

Rate of illiteracy among Iraqi women twice as high as that of men

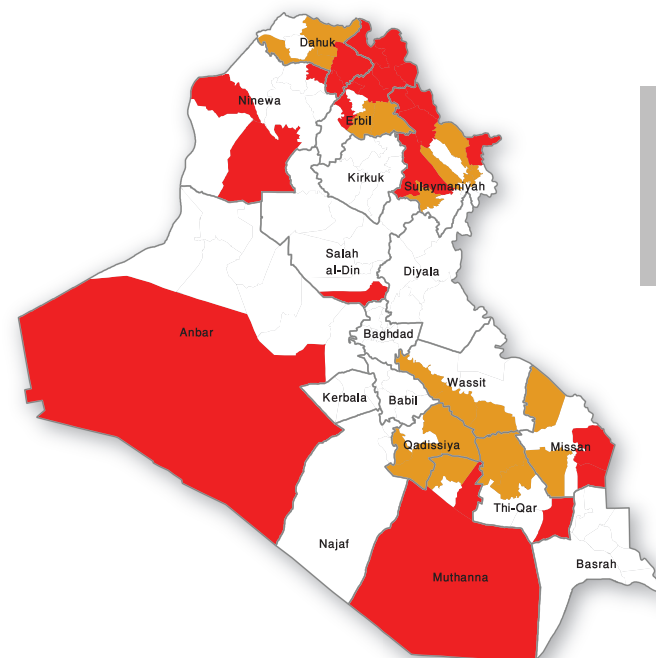
The illiteracy rate is twice as high among Iraqi women compared to that of men. (24% compared with 11%). The disparity in illiteracy rates between women and men are as high among younger people as among older people.

1 in 10 Iraqi households are headed by a woman

1 in 10 Iraqi households are headed by women, more than 80% of whom are widows.

Female Illiteracy

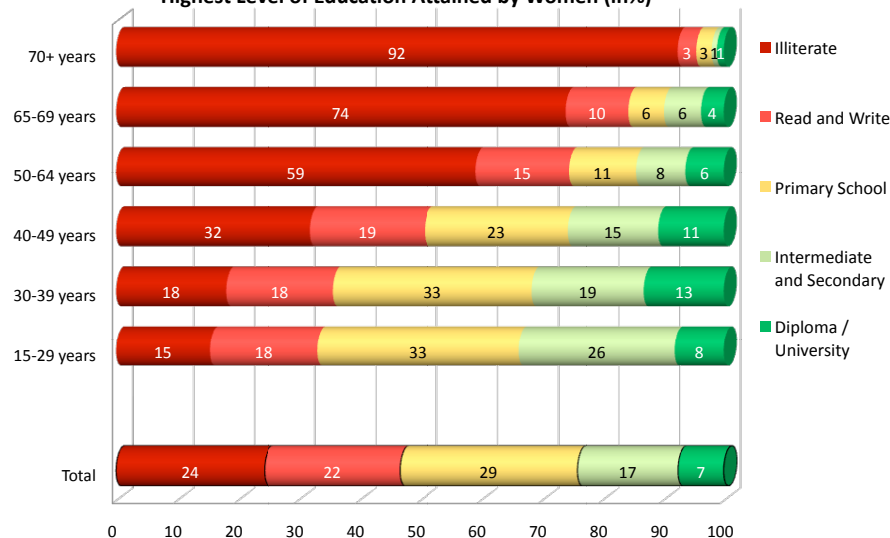
24% of all women of 10 years and above are illiterate. In 39 districts, female illiteracy is particularly serious.



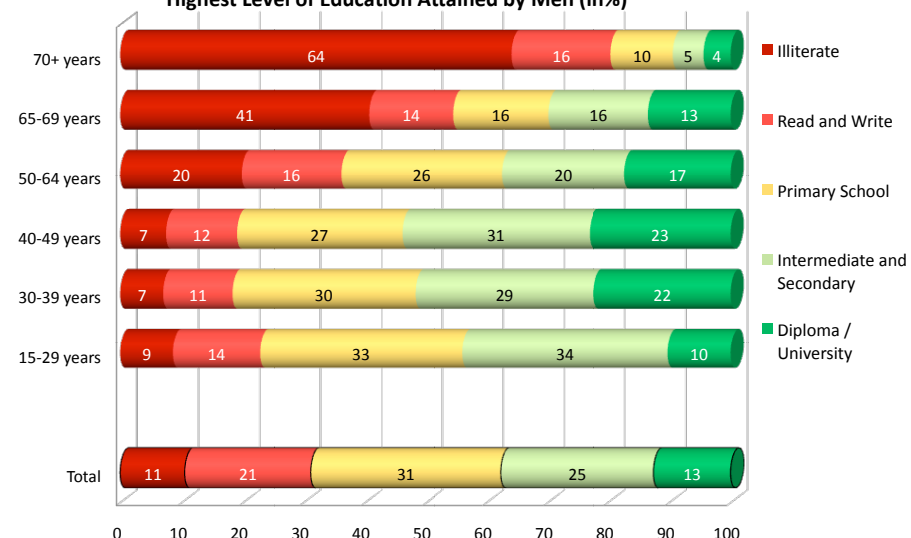
70% of all illiterate Iraqis are women. In 19 districts (in orange), more than 38% of women are illiterate, while in 20 districts (in red), more than 44% of women are illiterate.

