

Accelerating the Elimination of Women's Cancers in Iraq

Project Information

- ◆ Department: Public Health Program
- ◆ Unit: Health protection and promotion department

OBJECTIVES

The project goal is to reduce the incidence and mortality of women's cancers in Iraq by strengthening early detection, diagnosis, and treatment services, improving public awareness, and building healthcare capacity to provide sustainable, high-quality cancer care.

REGIONS OF WORK

The project will be implemented in Iraq.

PROJECT PHASES

This project involves three phases as follows:

Phase 1- Planning and coordination: EMPHNET will start the communication with stakeholders and conduct the consultation and planning workshop.

Phase 2- Implementation: Launch the campaign and conduct 4-month Awareness Campaign.

Phase 3- Evaluation: Conduct Post-Campaign Evaluation.

BENEFICIARIES

The targeted beneficiaries are all men and women in Iraq, healthcare providers, and the broader community benefiting from enhanced healthcare infrastructure and awareness.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

EMPHNET in collaboration with MSD supported Iraq's MoH to enhance breast and cervical cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment in Iraq. Through this collaboration, EMPHNET and the MoH strengthened national cancer control strategies and equipped healthcare providers with the necessary skills and knowledge to manage cancer care effectively. Key activities included advocacy meetings with healthcare professionals, launching awareness campaigns on the importance of early detection, developing and expanding cancer screening programs in primary health centers, and strengthening health infrastructure through the provision of diagnostic tools and resources. The initiative resulted in improved early detection rates through expanded screenings, increased healthcare provider capacity, heightened public awareness about cancer risks, and enhanced healthcare infrastructure, ultimately contributing to better health outcomes for women in Iraq.

Project Start and End Date	11/2024 – 11/2025
Funded by	Merck Sharp & Dohme IDEA GmbH (MSD)
Collaborators	Iraq Ministry of Health

Currently . . .

Breast and cervical cancers are leading health concerns among women in Iraq, with breast cancer incidence rising and cervical cancer presenting high mortality rates due to low screening rates and limited healthcare access. Key challenges include delayed diagnosis, cultural stigmas, and a lack of awareness about symptoms, risk factors, and preventive measures.

What's next . . .

To address these issues, a comprehensive awareness campaign under Iraq's Ministry of Health is proposed, aiming to promote early detection, prevention, and treatment, while empowering women to combat these diseases.

Outcomes

Increased awareness of breast and cervical cancers, early detection practices and prevention strategies among Iraqi women.

Greater stakeholder alignment to prioritize women's health in public health policies.

Enhanced community support for cancer screening and treatment.

GHD|EMPHNET Information: Global Health Development (GHD) and Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) works at achieving its mission by responding to public health needs with deliberate efforts that allow for health promotion and disease prevention.

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