Demographics

- Population of Iraq: 33.4 million
- Children and Adolescents (0-18): 16.6 million (+/- 50% of Iraqis)
- Children under 5: 5.6 million (1 in every 5 Iraqis)
- Adolescents and Youth: 6.7 million
- Poverty 23% of Iraq’s population live on less than US $2.2/day

Source: Ministry of Planning
- Household survey developed by UNICEF to assist developing countries improve the situation of children and women.

- This is the 4th MICS in Iraq. Previous MICS rounds were in 2006, 2000 and 1996.

- Largest ever survey in Iraq with 36,000 households interviewed.

- Only second survey in Iraq to collect data at a District level.

- All 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 in their reproductive age (15-49 years) were interviewed.

- Data was 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 mortality in 1st month and year of life)
  - Immunization coverage (measles insufficient)
  - Child labour
Comparison & Trends
MICS 2006 – MICS 2011

Stalling and Regress:

Stalling in:
- Under-nutrition
- Low weight rate 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
37 Under-5 children die out of every 1000 live births

32 of those die before reaching her/his 1st 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.

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Nutrition

1 in 4 children experience stunted growth
(the irreversible outcome of chronic under-nutrition in the first years of life)

7% of children under 5 experience severe malnutrition (wasting)
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 remain 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)

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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

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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 Protection

Child Labour

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

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80% of (9.6 million) children aged 2-14 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.)
Child Protection

Early Marriage

1 in 5 young women (21%) between 15-19 is currently married
Around 800,000 children in Iraq have lost one or both parents.
Child Protection

Female Genital Mutilation or Cutting (FGM/C)

(Female Circumcision)

1 in 2 young girls (15-24) has experienced FGM/C when they were younger in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah governorates (Kurdistan Region)