

# UNICEF Video B-Roll

Total Running Time: 28'02''

## Children of Iraq

February 2003

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|----|--|---------------|
| 1. | <b>Highlights package: narrated:</b>       | <b>2'28''</b> |
|    | <b>natural sound:</b>                      | <b>3'30''</b> |
| 2. | <b>UNICEF emergency preparations:</b>      | <b>2'51''</b> |
| 3. | <b>Child nutrition in Iraq:</b>            | <b>6'03''</b> |
| 4. | <b>Child health and mortality in Iraq:</b> | <b>6'58''</b> |
| 5. | <b>Children and education in Iraq:</b>     | <b>6'05''</b> |

**Includes exclusive footage of humanitarian programmes in Iraq.  
Shot January/February 2003.**

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## Story Background

### Intro

At the end of the 1970s Iraq was one of the richest and most developed nations in the region, with a thriving economy fueled by sales from its huge oil reserves. Just over two decades later, the situation has changed drastically after two devastating wars - the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war and the 1991 Gulf War - as well as more than a decade of comprehensive international sanctions. All of these factors have had a major impact on Iraq's children.

Almost half of Iraq's population of 24.5 million are children – and many of them are especially vulnerable. The under-five mortality rate in south/central Iraq – at 131 deaths per 1,000 live births - is two-and-a-half times what it was in 1989. Preventable diseases such as diarrhoea and respiratory infections account for 70 per cent of child deaths. The country's water system is also failing: more than 500,000 metric tonnes of raw sewage are dumped into Iraq's waterways every day. Nearly one in three Iraqi children suffer from chronic malnutrition and a quarter are out of school.

Against this background, many Iraqi children will be at increased risk in the event of a new crisis. Currently UNICEF – which has supported children in Iraq since the 1950s - is making emergency preparations to protect the health and wellbeing of the country's vulnerable populations.

### Segment One: Shotlist and Story Background

Shotlist	
Pal timecode	
<b>01:00:05</b>  Intensive care unit, Baghdad          Iraqe sewage treatment plant	<b>Narrated Highlights Package: Script:</b> <b>Narrator:</b> The newborn babies in this intensive care unit are a symbol of a fragile population. In Iraq, more than one in ten children die before the age of five.   Water-borne disease is a major threat – needing urgent repairs, treatment plants are spewing 500,000 metric tonnes of raw sewage into the country's water supply

<p>People drinking from water pipe</p> <p>Young girl receiving treatment, Primary Healthcare Centre</p> <p>Baghdad street scenes</p> <p>Boy working in Baghdad's blacksmith's district</p> <p>Family collecting government food ration, Baghdad</p> <p>Supplies being shipped from UNICEF supply division, Copenhagen</p> <p>Supplies shipped through Jordanian port of Aqaba</p> <p>Street scenes with children, Baghdad</p>	<p>every day - five million people have no access to safe water – and children, like this young girl, are developing diarrhoea – which, in today's Iraq, is a major childhood killer.</p> <p>Two wars – followed by twelve years of international sanctions – have undermined Iraq's economy – leaving its health and education systems chronically underfunded - many children, like twelve-year-old Dhia Mohammed, are out of school – but in work, earning money for their families.</p> <p>- and with average salaries at only 3 – 6 dollars a month Iraq's 25 million citizens have become almost completely dependent on monthly government food rations...</p> <p><b>Nils Kastberg, UNICEF Emergency Programmes:</b> <i>“Iraqi children are very vulnerable – one in ten Iraqi children die before the age of five. About one third of them are malnourished. In the event of war they would be at even greater risk. For that reason we have been prepositioning supplies not only in Iraq but in the neighbouring countries.”</i></p> <p><b>Narrator:</b> In case of a new humanitarian crisis, UNICEF is prepositioning a range of emergency supplies – enough to give temporary support to hundreds of thousands of people - school and health kits, emergency water equipment, hundreds of tons of therapeutic milk and high protein biscuits – the supplies are being stocked in Iraq, Iran and Jordan.</p> <p>The preparations have one overriding aim – to maintain UNICEF's longstanding support to Iraq's most vulnerable population – its children.</p>
<p><b>01:02:40</b></p>	<p><b>Natural sound highlights package</b></p>

## **Segment Two: Shotlist and Story Background**

### **UNICEF's emergency preparations**

Relief supplies are being sent out of from UNICEF's central supply division in Copenhagen to Iraq and its neighbouring countries. One of the main transit hubs for supplies is the Jordanian port of Aqaba. **(See shotlist below)**

