

National Immunization Program in Iraq

Dr. Rania Abd ElMohsen Abo El Nour

Overview of Vaccination in Iraq

- Managed by the Ministry of Health with WHO & UNICEF
- Free vaccines across 18 governorates
- Polio-Free status maintained
- Transition to domestic financing

Historical Context and Evolution

- Early 1980s: Launch of EPI
- Coverage up to 90% despite conflict
- 2024: Polio Transition completed

Key Stakeholders

- Ministry of Health: Policy & delivery
- WHO: Technical guidance & monitoring
- UNICEF: Procurement, cold chain & awareness

Routine Schedule: First 6 Months

- At Birth: BCG, HepB, OPV
- 2 Months: Pentavalent, OPV, Rotavirus
- 4 Months: Pentavalent, OPV, Rotavirus
- 6 Months: Pentavalent, HepB, OPV, Rotavirus

Routine Schedule: 9 Months to School Age

- 9 Months: Measles + Vitamin A
- 15 Months: MMR (1st dose)
- 18 Months: Pentavalent booster, OPV, Vitamin A
- 4–6 Years: MMR (2nd dose), OPV booster

Polio Eradication: A Success Story

- No wild poliovirus detected
- Door-to-door NIDs
- Government-funded transition

Combating Measles & Rubella

- 2024 multi-antigen campaign
- 7+ million students targeted
- 95% coverage goal

Vulnerable Populations & IDP Camps

- Mobile teams in IDP camps
- Focus on equity & displaced children

The Cold Chain: Logistics & Storage

- High temperatures up to 50°C+
- Cold warehouses in major cities
- Refrigerated trucks & solar fridges

COVID-19 Vaccination Integration

- COVAX participation
- Integrated into PHC centers

Challenges: Security & Displacement

- Zero-dose children in insecure areas
- Population movement
- Damaged health infrastructure

Challenges: Vaccine Hesitancy

- Misinformation on social media
- Engagement of community leaders
- Risk communication strategies

Type	How it is Acquired	Source of Antibodies	Duration
Natural Active	Illness/Infection	Self	Long-term
Artificial Active	Vaccination	Self	Long-term
Natural Passive	Maternal (Placenta/Milk)	Other (Mother)	Short-term
Artificial Passive	Immunoglobulin Injection	Other (Donor)	Short-term

Key Achievements (2023–2025)

- 11,000+ deaths prevented annually
- 50,000+ zero-dose children reached
- Economic & workforce benefits

Future Outlook: Agenda 2030

- Universal child protection
- Commitment to IA2030
- Immunization: Iraq's most cost-effective health intervention



**THANK
YOU**