



## Water, Environment and Sanitation (WES)

# Iraq

### Country Setting

- Even before the current conflict began, many children were highly vulnerable to disease and malnutrition due to multiple wars and a decade of UN sanctions.
- There is a general decline in all development indicators including the under-five and infant mortality rates, both of which have more than doubled since the late 1980s.

### Basic Indicators

Total population (1000s)	25,175
Under-five mortality rate (per 1000)	125
Total adult literacy rate (%)	39

### Water and Sanitation Coverage

	Water (%)	Sanitation (%)
Urban	97	95
Rural	50	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>80</b>

### WES Sector Setting

- Water supply and sewage systems were heavily compromised during the 1990s, and further damaged during the recent war.
- The Lower South region of the country is disadvantaged due to historical, hydrological and hydrogeological reasons. It has also borne the brunt of the last war.
- The post-war sectoral programme focuses on urban rehabilitation, which has led to a greater urban-rural disparities. The rapidly growing peri-urban areas are also very poorly served.
- Due to security and the existing capacity of government counterparts, rehabilitation focuses on hardware, causing hygiene, management and other soft components to lag behind.

## UNICEF WES Programme

### Main Components

- The Iraq WES programme is the largest in UNICEF's history.
- Programme is highly flexible to respond to emerging opportunities.
- Main components are:
  - emergency response;
  - rehabilitation in Governorates;
  - rehabilitation in Baghdad;
  - water quality;
  - distribution of essential supplies.
- UNICEF is the water and sanitation cluster task manager for the UN Development Group programme for Iraq.

### Programme Highlights and Achievements

- Large-scale water tankering, at one point delivering 14.6 million litres of water daily to over 825,000 people.
- The repair of more than 1,200 water network breaks, the rehabilitation or repair of more than 150 sewage pumping stations, 10 water treatment plants and 100 compact treatment units.
- Procurement and distribution of all chlorine and alum sulphate for the entire country over the last year and a half.
- Training 120 senior government officials in various aspects of managing private sector implementation of system reconstruction.