

For every child  
Health, Education, Equality, Protection  
ADVANCE HUMANITY

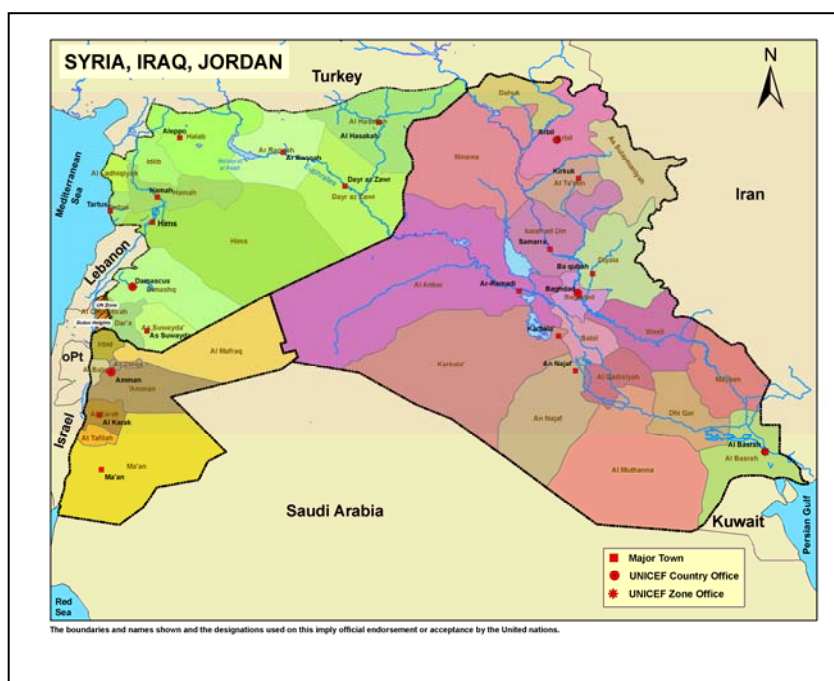


# UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

## JORDAN

### DISPLACED IRAQIS

#### IN 2008



#### CORE COUNTRY DATA

Population under 18 (thousands)	2460
U5 mortality rate (2006)	25
Infant mortality rate (2006)	21
Maternal mortality ratio (2000-2006, reported)	41
Primary school enrolment ratio (2000-2006, net, male/female)	88/90
% U1 fully immunized (DPT3)	98
% population using improved drinking water sources (rural/urban)	91/99
Estimated no. of people (all ages) living with HIV, 2005 (thousands)	<1.0
% U5 suffering moderate and severe underweight	4

Source: *The State of the World's Children 2008*

Up to 750,000 Iraqis – of which half are estimated to be children – are presently living in Jordan. Their arrival over the last few years has been linked to the upsurge of violence in Iraq. In a country with less than 6 million inhabitants the influx of such a large number of people has placed considerable strain on infrastructures. UNICEF's challenge for 2008 is to ensure that the displaced Iraqis in Jordan have access to appropriate health care and social services without exerting undue pressure upon public services to the detriment of both the Iraqi population and the local Jordanians.

#### Summary of UNICEF financial needs for 2008

Sector	US\$
Health and nutrition	3,812,000
Education	11,770,000
Child protection	450,000
<b>Total*</b>	<b>16,032,000</b>

\* The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7 per cent. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

### 1. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

The global deterioration of the security situation inside Iraq over the last few years has prompted an unprecedented exodus. In neighbouring countries alone, some 2 million Iraqis have now been taken in. Jordan, which is hosting up to 750,000 Iraqis, is one of the countries most affected by this migration. The Government of Jordan – who is not a signatory of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees – has accepted the Iraqis as guests. Despite the general warmth of reception of Iraqis into Jordan, the lack of internationally recognized status means that even the most basic statistically relevant quantitative information about the Iraqis in Jordan is not available. Results of a study completed in the first half of 2007 by the Fafo Institute for Applied International Studies in Norway and the Department of Statistics of the Government of Jordan have been long delayed in their release. Only in the latter half of 2007 were health assessments of Iraqis permitted by the Government.

This lack of quantitative information should not be used to hide the fact that this is a community at risk. Unemployment is thought to be very high amongst Iraqis, as those who lack registration papers (by far the majority) have only been able to work in the informal sector – if at all. As a result, even those Iraqis who were first considered to be wealthy have seen their assets depleted on the costs of daily living over the last year, and for the poorer Iraqis, who are the vast majority, the situation is probably much more dramatic. Anecdotal evidence suggests that adolescents are disproportionately represented. Many of them have been sent to Jordan by their families after they were picked up by coalition and government forces, only to be later released without charge. Yet the fear that they would be apprehended again prompted families to send their youth, with whatever assets they could, to what they presumed to be the relative safety of Jordan. Safety from bombs and bullets may well have been achieved, yet exposure to exploitation has increased for these vulnerable young people.

Education for most Iraqi children in Jordan has been impossible until the start of this school year. On 6 August 2007, the Government of Jordan made the unprecedented gesture of allowing all Iraqi children to attend Jordanian public schools – regardless of their status. As many Iraqi children have been out of school for over three years both in Jordan and in their home country, despite Government's generosity, the Jordanian educational legislation makes it impossible for them to be enrolled in Jordanian schools. They therefore need special assistance.

