Education Data Snapshot
Iraq Conflict

USAID · SOCIAL IMPACT · fhi360 THE SCIENCE OF IMPROVING LIVES

Conflict Summary

The rise of the Islamic State (IS, ISIS, ISIL, Daesh) in Iraq led to four years of intensive and continuous violence targeting Iraq's government forces and civilians, causing almost six million people to become displaced.[1] The insurgency escalated during the first half of 2013, intensifying in September as IS launched a series of bombings in Erbil, the capital of Kurdistan.[2] In 2014, IS occupied approximately one-third of the country's territory in northern and western provinces, capturing the key city of Mosul. In 2014, about 2.5 million civilians were displaced, and throughout 2015 and 2016 almost two million more became internally displaced or sought refuge in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, or Syria.[3] After a nine-month U.S.-backed campaign from late 2016 to July 2017, Iraq's government forces achieved multiple major victories against insurgents and recaptured Mosul. In December 2017, the Iraqi government declared victory over IS forces.[4] The relative reduction in levels of violence since has been accompanied with major rebuilding efforts to restore electricity, water and sewage grids; jump-start local economies; and open schools and health centers as displaced camps are being consolidated and de-commissioned.[5] Around 4.5 million persons have returned home. Amidst this transition into a post-conflict state, fears of the resurgence of IS, lack of livelihood opportunities, and widespread poverty persist.[6] Governing institutions are still fragile with endemic corruption and fluctuating tensions between Iraq's central government and the Kurdistan regime.[7] These factors, among others, are impeding the successful reintegration and return for many vulnerable families.[8] With 1.4 million people still internally displaced, the need for humanitarian assistance, including educational assistance, remains acute, especially in the Al-Anbar and Ninewa governorates.
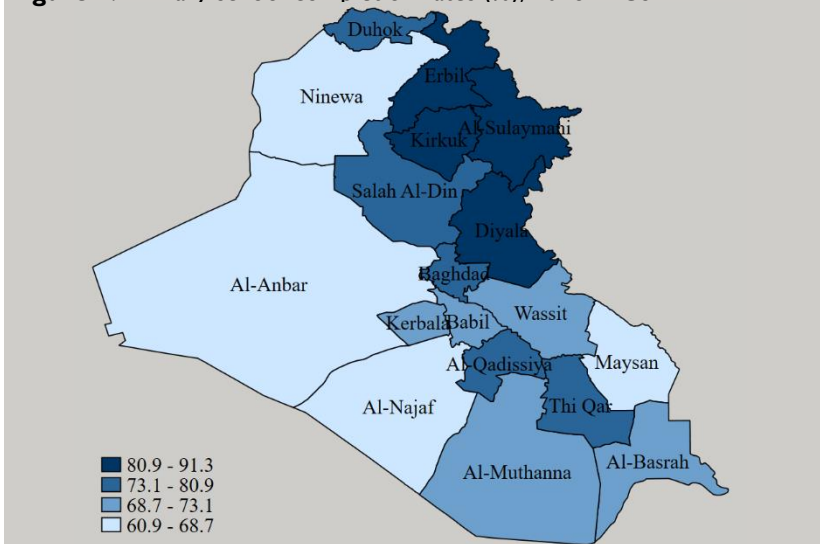
Timeline

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Sunni insurgency intensifies; Islamic State bombs Erbil	Islamic State "declares" Caliphate; US announces airstrikes against Islamic State (IS)	Iraq forces deployed to Tikrit in major offensive; Kurdish forces recapture Sinjar	Mosul is recaptured by Iraqi forces; Popular Mobilization Units legalized	Kurds back independence from Iraq in referendum; Iraq announces victory over IS	Relative decline in levels of violence in Iraq; Parliamentary elections won by Al-Sadr	Large protests in Baghdad and other areas; refugee influx after Turkish offensive in Syria	US kills Iranian General Qassim Soleimani; Iraqi parliament demands US troops removed

See latest Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), BBC Iraq timeline, USIP Iraq timeline and ACLED resources for more.

Key Statistics (2018-2020)

Figure 1. Primary school completion rates (%), 2018 MICS[A1]

Legend:
- 80.9 - 91.3
- 73.1 - 80.9
- 68.7 - 73.1
- 60.9 - 68.7

An estimated **4.1 million people are in need**, with **1.77 million in acute need**. 1.2 million school-age (ages 6-17) children require educational support.[A4]

See 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) report for more.

