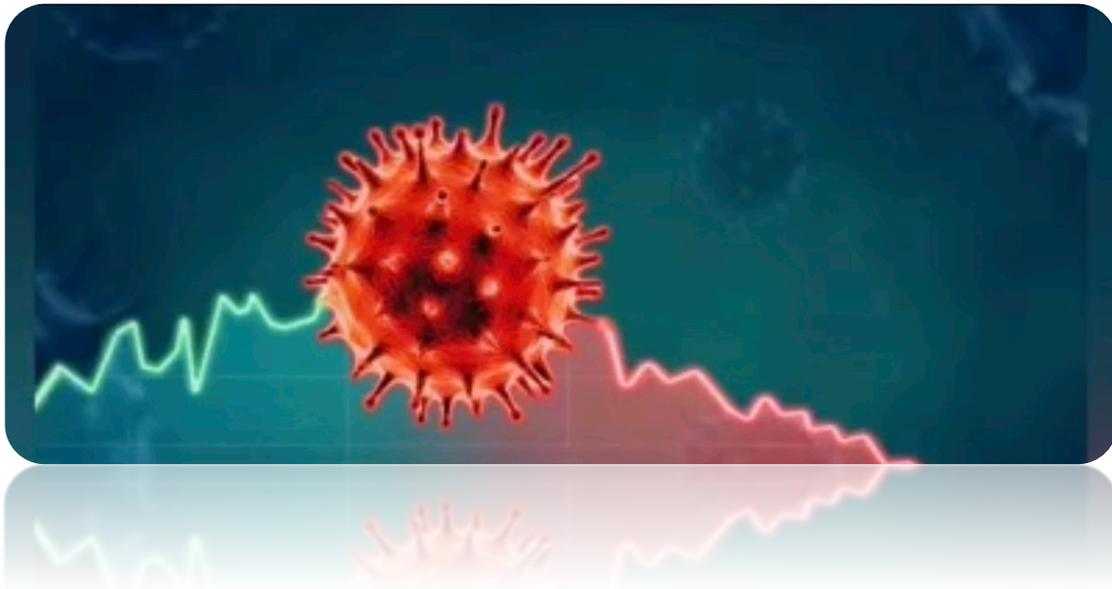




Towards a more responsive and sustainable future: Iraq in the Shadow of the Coronavirus.

Report of The Sustainable Development Network 2030 "TEM"



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❖ Introduction:

The whole world is facing a crisis that could be one of the most acute health challenges of our time because of the outbreak of the new Coronavirus (COVID-19). The virus has spread since it emerged late last year on all continents except the Antarctic. This has prompted countries around the world to race to curb the spread of the disease and take a series of preventive measures, which include conducting necessary tests for people infected and suspected of being infected with the virus. This is in addition to restricting travel, closing some airports, declaring a curfew on citizens, prohibiting large gatherings of sporting and religious events, music concerts, and closing schools and universities.

The Coronavirus is not only a disease that kills people, but it quickly created other economic, social, and political crises within the countries it is experiencing, leaving profound consequences that make it difficult for life to return to what it was. Dozens of the world's largest cities are deserted as people stay at home, voluntarily or under government guidelines.

Iraq has taken steps to curb the spread of the Coronavirus since the first case was reported on February 24th, until the imposing of a nationwide curfew on March 18th¹ through April 20th. The authorities have also suspended schools and universities, closed public spaces such as parks, cafes, cinemas and mosques, and suspended flights.

According to the Public Health Directorate/Ministry of Health and Environment, official statistics in Iraq at the time of writing this report on May 3rd put the total number of infections at 2,296, the total death toll at 97, and 1,490 has recovered².

❖ Who are we?