These supplies include:

- Emergency health kits sufficient for 900,000 people for a month, which have already been pre-positioned inside Iraq. These would be used to provide basic primary health care services to under-five children in the event of an emergency.
- 150 metric tonnes of fortified milk and 1,160 metric tonnes of high protein biscuits are now being distributed to the paediatric hospitals and Primary Healthcare Centres in Iraq. These supplies are needed for an estimated 240,000 malnourished children, to help them withstand a possible interruption to the food supply and an increase in water-borne infection.
- Two further shipments of High Protein Biscuits totalling 1,500 metric tonnes will be pre-positioned in UNICEF warehouses in Jordan and Iran to support possible transborder emergency operations.
- Emergency water tanks, water treatment units, soaps and jerrycans for a total population of 100,000 people has arrived in Iraq. Equipment for an additional 200,000 people will be pre-positioned in Jordan and Iran for rapid deployment in the event of a major crisis in Iraq. This equipment is intended principally to assist internally displaced persons in the country. Blankets, kerosene heaters are also being sent.
- School-in-a-box and recreational kits are pre-positioned inside Iraq to help restart primary education activities immediately following a possible conflict in the country and also to help address the psycho-social needs of children during an emergency.

- Schools-in-a-box are designed for up to eighty students and contain basic educational materials such as exercise books, pens, pencils and a blackboard and are intended to cover the first few months of schooling in an emergency.

Nils Kastberg, Director of UNICEF Emergency Programmes:

*“Iraqi children are very vulnerable – one in ten Iraqi children die before the age of five. About one third of them are malnourished. In the event of war they would be at even greater risk. For that reason we have been prepositioning supplies not only in Iraq but in the neighbouring countries.”*

<b>Shotlist PAL timecode</b>	<b>UNICEF emergency preparations</b>
<b>01:06:05</b>	Supplies being shipped at UNICEF supply division, Copenhagen - includes “schools-in-a-box” being packed on conveyor belt.
<b>01:07:30</b>	Containers being unloaded at port of Aqaba, Jordan – includes shots of containers with UNICEF banner
<b>01:08:35</b>	Nils Kastberg, Director of UNICEF Emergency Programmes: <i>“Iraqi children are very vulnerable – one in ten Iraqi children die before the age of five. About one third of them are malnourished. In the event of war they would be at even greater risk. For that reason we have been prepositioning supplies not only in Iraq but in the neighbouring countries.”</i>
<b>01:08:56</b>	Street scenes, Baghdad – including children on streets

## Segment Three: Shotlist and Story Background

### Child Nutrition in Iraq

Nearly one in three Iraqi children are chronically malnourished, and one in four of all newborns are born with low birth-weight.

Faraj Alwan Salman is a Health Assistant at the Intensive Care Unit of the Al-Ilwiya Central Paediatric Hospital in Baghdad.

*“I have been working here for ten years now. Because of economic hardships and the embargo we have seen a noticeable increase in the numbers of premature and low weight babies, the majority of whom die at birth.”*

The government of Iraq currently distributes a monthly food basket to every household in the country – a total of 24.5 million people. It is among the largest and most efficient food distribution programmes in the world. However, the almost total dependency on this food ration makes Iraq’s population extremely vulnerable to even a temporary disruption of the programme.

Carel de Rooy, UNICEF’s representative in Iraq:

*“If there were to be an interruption of the distribution of food – the monthly food basket which is distributed by a network of some 45,000 agents to the 25 million Iraqis – if there were to be an interruption to that food distribution, obviously children and pregnant women would be the first victims.”*

**(See shotlist below)**

This mother brought her four-year-old child to the July 14 Primary Healthcare Centre in the Al-Asmaee district of Basra: **(see shotlist below)**

*“I brought my son Hussein Ayad to the doctor who says he is stunted because of malnutrition. We do receive monthly food rations, but it doesn’t contain chicken, meat or eggs and we cannot afford to buy them at the market.”*

## Child Nutrition in Iraq: what UNICEF is doing

UNICEF has worked with the government of Iraq to set up more than 2,900 Community Child Care Units – such as the Unit in Al-Khama'il School, Saddam City, Baghdad.

**(see shotlist below)**

The aim is to screen at least 75% of children under the age of five for malnutrition, with a special emphasis on children in high-risk areas.

