

## Editorial view of this issue

|       | Confirmed  | Death   | Serious |
|-------|------------|---------|---------|
| IRAQ  | 47,151     | 1,839   | 336     |
| WORLD | 10,303,705 | 505,560 | 57,480  |

By 29 June 2020\*

We are in the middle of 2020, about 6 months have been elapsed since the start of outbreak of COVID-19. Countries of all the continents regardless of their ideology, politics, economy and maturity of health system have been attacked bitterly in the same way but in turn. Number of confirmed and deceased cases are recorded by COVID-19 to be broken again and again. Initially, hesitations, confusion and mismanagement have coloured the decisions of all political and health authorities.

The outbreak of the virus and the dramatic confusion it exerts in the world sounds new and strange for the generations living in this globe. It shakes vigorously their pride in the science and technology and probably their confidence in the health systems. However, the battle of human beings with outbreaks is very old, and our existence now is a mark of a human victory, though this victory was achieved with a high cost; cost of pain, suffer, and loss of lives. Advances in health and science especially over the last two centuries has made so many triumphs over bacteria and viruses to the extent that they erased the fear of infections from the mind of people and left a blank memory about pandemics accept what we may see every now an then in the fictional stories and movies.

Have we really failed to confront COVID-19?

Collectively, I think failure in not an option. Amid all this pain and great suffer, humans now achieved many things that were impossible to be done within this short period of time in the past. Scientists succeeded to diagnose the culprit agent accurately with two weeks, determine the trajectories of transmission and suggest potential ways of prevention, and started as soon as possible the journey of inventing a vaccine which is in its final stage now. These successes are not a barrier to

prevent us from pointing at the areas of failure in the health systems and in political decisions.

Are health systems prepared for such a huge outbreak? Are health economies resilient enough to accommodate for the surge in the needs during such an outbreak?

Mohammed Al-Musawi in this issue (**Page 77**) writes about the preparedness of countries for pandemics through a review about the Global Health Security (GHS) Index and whether this index is really assessing the readiness of the countries for the pandemics. Faris Lami has (**page 76**) answered the question of zero-case. Should we be very happy if we reach a zero-case of COVID-19 and what are the consequences after that.

Many health systems have stood again after the first blow of the COVID-19, but many others are still struggling to do so. What is the situation in Iraq? We are publishing in this issue two articles about the epidemiology of COVID-19 in Iraq in the first three months of the outbreak (**page 85-93**) and the deaths during the similar period (**page 94-100**). It sounds that the figures of Iraq during this period was the spring because the fourth month was the real attack of the virus. While we are preparing to publish this issue, the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 has exceeded 50,000, similarly the deaths has reached about 2000.\* These figure are more that 10 folds that recorded in the first three months.

Al-Mosawi has stated that Iraq is in the rank of 167 out of 195 according to the Global Health Security (GHS) Index. Could such a health system stand for the blow of COVID-19, and with how much cost?

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\*Worldmeters. CoVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic. Available from: <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>. Accessed on June 26, 2020.