



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Ensuring rights & choices for all



Foreword

It is with great pleasure that I present to you UNFPA Iraq's annual report for 2022. This report highlights our ongoing commitment to promote gender equality and women's empowerment and to provide high-quality reproductive health services throughout Iraq.

Throughout the past year, UNFPA Iraq worked closely with our partners nationwide to expand access to essential reproductive health services, including maternal and newborn care, family planning, and comprehensive reproductive health education. In addition, we prioritized initiatives aimed at strengthening the leadership and participation of women in all aspects of Iraqi society, from livelihood opportunities to education, employment, and beyond.

As you read through this report, you will observe the significant progress that we have made in advancing gender equality and promoting women's health and well-being. From increasing access to maternal and newborn care to reducing risks of gender-based violence and promoting gender equality, and from increasing avenues for youth empowerment to increasing availability of population data for improved planning and policy formulation, we are working to build a brighter future for all Iraqis.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to building a more equitable and just Iraq, where all individuals can thrive and reach their full potential. We are grateful for the ongoing support of our donors, government, and other partners, and we look forward to continuing this important work together.

Nestor Owomuhangi
UNFPA Representative to Iraq

Table of Content



- 10 ● Ensuring Reproductive Health and Rights for All
- 14 ● Ending Gender-Based Violence
- 18 ● Empowering Youth
- 20 ● Promoting Data and Evidence-Based Programming
- 23 ● Best Practices and Innovations

