

# Iraq Humanitarian Crisis

## Documents of reference

Update – 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2006

### Summary

*Documents are classified chronologically*

#### Introduction

#### I – Iraq Humanitarian Context

- [Iraq Index](#) (19 October 06 – Brookings Institute)
- [Options for Iraq: the almost good, the bad, the ugly](#) (18 October 06 – CSIS)
- [Mortality after the 2003 invasion of Iraq: a cross-sectional cluster sample survey](#) (11 October 06 – The Lancet, John Hopkins University and Al-Mustansiriya University)
- [Iraq Emergency Situation: Trends in Violence, Humanitarian needs, Preparedness](#) (2 May 2006; NCCI and OXFAM)
- [The Next Iraqi War? Sectarianism and Civil Conflict](#) (27 February 2006; International Crisis Group)

#### II – Sectorial Emergencies

- [Iraq Health Situation – October 2006](#) (26 October 2006 – NCCI from various sources)
- [Internal Displacements update](#) (22 October 2006 – Various sources)
- [Human Rights Report](#) (20 September 2006- UNAMI Human Rights Office)
- [Sectarian violence, military operations spark new displacement, as humanitarian access deteriorates](#) (23 May 2006 –International Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)
- [Food security and vulnerability analysis in Iraq](#) (11 May 2006 – WFP)
- [Conflict fuels Iraqi health crisis - Iraq Update](#) (Spring 2006 – Medact)
- [Healing Minds, mental health in Iraq](#) (March 2006 – WHO)

#### III – Humanitarian Response

- [Operations Update no.4- focus on health and care programme activities](#) (20 October 2006 – IFRC)
- [Distance challenges faced by NGOs working in Iraq](#) (31 August 06 – NCCI)
- [Emergency Response for Newly Displaced Populations within Iraq](#) (May06 – UN Cluster F)

## Introduction

*11 October 2006: "The violence inside Iraq has "spiralled totally out of control," the United Nations' top humanitarian official said today as he appealed to the country's religious, ethnic and other community leaders to do much more to try to stop the killings and massive displacement of people.*

*There are now thought to be 1.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) within Iraq, as well as an estimated 1.2 to 1.5 million Iraqi refugees in neighbouring countries. Each day as many as 2,000 people cross the border into Syria as the trend accelerates.*

*Mr. Egeland said the rising numbers of refugees means Iraq is experienced a serious 'brain drain,' with reports indicating some universities and hospitals in Baghdad have lost up to 80 per cent of their professional staff. In total, a third or more of Iraqi professionals are estimated to have left their country in recent years. **Mr. Egeland, who is also the UN's Emergency Relief Coordinator, called for more funding – either from donors or from government budget surpluses – for the world body's humanitarian programmes inside Iraq, which cover areas ranging from water and sanitation to food distribution**"<sup>1</sup>.*

*Daily reports on the Humanitarian crisis in Iraq are issued in western newspapers.*

*Most of them can be found here: <http://www.ncciraq.org/spip.php?rubrique219>.*

*Hereafter are the more documented.*

---

## I – Iraq Humanitarian Context

### ➤ **Iraq Index**

*19 October 06 – Brookings Institute*

A statistical compilation of economic, public opinion, and security data on Iraq, updated frequently.

The majority of these information comes from the U.S. Government, though Brookings must often analyze it and process it further to show trends over the full period since Saddam Hussein fell in 2003. Some information comes from foreign journalists on the ground and from nongovernmental organizations; a very modest amount to date comes from Iraqi sources. Most tables and charts are straightforward representations of data as we obtain it from the above primary sources, with only modest further analysis and processing required. However, a few graphics, such as those on crime and unemployment rates, require more methodological work (and more assumptions) on our part—and are as a result also perhaps somewhat less precise than most of the tables and charts.