In 2018, 8.2% of primary school age, **21.1% of lower secondary** school age, and **40.1% of upper secondary** school age **children were out of school** across Iraq.[A5]

See 2018 MICS and Multi-Cluster Needs Assessments (MCNA), e.g., VI and VII, for more.

In 2019, **107 humanitarian organizations** were based within Iraq, including **15 with an education focus.**[A6]

See UN OCHA dashboard on organizations implementing humanitarian activities in Iraq for more.

There are **1,414,632 IDPs** and **4,596,450 returnees** in Iraq as of December 2019. **Roughly half are children** under age 18.[A2]

There are **245,810 Syrian refugees** in Iraq as of December 2019. Approximately **45% are children** under age 18.[A3]

US$653.6 million (93.2%) of 2019 Iraq HRP funded.[A7]

See IOM resources, especially DTM datasets and visualization tools, for more.

See UNHCR Syrian Regional Refugee Response resources for Iraq for more.[B3]

See UN OCHA resources, especially the Iraq overview and Financial Tracking Service Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan for more.

How have the crisis and impact on education evolved over time?

Figure 2. Conflict events: Attacks on education (GCPEA)[B1], attacks against civilians, battles, and remote violence (ACLED)[B2]
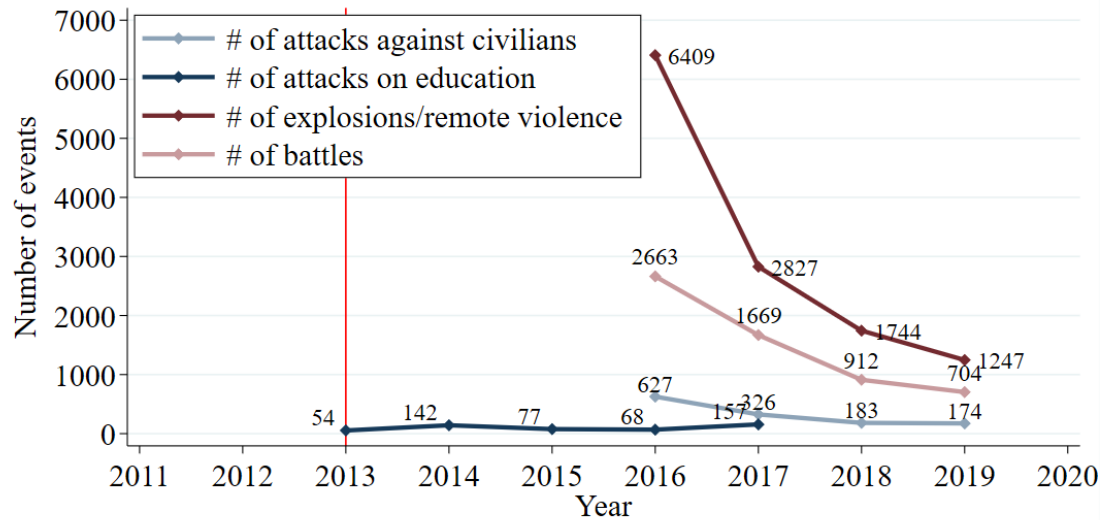

