

Fact Sheet: Housing & Shelter in Iraq

World Habitat Day

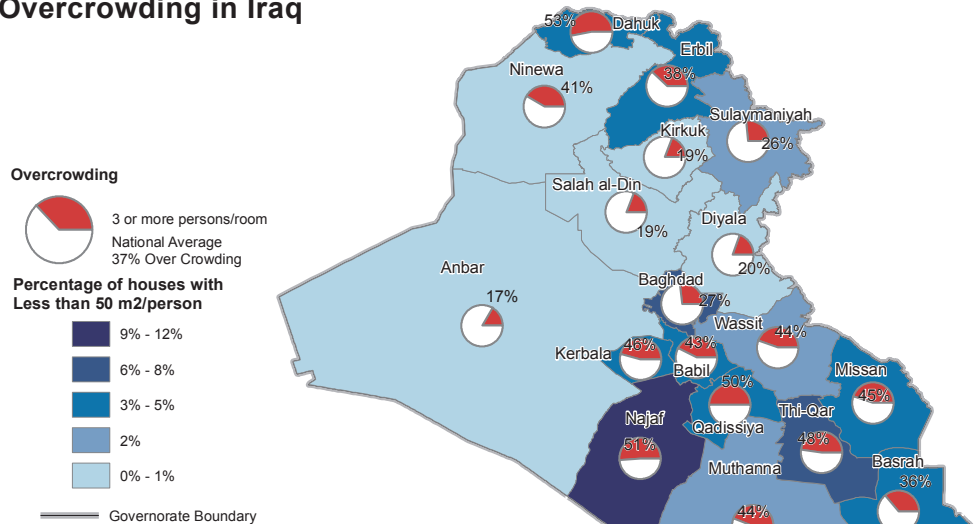
5 October 2009

Population growth, overcrowding, the existence of slum housing and ongoing issues of internally displaced persons (IDPs) all contribute to poor housing conditions and a growing housing demand in Iraq.

Overcrowding

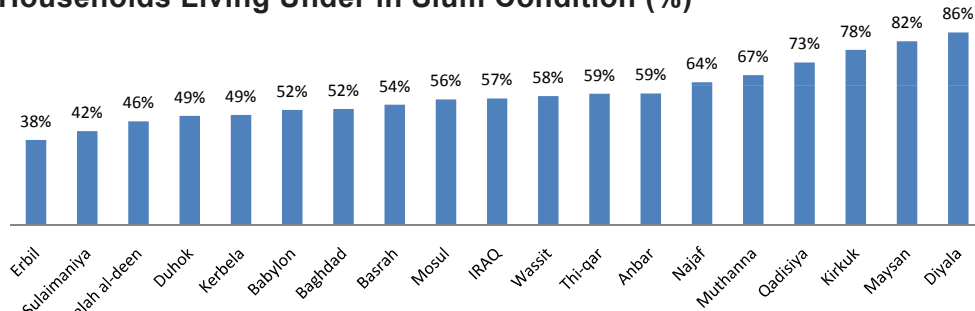
More than two-thirds of Iraqis (71%) live in urban areas.¹ 13% of houses in urban Iraq have more than ten occupants² and 37% have three or more people per room. According to UN-HABITAT's definition, 57% of the urban population currently lives in slum-like conditions.³

Overcrowding in Iraq



Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Households Living Under in Slum Condition (%)

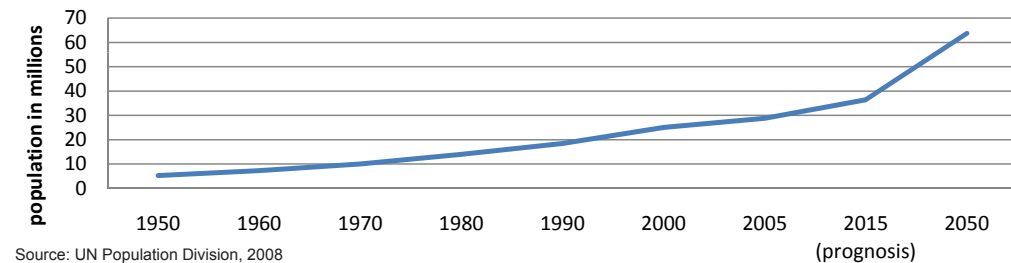


Source: Iraq Household Socio-Economic Survey (IHSES), 2007, IAU Elaboration

Population Growth

Iraq's population almost tripled between 1970 and 2007. By 2030, it will grow to almost 50 million.⁴ As a consequence of a population with a high percentage of youth and high fertility rates, current levels of overcrowding will only increase as Iraq's population expands.

