

**Iraq the Country under Violence and Urban
Expansion the Basic Services to Human
Settlement at Glance**

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Introduction

- Iraq the land of Mesopotamia have the most ancient cities, the city of Babylon which is considered a marvel of the ancient world, with a system of protective walls that ringed the city for miles. For the first time, people channelled their energy to address the needs of a community as a whole.

Iraq the land of Mesopotamia



Panoramic view over the ancient city of Babylon, located 85 km (53 mi)



- IRAQ can be considered the first success story of urban settlement, but today the country has recently emerged from three large scale conflicts in its recent history, only to plunge into renewed violence and instability. Iraq is therefore facing a multi-layered crisis and today the need efforts due to mismanage and not having policy and acts in Iraq, this cause Iraq to be so traumatized by dictatorial rule, foreign adventurism, and war. To a considerable extent, the cause has been the Iraqi governorate failure to build a national identity that includes all Iraqis. It was this absence of integration that contributed directly to the rise of violence, where Iraq emerged from it.

The rise of violence in Iraq



- So as a result of a combination of wars, international sanctions, displacement, deterioration of access to basic services, as well as a lack of urban planning, Iraq's cities are under extraordinary stress and characterized by random urban expansion.

City of Erbil as an Example of random urban expansion



Main problems facing Iraq's human settlements are:
Existing national and local legal frameworks, policies, and programmes are outdated or weak.

- **Random cities expansion**

Over 70 per cent of Iraq's population live in cities and towns.

There is a housing shortage of at least 1.5 million units;

- **Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons**

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees in Iraq continue to have a complex set of problems that will need long-term planning and additional government and community intervention to solve.

- Most of the Iraqis displaced post-2006 have not returned home, and an estimated 2.5 million live in other countries.
- IDP and returnee families cite access to services like employment, shelter, health, water and fuel as a priority need.

Refugees, IDPs and Iraqi returnee families



Availability of water

Availability of water for agriculture, industry and household supplies is a major issue for Iraq. The quality and quantity of the country's water has been impacted by upstream damming, pollution, climate change and inefficient usage. The amount of water available per person per year decreased from 5,900 cubic metres to 2,400 cubic metres between 1977 and 2009,

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- Decreasing water supplies have been exacerbated by drought conditions between 2005 and 2009, which have devastated agriculture and caused drinking water shortages, particularly in rural areas. 39% of cropland suffered a reduction in coverage for two years in succession between 2007 and 2009, and livestock has been decimated. The Tigris and the Euphrates, Iraq's two major surface water sources, may dry up by 2040 if current conditions prevail.

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- Sustainable access to safe water is poor; the proportion of households using an improved water source has remained at around 80% since 1990. In rural areas, this figure is just 57%. Problems with infrastructure mean that the supply of water often suffers from interruptions and poor quality, accordingly only about half the Iraqi population have access to safe water.

Sewage network

- **Sewage network**

Iraq also faces considerable challenges in sanitation. Just 26% of the population is covered by the public sewage network, dropping to 2% in rural areas. An alarming 83% of Iraq's wastewater is left untreated, contributing to the pollution of Iraq's waterways and general environment.

Water Supply, Sewage network and flood risk



- **Iraq's Environment**

Iraq's environment has suffered greatly from the impact of poor policies on pollution and resource management. As a result, the country is exposed to a range of environmental issues, including drought, desertification and increasing soil salinity. 39% of Iraq's agricultural land suffered a reduction in cropland between 2007 and 2009. Air, water and soil pollution is a growing problem. Percentage of dried Mesopotamian marshlands is 90% and proportion of land area covered by forest is %4.0.

The years of conflict and violence left chemical pollution and unexploded ordnances affecting the livelihoods and safety of an estimated 1.6 million Iraqis.

Some Iraq's environmental issues



Thank you