*The full report can be downloaded here:*

<http://www.brookings.edu/fp/saban/iraq/index.pdf>

---

### ➤ **Options for Iraq: the almost good, the bad, the ugly**

*18 October 06 – Center for Strategic and International Studies*

Iraq is already in a state of serious civil war, and current efforts at political compromise and improving security at best are buying time. There is a critical risk that Iraq will drift into a major civil conflict over the coming months, see its present government fail, and/or divide or separate in some form. The US cannot simply "stay the course," and rely on its existing actions and strategy. It needs new options to reverse the drift towards a major civil war and political failure. There are no truly good options that can guarantee success and there are many bad ones. This paper suggests that the US should avoid unilateral options and seek to negotiate new incentives with the Iraqi government and its allies.

*The full report can be downloaded here:*

[http://www.csis.org/media/isis/pubs/061018\\_iraqoptions.pdf](http://www.csis.org/media/isis/pubs/061018_iraqoptions.pdf)

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=20218&Cr=iraq&Cr1>

➤ **Mortality after the 2003 invasion of Iraq: a cross-sectional cluster sample survey**

*11 October 06 – The Lancet, John Hopkins University and Al-Mustansiriya University*

An excess mortality of nearly 100 000 deaths was reported in Iraq for the period March 2003–September 2004, attributed to the invasion of Iraq. Our aim was to update this estimate.

Between May and July 2006, we did a national cross-sectional cluster sample survey of mortality in Iraq.

50 clusters were randomly selected from 16 Governorates, with every cluster consisting of 40 households. Information on deaths from these households was gathered.

Three misattributed clusters were excluded from the final analysis; data from 1849 households that contained 12 801 individuals in 47 clusters was gathered. Pre-invasion mortality rates were 5.5 per 1000 people per year compared with 13.3 per 1000 people per year in the 40 months post-invasion. We estimate that as of July 2006, there have been 654 965 excess Iraqi deaths as a consequence of the war, which corresponds to 2.5% of the population in the study area. Of post-invasion deaths, 601 027 were due to violence, the most common cause being gunfire.

The number of people dying in Iraq has continued to escalate. The proportion of deaths ascribed to coalition forces has diminished in 2006, although the actual numbers have increased every year. Gunfire remains the most common cause of death, although deaths from car bombing have increased.

*The full report can be downloaded here:*

<http://www.thelancet.com/webfiles/images/journals/lancet/s0140673606694919.pdf>

.....

➤ **Iraq Emergency Situation – Trends in Violence, Humanitarian Needs, preparedness**

*2 May 2006 – NCCI (NGOs Coordination Committee in Iraq) and OXFAM*

As politicians and observers of Iraq – local and international - debate whether or not there is civil war in Iraq it is vital to focus all efforts on ensuring that the current situation does not worsen still further, and that all is done to prepare to meet current and anticipated emergency humanitarian needs. While attacks by insurgents and counter-insurgency operations continue and sectarian violence deepens and spreads, it is civilians that are paying the price. Violence is presently heavily concentrated in the Centre and less so in the South of Iraq, but the whole country needs to be prepared to respond to current and future emergency situations, whether in terms of conflict or natural disasters. A more in-depth study of the challenges, shortfalls and constraints that NGOs face in responding to emergencies in Iraq vis-à-vis possible trends of violence is urgently required.

Therefore, the objectives of this study are to:

- Examine the possible humanitarian impact of trends of violence in Iraq;
- Compare current emergency response capacity and that ideally needed;
- Set out recommendations for potential pathways to reaching durable solutions.

This will enable NGOs – as well as Donors, the UN, Iraqi Authorities, and other third parties - to better understand and elucidate the measures that can be taken to anticipate the humanitarian needs resulting from emergency situations, current and foreseen, in order to enhance response. Recommendations will be used to encourage active advocacy and to bring the NGO community and the UN to a synergistic approach leading to a shared strategy, which, if implemented, could significantly improve emergency preparedness and humanitarian response in Iraq.

*The full report can be downloaded here:*

<http://www.ncciraq.org/IMG/pdf/NCCI - Iraq Emergency Situation - Final Report - 2nd May 2006.pdf>

.....

