

# The Situation of Children and Women in Iraq

Highlights from the  
Multiple Indicator Cluster  
Survey 4 (MICS 4)

2011



unicef 



# Demographics

- Population of Iraq:  
**33.4 million**
- Children and Adolescents (0-18):  
**16.6 million (50% of Iraqis)**
- Children Under-5:  
**5.6 million (17% of Iraqis)**
- Adolescents and Youth:  
**6.7 million (20% of Iraqis)**
- Poverty  
**23% of Iraq's population live on less than US \$2.2/day**



# MICS 4 in Iraq

- A household survey that assists countries monitor and improve the situation of children and women
- 4<sup>th</sup> MICS in Iraq; previous MICS' in 2006, 2000 and 1996
- **Largest** ever survey in Iraq with **36,000** households interviewed
- **Only second** survey in Iraq to collect data at the District level
- MICS fieldworkers were Government of Iraq and Kurdistan Region staff; **817** surveyors and supervisors collected data in Iraq's **118** districts
- Over 55,000 women (15-49 years) interviewed
- Data collected in 2011



# Comparison & Trends

MICS 2006 – MICS 2011

## Progress:

### Good Progress in:

- Birth Registration (99%)
- Gender parity in Primary School (0.94)
- Registration and Attendance at Primary School (90%)

### Slight Progress in:

- Under-5 Child Mortality (very high in 1<sup>st</sup> month and year of life)
- Immunization coverage (measles insufficient)
- Child labour



# Comparison & Trends

MICS 2006 – MICS 2011

## Stalled and Regression:

### Stalled in:

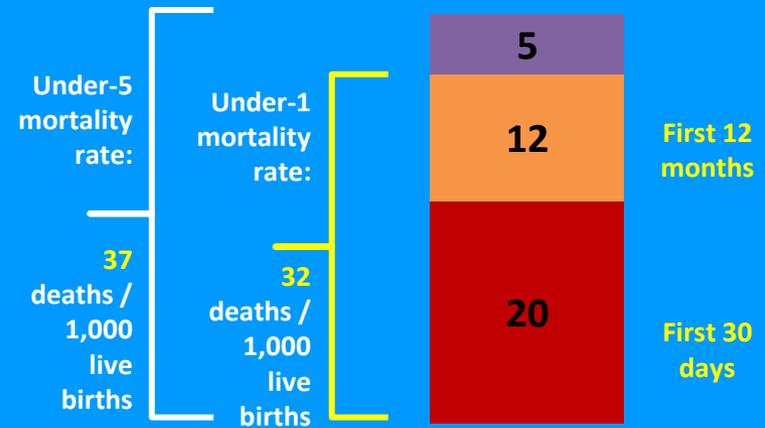
- Under-nutrition
- Underweight at birth
- Primary School completion on time
- Iodized salt consumption
- Attitude towards domestic violence and violent discipline

### Regression in:

- Breastfeeding
- Treatment of Diarrhoea
- Treatment of Pneumonia
- Early Marriage



# Child Mortality



**37** Under-5 children die out of every 1,000 live births

**32** of them die before reaching her/his 1<sup>st</sup> birthday

**Around 35,000 infants die every year**

(based on the estimate of 1.1 million births/year. MoP)



# Breastfeeding

Only **3 in 10** children are exclusively breastfed in the first month of life

**But...**

Only **1 in 10** children are exclusively breastfed after three months of life



## Nutrition

**1 in 4** children experience stunted physical and intellectual growth

(the irreversible outcome of chronic under-nutrition in first years of life)

**4%** of Under-5 children are severely malnourished (wasted)





# Immunization

Only **5 out of 10** children aged 18-29 months receive all recommended immunizations at the correct time



# Child Health

**Acute Respiratory Infections and Diarrhoea are the two biggest killer diseases of children in Iraq**

**3 out of 4** children with diarrhoea are not treated correctly

(Oral Rehydration Treatment with continued feeding)

**1 in 3** children with suspected Pneumonia is not treated correctly

(antibiotics)



## Primary Education

Around **9 out of 10** children enrol in and attend primary school

**But..**

**Only 4** of them complete primary school on time

(net primary completion rate)

**Every year 450,000** primary school age children either do not complete primary school on time or drop out of school



## Secondary Education

Out of every **10** secondary school age children:

**5** are in secondary school

**1** is in primary school

**4** have dropped out of school

**The majority of children who drop out before reaching secondary school are girls**

**3 out of 10** young women aged 15-24 are illiterate

# Safe Water

**4 in 5** Iraqis have access to the drinking water network

**But...**

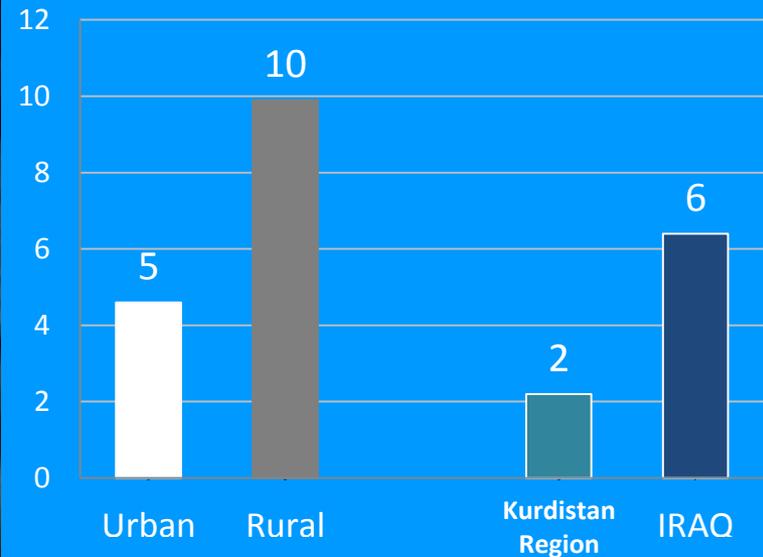
**2 in 5** households do not have chlorinated drinking water





# Child Labour

**500,000** children between the ages 5-14 are involved in child labour, most of them are in rural areas





## Violence against Children

**80%** of children aged 2-14 - **9.6 million** - experience violent discipline methods (i.e. slapping, hitting, etc.)

**1 in 3** of them - **3.3 million** - are subjected to severe violent discipline methods (i.e. burning, biting, etc.)

# Early Marriage

**1 in 5** young women  
between 15-19 years  
of age is currently  
married



# Orphans

Around **800,000** children have lost one or both parents



# Female Genital Mutilation or Cutting (FGM/C) (Female Circumcision)

**1 in 2 girls**  
has experienced  
FGM/C in Erbil and  
Sulaymaniyah  
governorates  
(Kurdistan Region)



**For an Iraq Fit for Children**