Figure 3. Out of school children of primary and secondary school ages (MICS)[B3] and school-age children in need of education assistance (adjusted from HNO reports 2016-2020)[B4]
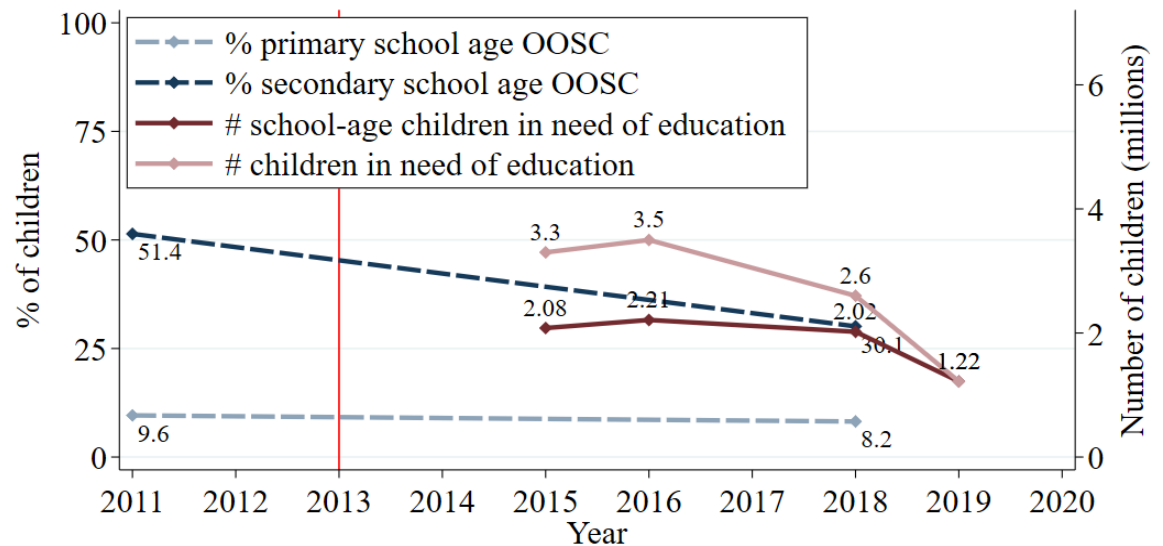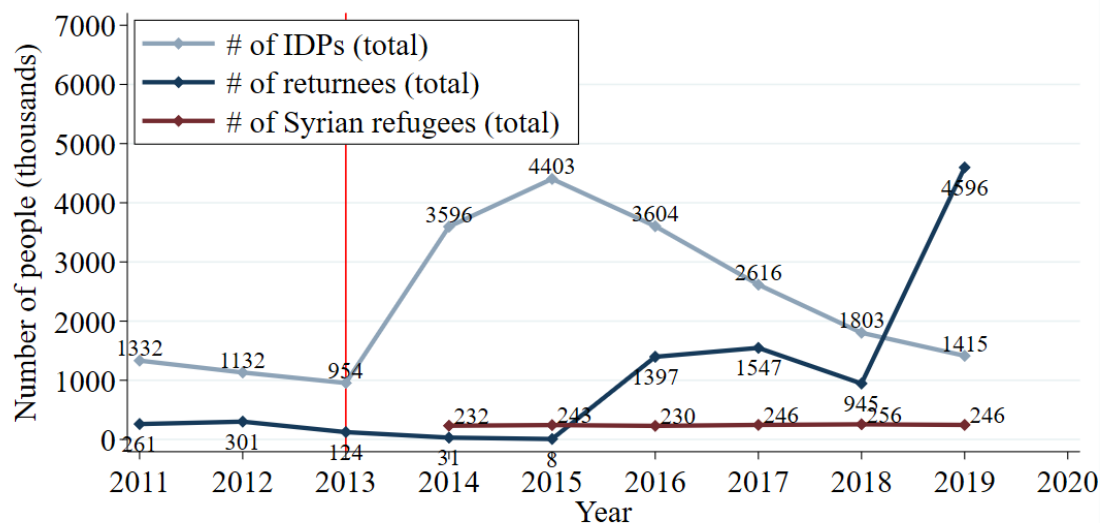

Figure 4. Iraqi IDP and returnee population (UNHCR and DTM)[B5] and Syrian refugee population in Iraq (UNHCR)[B6]

