



**WHO Representative's Office in Iraq**

**Situation Report on Influenza A H1N1 Pandemic –Iraq  
As of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010**

As of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010, 9:00 AM Baghdad time, **18** governorates (All Iraq governorates) have reported **2,968** laboratory confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 including **42** deaths. Out of the total cases **637** are members of the multinational forces. *Since 18<sup>th</sup> February, no new H1N1 cases have been reported.*

**Table-1: Laboratory confirmed H1N1 cases reported in Iraq**

<b>Governorate</b>	<b>Cumulative number of laboratory-confirmed cases</b>	<b>New laboratory-confirmed cases notified since the last reporting date</b>	<b>Cumulative number of deaths</b>
Baghdad	1114	0	13
Wassit	293	0	1
Basra	73	0	2
Babel	36	0	1
Kirkuk	87	0	1
Suleimaniyah	27	0	2
Kerbala	50	0	1
Erbil	49	0	1
Najaf	108	0	1
Thiqar	46	0	1
Diala	64	0	9
Missan	30	0	1
Diwaniyah	248	0	4
Ninewah	21	0	0
Salaheddin	10	0	0
Muthana	43	0	2
Anbar	27	0	-
Dahuk	5	0	1
Multinational forces	637	0	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2968</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42</b>

At the EMR regional level, as of 7 February 2010, 20 out of 22 Member States reported **1,018** laboratory-confirmed Pandemic H1N1 2009 deaths. Pandemic Influenza transmission remains geographically widespread in some countries the Region, except in Bahrain, Oman, Jordan, Libya and Sudan, where the transmission of the pandemic influenza is regional. Available data on the rates of Influenza Like Illness (ILI)/ Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) indicate a declining trend in Iraq and Sudan but increasing trend in Afghanistan and Oman. Data on Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) suggest a declining trend in Jordan and an increasing trend in Afghanistan and Oman.

As of 21 February 2010, worldwide more than 213 countries and overseas territories or communities have reported laboratory confirmed cases of pandemic influenza H1N1 2009, including at least **16226** deaths. In the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere, pandemic influenza virus continues to be detected across many countries; however, overall influenza activity continues to wane in most places. The most active areas of transmission are currently in parts of south and southeast Asia and in limited areas of east and southeastern Europe.

