

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

FACTSHEET

2015

PROVIDING FAMILIES WITH CLEAN WATER, ADEQUATE SANITATION AND THE KNOWLEDGE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM DISEASE

Essential public services in Iraq have been severely weakened by escalating violence and the massive influx of displaced people. Fighting has damaged water systems and in some cases entire districts have had their water supply networks cut-off by armed groups. Power cuts, fuel shortages and disruption to supply routes have left already vulnerable communities without access to clean water to drink, cook and bathe.

In both displacement camps urgent sanitation and hygiene support is required to prevent the spread of diseases: due to overcrowding, inadequate waste disposal and cases of open defecation. Camps, erected in the immediate aftermath of the displacement, are often not fit for purpose with latrines located far from where families are sheltering, presenting potential protection risks for young children, especially girls.

With the violence showing no sign of abating, thousands who are now living in abandoned or unfinished buildings face the prospect of going without safe drinking water, latrines, and bathing facilities if crucial WASH assistance is not provided.



Children living in Kawergosk Refugee Camp wade through flooded roads on their way to school. In several camps drainage continues to be an issue. *Photo Credit: David Hartman/ Save the Children*

CRISIS IN NUMBERS:

- **5 million** people require emergency water and sanitation interventions
- More than **380,000** people are living in abandoned or unfinished homes, many without access to safe drinking water or clean water with which to cook and bathe
- To date, Save the Children has reached over **275,000** displaced Iraqis across 7 governorates with WASH programming
- Every month Save the Children is trucking more than **7,000 metric tonnes of water** to families displaced by the conflict

To ensure that we are responding effectively and efficiently we are working closely with the WASH Cluster, Sanitation Technical Group and Hygiene Promotion Technical Group. Good coordination means less gaps and overlaps in humanitarian organisations' work, while also helping to identify ways to share best practices and work together for better collective results.

We are also working closely with Government departments, such as the Water Department and Public Health Department, at both national and municipality level to ensure successful cooperation is taking place in all the areas that we are implementing projects.

SAVE THE CHILDREN RESPONSE

Save the Children is supporting children and their families who have been affected by the conflict. In addition to working directly with displaced families, we are also supporting communities that are hosting large numbers of those displaced.

DISTRIBUTION OF CRITICAL WASH ITEMS

Iraq is currently contending with one of the largest internally displaced populations in the world. Many left their homes with nothing but the clothes on their backs and have arrived in overcrowded camps with little in terms of equipment to survive. In response we have distributed lifesaving bottles of water, Hygiene kits, and jerry cans to help displaced families collect and store water.

In 2014 over 190,000 children and their families displaced to Diyala, Dohuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah Al Din and Sulaymaniyah benefitted from the distribution of WASH items.

WATER TRUCKING

Thousands of people are living in camps that have no sustainable access to clean water. We are installing water tanks and trucking in 260m³ of water everyday so that families have safe water to drink, cook with and bathe.

Over 80,000 people are benefiting from on-going water trucking.

INSTALLING LATRINES/ REPAIRING DRAINAGE/DISPOSING OF WASTE

We have installed over 292 latrines in 5 different locations to ensure displaced Iraqis and Syrians have a safe and hygienic place to go to the toilet. We are also helping Camp Authorities and Management to rehabilitate drainage and dispose of waste so that children are not at increased risk of catching disease.

HYGIENE PROMOTION

Latrines, water pipes and soap do not, in and of themselves, improve health; it is the way they are put to use that reduces the risk of disease. Our Hygiene Promotion activities therefore encourage people to adopt safe hygiene practices and behaviours to prevent diarrheal and a number of other infectious diseases. To date we have reached 190,000 children and their families through our hygiene promotion activities.



After a night of heavy rain at Bahaka IDP Camp, new arrivals Mahabat, 2 years old, and Nawroz*, 3years old, help to sweep the rain water away from their family's tent*

Photo Credit: Sebastian Rich/Save the Children

CAPACITY BUILDING

Our WASH-in-Emergencies Training works to build national capacity of Save the Children Staff, engineers from the Department of Water and Public Health Officers from affected municipalities to anticipate and address common WASH problems in times of crisis. We are also conducting Training-of-Trainers for Hygiene Promotion and Awareness Raising activities in order to transfer knowledge and best practices to targeted beneficiaries and local organisations.

FUNDING

Currently our WASH programming is **40% underfunded**. To continue providing for children in Iraq, it is imperative Save the Children receives further funding to implement our activities.

Our WASH programme activities are funded by Chevron, DANIDA, DFATD Canada, DFID, ECHO, OFDA, UNICEF and our members.