Publicly available data resources for Iraq conflict

Data source	Key resources and tools	Illustrative indicators	Data coverage *Annual (●)/Monthly (✳)* *National (●)/Subnational (✳)*
Humanitarian education response data and resources (available during conflict years)			
UN OCHA	➢ Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNO) ➢ Humanitarian Response Plans (HRP)	➢ **Population in need:** # people in need; in need of education assistance ➢ **Contextual information:** displacement, resource needs, access, partners	2014-2020 ● ●
UN OCHA/Iraq Cluster	➢ Iraq Humanitarian Response Dashboards (3Ws) – 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 ➢ REACH Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment	➢ **Operational & partner presence:** # of people reached as part of education response; # and location of education partners ➢ **Contextual information:** # of IDPs (in and out of camps) and returnees facing unmet humanitarian needs by sector; households in need of education assistance	At least 2016-2019 ✳ ● ✳
Iraq National Education Cluster	➢ 2019 IDP Response Dashboard ➢ 2019 Refugee Response Dashboard ➢ PDF dashboards	➢ **Education response:** # of children targeted, # of children reached, education response indicators (i.e. # of children enrolled in non-formal education) ➢ **Contextual information:** # of school age children in need of education assistance, # of IDPs, # of refugees	2014-2019 ✳ ● ✳
UNHCR Operational Portal: Iraq Overview	➢ Situation Overview ➢ Formal Site Monitoring Tool (FSMT) Online Dashboard ➢ Document Library	➢ **Contextual information:** # of IDPs/IDP households and population flows; IDP camp populations and locations	2015-2020 ✳ ● ✳
UN OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS)	➢ Iraq 2020	➢ **Funding:** humanitarian response funding requirements, funding provided, funding provided to the education sector, funding provided by donor	2014-2020 ✳ ●
Population movement and forced displacement data and resources			
UNHCR	➢ UNHCR Population Statistics Reference Database (PopStats)	➢ **Populations of concern**: # of refugees, # of IDPs, # of returnees, # of asylum seekers (by status determination)–all by country of residence & country of origin	At least 2000-2018 ● ●
IDMC	➢ Global Internal Displacement Database (GIDD) ➢ Country Profile: Iraq	➢ **IDP populations:** # of IDPs, # of new displacements due to conflict ➢ **Country profile:** key figures and overview; risks of future displacement; drivers, patterns, and impacts of population movement; analytical reports (2017, 2018)	2008-2018 ● ●
IOM DTM	➢ Iraq Overview ➢ Displacement Data Portal: Iraq	➢ **IDP and returnee populations:** total # of IDPs/returnees, IDP/returnee movement, IDPs/returnees by location	2014-2019 ✳ ● ✳
IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre	➢ Migration Data Portal: Iraq	➢ **Migration and forced displacement:** total population (UN DESA), # of international migrants (UN DESA), # of refugees (UNHCR), # of IDPs (IDMC), youth unemployment rate (ILO)	At least 2000-2019 ● ●

Data source	Key resources and tools	Illustrative indicators	Data coverage *Annual (●)/Monthly (✳)* *National (●)/Subnational (✳)*
Conflict data and resources			
Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP)	➢ UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset ➢ Country Profile: Iraq	➢ **Armed conflict:** years of conflict, type of conflict, location, actors involved ➢ **Country profile:** provides conflict summary and key figures (i.e. # of fatalities) by actor, type of violence, and location	1989-2018 ● ●
ACLED	➢ ACLED Database ➢ Data Dashboard: Islamic State Crisis ➢ Analysis: Iraq	➢ **Conflict events:** # of conflict events, type of conflict events, locations, dates, actors involved, # of fatalities ➢ **Data dashboard:** provides a crisis profile, key figures, and a map of conflict events by type ➢ **Analysis:** reports and briefs on conflict in Iraq	2016-2020 ✳ ● ✳
GCPEA	➢ *Education Under Attack 2018*: Iraq ➢ HDX *Education Under Attack 2018* datasets	➢ **Attacks on education:** # of attacks on schools, students, and education personnel, military use of education facilities, attacks on higher education	At least 2013-2017 ● ● ✳
HDX Education Insecurity (ACLED, Twitter)	➢ Education Insecurity Tweet Counts ➢ Education Insecurity Events	➢ **Social media:** # of tweets about education insecurity (Twitter) ➢ **Education insecurity:** # of education insecurity events (ACLED)	2019-2020 ✳ ✳
International educational development data and resources (mostly available pre-conflict)			
UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)	➢ UIS.Stat ➢ Iraq country page	➢ **School access, retention, completion**: intake, enrollment, repetition, dropout, completion, survival, transition, OOSC, pupils, attendance ➢ **Educational resources**: Schools, teachers, pupils, pupil-teacher ratio, trained teachers as a % of all, public expenditure per pupil ➢ **Literacy and learning outcomes**: literacy rate (15-24 years old)	At least 2000-2018 (multiple gaps) ● ●
Household surveys	➢ MICS 2000, 2006, 2011, 2018	➢ **School access:** Attendance, OOSC, pupils (% underage, at-age, overage) ➢ **Literacy:** literacy rate (15-24 years old)	2000-2018 (~5-year gaps) ● ● ✳
Ministry of Education/EMIS	➢ EMIS data (Arabic)	➢ **School summaries:** # of schools, # of pupils, # of teachers by education level and location	2012-2013 ● ●
International education databases/data aggregators	➢ Education Policy and Data Center (EPDC) ➢ World Inequality Database on Education (WIDE) ➢ World Bank EdStats	➢ **School access, retention, completion**: intake, enrollment, repetition, dropout, completion, survival, transition, OOSC, pupils, attendance ➢ **Educational resources**: Schools, teachers, pupils, pupil-teacher ratio, trained teachers as a % of all, public expenditure per pupil ➢ **Literacy and learning outcomes**: literacy rate (15-24 years old)	*Coverage reflects availability from primary data sources, especially those listed above.*