A group of non-governmental civil society organizations (over 30 organizations), with diverse specializations covering all Iraqi provinces interested in the Sustainable Development Goals; that are pursuing all the goals and targets of the 2030 agenda with a focus on:

Goal 5 is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

¹ <https://www.mubasher.info/news/3610308/%D9%85%D8%AC%D9%84%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%82%D9%8A-%D9%8A%D9%82%D8%B1%D8%B1-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%AF-%D8%AD%D8%B8%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%AC%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84>

² <https://www.faceiraq.org/inews.php?id=7692515>

Goal 16 is to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Goal 17 is to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

Our vision: Partners for gender equality and the promotion of non-marginalized peaceful societies.

❖ Questionnaire launch:

Based on the work of the The Sustainable Development Network 2030 "TEM", the sustainable development goals, in particular, Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (among the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 agenda). The network has launched a questionnaire to assess the Iraqi government's response to the new Coronavirus outbreak, its spread, its danger, and its impact on the daily lives of citizens. It has produced a number of important recommendations for the government and other actors, as they can be adopted in case Iraq gets exposed to future crises .

The survey implemented by Network "TEM" was a collection of questions in Arabic to answer either by yes or no or add an optional answer in addition to age, sex, work type, and housing to collect unofficial data on goal 16 indicators, the 19th of April was scheduled to launch the survey through May 2, 2020 (two weeks) on Facebook, it was shared with a number of civil society organizations and activists, and the public was encouraged to share their views by answering the questions of the questionnaire.

About 500 people participated in the questionnaire within the prescribed period, which included 16 questions, five of which related to information about respondents and were related to gender, domicile, type of residence (countryside, urban), age and work, and the remaining 11 are related to four of the goal 16 indicators for Sustainable Development 2030.

Distribute survey questions to Goal 16 indicators

questions	indicators
5. Did you get help during the curfew and what was the source? 7. How to assess the government's measures to overcome the risk of the Coronavirus? 8. What problems have you had with your family due to curfew?	16-6-1 Main government expenditure as a proportion of the original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or the like).
3. Do you think the curfew was just and comprehensive for all members of society? 10. Did you get a kit to protect you from infection? 11. How do you get your daily food needs?	16-6-2 The proportion of people satisfied with their recent experience in access to public services.
1. Do you believe that the measures taken in the curfew operations are correct? 2. Do you consider curfew useful to society in these circumstances? 6. Do you have a chronic disease?	16-7-1 The proportion of people who believe that decision-making is inclusive and responsive, depending on gender, age, disability, and population category.
4. Which was the most important government ministry that has seen its services during the curfew period? 9. Do you think the numbers published by the state about the prevalence of the disease are correct?	16-10-2 Number of countries adopting and applying constitutional, legislative and/or policy safeguards to inform the public.

❖ Survey results:

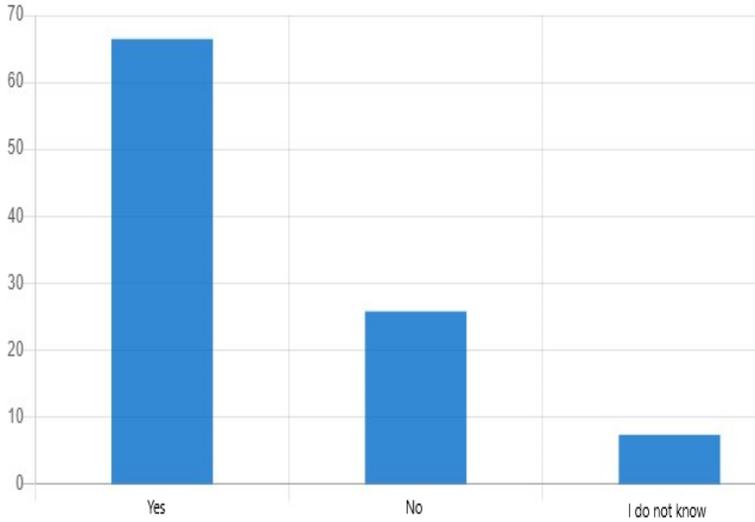
The number of respondents was 477, which we believe is a good number with a short response period of 14 days.

