

The Situation of Children and Women in Iraq

Highlights from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 4 (MICS 4)

2011



Demographics

Population of Iraq:	33.4 million
Children and Adolescents (0-18):	16.6 million (50% of Iraqis)
Children under 5:	5.6 million (17% of Iraqis)
Adolescents and Youth:	6.7 million (20% of Iraqis)
Poverty:	23% of Iraqis live on less than US \$2.2/day

Source: Ministry of Planning

MICS 4 in Iraq

- Household survey developed by UNICEF to assist countries monitor and improve the situation of children and women
- This is the 4th MICS in Iraq; previous MICS rounds were in 2006, 2000 and 1996
- Largest survey in Iraq with 36,000 households interviewed
- Second survey in Iraq to collect data at the District level
- All MICS fieldworkers were Government of Iraq and Kurdistan Region staff; 817 surveyors and supervisors collected data in Iraq's 118 districts
- Over 55,000 women in the reproductive age (15-49 years) were interviewed
- Data was collected in 2011

Comparison & Trends MICS 2006 – MICS 2011

Good Progress in:

- Birth Registration (99%)
- Gender parity in Primary School (0.94)
- Registration and Attendance at Primary School (90%)

Slight Progress in:

- Under-5 Child Mortality (very high in 1st month and year of life)
- Immunization coverage (measles insufficient)
- Child labour

Stalled in:

- Under-nutrition
- Under weight at birth
- Primary School completion on time
- Iodized salt consumption
- Attitude towards domestic violence and violent discipline

Regression in:

- Breastfeeding
- Treatment of Diarrhoea
- Treatment of Pneumonia
- Early Marriage

MICS 2011

Birth Registration

- 99% of births are registered

Child Mortality

- 37 Under-5 children die out of every 1,000 live births
- 32 of them die before reaching her/his 1st birthday
- Around 35,000 infants die every year (based on an estimate of 1.1 million births/year)



- Infant mortality rate; 32 deaths/1000 life births —
- Under-5 mortality rate; 37 deaths/1000 life births —

Nutrition

- 1 in 4 children experience stunted growth (the irreversible outcome of chronic under nutrition in the first years of life)
- 4% of children under-5 experience severe malnutrition (wasting)

Breastfeeding

- Only 3 in 10 children are exclusively breastfed in the first month of life

But...

- Only 1 in 10 children are exclusively breastfed after three months of life





Immunization

- Only 5 out of 10 children aged 18-29 months receive all recommended immunizations at the correct time

Diseases

- Acute Respiratory Infections and Diarrhoea are the two biggest killer diseases of children
- 3 out of 4 children with diarrhoea are not treated correctly (Oral Rehydration Treatment with continued feeding)
- 1 in 3 children with suspected Pneumonia is not treated correctly (antibiotics)



Child Labour

- 500,000 children between the ages 5-14 are involved in child labour; most of them are in rural areas

Orphans

- Around 800,000 children have lost one or both parents

Violence against Children

- 80% of children aged 2-14 (9.6 million) experience violent discipline (ie slapping, hitting, etc.)
- 1 in 3 of them (3.3 million) are subjected to severe violent discipline methods (ie burning, biting, etc.)



Early Marriage

- 1 in 5 young women between 15-19 years of age (21%) is currently married

Female Genital Mutilation or Cutting (FGM/C)

- 1 in 2 girls has experienced FGM/C in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah governorates (Kurdistan Region)



Education

- Around 9 out of 10 children enrol in and attend primary school

But...

- Only 4 of them complete primary school on time
- Every year 450,000 primary school age children either do not complete primary school on time or drop out of school

Out of every 10 secondary school age children:

- 5 are in secondary school
- 1 is in primary school
- 4 have dropped out of school; the majority are girls
- 3 out of 10 young women aged 15-24 are illiterate



Water

- 4 in 5 Iraqis have access to the drinking water network

But...

- 2 in 5 households do not have chlorinated drinking water



Equity

- 10% of children - 1.7 million - have all of their rights

But...

- 32% of children - 5.3 million - are deprived of many basic services and rights



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