➤ **The Next Iraqi War? Sectarianism and Civil Conflict**

*27 February 2006 - International Crisis Group*

The bomb attack on a sacred Shiite shrine in Samarra on 22 February 2006 and subsequent reprisals against Sunni mosques and killings of Sunni Arabs is only the latest and bloodiest indication that Iraq is teetering on the threshold of wholesale disaster. Over the past year, social and political tensions evident since the removal of the Baathist regime have turned into deep rifts. Iraq's mosaic of communities has begun to fragment along ethnic, confessional and tribal lines, bringing instability and violence to many areas, especially those with mixed populations. The most urgent of these incipient conflicts is a Sunni-Shiite schism that threatens to tear the country apart. Its most visible manifestation is a dirty war being fought between a small group of insurgents bent on fomenting sectarian strife by killing Shiites and certain government commando units carrying out reprisals against the Sunni Arab community in whose midst the insurgency continues to thrive. Iraqi political actors and the international community must act urgently to prevent a

low-intensity conflict from escalating into an all-out civil war that could lead to Iraq's disintegration and destabilise the entire region. [...] Today, however, the more significant and pressing question is what still can be done to halt Iraq's downward slide and avert civil war. Late in the day, the U.S. administration seems to have realised that a fully inclusive process – not a rushed one – is the sine qua non for stabilisation. This conversion, while overdue, is nonetheless extremely welcome. [...] Finally – and regrettable though it is that this is necessary – the international community, including neighbouring states, should start planning for the contingency that Iraq will fall apart, so as to contain the inevitable fall-out on regional stability and security. Such an effort has been a taboo, but failure to anticipate such a possibility may lead to further disasters in the future.

*The full report can be downloaded here:*

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=3980&l=2>

---

## II – Sectorial Emergencies

### ➤ **Health Situation – October 2006**

*26 October 2006 – NCCI from Various sources*

In October various reports and appeals have been issued on the health situation (Violence, lack of trained staff, lack of medicines, etc.). NCCI reports these last updates regarding the Health situation in Iraq.

*The full report can be downloaded here:*

[http://www.ncciraq.org/IMG/pdf\\_NCCI\\_Special\\_Report\\_-\\_Health\\_-\\_October\\_2006.pdf](http://www.ncciraq.org/IMG/pdf_NCCI_Special_Report_-_Health_-_October_2006.pdf)

---

### ➤ **Internal Displacements update**

*22 October 2006 – Various sources*

- More than three million Iraqis who have been forced to flee their homes to other areas of Iraq and to neighbouring countries are facing what the United Nations' refugee agency (UNHCR) describes as a "very bleak future" after the agency's budget for offices across the region was halved for the coming year. (IRIN – 22 October 2006)

[http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=56036&SelectRegion=Middle\\_East&SelectCountry=IRAQ-SYRIA](http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=56036&SelectRegion=Middle_East&SelectCountry=IRAQ-SYRIA)

- The Ministry of Displacement and Migrations released its last statistics of IDPs families : 53788 in all over Iraq. (Al Furat – In Arabic 18 October 2006)

[http://www.alkadhumi.org/alfurat/news1/show\\_news.php?subaction=showfull&id=1161115656&archive=&template=](http://www.alkadhumi.org/alfurat/news1/show_news.php?subaction=showfull&id=1161115656&archive=&template=)

- The UN refugee agency said here Friday it was increasingly concerned over the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation facing hundreds of thousands of displaced Iraqis, both within and outside their country. UNHCR relayed its fears to donors during a meeting last Wednesday in the Jordanian capital, Amman.

<http://www.unhcr.org/news/NEWS/452fa9954.html> and <http://www.unhcr.org/news/NEWS/452f69d74.html>

