

CIVIC VALUES AND LIFE SKILLS

Why Civic Values?

Promoting civic values and life skills will enhance peaceful co-existence among future generations of adolescents and combat communal divide by reinforcing the concepts of human rights, citizenship, national identity, tolerance and gender equality.

Invest in youth and place them on a better footing to pursue their development.

Enable youth to preserve and capitalize on the rich cultural/religious mosaic of all communities, thus preparing them as future national leaders, entrepreneurs and civil servants.

Developing institutional and human capacities for the promotion of civic values and life skills.



Peacebuilding and Nation-building Initiatives

- Enabling children and young people to become agents of change.
- Enhancing the role of youth as catalysts for national reconciliation efforts.
- Enhancing the development of concerned public institutions to deliver civic values and life skills.

Impact at Policy Level and Sustainability

POLICY LEVEL

- National Plan of Action & Reconciliation Strategy:
- National policy for civic values and life skills.
 - Human capacity building of policymakers and managers.

INSTITUTIONALIZATION

- Develop ministries' capacities (national trainers).
- National civic values and life skills network (coordination mechanisms).
- Monitoring and evaluation system.
- Resource hubs.

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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

• **ESCWA** and other United Nations partner agencies (UNESCO and UNFPA), with the support of the Ministry of Education (MoE) in Baghdad and Erbil, worked on strengthening civic practices and life skills in the educational system to support youth and enhance participation and inclusivity.

• **ESCWA** established a specialized division in January, 2006 that focuses on development, with particular emphasis on peacebuilding, catering to conflict afflicted countries.

• **ESCWA** is currently engaged in mainstreaming civic values and life skills to support peacebuilding and state-building efforts.

Programme Outputs



Government of Iraq and civil society have the capacity to design and implement civic values/life skills programmes.

Adolescents have strengthened capacities to promote civic values/life skills among their peers.

Government of Iraq has the institutional capacity to coordinate and monitor implementation of civic education and life skills programmes.

Government of Iraq has enhanced capacity to develop a National Action Plan on promoting civic values and life skills.

ESCWA Partner Agencies: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Beneficiaries: Youth males/females (aged 12-19); school teachers; young researchers; education providers; master trainers; public officials; stakeholders; participants and decision makers/legislators.

Time Frame: Start Date: 17 December 2009
End Date: 31 December 2012

ESCWA's Major Achievements on Civic Values and Life Skills

- Organised a national conference on promoting civic values and life skills through education.
- Developed a National Action Plan on civic values and life skills.
- Trained 974 school managers, teachers, education providers, civil society activists, government officials.
- Trained 120 student peer educators.
- Established a national education and advocacy network.
- Established an education resource hub and monitoring system.



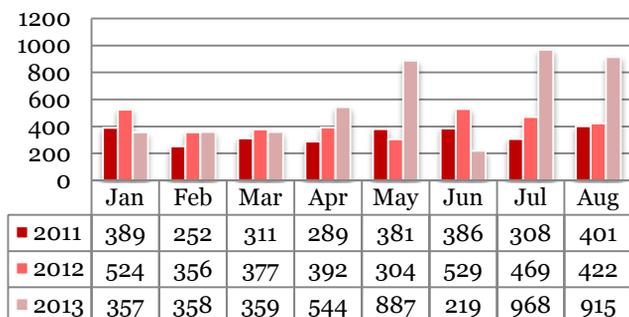
Demographics in Iraq

Total Population:.....33.4 million
Children and Adolescents (0-18):.....16.6 million (50% of Iraqis)
Adolescents and Youth:.....6.7 million (20% of Iraqis)
Poverty:23% of Iraqis live on less than US \$2.2/day

Source: Ministry of Planning – Iraq.

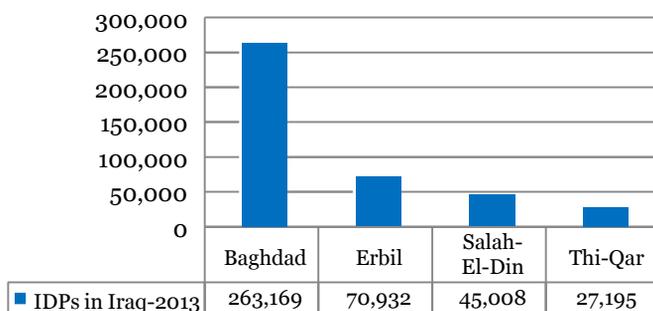
Armed Violence in Iraq

Civilians Death Toll per month



Source: Iraq Body Count.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Iraq



Source: UNHCR Statistical Yearbook – 2013.