- The percentage of women in the sample was (55.7%) compared with (44.3%) for males.
- distributed in the provinces of Iraq with a participation rate of (90.7%) of the city's population, compared with (9.3%) of the rural population. Most of the population was from Baghdad (44.2%), followed by Diyala (12.5%), which both constitute (56.5%) of the in-kind contributions, followed by Salah Al-Din (6.7%), Kirkuk (4.8%), Al-Muthanna (4.1%), Anbar (3.9%), Babil (3.5%).
- The percentage of respondents at 31-40 years of age is about (36%), the highest participation rate, followed by youth at 21-30 years of age (31.7%), then 41-50 years of age (20.5%), then over 51 years (11.4%), and under 20 years of age was the lowest category to participate by (0.4%).
- Government employees accounted for about (43.6%) of the highest participation, followed by unemployed people (20.9%), private sector employees (13.4%), daily wage workers (12.5%), and students (0.9%).

The results of responses to the questioning of the 11 questions can be included as follows:

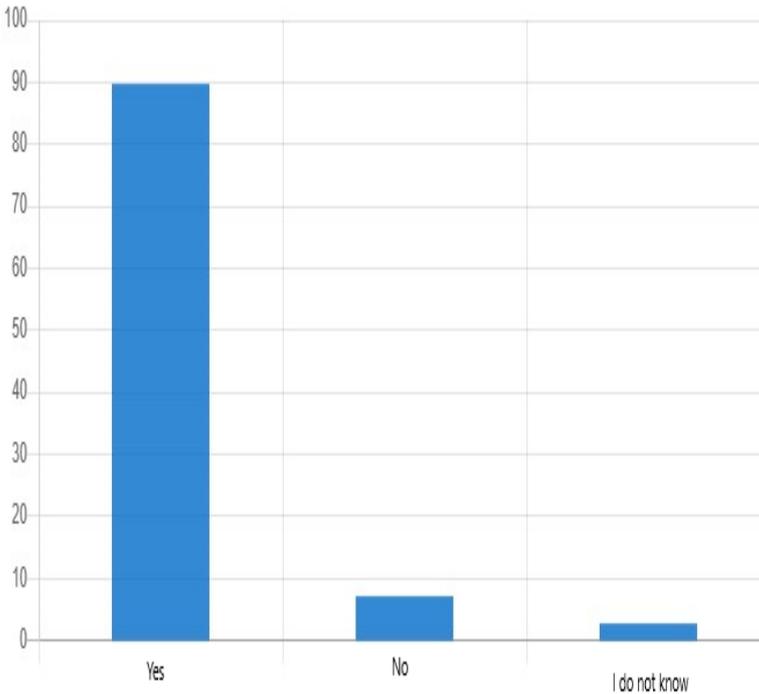
1. Do you believe that the measures taken in the curfew are correct?

There was strong support for the measures taken, as they reached (66.5%) yes, followed by (25.9%) no, and finally (7.6%) I do not know.

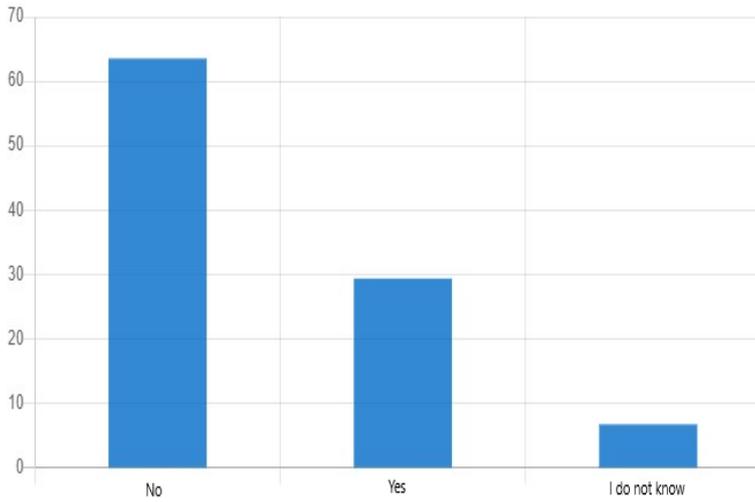


2. Do you consider curfew useful to society in these circumstances?

The curfew was supported by (89.7%) yes, (7.6%) no, and (2.7%) I do not know.