---

### ➤ **Human Rights Report**

*20 September 2006- UNAMI Human Rights Office*

Reports received by HRO reveal continuing concern for the lack of protection of civilians in regard to their civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. This, together with continuing allegations reflecting deficiencies in the administration of justice system, and in particular in the handling of the circumstances and conditions of detention, continues to present a major challenge to the Iraqi authorities and to UNAMI. Insurgents and armed groups continue to target innocent civilians including children, as well as police officers, politicians, foreign diplomats, human rights defenders and those associated with the MNF-I or perceived to be so. UNAMI/HRO received consistent reports of excessive use of force with regard to persons and property as well as mass arrests carried out by Iraqi police and Special Forces acting alone or in association with the MNF. Reports of ill-treatment of detainees and other inadequacies in the judicial procedures have continued. Furthermore, first and second hand accounts from Baghdad, Basra, Mosul, Kirkuk and the Kurdish governorates, as well as corroborating information from other credible sources, consistently point to the systematic use of torture during interrogations at the police stations and within other premises belonging to the Ministry of Interior. There is a growing concern about special security operations in central and northern areas, particularly in Al Anbar Governorate and Tel Afar in the north, which result in displacement of population. Also the use of snipers and allegations of use of illegal non-conventional weapons in those areas are a

particular source of anguish for the local population. The United Nations unreservedly condemns terrorism as it constitutes a serious violation of human rights. The United Nations is ready to assist the Iraqi authorities in ensuring that measures taken to combat terrorism and the insurgency comply with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and international law.

*The latest full report (for July-August 2006) can be downloaded here:*

<http://www.uniraq.org/documents/HR%20Report%20July%20August%202006%20EN.pdf>

➤ **Sectarian violence, military operations spark new displacement, as humanitarian access deteriorates**

*23 May 2006 –International Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)*

An estimated 81,000 people were forced to flee their homes in a matter of two months by sectarian violence sparked by an attack on the Al-Ashkari shrine in Samarra in February. These newly-displaced people are in addition to more than one million internally displaced people (IDPs) in Iraq, the majority forced out by conflict and human rights violations under the former regime. Sectarian displacements received much attention in the mainstream world media in April 2006, yet equally large-scale population displacements caused by multiple military operations across the country have been largely unreported. Several hundred thousand people were displaced by military operations during 2005. The security situation is tense and new displacements continued to be reported in early May. The potential for further displacement is high, particularly in Baghdad, and other areas of the country with mixed communities. The provinces that are the most affected by new inflows of displaced people include Baghdad, Anbar, Diyala, Najaf and Karbala.

The government, UN and NGOs continue to face great difficulties in assisting IDPs, and at times are unable to access them, or only in an ad hoc manner because of security fears and military-imposed restrictions. The government has set up some camps for the newly-displaced, but the UN has advised against the creation of tented camps, recommending that IDPs stay instead with host families. The quick return of the newly-displaced is perceived as a priority to avoid the consolidation of communities along sectarian lines. Local communities, including extended families and tribal structures, will need support as their capacity to assist IDPs has grown thin, especially in areas which already host significant displaced populations. Thousands of other people displaced by military operations also continue to be vulnerable, and have received inadequate or no compensation assistance at all. NGOs note a decline in donor interest, ironically, at a time when funds to assist the displaced and other persons of concern are the most needed.

*The full report can be downloaded here:*

[http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/\(httpInfoFiles\)/5FF5134F8672E698C125717700492CAC/\\$file/Iraq%20Overview%2023%20May%202006.pdf](http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/(httpInfoFiles)/5FF5134F8672E698C125717700492CAC/$file/Iraq%20Overview%2023%20May%202006.pdf)

➤ **Food security and vulnerability analysis in Iraq**

*11 May 2006 – WFP*

WFP and COSIT launched the country's first household survey in 2003 to assess both food security and vulnerability. That Baseline Food Security Assessment found that, despite the PDS, food insecurity persisted in Iraq for a significant segment of the population who faced serious difficulties accessing food. The current study was intended to create an improved understanding of the problems facing Iraqis today. Seven leading indicators were analyzed, namely Stunting, Underweight, Wasting, Percentage Extremely Poor Population, PDS ration Dependency Rate, Coping Strategy Index and Income. Using the data collected, this study set out to answer the following questions: Who are the food insecure? Why are they food insecure? How many are food insecure? Where do the food insecure live? How can food aid make a difference? The survey found that just over four million people (15.4 percent of the surveyed population) are food insecure and in dire need of different types of humanitarian assistance including food despite the PDS rations they are receiving. This is an increase from the estimated 11 percent which were found to be 'extremely poor' in WFP's 2003 Baseline Survey. The current survey also indicates that a further 8.3 million people (31.8 percent of the surveyed population) would be rendered food insecure if they were not provided with a PDS ration. Thus, if the PDS is discontinued without a careful assessment of the needs of the population, an estimated 47 percent of the total population will face real difficulties in ensuring their food security.