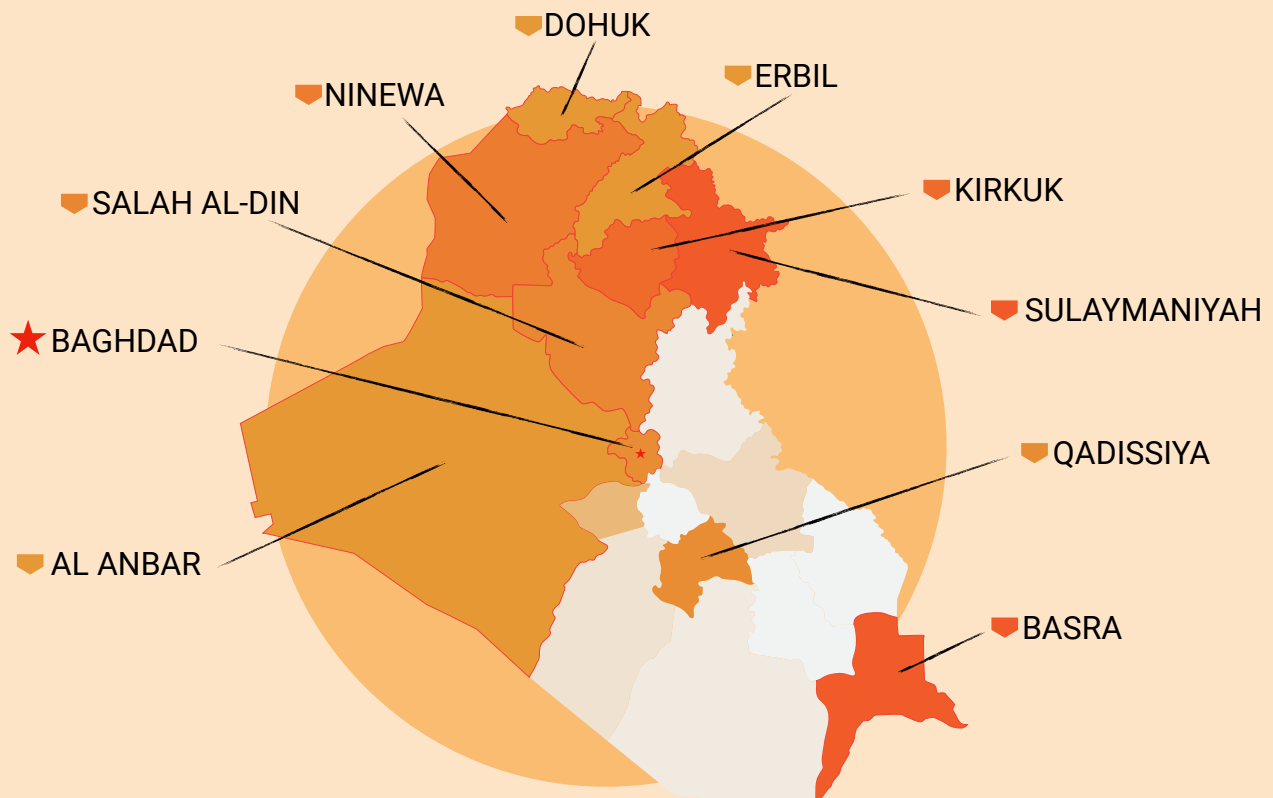
2020-2024

The UNFPA Country Programme for Iraq for 2020-2024 is fully aligned with national priorities and supports the Government to achieve the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action commitments and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Three major Results of the year



UNFPA focuses its assistance on 10 governorates in Iraq:





UNFPA Main Results for 2022



842,546 women and girls received SRH services



7,022
youth in peace-building platforms



3,098
Vulnerable Women and Girls received Dignity kit



30,439
youth received life-skills education



68 SDPs providing multi-sectoral GBV services



3,153 Men & Women with disability received RH services



9 SDPs with access to Mental Health and Psychosocial Support



3 Youth Center Rehabilitated for PWD



4 Covid Isolation Units



5 Centers of excellence for RH/FP



7 Women Shelters

●●● National Conference to ●●● Address Early Marriage in Iraq

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the Council of Ministers Secretariat (COMSEC), in partnership with the Women Empowerment Department (WED), and support from the United Kingdom, Sweden, France and Canada, organised the first National Conference to Address Early Marriage in Iraq.

“

TRIBAL COMMUNITIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE AFFECTED BY EARLY MARRIAGE HAVE ASKED US TO RAISE OUR VOICE AND ADVOCATE MORE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS' RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT AND TAKE A STEP FORWARD IN ADDRESSING EARLY MARRIAGE IN IRAQ, INCLUDING THE KURDISTAN REGION. THIS EVENT SHOWS THE CRITICALITY OF REDUCING EARLY MARRIAGE TO FULFILL THE RIGHTS OF GIRLS AND WOMEN, AND ACCELERATE ACHIEVEMENT OF SDGs IN IRAQ.

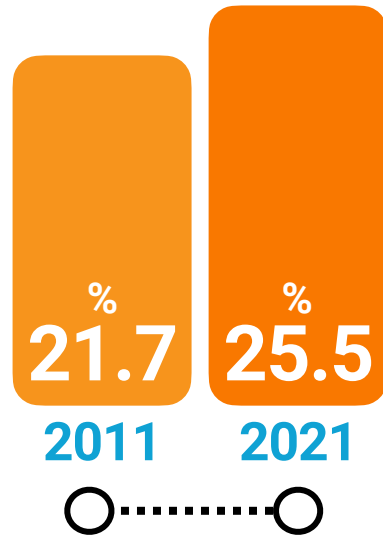
● Dr Rita Columbia

UNFPA Representative of Iraq



●●● National Conference to ●●● Address Early Marriage in Iraq

recognised the alarming situation with early marriage which has increased



200

senior scholars and high-level officials participated in the conference.

18

government recommendations were made based on the conference

180,132

women, girls, men, and boys participated in sensitization workshops and awareness-raising campaigns in UNFPA priority governorates.



Sexual & Reproductive Health Programme

ADVOCACY AND POLICY:



A national action plan was developed for the National Birth Spacing Family Planning Strategy, with sub-national plans for each governorate to follow.



UNFPA has supported the integration of family planning into sexual and reproductive health services at all levels of healthcare in Iraq.