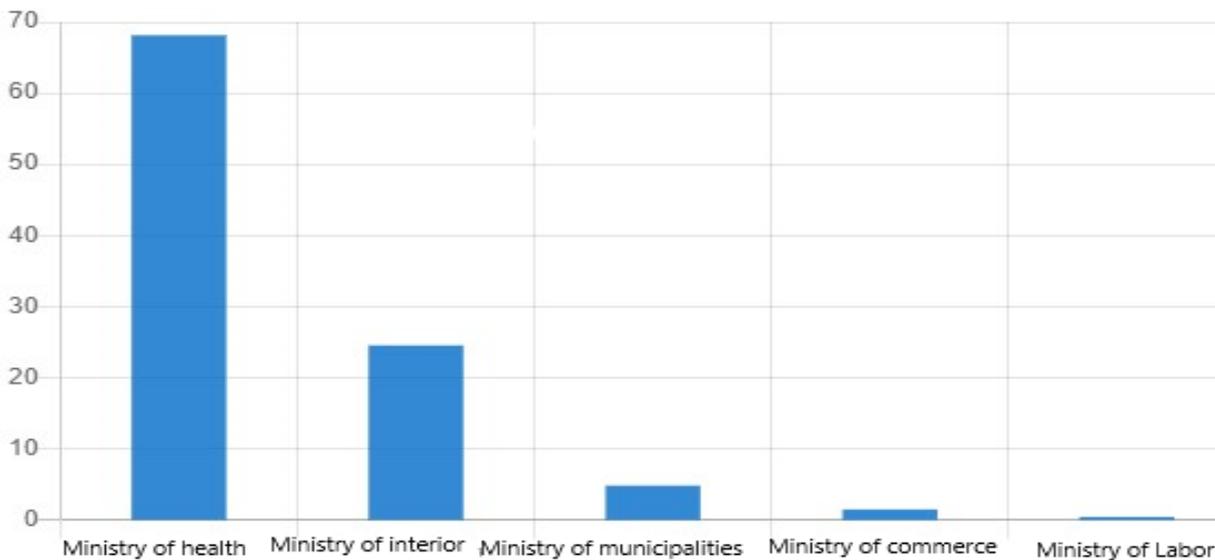


3. Do you think the curfew was just and comprehensive for all members of society? (63.5%) think that the curfew wasn't comprehensive, followed by (29.8%) yes, then (6.7%) I don't know.

