

Save the Children (UK) Iraq Briefing Memo

Summary of Recent Data on Humanitarian Conditions in Iraq

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This note serves to provide a summary of select recent data on humanitarian conditions in Iraq, and is drawn from several U.N. sources, including a note by the Office of the Iraq Programme on the implementation of the humanitarian programme in Iraq, dated 19 September 2002.¹

1 Bulk Food Stocks in Iraq

As at 31 July 2002, food stocks in the Programme-allocated storage facilities amounted to 639,235 metric tons (does not include GoI stocks in non-"Oil-for-Food" [OFF] storage facilities). The estimated monthly food requirement (for the OFF ration) is 459,986 metric tons. Therefore as of 31 July, there was sufficient bulk food in storage for 42 days supply of the OFF ration.

2 Adequacy of "Oil-for-Food" Ration

During the period May-July 2002, the OFF ration provided an average of 2,257 kcal of energy and 52.03 g of protein per person per day, equivalent to 91 per cent and 86 per cent of energy and protein requirements respectively.

It should be noted however, that this is the nutritional content of the ration as distributed, and does not correspond exactly to the nutritional intake of individuals. This is because some households sell a portion of the ration to buy other essentials, and it has been demonstrated that in some cases there is inequitable distribution of food within the household.²

The adequacy of the food basket in northern Iraq, as determined by the WFP study published in November 2001, is summarized in Table 1.³

(North Iraq - OFF Ration 2000)	Wheat flour	rice	pulses	sugar	tea	milk	Vegetable oil
Average number of days sufficiency per month	25	19	14	22	23	23	22

Table 1 - WFP Adequacy of Food Basket Study, N. Iraq, 2000

¹ United Nations Office of the Iraq Programme (OIP), *The Humanitarian Programme in Iraq Pursuant to Security Council Resolution 986 (1995)* [substitute for 90-day report of the U.N. Secretary-General] (New York: United Nations Office of the Iraq Programme, 19 September 2002).

² According to a WFP study of the adequacy of the food basket in North Iraq (survey conducted during 2000), 5% of households reported selling food received under the OFF ration.

³ World Food Programme (WFP), North Iraq Coordination Office, *"Oil-for-Food" - Food Basket Adequacy Assessment Survey (Draft)* (Erbil: WFP, November 2001).

3 Monthly Bulk Requirements to Provide Countrywide Ration

The amount of each element of the 'food basket' under (current) Phase XII of the "Oil-for-Food" Programme is outlined in Figure 1. This table and the associated population projections per Governorate are contained in the GoI Distribution Plan for Phase XII.⁴

4 Rates of Communicable Diseases in S/C Iraq

United Nations study, June 2002 - trends for communicable diseases:

- **DOWNWARD TREND:** cholera, cutaneous leishmaniasis, diphtheria, German measles, malaria, measles, meningitis, mumps, neonatal tetanus, poliomyelitis, scabies, tetanus and tuberculosis.
- **STABILIZATION:** brucellosis, hemorrhagic fever, hydrophobia and viral hepatitis.
- **UPWARD TREND:** hydatidosis, pertussis, toxoplasmosis and visceral leishmaniasis.
- **POLIO:** No cases have been reported since 20 January 2000

5 Child Health & Nutrition

5.1 Child Health

According to UNICEF, approximately 70% of child deaths in South/Center Iraq are due to two factors: dehydration due to diarrhea, and acute respiratory infection.⁵

5.2 Child Nutrition

UNICEF-supported Nutrition Status Survey, February 2002 (Center/South):

- Reduction in rates of U-5 chronic malnutrition (no specific data values available)

UNICEF Country Programme data, first 6 months of 2002 (Center/South):

- 20% of children screened found to be malnourished

UNICEF Survey, June 2001 (N. Iraq)

- 10.7% of screened children moderately malnourished

Primary Health Care (PHC) Screening, June 2002 (N. Iraq)

- 4.6% of screened children moderately malnourished

6 Maternal Health and Nutrition

By the end of 2001 prevalence of low birth weight babies was 24.7%, up from 4.5% in 1990.⁶ The corresponding figure for 1998 was 23.8%, suggesting that the prevalence of malnutrition amongst mothers continued to rise over the period 1998-2001 despite inputs from the "Oil-for-Food" Programme.

7 Agricultural Production

There was a bumper yield in 2002 for wheat and barley crops: 1.6 million metric tons (combined).

⁴ United Nations Security Council, *Letter dated 13 June 2002 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council - Annex II*. UN Document S/2002/666 (New York: United Nations, 14 June 2002).

⁵ United Nations Children's Fund, *The Situation of Children in Iraq* (Baghdad: UNICEF-Iraq, February 2002).