Experienced NGOs on the ground report on unprecedented levels of post-traumatic stress syndrome amongst Iraqi refugees. Due to their irregular status, many of these refugees have been unable to seek help since their arrival in Jordan. An unknown number of them suffer high levels of emotional, environmental and social distress. Their experiences in Jordan have compounded what they went through in Iraq.

Finally, and in relation to the above, Iraqis in Jordan have access to health care through structures set up specifically for them by Caritas, the Jordanian Red Crescent and government health facilities. Disaggregated data on the numbers of Jordanians and Iraqis who attend government health services are not available. However, as almost 95 per cent of the Iraqi patients who receive treatment at the Jordanian Red Crescent facilities belong to the minority that is officially registered, it is believed that Iraqis' access to appropriate health care in Jordan is problematic.

### 2. KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2007

In 2007, after a period of negotiations with the Government of Jordan, UNICEF has started to respond to the humanitarian needs of the displaced Iraqi population. It has focused on the areas where it has a comparative advantage over other UN agencies working with Iraqi refugees in Jordan. UNICEF's assistance has included an effective assessment of displaced Iraqis' health needs, access to health care and health behaviour – especially women and children.

Following the announcement on 6 August 2007 that all displaced Iraqi children were allowed to enrol in Jordan's public schools, UNICEF has been working hard to support the implementation of this decree. Key activities included:

- Supporting financially the Government's decision to allow all Iraqi children to attend Jordanian public schools and paying the school fees of children whose families could not afford to do so;

## UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION REPORT 2008

- Purchasing essential supplies for Iraqi students through the Ministry of Education (e.g., textbooks, ensuring that no child had to pay for his textbook);
- Training new teachers to deal with the identification, basic treatment and appropriate referral of Iraqi children suffering environmental, social and emotional distress;
- Providing the Ministry of Education with technical support in order to help implement double-shift schools and rent additional buildings to accommodate the students;
- Providing, wherever feasible, additional equipment for double-shift schools to ensure a learning environment as conducive as possible;

### 3. PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2008

#### **Coordination and partnership**

UNICEF chairs the joint donor, non-governmental/community-based organizations and UN agency education coordination group. UNICEF has also taken the lead in setting up an effective assessment on the health behaviour, access and needs of the Iraqi people in Jordan – bringing the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) into the process.

#### **Regular programme**

The *Humanitarian Action Report (HAR)* is linked to the emergency preparedness component of the Country Programme. In addition, the educational and protection components of the HAR link with the strengthening of the protective environment component of the Country Programme.

#### **Health and nutrition (US\$ 3,812,000)**

Key activities in health and nutrition will include:

- Procure/distribute essential emergency drugs/equipment for women and children to health centres dealing with large numbers of Iraqi outpatients;
- Support the Government in its immunization activities providing cold-chain equipment, vaccines and syringes;
- Support the expansion of the school health programme to allow health services to access, in many cases for the first time, Iraqi children who recently joined the public school system;
- Ensure that vulnerable children and pregnant/lactating women have access to appropriate micronutrients;
- Provide support to children suffering social, environmental and emotional distress. This activity will be cross-sectoral, but one primary area of intervention will be the training of health workers linked to schools in a basic set of core psychosocial skills to recognize, manage and, where necessary, refer children and their carers suffering serious distress.

#### **Education (US\$ 11,770,000)**

An initial 50,000 Iraqi children were enrolled in Jordanian basic education in 2007. Assistance to these children needs to be maintained throughout 2008. An additional 50,000 Iraqi children, who have so far been excluded from public schooling because of their vulnerability or because they did not meet the necessary requirements, will need help through the non-formal education system. Key activities will include:

- Continue purchasing essential school supplies through the Ministry of Education (including 40,000 textbooks for Iraqi children);
- Train at least 1,800 additional teachers to deal with the identification, basic treatment and appropriate referral of Iraqi children suffering environmental, social and emotional distress;
- Continue supporting NGO partners in their work to identify and help children (both Iraqi and Jordanian) who require special assistance to resume schooling (including the provision of school uniforms and stationery);
- In 2008, endeavour to integrate Iraqi children into existing governmental non-formal education programmes. In addition, and in any case, support NGOs working in this domain to ensure that, wherever possible, Iraqi children join the mainstream public schooling system and, where this is not possible, they receive vocational training or, at the very least, a minimum package of life skills.

## UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION REPORT 2008

### Child protection (US\$ 450,000)

The training of teachers in psychosocial techniques will be extended to all those who work with the Iraqi community, providing a basic set of core skills to identify psychosocial problems, put in place appropriate treatment measures and know when and where to refer children for psychological or psychiatric assistance. In addition, teachers will give feedback on their students so that a suitable programming can be developed to address children's needs outside school hours. Key activities will include:

- In at least 30 double-shift schools (catering over 25,000 children) develop afternoon clubs and parent/teacher associations where staff and teachers are trained in psychosocial skills and children engage in activities that will help their integration into their new schools and reduce their environmental, social and emotional distress;
- In each of the five areas where there is high concentration of Iraqi children, provide at least one community-based organization with enhanced training and support to identify child protection problems;
- Support the prevention, identification, documentation, tracing, care and reunification of separated children.