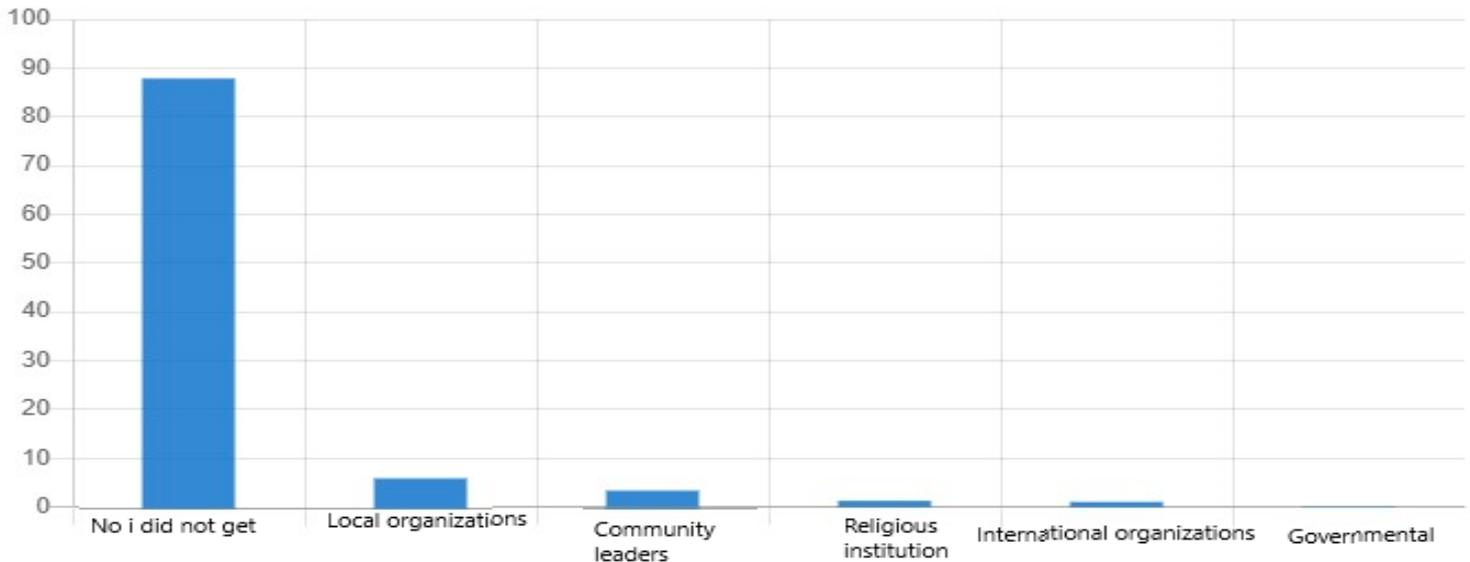


4. The most important government ministry that has seen its services during the curfew period is:

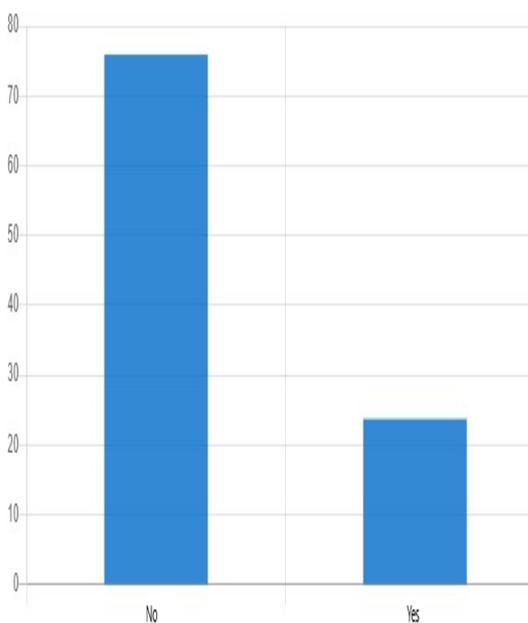
The Ministry of Health's services topped the list with (68.4%), followed by the the Ministry of Interior (24.9%), the Ministry of Municipalities (4.9%), the Ministry of Trade (1.4%), then the Ministry of Labor (1.4%).



5. Did you get help during the curfew and what was the source? Most respondents did not receive assistance, at (87.8%), compared with (12.2%). They received aid from different sources, as local organizations were the first (6.5%), community leaders (3.3%), religious institutions (1.2%), international organizations (1%), and government institutions (0.2%).



6. Do you have a chronic disease? (A) Most respondents did not suffer from chronic diseases, as their percentage was (75.8%), while (24.2%) of them suffer from chronic diseases; (B) (12.4%) of them gets treatment but (11.8%) didn't get any treatment during the curfew.