In 2002 the Child Care Units screened nearly 900,000 children – out of these more than 600,000 were found to be moderately malnourished, and 60,000 were severely malnourished. More than 10,000 health workers have been trained by UNICEF to work in the units since 1997.

Shotlist PAL timecode	Child Nutrition in Iraq
01:10:13	Al-Ilwiya Central Paediatric Hospital in Baghdad – newborns in intensive care unit
01:11:18	Faraj Alwan Salman, Health Assistant at the Intensive Care Unit (in Arabic). <i>“I have been working here for ten years now. Because of economic hardships and the embargo we have seen a noticeable increase in the numbers of premature and low weight babies, the majority of whom die at birth.”</i>
01:11:36	Mother and four-year-old son, who is being weighed at the July 14 Primary Healthcare Centre in the Al-Asmaee district of Basra: Mother: (in Arabic) <i>“I brought my son Hussein Ayad to</i>

	<i>the doctor who says he is stunted because of malnutrition. We do receive monthly food rations, but it doesn't contain chicken, meat or eggs and we cannot afford to buy them at the market."</i>
01:12:13	Government health ration being given to a father and child in Baghdad – the family is collecting four months' supply in case of a crisis
01:13:32	Carel de Rooy, UNICEF's representative in Iraq: <i>"If there were to be an interruption of the distribution of food – the monthly food basket which is distributed by a network of some 45,000 agents to the 25 million Iraqis – if there were to be an interruption to that food distribution, obviously children and pregnant women would be the first victims."</i>
	<b>Child nutrition in Iraq: what UNICEF is doing</b>
01:14:02	Community Child Care Units at the Al-Khama'il School, Saddam City, Baghdad – children being measured and screened for malnutrition

## **Segment Four: Shotlist and Story Background**

### **Child Health and Mortality in Iraq**

The health of Iraq's children is not only linked to nutrition, but also to the country's water supply. Even though Iraq has a relatively sophisticated water supply network by regional standards, the system is breaking down, putting the health of millions of children and adults at risk. Two wars and twelve years of international sanctions have taken a toll.

The UN Oil for Food Programme, which was established in 1996, allows humanitarian goods and supplies to be imported into Iraq, but the programme does not currently make funds available for transportation, installation and maintenance of equipment, nor for staff training and the rehabilitation of basic infrastructure such as water, sewage treatment plants, and hospitals.

Between 1990 and 2000 the supply of drinkable water in both urban and rural areas fell by more than half – and now only 41 per cent of the population has access to safe water. About 500,000 metric tonnes of raw sewage is released into the country's waterways every day – 300,000 metric tonnes in Baghdad alone. This situation leads directly to increased rates of disease and malnutrition in children.

Cases of diarrhoea increased from an average of 3.8 episodes per child-year in 1990 to nearly 15 episodes by 1996. During the same period, typhoid fever increased from 2,240 to over 27,000 cases.

Overall, cases of preventable disease have risen by more than 100 per cent since 1990. The under-five mortality rate in south/central Iraq, at 131 per 1000 live births, is now two and a half times higher than in 1989.

### **Child Mortality and Health in Iraq: what UNICEF is doing**

UNICEF is helping to rehabilitate Iraq's system of Primary Healthcare Centres - such as the "July 14" Primary Healthcare Centre in the Al-Asmaee district of Basra where a mother is encouraged to give oral rehydration salts to her child, who is suffering from diarrhoea. **(see shotlist below)**

UNICEF supports the rehabilitation of the centres and provides medical supplies, furniture, cold boxes and refrigerators to keep vaccines and medicines at the correct temperature. It also promotes social mobilization campaigns on basic health issues, including safe motherhood.

By 2004 UNICEF is aiming to cut under-five deaths caused by diarrhoeal diseases by five percent and deaths caused by respiratory diseases by fifteen percent respectively, compared to 2001 levels.

UNICEF is working to increase immunization coverage against six major childhood diseases – polio, whooping cough, tetanus, measles, diphtheria and TB. A national polio immunization campaign is under way, targeting all children under 5. The campaign is crucial to the global campaign to eradicate polio. As a result of vaccination campaigns, Iraq has not had a single case of polio since an outbreak three years ago.

**(See shotlist below)**

UNICEF is also preparing a measles campaign for children aged between 6 and 12 years. Measles is one of the biggest killers of children during emergencies. A national immunization campaign in 2002 protected more than 95 per cent of children under the age of 5 against this deadly disease.