*The full report can be downloaded here:*

[http://www.ncciraq.org/IMG/pdf\\_Food\\_Security\\_and\\_Vulnerabi.pdf](http://www.ncciraq.org/IMG/pdf_Food_Security_and_Vulnerabi.pdf)

➤ **Conflict fuels Iraqi health crisis - Iraq Update**  
Spring 2006 - Medact

Children's health is suffering the most. According to the report, one child in 10 suffers from chronic disease or illness and 50% of children are malnourished. A survey by the Association of Psychologists of Iraq this year found that 92% of children had learning impediments.

A quarter of Iraq's 18,000 physicians have fled the country since 2003, and doctors and other health workers are being attacked, threatened or kidnapped daily. There is also a chronic shortage of medical supplies. Hospitals lack staff, medicine, disinfectants, sheets, cleaning aids, and IV fluids and cannulae, antibiotics, and oxygen. Only four of the 180 health clinics planned by the US have been built, and none have opened.

*The full report can be downloaded here:*

[http://www.medact.org/content/wmd\\_and\\_conflict/iraqupdate2006.pdf](http://www.medact.org/content/wmd_and_conflict/iraqupdate2006.pdf)

---

➤ **Healing Minds, mental health in Iraq**  
March 2006 – WHO

The overall impression is that a large part of the population has been experiencing a wide variety of mental health and substance abuse problems in the last three years. However, there are limited scientific reports about the mental health effects on the population as a result of the regime change and the ensuing conflict since March 2003. This lack of information on the impact on the mental health of the population is strikingly in contrast with the numerous reports about the same issue with regard to armed personnel and their families. There were some reports about the mental health of children immediately preceding the invasion in January 2003 and a few studies on the mental health of Iraqi asylum seekers (JNMD, 2005).

*ADDENDUM: Children are especially affected by previous and present extremely adverse circumstances in Iraq. There is a high level of anxiety related to bombings, kidnapping and assassinations with consequent high rate of school absentism. Drug abuse is rapidly increasing among youth and school children. Teachers are traumatised and frustrated and both are reflected on the quality of the education and behaviour towards students. A part of adversities is stemming from past (extreme poverty, physical punishments in school and in families, dysfunctional families, etc.), additionally the present situation is a source of multiple psychological harm. On the other side there is a will of the NGO sector to run psychosocial programmes for children, families and teachers. Those programmes could be realised with small funds, under condition that a certain continuity of funding would be assured (Together, 2006)*

*The full report can be downloaded here:*

[http://www.ncciraq.org/article.php3?id\\_article=1189](http://www.ncciraq.org/article.php3?id_article=1189)

---

### **III – Humanitarian responses**

➤ **Operations Update no.4- focus on health and care programme activities**  
20 October 2006 - IFRC

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has released its latest report - Iraq: Humanitarian Emergency (05EA026) Operations Update no.4- focus on health and care programme activities. This report is devoted to the health sector of the emergency response of the Iraq Red Crescent Society (Iraqi RCS) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Federation), as one of the core areas of the Iraq RCS during the past three years. General conditions have deteriorated in Iraq as the security risks have increased. The general condition in the health sector is a reflection of the catastrophic socio economic situation that prevailed in the country for about two decades. Lack of activities and the stress caused by the security situation are noted as main contributing factors for behavioural problems observed in some children. The isolation and withdrawal observed among children can lead to maladaptive behaviour. Conflict with family and challenging authority of parents` is reported to be common phenomena. Unfortunately, children are compelled to stay inside the house or compound all the time due to security risks, leading to an increase in stress. They all are badly in need of psychological support to help them cope with or deal the existing circumstances.