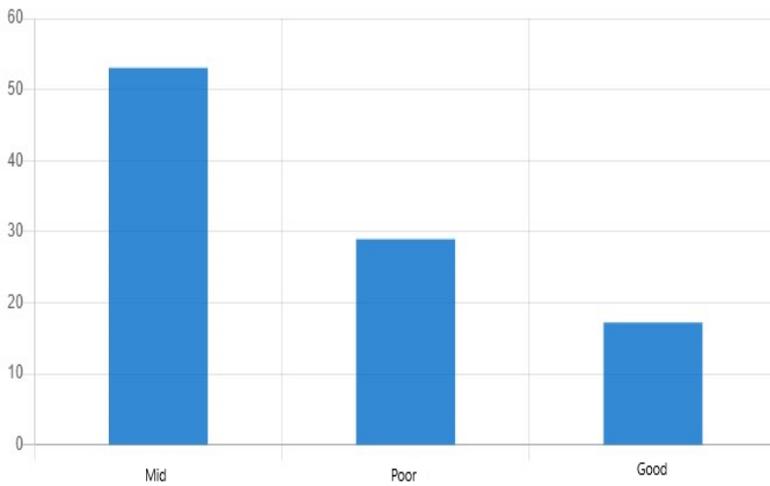


(A)

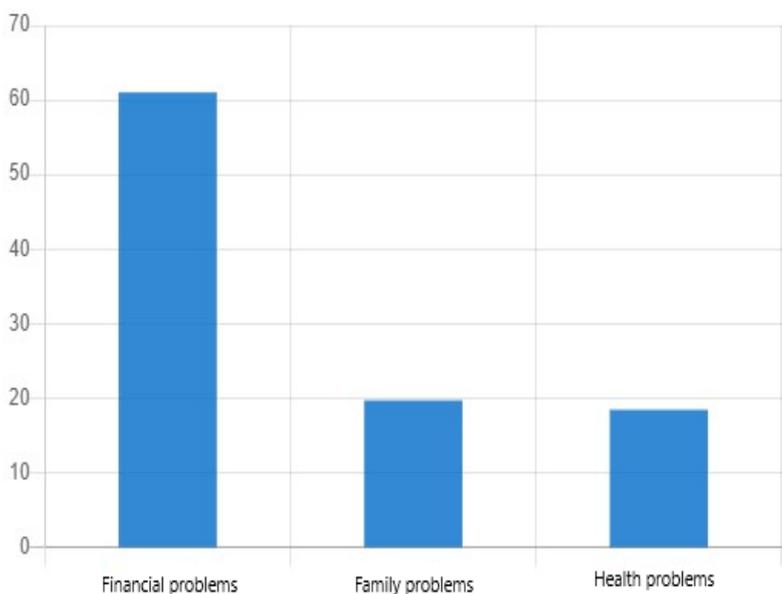


(B)

7.assessment of the government's measures to overcome the risk of the Coronavirus? The highest score in the government's performance rating was (53%) as average, (29.9%) poor, and (17.1%) good.

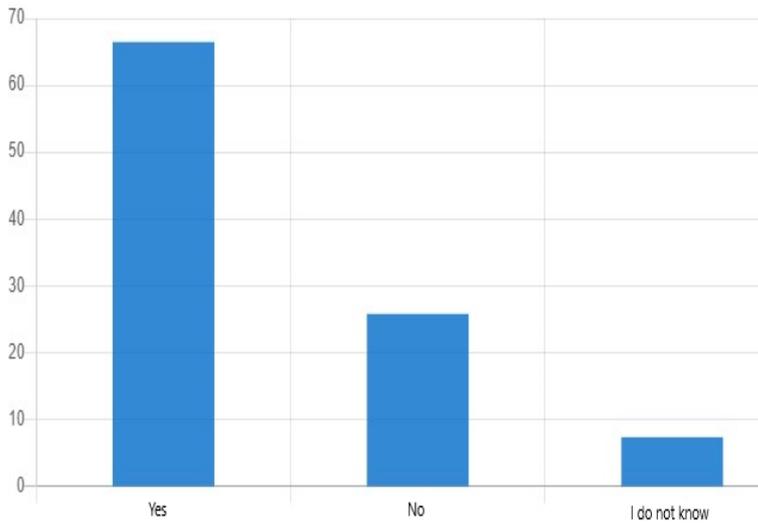


8. What problems did you encounter with your family due to the curfew? Financial problems topped out (61%), followed by (20.6%) family problems, and finally (18.4%) health problems.



