

Primary Health Care Second National Conference
"Effective Partnership Is our Approach Towards Better Health for All"
February 26-27, 2013



Under the patronage of His Excellency the Minister of Health, the Directorate of Public Health in cooperation with the Primary Health Care Project (PHCP) held an annual conference under the slogan “Effective Partnership Is our Approach Towards Better Health for All” at the Iraqi Hunting Club in Baghdad during the period February 26-27, 2013. With a distinguished presence of USAID representatives, including the Deputy Mission Director, Mr. R. David Harden, and the USAID Capacity Building Office, more than 400 participants attended the second day of the conference, headed by the MoH Deputy Minister for Administrative Affairs and represented by the Ministry of Health (MoH) Director Generals (DGs), Section Directors from the Public Health Directorate, Technical Affairs, Planning, Administration, Inspection, and Primary Health Care (PHC) departments from the MoH and Directorates of Health (DOHs), representatives from Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), United Nations (UN) agencies, World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), and other ministries.

Seven working groups were formed in the first day of the conference and discussed seven key topics including Maternal and Child Nutrition, Communicable Diseases, Health Promotion, Health Surveillance, Non-Communicable Diseases, Electronic Health Governorates and Tuberculosis (TB) drugs.

On the second day of the conference, the MoH Deputy Minister, the DG of Public Health Directorate, USAID Deputy Mission Director and PHCP Acting Chief of Party (ACOP) delivered speeches and viewed documentary movies to review the achievements accomplished by MoH/Public Health Directorates in coordination with PHCP.



One of the Technical Working group established

The MoH Deputy Minister, Dr. Khamis Al-Saad delivered a speech in which he demonstrated the importance of the conference in highlighting the most important achievements of the Public Health Directorate in strengthening the PHC services through the effective partnership with civil societies, community sectors, and international organizations in addition to highlighting the importance of improving and developing the concepts of primary health care sector.



MoH Deputy Minister, Dr. Khamis Al-Saad

The USAID Deputy Mission Director, Mr. David Harden, delivered a speech in which he summarized the USAID prospective vision for the PHCP, through collaborative work with the MoH to enhance the quality of PHC services by strengthening management systems, improving standards of healthcare quality, and expanding



USAID Deputy Mission Director, Mr. David Harden

community participation in national health services.

The PHCP Acting Chief of Party (ACOP), Dr. Thamer Alhilfi, delivered a presentation in which he shared the project key achievements in the previous year as part of the ongoing cooperation and coordination with the relevant partners and all PHC directorates in the provinces, emphasizing the importance of sustaining this effective model of communication



PHCP Acting COP, Dr. Thamer Alhilfi

and cooperation in designing and implementing future plans for the remaining years of the project. The ACOP also highlighted the research studies that were held to provide the MoH with evidence to develop and strengthen national policy related to primary health care services. The ACOP also shared the two studies that are planned to be conducted within the upcoming year on: 1) Mortality rates of children under-five, and 2) the adequacy of curricula for the training of Family Medicine specialists for work Primary Health Care clinics and the communities around them.

Conference Recommendations:

The conference concluded with a set of recommendations summing up from the results of the discussions of the seven working groups. The initial recommendations of the conference covered the following topics:

1. Activate chapter eight of the General Budget to implement programs of Public Health Directorate in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
2. Adopt the updated structure of Primary Health Care Clinics and Health Districts, and consider 2013 the year of E-Governance in our health facilities by developing a solid electronic system to be established by the Ministry of Health, and call on the provincial councils to adopt it using the provincial development budget.
3. Provide Mobile Laboratories for Food and Water Testing according to the international standards adopted in the official border crossings in order to ensure food safety, and adopt Total Quality Management regarding Health Surveillance.

4. Adopt a project of building four TB hospitals at the national level through the investment plan of the upcoming five years, and cover all PHC Clinics and Health Districts in applying the Short-Term Treatment under Direct Supervision System for TB patients to control TB.
5. Provide the appropriate land to establish a regional center containing a public health lab and Communicable Disease Control (CDC) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) center, and including it in the investment plan of 2014.
6. Finalize and establish the national strategy of Health Promotion based on national comprehensive field surveys in order to provide a database for the Ministry of Health, and allocate a budget for implementation.
7. Provide financial allocations from the Ministry of Finance (MoF) to the Ministry of Industry (MoI) to import salt iodine.
8. Build capacity of PHC staff by calling on the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research to exclude physicians from the condition of average for postgraduate education abroad on disciplines related to primary health care and family medicine, and for the MoH to adopt new mechanisms to support PHC training courses.
9. Form a joint committee between the Ministry of Health and the Ministries of Education and Higher Education and Scientific Research to introduce PHC and Family Medicine-based health education curricula as part of the established study curricula.
10. Issue laws imposing media and satellite channels to broadcast the messages and programs related to health promotion at no cost as a contribution to improve health and economy sectors in the country.

Activities carried out in the workshop included:

- Shield awards were handed by the MoH Director General (DG) of Public Health Directorate to the USAID Deputy Mission Director, PHCP ACOP and DoH Directors.



Shield award distribution

- The Deputy Minister of Health opened the exhibition of DoHs items of interest, and PHCP brochures which included materials of health education, Behavior Change Communication (BCC) and community partnership.



The Conference Exhibition

- The conference witnessed wide media coverage from local TV channels, radio stations, and newspapers. Sessions were documented in video and photographs and were broadcasted live same day on several TV channels and radio stations.



The Conference Exhibition