*The full report can be downloaded here:*

[http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?05/05EA02604.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA02604.pdf)

---

➤ **Distance challenges faced by NGOs working in Iraq**  
*31 August 06 – NCCI*

Insecurity in Iraq has forced most foreign NGOs to adopt remote programming strategies and complicated the efforts of Iraqi NGOs who wish/ed to develop relationships with international actors. This imposed distance has raised a number of concerns with respect to the quality of the aid delivered, NGO's accountability for those deliverables, and donor's ability to appreciate and respond to the needs on the ground.

The worsening security situation in Iraq has forced most INGOs to continue operating in a remote mode since end of 2004. Some of the challenges in distance programming are still very difficult to overcome and it was deemed necessary to share experiences and lessons learnt by foreign and local NGOs in order to identify concrete measures that could be taken to overcome challenges related to distance programming.

In the implementation of remote programming approaches, NGOs encounter the same distance-related challenges since they started operating remotely almost 2 years ago. These include challenges in communication, assessment, monitoring & evaluation and personnel management. The effects of these challenges result in the donors' perception that remote programming is fraught with difficulties and render assistance difficult and expensive.

However, the main differences with the situation in 2004 are related to the organisational and programming options adopted by NGOs. This illustrates an adaptation of INGOs to the Iraqi operational environment consisting mainly in providing greater responsibility to Iraqis working for INGOs. INGOs have developed a range of remote programming approaches that offer mixed results. As a result of the situation, a new distance programming option was developed - remote partnership - whereby INGOs enter into partnerships with LNGOs. This option can be implemented in parallel of other remote approaches.

There are several factors NGOs should consider before adopting one or a combination of the remote programming options. Participants concluded that it was not possible to compare the limits of each remote programming option since too many factors have to be taken into consideration and, most likely, a combination of factors would result in the failure of a remote programming option as opposed to a single factor. However, on the principle, participants favoured approaches that gave the most latitude to national personnel and LNGOs.

*The full report can be downloaded here:*

[http://www.ncciraq.org/IMG/pdf\\_NCCI\\_-\\_Distance\\_Challenges\\_Faced\\_by\\_NGOs\\_in\\_Iraq\\_-\\_Report\\_-\\_Aug06.pdf](http://www.ncciraq.org/IMG/pdf_NCCI_-_Distance_Challenges_Faced_by_NGOs_in_Iraq_-_Report_-_Aug06.pdf)

.....

➤ **Emergency Response for Newly Displaced Populations within Iraq**  
*May06 – UN Cluster F (Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Durable Solutions)*

The deteriorating security situation in Iraq has altered the nature of displacement in the country and given rise to a pressing new emergency. This note aims to raise awareness about the urgent need for emergency response, to create a humanitarian space for action, and to examine these issues in partnership with the donor community. It will provide a short overview of Cluster F's activities with IDPs to date and its strategic plans for future action.

The 22 February 2006 bombing of the Al-Askari shrine in Samarra dramatically heightened ethno-religious tensions in Iraq, triggered a new wave of IDPs and signalled a fundamental change in the nature of displacement in Iraq. Since the attack, both Shiites and Sunnis have begun moving in growing numbers, mostly to flee direct attacks, indirect attacks and violent reprisals. Most Iraqis displaced after Samarra are moving in order to seek safety in areas of ethnic or religious majority, and given Iraq's rapidly deteriorating security situation most perceive their displacement as quasi-permanent. As of 17 May 2006, the Samarra events had caused almost 100,000 new displacements, and the flow shows no signs of stopping. Various groups of refugees, some of whom have been in Iraq for decades, are equally affected and are also being forced to move.

*The full report can be downloaded here:*

[http://www.ncciraq.org/IMG/Cluster\\_F\\_-\\_Emergency\\_Response\\_for\\_Newly\\_Displaced\\_Populations\\_within\\_Iraq\\_1\\_-\\_May06.doc](http://www.ncciraq.org/IMG/Cluster_F_-_Emergency_Response_for_Newly_Displaced_Populations_within_Iraq_1_-_May06.doc)

.....