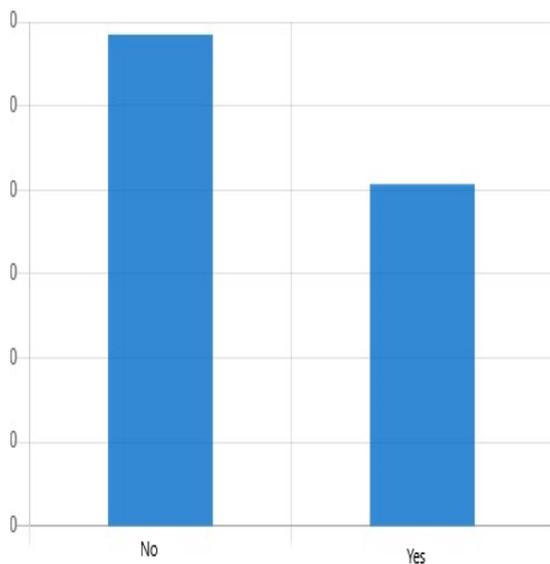
9. Do you think the numbers published by the state regarding the conditions of the spread of the disease are correct?

No got the highest percentage (38.7%), followed by (32%) I don't know, and finally (29.3%) yes.

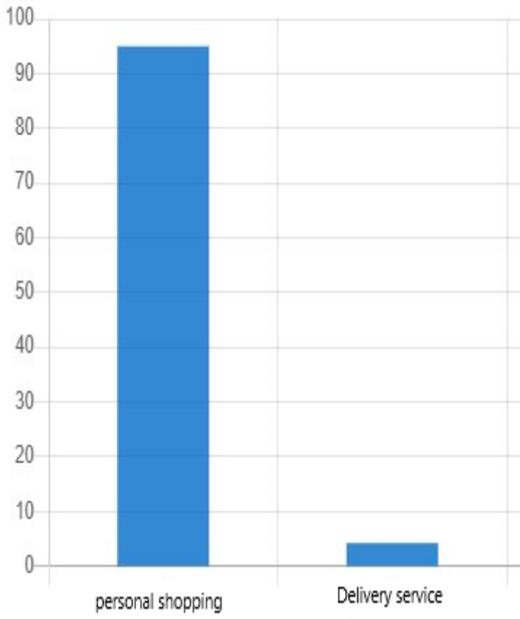


10 . Did you get a kit to protect you from infection?

(58.4%) no did not get any protection tools, (41.6%) yes.



11. How do you get your daily food needs:
(95.4%) get their everyday needs by shopping, and (4.6%) depend on the delivery.



❖ Interpretation of results:

The results can be explained in three main axes:

First: Established curfew policy:

The results show that there is great support and conviction among the respondents that the measures taken by the government are correct and that imposing the curfew is beneficial to society under these circumstances. It has received (66.5%) and (89.7%) respectively, and we believe that this is due to the awareness that citizens have about the danger of the spread of Coronavirus, especially that it has spread in developed countries in Europe and America. Two-thirds of the sample believe that this curfew was not fair and comprehensive for all members of society at (63.5%). This opinion was based on the disparity in the imposition of the curfew between one area and another, as there are areas where the curfew was strictly applied to citizens, while there are areas with a high population density that have not been subjected to that degree of firmness in its implementation. This is what we witnessed when the daily epidemic situation was announced by the Iraqi Ministry of Health.

The rate of evaluation of good government performance was (17.1%), which indicates that the government does not meet the requirements of the crisis in the country. We find it clear that there is a weakness in the citizen's confidence in the figures issued by the state, as they reached (38.7%). They do not believe that the figures announced by the government regarding the daily situation of the epidemic are correct, after which I do not know at (32%). This may be reflected in all other data issued by the government. We would like to recall that this questionnaire coincided with the relaxation of the curfew measures. This means that the period before the questionnaire was implemented was the most difficult for the Iraqi citizen.