Acronyms

3W	Who's doing What, Where
ACLED	Armed Conflict Location and Event Data
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
EMIS	Education Management Information System
EPDC	Education Policy and Data Center
FSMT	Formal Site Monitoring Tool
FTS	Financial Tracking Service
GCPEA	Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack
GIDD	Global Internal Displacement Database
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IS, ISIS, ISIL, Daesh	Islamic State
MCNA	Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
OOSC	Out of school children
UCDP	Uppsala Conflict Data Program
UIS	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
UN DESA	UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UN OCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNHCR PopStats	UNHCR Population Statistics Reference Database
USIP	United States Institute of Peace
WIDE	World Inequality Database for Education

Illustrative Reports

3RP Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan. Country Chapter: Iraq. 2019/2020.

GCPEA. Education Under Attack 2018: Iraq. 2018.

Human Rights Watch. Iraq: School Doors Barred to Many Children Affects Thousands Who Lived Under ISIS Rule. August 2019.

Iraq National Education Cluster. Education Cluster Strategy. 2019.

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). Urgent measures needed to stop Iraq's displaced children being left behind. December 2019.

UNICEF. 2018 MICS Briefing: Iraq. December 2018.

Data notes

❖ Resource updated multiple times per year. ◆ Resource updated annually. ✗ Resource updated occasionally, not every year.

A1 Primary school completion rates are taken from pp. 229-30 of the 2018 MICS survey findings report available at https://mics-surveys-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/MICS6/Middle%20East%20and%20North%20Africa/Iraq/2018/Survey%20findings/Iraq%202018%20MICS%20SFR%20%5BJune%202019%5D_English.pdf. ✗

A2 IDP and returnee estimates come from the Datasets section of the International Office for Migration's DTM website available at https://displacement.iom.int/, specifically from the Round 113 datasets on returnees and IDPs. Data accessed on 10 February 2020. Data covers period from 28 November – 31 December 2019. ❖ Estimates on the percentage of children among returnees and IDPs are taken from p. 15 of the 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview for Iraq. ◆

A3 Information on Syrian refugees in Iraq comes from UNHCR Syrian Refugee Response profile available at https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria/location/5. Estimates on percentage of children are based on the demographic information in the population pyramid in that resource. Data accessed on 10 February 2020. Data last updated in resource on 31 December 2019. ❖

A4 Estimates on need come from the 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) report available at https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/iraq/humanitarian-need-overview. ◆

A5 Out of school rates are taken from pp. 217, 220, and 225 of the 2018 MICS survey findings report available at https://mics-surveys-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/MICS6/Middle%20East%20and%20North%20Africa/Iraq/2018/Survey%20findings/Iraq%202018%20MICS%20SFR%20%5BJune%202019%5D_English.pdf. ✗

A6 Numbers of humanitarian organizations operating in Iraq come from the OCHA Iraq Humanitarian Dashboard covering the period January to December 2019 available at https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/iraq/infographic/iraq-humanitarian-dashboard-january-december-2019-en. Dashboard published 05 February 2020. ❖

A7 HRP funding data available at https://www.unocha.org/iraq. Data accessed 26 February 2020. ❖

B1 Information on attacks on education comes from the "Incidents of Attacks on Education 2013-2017.csv" dataset available at https://data.humdata.org/dataset/eua-2018. Dataset accessed 12 February 2020. ✖

B2 Information on attacks against civilians comes from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data (ACLED) Project. Event level data accessed from https://www.acleddata.com/data/ on 11 February 2020 and aggregated as annual estimates. Data had last been updated by ACLED on 8 February 2020. ❖ Although ACLED updates its data regularly, ACLED data is updated only once per year, at the beginning of the year, in this snapshot, which uses annual conflict estimates.

