

Abstract

# A Food Poisoning Outbreak in Al-Khazir U2 Camp of Internally Displaced Persons - Iraq, Summer 2017

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## Abstract

**Background:** Globally, about 600 million fall ill and 420,000 die every year after eating contaminated food. On June 12, 2017, Iraq CDC informed about a food poisoning outbreak among internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Al-Khazir camp, Northern Iraq after consuming “Iftar” (Ramadan breakfast) provided by an NGO. “Iftar” was composed of rice, white bean broth, chicken, yogurt, date and bread.

**Objective:** The objective was to describe the outbreak, identify the causative agent and recommend preventive measures.

**Methods:** A team of FETP residents dispatched to investigate the outbreak. The case patient was defined as any person in the camp who ate “Iftar” and developed nausea/vomiting or diarrhea or abdominal pain. A retrospective cohort study was initiated.

**Results:**

**Conclusions:** The large number of ordered meals from a single restaurant led to suboptimal food preparation and storage. We recommended rigorous implementation of food handling instructions and health education of the food handlers.

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