



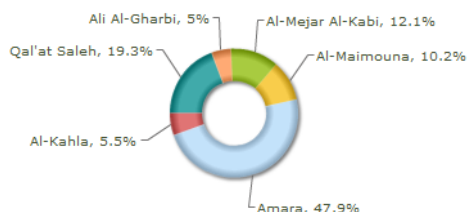
Overview

Missan is located near Iraq's south eastern corner, bordering Basrah to the south and Iran to the east and north. Missan's historical roots can be traced from 324 BC, when King Alexander III of Macedon (Alexander the Great) built the city of Cherkhina at the meeting point of the Degla and Al-Karoun rivers. Over 40% of the population lives in the Marshlands, which cover Qala'at Saleh, Al-Mejar Al-Kabir, Al-Maimouna and Al-Kahla districts. The security situation in Missan remains relatively calm.

Once an important agricultural and industrial centre, Missan's economy has declined due to crumbling infrastructure and poor access to resources. The population of the Marshlands relies heavily on the marsh eco-systems for water and livelihoods, which continue to suffer from environmental changes. The unemployment rate is 17%, slightly above the 15% national average. Female labour force participation is 8%, particularly in rural areas, where this figure drops to 4%. Steps were taken to improve agricultural production and cross-border trade with Iran between 2003 and 2005. However, two successive years of drought have had a detrimental impact on agriculture in the governorate, with 43% of cropland experiencing reduction in crop coverage. An estimated 325,000 people have been affected by the drought afflicting the country during the past two years. The Provincial Government is prioritizing improvements in irrigation systems and water-efficient practices to decrease the likelihood of water shortages in the long term.

Demographics

- Governorate Capital:** Amarah
- Area:** 16,072 sq km (3.7% of Iraq)
- Population:** 824,147 (3% of total)
Source: WFP VAM (2007)
- Gender Distribution:** Male: 50% Female: 50%
- Geo Distribution:** Rural: 35% Urban: 65%
Source: GoI COSIT (est. for 2007)



Missan performs poorly – and often worst – according to many developmental and humanitarian indicators. Lack of access to safe water supplies and poor sanitation are coupled with high prevalence of diarrhea and fever in most districts. All districts except Al-Maimouna suffer poor access to electricity. Illiteracy is above average for both men and women outside Amara, and education levels are very low in all districts except Amara and Al-Mejar Al-Kabir. The youth illiteracy rate (31%) is the worst in the country. Just two thirds of children aged 6-11 are enrolled in primary education, drop to 39% among rural girls – the lowest rates in the country. In addition, only 7% of rural children aged 12-14 are enrolled in intermediate education.

Missan hosts a large number of IDPs, the vast majority of whom come from Baghdad. Just over half live in Amara district. 60% of IDPs in the governorate are under the age of 18. 80% of IDPs identified shelter as a priority need, while 76% cite access to job opportunities. 71% of IDPs families do not have a member in employment.

Al-Maimouna has been identified 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) (%)	22.9	25.3						
Poverty gap ratio at National Poverty Line (%)	4.5	1.0						
Prop. of pop. below min. level of dietary energy consumption (%)	7.1	n/a						
Net enrollment ratio in primary education (%)		84.8	65.6					
Net enrollment ratio in secondary education (%)		36.7	21.2					
Enrollment ratio of females to males in primary education (%)			84.8	79.1				
Share of women in wage emp. in non-agricultural sector (%)			7.4	5.5				
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament (%)			27.3	33.3				
Under-five mortality rate (for every 1,000 live births)				41.0	35.0			
Proportion of 1 year-old children immunised against measles (%)				81.0	90.7			
Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (%)					88.5	84.6		
Proportion of TB incidence for every 100,000 of the population						12.4	43.0	
Proportion of detected TB cases cured under direct observation treatment (%)						86.0	95.0	
Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source (%)							79.0	75.1
Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility (%)							83.9	37.5
Cellular subscribers per 100 population (%)								78.0
Proportion of families owning a personal computer (%)								76.0
								11.8
								5.1

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