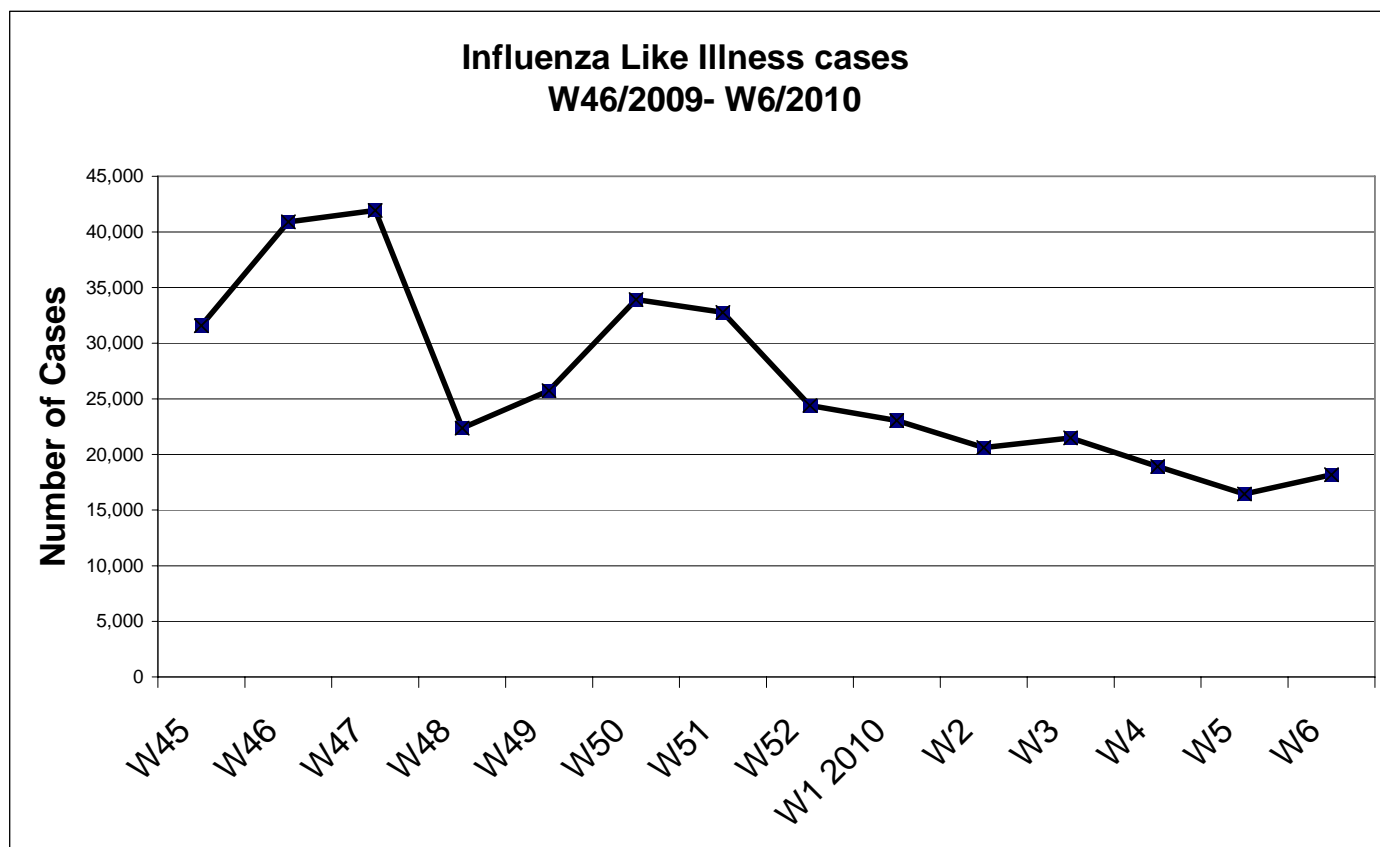
\* The financial support of the European Committee and their continued follow-up is greatly acknowledged

