

# **UNICEF Video B-Roll**

Total Running Time: 8'35"

## **Children in Post-War Iraq**

May 2003

- 1. Schools still closed – bomb-damaged school in Baghdad**
- 2. 13-year-old Zahra Ghazi - injured by unexploded munition**
- 3. Contaminated Water: Children at Risk - UNICEF supplies water**
- 4. Children: Casualties of War – hospitals struggling to cope**

**Includes exclusive footage shot in Iraq, April 18 – 21, 2003.**

*Note to broadcasters:* This video B-roll is provided by UNICEF free of charge but please **credit UNICEF on-screen**

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## Story Background and shotlist

### Intro

#### War Is Over but the Battle to Protect Iraq's Children Is Far From Won

Iraqi children still face grave threats to their survival, health and well-being, despite the end of the war and the rapid process of change underway in the country. UNICEF warns that unless an immediate national priority is put on protecting children from these threats thousands of Iraqi youngsters will die unnecessarily – and hundreds of thousands more will be injured, fall prey to disease, suffer from abuse and exploitation, or fall behind in school.

Half of Iraq's population of nearly 25 million are children. Many have already become direct casualties of the fighting – large numbers of children lie injured in overcrowded hospital wards. Still others are being killed and maimed by unexploded munitions. In most of the country schools are not open. Cases of potentially fatal diarrhoea have also been rising, a direct result of drinking contaminated water. With electricity supplies disrupted, water treatment plants are struggling to cope, and untreated sewage is dumped into the country's water systems. Humanitarian agencies, like UNICEF, are carrying out assessments of the impact of the war on Iraq's children.

UNICEF has this report from Baghdad.

#### 1 Schools still closed – bomb-damaged school in Baghdad

Schools in the capital remain closed. Some, like the Andalus Middle School for Boys, were damaged during the recent fighting.

One boy was in the school when a missile struck (boy in white shirt):  
*“We were sitting here. We heard the sound of the strike and the sound of women screaming. We went outside. We found a car which had been hit by a cannon, then we saw a missile hitting another car. Another missile hit the wall of our neighbour's house.”*

A wrecked truck is on the street outside the school. Scattered around the truck - unexploded munitions - a potentially deadly threat to children. One boy, unaware that his life is at risk, places his hands on a munition. Unexploded ordnance is a hazard to children throughout the country.

<b>PAL Time code</b>	<b>Schools still closed</b>
<b>01:00:07</b>	Andalus Middle School for Boys – exterior

	and interior – shows damage
<b>01:00:58</b>	Interview clip with boy
<b>01:01:14</b>	Children outside school – child touches unexploded munition

## **2. 13-year-old Zahra Ghazi - injured by unexploded munition**

13-year-old Zahra Ghazi is one of a growing number of children injured by an unexploded munition. She has multiple shrapnel wounds. Her cousin died in the blast. After being treated in an understaffed hospital ward, crowded with other severely injured children, she was discharged to her own home, where her family helped change her dressing.

Zahra tells her story:

*“I was going to throw away the garbage when I saw my cousin and my brother collecting firewood.. I told them to come back to the house, but they ignored me. I begged them but they refused to listen. I followed them and when we reached the garbage dump they found something that looked like a pomegranate. I told them not to touch it, but they ignored me and started fighting over it. I took it away from them and said that neither of them could have it. I hid it in my garbage bag and not long after that it exploded.”*

<b>PAL Timecode</b>	<b>13-year-old Zahra Ghazi</b>
<b>01:01:44</b>	Zahra Ghazi in hospital bed, tells story of being injured by munition
<b>01:02:29</b>	Zahra Ghazi at home with family, having dressing changed

## **3. Contaminated Water: Children at Risk - UNICEF supplies water**

These children at Ibn Al-Baladi Pediatric Hospital are suffering from diarrhoea and dehydration: the probable cause – contaminated water.

In some areas of Baghdad, sewage water flows in the streets, while garbage piles up uncollected. Only a small proportion of raw sewage is treated in Iraq as a whole. Most sewage is dumped untreated into the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, and then drawn again into pumping and treatment stations that provide the majority of Iraqi households with water. In Baghdad, much of the water available in the capital is a potential health hazard.

At the root of the problem is the continuing disruption to the city’s electricity supply. The Al-Wathba Water Treatment Plant pumps water to the city’s hospitals – but currently it’s forced to rely on its own inadequate generators and the plant is running at only 30% capacity. Because pipes need to be continually disinfected with chlorine, every stoppage

means that contamination builds up. UNICEF has been carrying out an assessment of water treatment plants throughout the country and has supplied fuel for back-up generators as well as stocks of chlorine tablets.

UNICEF Officer-in-Charge, Iraq, Hatim George:

*“There are areas suffering from lack of water mainly because punping isn’t good enough to have water accessible to them. To have proper pumping we must have our electrical power back.”*

To meet immediate needs, UNICEF is using tankers to bring clean water into Baghdad every day, and has installed special water bladders at 77 sites around the city.

<b>PAL Timecode</b>	<b>Contaminated Water: Children at Risk</b>
<b>01:02:49</b>	Sick children, suffering from dehydration and diarrhoea in ward at Ibn Al-Baladi Pediatric Hospital
<b>01:03:35</b>	Flooded streets Baghdad
<b>01:03:56</b>	Garbage piled up in street
<b>01:04:08</b>	Al-Wathba Water Treatment Plant, Baghdad
<b>01:04:29</b>	UNICEF staff carrying out assessment at plant
<b>01:04:43</b>	UNICEF’s Hatim George, interview bite
<b>01:05:00</b>	UNICEF tanker delivering water to crowd of people
<b>01:06:03</b>	UNICEF water bladder

#### **4. Children: Casualties of War – hospitals struggling to cope**

Baghdad is a city where public services have largely broken down. Many buildings are damaged or looted and some hospitals in the capital have been stripped bare. Others, like the Al-Glwiya Primary Healthcare Centre, are open but struggling to cope. With a quarter of Iraqi children malnourished, there is a serious risk of major outbreaks of disease. Electricity and clean water are in short supply. Staff are working without pay, and wards are full of the war-wounded – many of them children.

<b>PAL Timecode</b>	<b>Children: Casualties of War</b>
<b>01:06:37</b>	General Views – damaged buildings, Baghdad
<b>01:07:07</b>	Olympic Hospital, Baghdad – looted
<b>01:07:46</b>	Al-Glwiya Primary Healthcare Centre – people in hall and corridor
<b>01:07:57</b>	Al-Glwiya Primary Healthcare Centre – injured children in ward