⁶ Source: United Nations Children's Fund, *Iraq Donor Update* (New York: UNICEF EMOPS, 7 October 2002).

Based on FAO/WFP Technical Assessment of 9/2000, the division of crop yields was: Wheat 66.1% [390,000 metric tons], Barley 33.9% [200,000 metric tons], out of combined yield of 590,000 metric tons.⁷ Assuming the same division of yield between these two crops, the 2002 wheat yield is approximately 1.058 million metric tons. This is sufficient to supply the 986 wheat rations for the entire country for 3.7 months.

8 Electricity Supply

Current deficit (electricity demand v generated) during Summer 2002 peak demand estimated to be 1,800 MW. Therefore, supply currently constitutes 71% of demand. Projected deficit (demand versus generated) is 1,000 MW by 2006.

Reconnection of three Northern Governorates to the national electricity grid is dependent on approval of contracts by UNMOVIC/IAEA for procurement of two gas turbine generators.

9 Education

U.N. assessment based on data from OFF Observers, from 2000 to 2002:

- 83% of primary school buildings in deteriorated condition

Iraq Ministry of Education estimates 5,132 schools needed to meet current needs.

10 Household Income - N. Iraq

A socio-economic survey conducted by FAO in January/Feb. 2002 (of 30% of rural household in N. Iraq) indicated that 195,040 households had average income of < US\$80 / month.

11 Water & Sanitation

11.1 South & Center Iraq

Availability of water at water treatment plants (in litres per capita per day [l/c/d]):

	URBAN [l/c/d]	RURAL [l/c/d]
1997	166	60
2002	197	86

Table 2 - Availability of potable water in S/C Iraq

11.2 Three Northern Governorates

Table 3 provides a summary of chemical and bacteriological analyses of drinking water samples in the three northern governorates, undertaken by the United Nations during May-July 2002.

⁷ Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). *Assessment of the Food And Nutrition Situation: Iraq* (Rome: UN-FAO, September 2000).

Chemical analysis: 98% samples within WHO guidelines	Bacteriological analysis: (Urban areas) Dahuk: 100% of samples within WHO guidelines Erbil, 78% of samples within WHO guidelines Sulaymaniyah, 95% of samples within WHO guidelines
	Bacteriological analysis: (Semi-Urban areas) 83% of samples did not comply with WHO guidelines
	Bacteriological analysis: (Rural areas) 58% of samples did not comply with WHO guidelines

Table 3 - Summary of chemical / bacteriological analysis of water samples in three northern governorates

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Figure 1 - 986 Food Ration for Phase XII (taken from GoI Distribution Plan for Phase XII)

Consolidated Plan and Categorized List of Foodstuffs, Soaps and Detergents
(Phase XII)

Items (1)	Monthly ration per capita (kg) (2)	Total monthly requirements (ton) (3)	Total needs for six months (ton) (4)	Required value for six months (US\$) (5)
1. Food, wheat flour*	9.000	286000	1716000	370000000
Rice	3.000	80000	480000	135000000
Sugar	2.000	53500	321000	124000000
Tea	0.200	5500	33000	70000000
Cooking oil	1.500	40500	243000	160000000
Milk powder	3.600	2520	15120	66000000
Dried whole milk and / or Cheese	1.000	26000	156000	225000000
Fortified weaning cereal	0.800	560	3360	7000000
Pulses	1.500	41000	246000	30000000
Iodized Salt	0.150	4100	24600	3000000
Subtotal				1190000000
2. Soaps and detergents soap	0.250	6750	40500	37500000
Detergents	0.500	14100	84600	475000000
Total				850000000
Grand total				1275000000

Note :these figures represent indicative quantities and values subject to actual distribution and market conditions .

- wheat is to be processed and distributed to beneficiaries as wheat flour the conversion rate used is 10 kg of wheat to 8.4 kg of wheat flour.
- quantities are calculated on the basis of population figures listed in Table 2. As to ensure accuracy, distribution losses are covered by adding a percentage to the quantity of a number of food/non-food items being distributed on a monthly basis: 4% for pulses, 2% for wheat flour, rice, sugar, cooking oil, salt and detergent and 0.5% for tea.
- no additional quantities are given to the agents for milk powder, soap, weaning cereal and infant formula as these items are distributed by tins and pieces respectively.
- children under one year of age receive only infant formula, fortified weaning cereal, soap and detergent.
- Amount allocated for food is sufficient to cover the RFB due to expected lower food prices.
- An amount of approximately US \$ 40 million from the allocation to the food sector will be used to import raw materials for processing into vegetable oil, soap, and detergent within Iraq.