UNFPA supported Ministry of Health (MOH) in developing a nationwide Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) strategy and an action plan for the BCC strategy with the goal of creating demand for family planning services.



UNFPA supported the MOH in conducting a national supply chain assessment to identify and prioritize poor-performing areas in the public health supply chain and monitor the impact of specific supply chain improvement activities and/or investments.

FACILITY AND SERVICES:

43 Healthcare Facilities

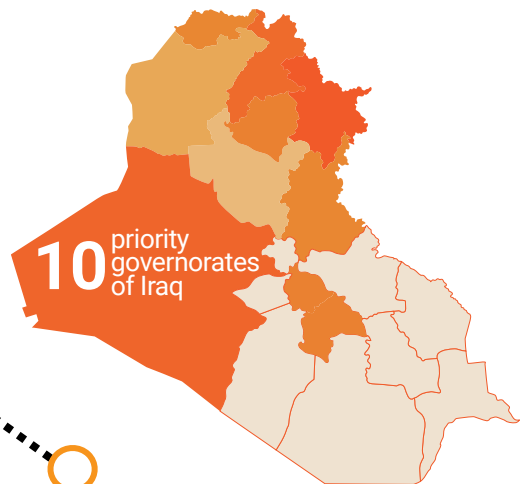
33 RH clinics

15

RH facilities renovated to be PWD friendly

7 delivery rooms

3 mobile clinics operating





Services provided By the SRH facilities Include:



Delivery assistance, antenatal & postnatal care



Gynaecological services



Family planning services



PEOPLE BENEFITED:

480,796

women of reproductive age received services, including 2,483 women and girls with disabilities

2702

pregnant women with COVID-19 admitted to one of the four isolation units

270

medical service providers trained on EmONC deliveries in maternity hospitals the Kurdistan Region

343

pregnant women with COVID-19 gave birth safely in one of the four isolation units



A MESSAGE OF HOPE

Maya's story

I am Maya, a Syrian refugee from Al-Hasakah. I have been living in Domiz 1 refugee camp in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq for about 8 years. I did not complete my education, only primary school, and I am currently jobless. My story began with my marriage, in which I never truly felt like I had a life partner. Even though he was the provider, he never gave me enough money to cover my personal needs. I was constantly neglected. This worsened when I was pregnant with my youngest daughter, which is when he started hitting me and insulting me. I was dying inside, but I had no choice but to stay for the sake of my children. After several sessions with the case manager at the UNFPA-supported Safe Space, I began to feel better. I learned breathing exercises and relaxation techniques and applied them myself.

These helped me, especially since there was not much I could do at that point and I did not want to pursue any legal measures, despite the abuse. More importantly, he had stopped hitting me after he got married again. My participation in the women's committee, gymnastics, and hairdressing helped me feel empowered. I was able to ask my husband about my needs, in addition to becoming more social and having friends, and I had information about service providers in the camp if I needed them. Now I want to develop myself in the field of make-up artistry and, if I get the chance, I will open my own salon. This is my plan for the future. Seek help if you are experiencing any kind of harm. Don't succumb to the circumstances that destroy you.



I learned to make decisions, and to dare to claim my rights. I also chose gymnastics and hairdressing, which really worked for me, as I got to know other women and learn a variety of skills and techniques that boosted my self-confidence.