<b>Shotlist</b>	<b>Child Health and Mortality in Iraq</b>
01:14:59	Al-Rustamiya Sewage Treatment Plant, Baghdad
01:16:34	Children and women wash clothes in river water, Qurna district, Mayah village, Basra
01:17:08	People collecting water from main water pipe, Basra
	<b>Child Health and Mortality in Iraq: what UNICEF is doing</b>
01:18:05	“July 14” Primary Healthcare Centre in the Al-Asmaee district of Basra: mother being encouraged to give oral rehydration salts to her child, who is suffering from diarrhoea. Mother gives salts to child, taken from UNICEF packet
01:19:48	Door to door polio campaign: door to door oral polio vaccinations, car with loudspeaker, in the area around the Al-Nahrawan Primary Healthcare Centre, outskirts of Baghdad.

## **Segment Five: Shotlist and Story Background**

### **Children and Education in Iraq:**

Iraq's education system faces major problems. A quarter of children aged between six and twelve are not in school – 31.2 per cent of girls and 17.5 per cent of boys. With almost twice as many girls as boys out of school, there has been a sharp decline in adult female literacy. At the same time, the number of children at work has risen.

Dhia Mohammed works as a blacksmith in Baghdad:

*“I am 12 years old and I have been working for three years now with my father. I left school because we didn't have the money and I wanted to help my father.”*

More than half of schools are unfit for teaching because they need repairs, and 5,000 new buildings are required nationally. Many schools have chronic shortages of school desks, textbooks, and basic equipment like chinks, pencils and exercise books. Uhud Primary school in Tleha Village in the governorate of Wasit south of Baghdad, has had no maintenance work since 1965.

**(see shotlist below)**

Teachers, who often have to work several shifts in overcrowded classrooms, earn only between \$3 and \$5 a month and many have left in search of better-paid jobs.

### **Children and Education in Iraq: what UNICEF is doing**

Since 1997 UNICEF has supported the rehabilitation of 459 schools benefiting 335,000 children and 13,000 teachers. Al-Rasool Primary School in the Al-Fohood district in the governorate of Thi Qar in southern Iraq is currently being refurbished. The work includes plastering, installing new electrical wiring and resurfacing the playground.

Basim Tuma Khayal is a teacher of Grade 4: *“Before the school was rehabilitated its condition was tragic. We had dilapidated classroom ceilings that allowed the rain water in. The playground was not concreted and it was dusty and there was no surrounding wall.”*

UNICEF has also launched a pilot project in the governorate of Basra for about 600 adolescent girls and women who have dropped out of education. UNICEF helped train 40 teachers for the project, aiming to empower women by drawing them back into the education system, and by encouraging them to learn a range of new skills.

The Al-Alya Centre for Girls' Education in the Al-Dair District of Basra was set up in December 2002 with UNICEF support. It now caters to 90 students. Zainab Sabri Hadi is one of them: *“I left school for family and economic reasons and when I heard of this project, I became motivated to learn how to read and write. Now I hope to be a teacher in future.”*

<b>Shotlist</b>	<b>Children and Education in Iraq</b>
01:21:57	Children working in scrapyard, Baghdad
01:22:45	Blacksmith's district, Baghdad – boys working
01:23:37	Dhia Mohammed: (in Arabic) <i>“I am 12 years old and I have been working for three years now with my father. I left school because we didn't have the money and I wanted to help my father.”</i>
01:24:00	Children walking to school Baghdad-Wasit highway, south of Baghdad
01:24:15	Uhud Primary school in Tleha Village, governorate of Wasit south of Baghdad – externals, children in class
	<b>Children and Education in Iraq: what UNICEF is doing</b>
01:25:16	Al-Rasool Primary School in the Al-Fohood district in the governorate of Thi Qar in southern Iraq. Plastering and refurbishment work.
01:26:22	Basim Tuma Khayal is a teacher of Grade 4: <i>“Before the school was rehabilitated its condition was tragic. We had delapidated</i>

	<i>classroom ceilings that allowed the rain water in. The playground was not concreted and it was dusty and there was no surrounding wall.”</i>
01:26:52	Al-Alya Centre for Girls’ Education in the Al-Dair District of Basra: teacher and adolescent girls and women in class
01:27:38	Zainab Sabri Hadi: (in Arabic) <i>“I left school for family and economic reasons and when I heard of this project, I became motivated to learn how to read and write. Now I hope to be a teacher in future.”</i>