## Influenza like Illness

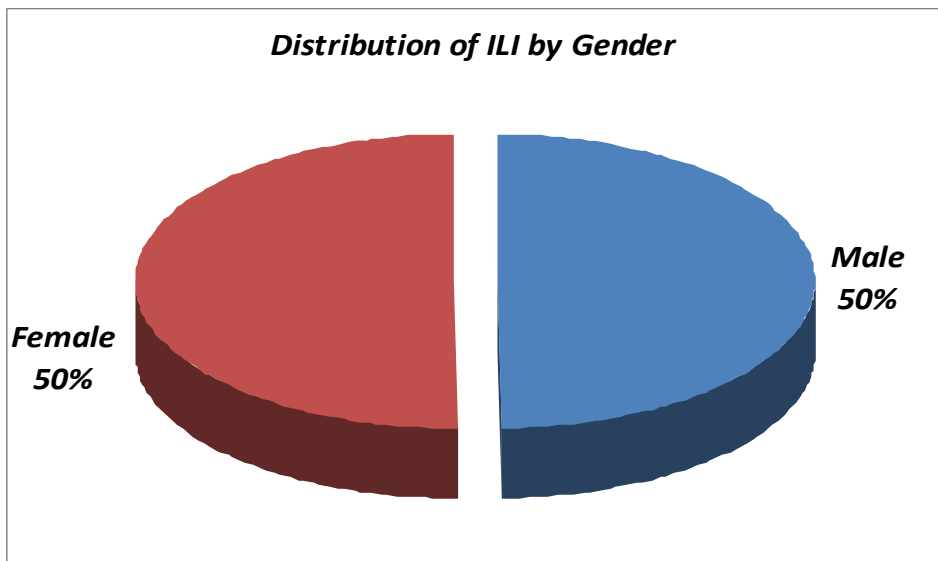
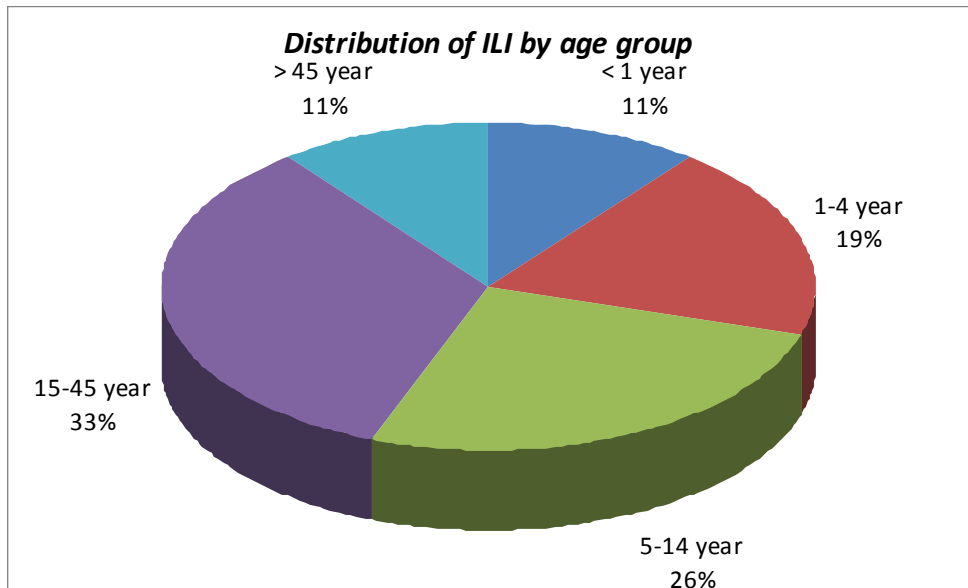
**Influenza like Illness (ILI)** surveillance has been started and included in the list of the weekly communicable diseases report since week 42, 2009 . Reduction in the incidence of ILI has been noticed in the last weeks.

**Table-2: Reported ILI by Directorate of Health, Iraq, week 46/ 2009- W6/ 2010**

Governorate	W46	W47	W48	W49	W50	W51	W52	W1 2010	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6
Baghdad/K	2467	2190	1079	1079	1705	1592	1301	1836	1834	1048	2164	1056	1673
Baghdad/ R	1184	1030	486	1068	2292	1287	1387	1308	1245	1634	929	844	714
Babel	1329	452	189	123	309	464	432	431	316	475	374	265	183
Wassit	1184	898	490	697	674	916	701	703	892	1284	903	474	946
Basra	2401	3243	487	1666	2490	4726	837	2689	2144	2304	1287	254	1720
Kirkuk	1792	1581	1368	1044	1262	1057	1330	718	748	727	661	623	700
Suleimaniyah	5920	7814	6157	5540	5819	6347	4618	3687	3101	3428	2557	2315	2616
Dahuk	9340	7696	4483	3691	5029	4673	4508	4084	3086	2716	2548	3230	2557
Kerbala	371	295	144	107	86	119	120	83	144	24	257	NA	200
Erbil	5370	5828	2358	3375	5549	4094	3352	2217	1766	1996	1646	2100	1719
Najaf	1386	1287	1171	886	970	1200	468	670	946	911	971	946	445
Thiqr	893	2429	522	1731	1299	1587	1239	695	529	631	602	540	577
Diala	2436	1498	1014	1150	2373	1664	1237	1421	992	1084	720	1056	993
Missan	471	529	186	841	266	278	126	161	451	273	160	50	205
Diwaniyah	2005	1960	829	452	261	320	300	364	400	259	257	242	162
Ninewah	1507	1525	334	1410	1061	763	1036	1058	1008	797	871	801	509
Muthana	666	950	794	303	753	735	395	732	747	645	499	248	394
Anbar	131	672	236	559	1690	935	991	196	263	711	658	687	720
Salaheddin	54	61	33	13	26	12	31	-	-	528	841	722	1147
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,907</b>	<b>41,938</b>	<b>22,360</b>	<b>25,735</b>	<b>33914</b>	<b>32769</b>	<b>24409</b>	<b>23,053</b>	<b>20,612</b>	<b>21,475</b>	<b>18,905</b>	<b>16,453</b>	<b>18180</b>