Population Growth

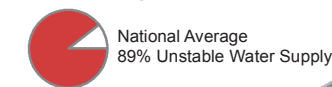


Poor Housing Conditions and Services

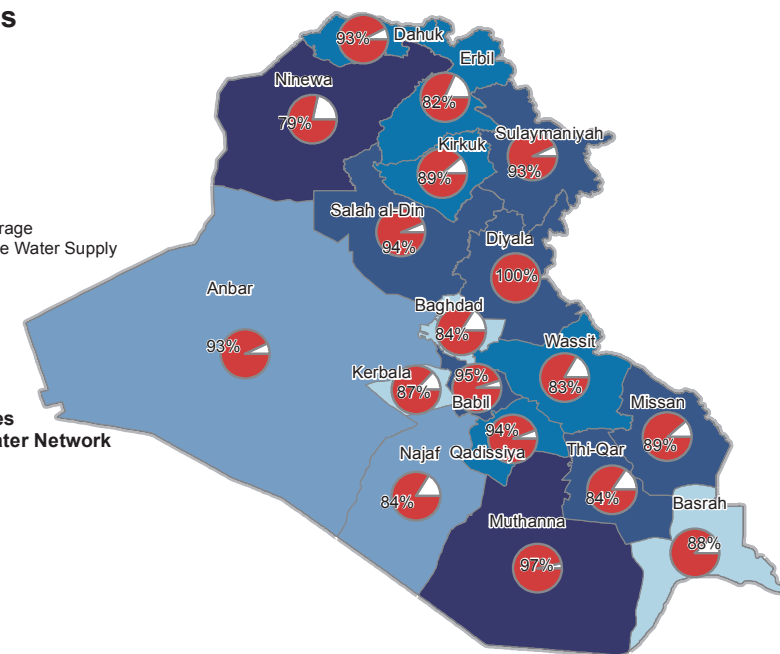
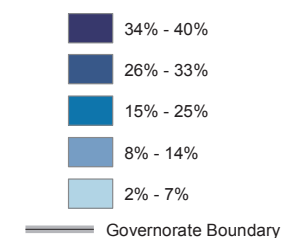
Services such as water supply (89% use unstable water sources), sanitation and waste management (73% are not connected to a sanitation network) and power supply (nearly 16 hours of power interruption per day), are unable to match growing demand.⁵

Water Services

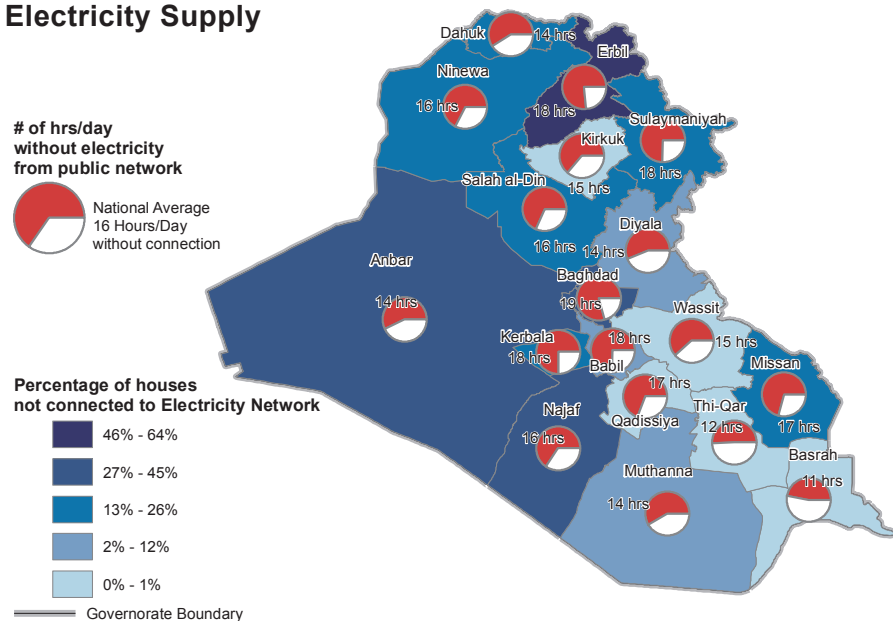
Water Supply



Percentage of houses not connected to Water Network



Electricity Supply



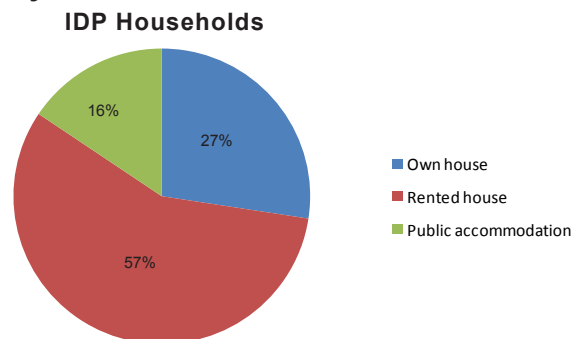
Internally Displaced Persons

Although it is not possible to generalize whether IDPs are worse off than non-IDPs due to variations by sector and region, when analysing shelter concerns, IDP needs stand out.⁶

Shelter is consistently one of the highest-priority needs reported by IDPs. Although the ma-

