

### Analysis of Education Needs (January 2008)

Violence and insecurity have led to an education crisis in Iraq. Access to education has been limited by security, school closures, and a large-scale exodus of teaching staff, particularly in central Iraq.

The critical needs in education are:

- Immediate access to education. The Ministry of Education's figures demonstrate that only 28% of Iraq's graduation-aged population sat exams in 2007. In many areas, safe access to school is hampered by continued violence, roadblocks, etc.
- Increased enrolment of female students. In southern provinces, the ratio of girls to boys in primary school has dropped from 2:3 in 2005/6 to 1:4 in 2006/7.
- Improvement of school facilities. A large number of schools are damaged and not functioning.
- Qualified, professional teachers. A large group of professionally qualified teachers have left the country or have been killed in targeted attacks.
- Psychosocial support. Current psychosocial support is not adequate for children and youth exposed to violence.
- Increased numbers of classrooms. Areas hosting large numbers of IDPs or areas where schools are used for other purposes (schools occupied by the military forces), lack sufficient numbers of classrooms, resulting in multiple shifts. Reduced school hours and large student populations have affected the quality of education and effective classroom management leading to increased risk of violence at school.
- Appropriate language taught in schools. There are not enough schools in the North providing Arabic language instruction.
- Assistance to street children. There are reports of increased numbers of street children in cities throughout Iraq, especially Baghdad and Erbil.

Preliminary reports from the MoE on enrolment in the 2006/2007 academic year indicate low enrolment and a significant drop compared with previous years. Dropout rates were highest in Ninewa, certain areas of Baghdad, Anbar, Erbil and Missan.

Level	School Enrolment Rate	Drop out rates
Kindergarten	0.06%	
Primary School (grade 1-6)	46% (NER)	Range of 1.1%-5.1%
Secondary School	46% (male 53%, female 34%) (GER)	5% and trend declines at the end of the cycle