### Distribution of ILI cases according to Age



## Government and Partners Response

### *Iraq Pandemic Influenza Strategic Plan which has been developed with full technical support from WHO has been endorsed by the High National Pandemic Influenza Committee*

- ✓ Early 2009, the pandemic Influenza preparedness strategies have been updated and the operational plans of action were developed. These plans have been activated as soon as the threat of Pandemic Influenza due to H1N1 emerged;
- ✓ Influenza like illness surveillance has been activated at the national level. Following WHO guidelines, Iraq has changed the policy of testing, isolating and hospitalizing every suspected H1N1 case.
- ✓ ON 11<sup>th</sup> November, WHO Iraq Epidemiologist with other WHO Iraq team visited the CPHL in Baghdad to assess the situation on the ground and provide the needed technical advice.
- ✓ Lab capacity for testing Influenza specimens has been upgraded; the team in the CPHL have been trained on testing H1N1 specimens. WHO provided 60,000 tubes of Virus Transport Media. 12000 H1N1 diagnostic tests have been procured; List of other lab needs have been sent to WHO for procurement including two PCRs.
- ✓ Health education activities are on going, posters and leaflets have been distributed to all governorates, subtitles in many Iraqi channels about the community role in prevention of the disease have been broadcasted, etc.
- ✓ Stockpiles of PPEs have been developed. in addition to the PPEs provided by WHO ( worth to 500,000 US\$), an additional quantities have been procured by Ministry of health, there is need for more quantities of masks N 95 and WHO started the procurement of 150,000 masks
- ✓ Stockpile of Antiviral drugs have been developed in all governorates, in addition to the original stock (810,000 capsules of 75 mg), 1,500,000 capsules have been procured and distributed to the governorates, an additional quantities of 3,500,000 capsules are under procurement by MOH. The syrup for children is still under procurement, to fill the gap, WHO has procured 50,000 capsules of Oseltamivir 30 mg in addition to 10,000 capsules of 75 mg
- ✓ 4,000,000 doses of Influenza A H1N1 vaccine is under procurement. Criteria to whom the vaccine will be given has been developed
- ✓ All WHO guidelines related to case definition, case management, surveillance, lab diagnosis, infection control, Hajj, etc have been distributed to all concerned. Daily updates regarding the situation at the regional and global levels are provided to all concerned.
- ✓ Orientation activities to health workers in health facilities have been conducted. WHO supported 23 training workshops in all governorates in addition to 42 health education advocacy meetings which have been conducted in all governorates.
- ✓ Schools preparedness plans have been developed which clarify the policy of schools closure. According to the plan only the classes and schools which report cases should be closed. After the cases have been reported in Wassit and Thiqr, local decisions were taken to close all schools in both governorates which were not in line with the government plan and WHO advice. In Baghdad only 7 schools have been closed which have reported cases
- ✓ To strengthen the role of media and all other ministries in response to the current pandemic, two joint WHO-UNICEF H1N1 communication workshops have been conducted in Erbil between 17-23 October 2009.
- ✓ Special unit has been designated in the fever hospital in each governorate to deal with H1N1 cases
- ✓ H1N hot lines have been established
- ✓ WHO Hajj guidelines have been distributed to all concerned in Iraq. Screening for Influenza like illness have been conducted for pilgrims returning back to Iraq. Till 24<sup>th</sup> January, only two Iraqi pilgrims reported for having H1N1.