of more than 5000 residents from Shirqat district, considered among the worst affected. Health authorities have reported eight people dead and 20 injured, with an unidentified number still missing. However, the situation in the governorate is now coming under control.
WHO has provided more than 13 tons of medical supplies for flood victims in Salah al-Din governorate. WHO photo.

A WHO mobile medical clinic and five Ministry of Health ambulances were deployed early on to provide on the spot primary, referral, and ambulatory health services to flash flood victims. Although no irregular disease patterns have so far been reported, WHO has urged local health authorities and partners to remain vigilant and to monitor communicable disease cases through WHO's Early Warning Alert and Response Network system.