



Overview

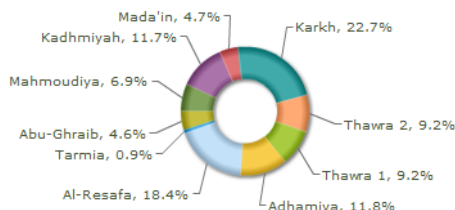
Baghdad is home to the largest share of Iraq's population, the vast majority of which live in the capital city of the same name. The city, whose name literally means "city of peace", was the centre of the Islamic empire during the Abbasid period from 762 AD until its sacking by the Mongols in 1258 AD.

Sadr City (Thawra 1 and 2), also in Baghdad city, became a hub for followers of Shi'ite leader Moqtada Al-Sadr's Al Mehdi Army following the Multi National Forces (MNF-I) invasion in 2003. There was intense fighting between the Al Mehdi Army and joint Iraqi Security Force and MNF-I forces in Sadr City between March and May 2008. Numbers of security incidents in Baghdad decreased significantly during the second half of 2008, with an average of five security incidents occurring per day from October to December 2009, compared to 48 per day between August and October 2007.

The improved security situation may provide a more conducive environment for foreign and domestic investment, but major improvements to dilapidated communications, electricity, tourism, industrial and transport infrastructure are required to facilitate economic growth and sustainable job creation. The unemployment rate (12%) in the governorate is below the national average of 15%, but there are large numbers of unemployed youth in urban areas.

Demographics

- Governorate Capital:** Baghdad
- Area:** 4,555 sq km (1.5% of Iraq)
- Population:** 7,145,470 (24% of total)  
*Source: WFP VAM (2007)*
- Gender Distribution:** Male: 50% Female: 50%
- Geo Distribution:** Rural: 13% Urban: 87%  
*Source: GoI COSIT (est. for 2007)*



Baghdad governorate is the closest to meeting the nationalized set of Millennium Development Goals by 2015. However, large numbers of people still experience considerable humanitarian and developmental needs. Sadr City contains large numbers of poor people, and is one of the most overcrowded districts in Iraq. Karkh, Al-Resafa and Sadr City have large numbers of children suffering from chronic malnutrition. Mahmoudiya, Sadr City, Al-Resafa and Adhamiya have significant levels of chronic disease. Most households in Karkh, Sadr City, Al-Resafa, Adhamiya, and Kadhmiyah have infrequent or no connection to the electricity network.

The 600,000 IDPs in Baghdad displaced during the violence of 2006-2007 comprise over a third of the estimated 1.6 million displaced within Iraq from 2006 onwards, with the majority living in Karkh and Resafa districts. 83% of those assessed by IOM have been displaced from within the governorate itself. Food and access to employment opportunities are cited by IDPs in Baghdad as their major priority needs, but IDP vulnerabilities in terms of health and access to essential services vary little from those of the general population.

Karkh has been selected as a priority district for the UN's Iraq Humanitarian Action Plan 2010.

Iraq Millennium Development Goals

Indicator	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Proportion of population below National Poverty Line (\$2.2 per day) (%)	23	13							
Poverty gap ratio at National Poverty Line (%)	5	2							
Prop. of pop. below min. level of dietary energy consumption (%)	22	..							
Net enrollment ratio in primary education (%)		85	90						
Net enrollment ratio in secondary education (%)		37	42						
Enrollment ratio of females to males in primary education (%)			94	100					
Share of women in wage emp. in non-agricultural sector (%)			7	9					
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament (%)			27	33					
Under-five mortality rate (for every 1,000 live births)				41	35				
Proportion of 1 year-old children immunised against measles (%)				81	83				
Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (%)					89	94			
Proportion of TB incidence for every 100,000 of the population						12	30		
Proportion of detected TB cases cured under direct observation treatment (%)						86	78		
Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source (%)							79	96	
Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility (%)							92	100	
Cellular subscribers per 100 population (%)								78	78
Proportion of families owning a personal computer (%)								12	21

■ Current National [Total] ■ Current Sub-National [Baghdad]