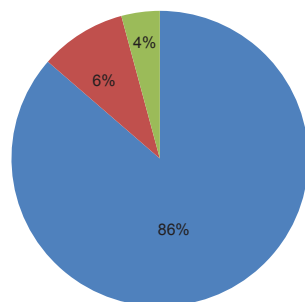
ajority (59%) of IDPs rent houses, their finances are dwindling. 18% of IDPs are now living with host families or friends, adding burden on households already struggling to provide for themselves. Another 22% live in public buildings or makeshift housing - those IDPs may be at risk of eviction by local authorities or private owners.⁷

Type of Accommodation by IDP Status

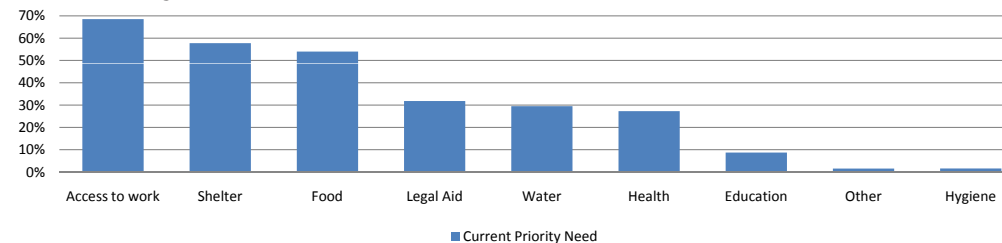


Source: World Food Programme Comprehensive Food Security Vulnerability Analysis, (WFP CFSVA) 2007

Non-IDP Households



IDP Priority Needs

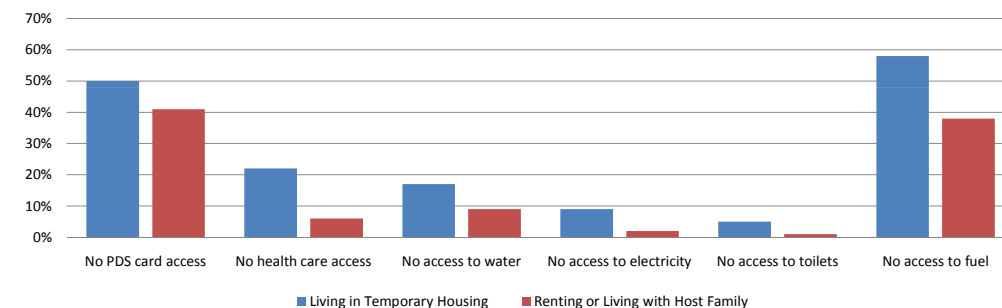


Source: International Organization for Migration (IOM) Monitoring and Needs Assessment 2009; figure excludes Baghdad

Housing status is one of the strongest predictors of poor living conditions and poor access to services among IDPs. Those living in temporary housing⁸ have worse access to the Public Distribution System (PDS), health care, water, electricity and sanitation than those renting or living with a host.⁹

Shelter in areas of origin is a critical concern for IDPs. Although nearly two-thirds of IDPs want to return home, 10% state their property has been destroyed, 15% state that their house is occupied, and 24% of IDPs do not know the status.¹⁰

Lack of Access to Services by Housing Status



Source: IOM Monitoring and Needs Assessment 2009

Key obstacles in improving the delivery of Adequate Shelter for All in Iraq include blockages on the release of public land for housing development, inadequate and ineffective housing finance institutions and lack of enabling framework to encourage private sector investment.

UN-HABITAT has been supporting the Ministry of Construction and Housing in developing a new National Housing Policy which will support a decentralized, enabling approach to housing delivery.

Endnotes

- 1 Gol National Development Plan (2010-2014) Sectoral Strategies for Housing, Water, Sanitation and other Municipal Services(2009)
- 2 Gol Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works, UN HABITAT (2007), "The State of Iraq Cities Report 2006/2007: Cities in Transition", pp. 48
- 3 IHSES 2007: The UNHABITAT definition of a slum has been adapted to fit available data from the IHSES. For this analysis, a slum was defined as housing that meets one or more of the following conditions: 1) house walls are made of reed or non-stable materials or windows are made of non-stable materials 2) more than 3 persons per room (room includes bedrooms, living rooms, dining rooms, guest rooms)

- 3) subjective evaluation of the head of the household saying they do not have a sufficient water supply 4) 1 toilet per 10 or more persons
- 5) tenancy of the house is not owned, nor rented, not provided by an employer or household has no agreement with the owner.
- 4 UN Population Division 2008
- 5 IHSES 2007
- 6 WFP CFSVA 2007
- 7 IOM Monitoring and Needs Assessment 2009
- 8 "Temporary Housing" is defined as those living in tent camps, tents near host, public accommodations and former military bases.
- 9 IAU Analysis of IOM Monitoring and Needs Assessment 2009
- 10 IOM Monitoring and Needs assessment 2009