B3 Information on out of school children were compiled from MICS reports. Out of school rates for 2018 come from the 2018 MICS survey findings report available at https://mics-surveys-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/MICS6/Middle%20East%20and%20North%20Africa/Iraq/2018/Survey%20findings/Iraq%202018%20MICS%20SFR%20%5BJune%202019%5D_English.pdf. Out of school rates for 2011 are calculated using adjusted net attendance rates from the 2011 MICS survey findings report available at https://mics-surveys-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/MICS4/Middle%20East%20and%20North%20Africa/Iraq/2011/Final/Iraq%202011%20MICS_English.pdf. We calculate the 2011 out of school rates as 100 minus the adjusted net attendance rates. ✖

B4 Numbers of children in need of education are taken from HNO reports for 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2020 and apply to different age ranges in different reports: children under age 18 in the 2016 and 2017 reports, ages 3-17 in the 2019 report, and ages 6-17 in the 2020 report. Numbers of school age children in need are adjusted from these estimates, presenting the proportion of school aged children (Ages 6-17) relative to the original age group. We use United Nations World Population Prospects data (2012 Revision) for July 2015 to calculate proportions. Because estimates of need published in HNO reports are based on data from the previous year, we label estimates for the previous year. For example, data from the 2020 reports is labeled as 2019 in the chart. ◆

B5 Information on Iraqi IDP and returnee populations comes from the UNHCR Population Statistics database, accessed 14 February 2020, for 2011-2018, available at http://popstats.unhcr.org/en/overview. Estimates for 2019 come from the IOM DTM Round 113 dataset available at https://displacement.iom.int/, specifically from the Round 113 datasets on returnees and IDPs. Data accessed on 10 February 2020. Data covers period from 28 November – 31 December 2019. ❖

B6 Numbers of Syrian refugees in Iraq are taken from UNHCR Syria Refugee Response Profile available at https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria/location/5. Data accessed on 10 February 2020. Data last updated in resource on 31 December 2019. ❖

Endnotes

[1] UN OCHA. Iraq. http://www.unocha.org/iraq

[2] "Iraq profile – timeline". BBC. 26 October 2017. http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14546763

[3] "Iraq: US$569M urgently needed to respond to the needs of 3.4M of the most vulnerable people." UN OCHA. Iraq. 6 March 2018. https://www.unocha.org/story/iraq-us569m-urgently-needed-respond-needs-34m-most-vulnerable-people

[4] Aboulenein, Ahmed and Maher Chmaytelli. "Iraq declares final victory over Islamic State." Reuters. 9 December 2017. https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-islamicstate/iraq-declares-final-victory-over-islamic-state-idUSKBN1E30B9

[5] "Iraq: US$569M urgently needed to respond to the needs of 3.4M of the most vulnerable people." UN OCHA. Iraq. 6 March 2018. https://www.unocha.org/story/iraq-us569m-urgently-needed-respond-needs-34m-most-vulnerable-people

[6] "Humanitarian Needs Overview: Iraq". UN OCHA. 17 November 2019. https://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/iraq-humanitarian-needs-overview-2020-november-2019-enarku

"Averting an ISIS resurgence in Iraq and Syria". International Crisis Group. 11 October 2019. https://www.crisisgroup.org/middle-east-north-africa/eastern-mediterranean/syria/207-averting-isis-resurgence-iraq-and-syria

[7] "Iraq Humanitarian Needs Overview 2019". UN OCHA. 16 December 2018. https://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/iraq-humanitarian-needs-overview-2019-november-2018

[8] "Humanitarian Response Plan 2020". UN OCHA. 27 January 2020. https://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/iraq-humanitarian-response-plan-2020-january-2020