Source: WFP VAM 2007

Highest Level of Education Attained by Women (in%)



Highest Level of Education Attained by Men (in%)

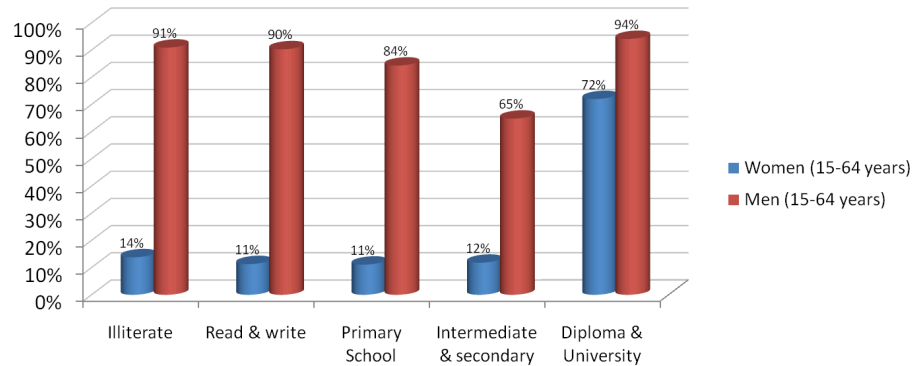


Source: WFP VAM 2007

82% of women outside the labour force

Only 18% of women participate in the labour force, compared to 81% of men. This is a low figure compared to other countries in the region. Women with lower educational levels are more likely to be outside the labour force.

Labour Force Participation by Gender and Level of Education (in %)

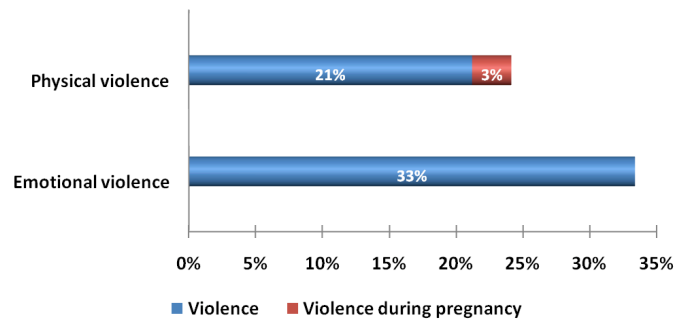


Source: WFP VAM 2007

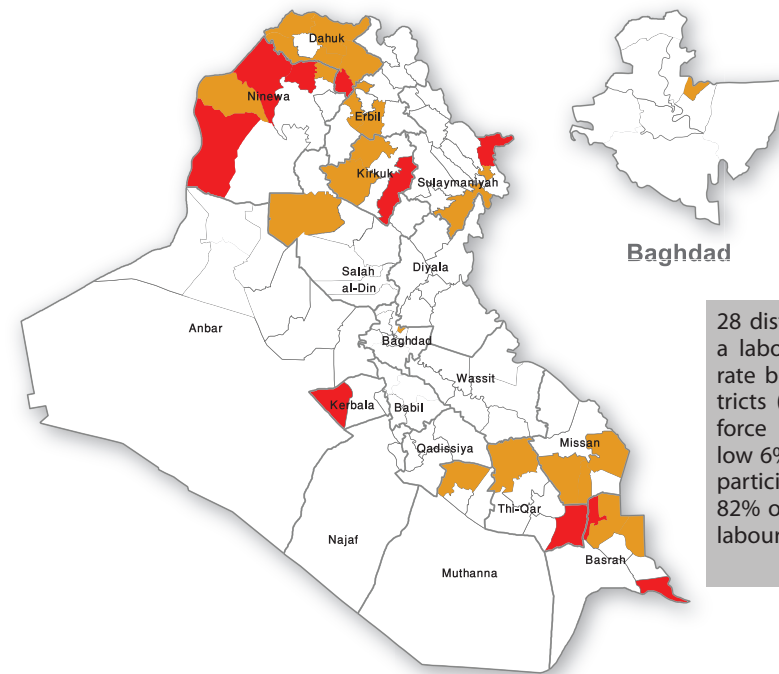
Violence against women in Iraq

One in five married Iraqi women has been a victim of physical domestic violence, while one in three has been subject to emotional violence. Of the women victims of physical domestic violence, 14% were subject to violence during pregnancy.

Women subject to domestic violence



Source: WHO Iraq Family Health Survey 2007



28 districts (in orange) have a labour force participation rate below 11% and 11 districts (in red) have a labour force participation rate below 6%. Female labour force participation is low in Iraq – 82% of all Iraqis outside the labour force are women.

Source: WFP VAM 2007

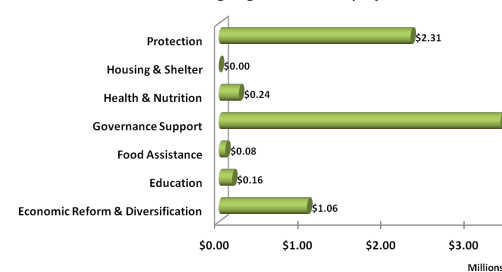
Female Labour Force Participation

Women's labour force participation is significantly lower than the national average (18%) in 39 of Iraq's 115 districts.

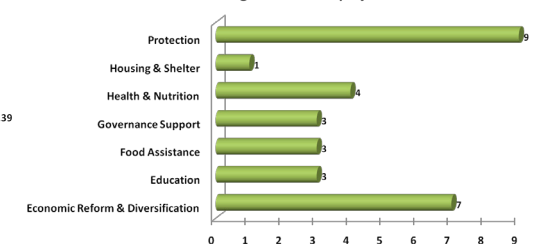
UN Projects to improve gender relations in Iraq

The United Nations and NGOs are implementing projects to improve women's situation and to create the conditions where women can empower themselves. At least 30 projects have been implemented in the last five years amounting to more than \$7 million. These projects have worked in sectors including protection, shelter, health and nutrition, governance, food assistance, education and economic reform.

Funding of gender-related projects



Number of gender-related projects



Source: OCHA / IAU 3W Database