



## Overview

Kerbala is located between Anbar, Babil and Najaf in southern central Iraq. It is one of the country's smallest and least populated governorates. The capital city of the same name houses the shrine of Imam Hussein, a holy site for Shi'a Muslims which attracts many pilgrims, particularly from Iran.

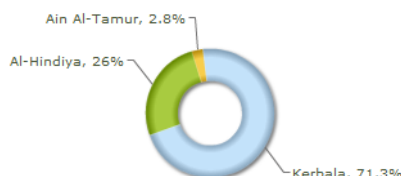
The weakness of Kerbala's private sector could be contributing to the high poverty levels throughout the governorate. Over a quarter (27%) of those employed in Kerbala are unwaged, particularly those employed in wholesale and retail trade, agriculture, transport and communications. 29% of waged work is provided by the government or public sector. A relatively small proportion of jobs is provided by agriculture (12%, compared to a 21% national average). The low importance of agriculture – one of the main employers of Iraqi women – could be contributing to the low female labour force participation rates in Kerbala's rural areas (11%, compared to the 25% national average for rural women).

Kerbala's performance according to humanitarian and development indicators is variable. The percentage of households connected to the water network is relatively high, yet 54% of households in Al-Hindiya district suffer from irregular availability of drinking water. Education levels are low outside Kerbala district, particularly among women. While primary school enrolment rates are above average, intermediate enrolment is low, with only 17% of urban boys aged 12-14 enrolled.

## Demographics

**Governorate Capital:** Kerbala  
**Area:** 5,034 sq km (1% of Iraq)  
**Population:** 887,859 (3% of total)  
*Source: GoI COSIT (est. for 2007)*

**Gender Distribution:** Male: 50% Female: 50%  
**Geo Distribution:** Rural: 35% Urban: 65%  
*Source: GoI COSIT (est. for 2007)*



Kerbala's relatively calm security situation and predominantly Shi'a population led many Shi'a fleeing the wave of violence in Baghdad and Diyala during 2006-7 to seek refuge there. Access to work, shelter and food are top priority needs for IDPs in the governorate. Over a quarter (27%) of IDP families live in collective settlements or public buildings, 62% have no family member in employment, and 12% of families receive no electricity. 16% of families (20% in Al-Hindiya) are headed by women and almost half of IDPs are under the age of 18.

## Iraq Millennium Development Goals

Indicator	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Proportion of population below National Poverty Line (\$2.2 per day) (%)	22.9	36.9							
Poverty gap ratio at National Poverty Line (%)	4.5	7.0							
Prop. of pop. below min. level of dietary energy consumption (%)	7.1	n/a							
Net enrollment ratio in primary education (%)		84.8	88.9						
Net enrollment ratio in secondary education (%)		36.7	10.6						
Enrollment ratio of females to males in primary education (%)			84.8	95.7					
Share of women in wage emp. in non-agricultural sector (%)			7.4	5.6					
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament (%)			27.3	16.7					
Under-five mortality rate (for every 1,000 live births)				41.0	53.0				
Proportion of 1 year-old children immunised against measles (%)				81.0	87.0				
Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (%)					88.5	97.1			
Proportion of TB incidence for every 100,000 of the population						12.4	40.0		
Proportion of detected TB cases cured under direct observation treatment (%)						86.0	77.0		
Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source (%)							79.0	90.3	
Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility (%)							83.9	93.1	
Cellular subscribers per 100 population (%)								78.0	82.3
Proportion of families owning a personal computer (%)								11.8	8.4

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

