

Project Information

UNICEF – Iraq

UNICEF Iraq programme 2016-2019

The UNICEF Iraq Country Programme covers a broad range of activities and is broken down into five programme components: rapid response, WASH, education, health and nutrition and child protection. Geographically, the project focuses on the regions of Dohuk, Nineveh, Erbil, Kirkuk and Sulaymaniyah in the north of the country, Anbar and Najaf in the west, Baghdad and Basra in the south of Iraq. The measures will be implemented as part of the Humanitarian Response Plan with all organisations active on the ground and in close coordination with the Iraqi government.

Current situation

The battles against IS and the Mosul offensive came to an end in July 2017. However, around 1.6 million Iraqis are still considered internally displaced, while around 4.3 million, including around 2 million children, have been able to return to their homes (as at July 2019). Roughly 65% of internally displaced refugees live in private accommodation in host communities, another 30% in refugee camps. The remaining refugees have been slow to return due to destruction and mines in their home towns, a lack of job opportunities and the local security situation. The persistent refugee crisis is putting enormous pressure on the already scarce resources in the host communities and camps. Most of the school infrastructure is inadequate or in urgent need of rehabilitation. The quality of education and teaching content are also insufficient to foster the peaceful coexistence of the Iraqi population and to adequately address the trauma suffered by many children. The presence of refugees in many communities also puts undue pressure on the existing water supply systems, some of which are not functioning due to inadequate maintenance or war. Forty per cent of households in Iraq have no reliable access to clean drinking water.

Project approach

The German contribution to the Iraq Country Programme focuses on education, child protection and WASH and thus makes a key contribution to improving access to and the quality of public education in primary and secondary schools as well as psychosocial and psychological care for traumatised children and young people. In addition, vocational training courses are provided for young people. The quality of the public water supply and waste water disposal as well as of sanitary facilities in schools and health facilities will be

improved by appropriate infrastructure measures. The measures will be continued under the new UNICEF Country Programme 2020-2024.

Impact

Since 2015, when the IS occupied large parts of the north and hostilities devastated cities, some 1.7 million children and young people have benefited from assistance to continue learning or to reintegrate into the school system, to cope with traumas caused by war and displacement and to regain a sense of normality in everyday life. To this end, 630 schools

Project title	UNICEF Iraq Country Programme
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country/Region	Iraq: Mosul (Nineveh Province), Ramadi and Fallujah (Anbar Province)
Project partner	UNICEF
Total costs/financing	2015: EUR 24.2 million 2016: EUR 15.8 million 2017: EUR 20 million 2018: EUR 30 million 2019: EUR 20 million





Source: KfW Group / photothek.net / U. Grabowsky

are being built or repaired, 125 auxiliary schools set up in three governorates and ongoing operating costs financed in many other schools. Four mobile schools were opened in refugee camps in Nineveh and teaching materials were made available for around 550,000 children.

Back-to-learn measures are helping to reintegrate around 30,000 children/young people into the regular school system. Girls in particular are to receive support in their transition to secondary schools. A total of 11,800 children from Anbar, Dohuk and Erbil are receiving financial aid for school education, which they would otherwise not be able to afford. Around 50,000 children of pre-school age are to be supported by providing early intervention programmes and learning materials.

In order to guarantee adequate support for the pupils, around 8,500 teachers are taking part in advanced training and qualification measures, including in the psychosocial field. For around half a million children and young people, there are inclusive sports, art and music events as well as psychological and psychosocial assistance. These measures aim to reduce religious divisions in camps and communities and contribute to national reconciliation. Young people can take advantage of vocational training programmes. To this end, three youth centres have been established in Basra and ten each in Thi Qar and Qadisiya in the south of the country. In addition, support was provided to the central government and the regional administrations to improve children's rights and to introduce a legal system that adequately reflects children's rights.

WASH measures are expected to give 1.9 million people access to public water supply systems. Among other things, plans for the protection of drinking water are to be developed in the governorates of Kirkuk and Baghdad. About 1 million people are benefiting from the supply of water treatment additives, mainly in Dohuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah. The main water pipe in the Baghdad suburb of Abu Ghraib is also slated for repair. Measures are also being carried out on the central drinking water network in the heavily destroyed town of Mosul.

Starting in 2018, financing will be provided in the three programme components WASH, child protection and education. During the implementation period through 2021,

another 1.14 million children will have access to quality education and 5,500 teachers will be trained. Around 100,000 children and young people will benefit from a stronger child protection system and high-quality psychosocial and psychological care and counselling services.

Also in the area of WASH, an additional 2.6 million people will benefit from improved access to drinking water and sanitary facilities as well as sustainable water management. To this end, plans for the protection of drinking water are being developed in two other large cities in the provinces of Basra and Nineveh and what are known as smart city concepts for resource-saving water management are being implemented in Mosul and Baghdad. There are also plans to repair water treatment plants and sewage treatment plants in several locations in the central Iraq.

UNICEF is working closely with specific local ministries and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as implementation partners on the ground. The latter must first undergo an assessment by the UN which analyses and evaluates financial management, procurement procedures, administration, technical expertise, etc.

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