Second: Social services:

It is clear that citizens do not receive emergency grants and in-kind assistance from government institutions, at (0.2%) of those who received assistance from the government, while local civil society organizations received (5.8%), the highest rate in providing aid to those who received it. Most of the respondents (87.8%) did not receive aid, and this is also a worrying indicator of the poor performance of the government in emergency and crisis management. In contrast to what we see in other countries, whether Arab or Western, especially that the curfew was less severe than in Iraq; where all the private business of families that depend on daily wages for their livelihood has stopped. Perhaps the positive thing is that local organizations are moving quickly to provide aid to families, as they surpassed international organizations and religious institutions in Iraq. This explains why the financial problems that citizens suffer from during the curfew are high, with (61%), followed by family and health problems. The rate of use of citizens (4.6%) who rely on delivery services to obtain the necessary materials for the family also indicates the lack of use of modern technology and the weakness of internet service, in addition to the absence of controls and mechanisms which regulate this non-active service sector in Iraq.

Third: Health services:

It is clear that the Ministry of Health has proven its merit in providing services to citizens during the curfew, as it was the highest of five ministries with (68.4%), and this is due to the media campaign and awareness campaign led by the ministry represented by the Minister. This also reflects the citizens' follow-up to the daily statements of officials in the Ministry of Health, while we find that the Ministry of

Trade and the Ministry of Labor obtained (1.8%). The number of the sample that did not suffer from chronic diseases reached (75.8%), compared to those who complain of chronic diseases (24.2%), knowing that approximately half of them did not receive treatment, as the percentage of those who received treatment reached (12.4%) while those who did not receive treatment Their rate was (11.8%), as half of those with chronic diseases were exposed to losing their treatment during the curfew period that exceeded a month and we must not forget that the most vulnerable group to infection with Coronavirus, and according to health reports are people with chronic diseases and this needs a real pause facing this problem according to (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), Approved by most countries, everyone is entitled (to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health). Governments are obligated to take effective measures "to prevent, treat, and combat the epidemic, endemic and occupational diseases, and other diseases."³ (58.4%) did not obtain aid to protect themselves against infection with Coronavirus.

❖ Recommendations:

Based on what has been presented, we can put in your hands some recommendations for government agencies and actors in Iraq :

First: Iraqi Government

The Iraqi Government must be:

- Ensure that support is provided during the crises that afflict the country by doubling the food rations used in Iraq to ensure a dignified life for citizens.
- all relevant ministries must work together to provide adequate support to citizens.
- Take economic measures to ease the deterioration of the economic situation, which is in the midst of an emergency crisis, which has a severe impact on low-wage workers.
- Review the Iraqi labor law and develop policies and mechanisms for emergencies and crises.
- Protect the health of citizens by setting up a mechanism that allows doctors and health centers (the private sector) to work during crises, to ensure the safety of those with chronic diseases, and to receive regular treatment.

³ <https://www.hrw.org/ar/news/2020/03/19/340319#B15>

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- Work to increase the trust of citizens in its decisions and not just make promises because this is related to the principle of partnership between the government and society to build the future and overcome crises.
 - Adopt the principle of justice in dealing with all segments of society in order to ensure the fair application of the law and the implementation of the decisions of the crisis cell in case of emergency .

Second: the international community

The international community, represented by organizations and embassies, must be:

- Cooperation with local organizations to provide immediate and urgent assistance to help countries affected by health crises or natural disasters, such as the distribution of in
- Flexible in their policies during crises and allow for the transfer of part of their funding to aid those affected by emergencies and crises .

Third: local organizations

The local organizations must be:

- Increase their efforts to provide the necessary support to citizens in emergency and crises, thus becoming the strongest in achieving their humanitarian goals towards society, which is reflected in increasing the trust of citizens in them.
- Coordinate their work with public and private institutions and community leaders in order to provide integrated services to citizens in emergency and crises to cover the largest number of beneficiaries fairly