● **Maya**



Gender Equality & Women Empowerment Programme

ADVOCACY AND POLICY:



Endorsed Inter-Ministerial Framework and National Action Plan on the GBV strategy



2 joint cooperation frameworks focused on women's protection were signed with Anbar and Diwaniyah Governorates



Signed MOU with the Office of the Secretary-General of the Council of Ministers to coordinate and strengthen efforts to end gender-based violence and early marriage



A high-level conference **"Let's Talk: ending GBV in Iraq"** emphasized the importance of the stronger national leadership to reduce GBV

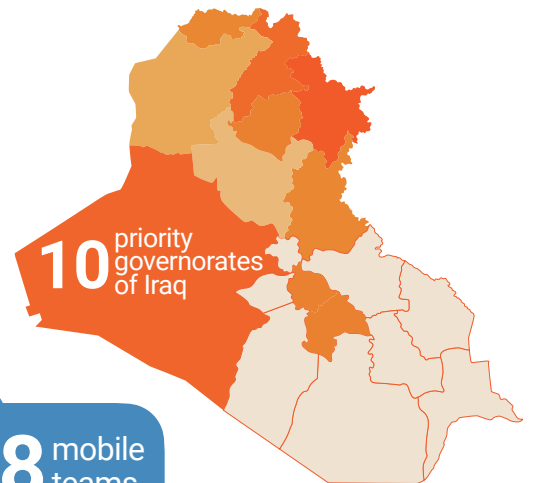
FACILITY AND SERVICES:



7 women shelters and protection centers



37 women community centers



11 national governmental institutions supported

3 One-Stop Assistance Centers

18 mobile teams

GBV helpline supported in KRI



Roll-out of the **"SafeYou"** application, training Ministry of Interior staff to respond to GBV survivors



Services provided under the Gender Programme, include:



Mental health and psychosocial support



Legal referrals



Case management



Health referrals



Life skills activities



Distribution of dignity kits



Livelihood activities



PEOPLE BENEFITED:

23

GBV actors from national and international organisations supported to use GBV data management systems

2702

health services providers trained on mental health and psychosocial support

149

Contact worker were trained by Two clinic management of rape training

92

health services providers trained on mental health and psychosocial support



Including and empowering persons with disabilities:

Equal rights and a life free of violence



Now I believe that there is nothing impossible; disability will not stop me from going ahead in my life

Ahmed started telling us his story.



"I was encouraged to get out of the house and engage in learning and voluntary work. My health, psychological and physical conditions tremendously improved. My body responded better by moving my fingers and walking around. I got to know wonderful people who became like my family"

said Ahmed enthusiastically.

Ahmed lived in Mosul with his family when the war with ISIS started. He was 15 years old when ISIS destroyed a neighbour's house. Living through this nightmare, Ahmed developed a psychological trauma. Later it developed into Wilson's neurological disease that caused loss of movement and speaking.

Ahmed is one out of 4,800 youths with disability of 22,995 registered people with disabilities who live in Ninewa Governorate. His story is not unique; many other adolescents and youth with disabilities go through the same experience and lose hope for the future.

These positive changes in Ahmed's life became possible thanks to a special initiative for adolescents and youth with disability launched by UNFPA with support from Finland and in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, and the governor of Ninevah. The project covers three youth centres in Mosul and helps young people with disabilities to study, receive the necessary support and become engaged with peers in a friendly environment. In eleven months, about 450 young people have benefited from the disability-friendly classes and services, and about a thousand adolescents with disabilities have received mental and psychosocial support.



Adolescents & Youth Programme

ADVOCACY AND POLICY:



Developed Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) for educational programmes addressing adolescent and youth with disabilities in youth centres for the Ministry of Youth and Sports at the Federal Government.



Conducted Need Assessment of educational programmes for adolescents with disability accessing UNFPA-supported youth centres.

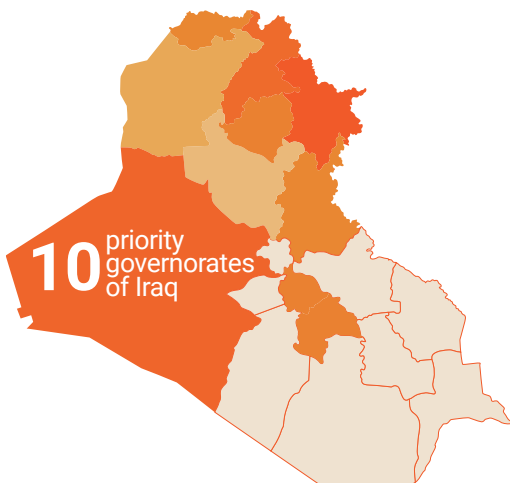
FACILITY AND SERVICES:

3 youth centres in Ninewa Governorate

17 youth centres were provided with equipment's

- 10 computer labs
- 10 mobile maintenance training halls
- 10 hairdressing training halls

34 youth centres in 10 governorates supported to promote youth engagement



3 youth centers were rehabilitated for adolescents and youth with disabilities

Youth Safe Space in Ramadi, Anbar, rehabilitated



Services provided under the Youth Programme, include:



leadership -and peace building training



counselling



Life skills activities



vocational/technical skills



awareness

PEOPLE BENEFITED:

23,448

Young people reached with life-skills education integrated with family planning/reproductive health and rights and gender-based violence prevention (including awareness on early marriage)

21,898

adolescents received family planning counseling within primary healthcare facilities

3,496

young people received psychosocial support and mental health counseling

12,471

young people were sensitised on the needs and rights of adolescents and youth with disabilities

4,056

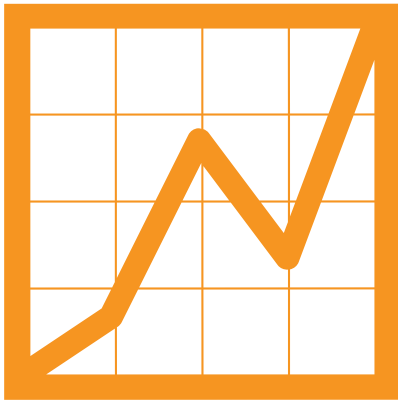
young people reached with peace-building and Prevention of Violence Extremism (PVE) programme

8,160

adolescents and youth benefited from counseling services in public facilities, schools, youth centres and through hotline

8,112

adolescent girls gained knowledge that enabled them to make informed choices about their reproductive health through capacity-building training.



Population & Development Programme

ADVOCACY AND POLICY:



Built capacity of CSO and KRSO to conduct the 2024 Population and housing census, national surveys and gather all relevant data on the UNFPA prioritized SDG indicators



Supported the Ministry of Planning to finalise the National Population Policy document.



Built capacity of Ministry of Planning to integrate demographic dynamics into national, regional and sub-national development policies and Programmes and revise the population policy at the national & regional level.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT:



Technical assistance was provided to CSO & KRSO to produce, utilise and analyse population data



Strengthened technical capacity of government institutions and relevant stakeholders to analyse and report on critical population and development issues



UNFPA increased knowledge and skills on the integration of population dynamics into development planning among planning officials from central south and the Kurdistan region

STUDIES AND RESEARCH:

- The Impact of Covid-19 on Reproductive Health Services
- Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) on gender-based violence and family planning
- In-depth analysis report on the second Iraqi Women Integrated Social and Health Survey (I-WISH-II).
- Social norms in Iraq.
- Women community centres transitions from humanitarian to development
- Internal women community centre assessment
- The role of women in the Kurdistan Regional Government institutions

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Iraqi Women Integrated Social & Health Survey (I-WISH-II):

The purpose of the survey was to collect data on women of different age groups to be able to assess their conditions about access to education, health care, decent work, and good political representation



The total fertility rate for women aged 15-49



The average age at first marriage in Iraq

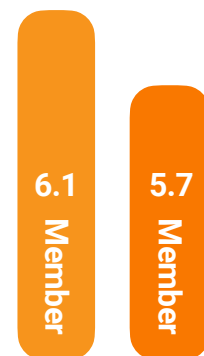


The percentage of women who received regular pregnancy care from a trained service provider



94%

Births attended by health personnel have increased over the past decade to



The average family size

women aged 15 years and over have experienced controlling behaviors by their husbands,



some violence by their husbands. Psychological violence is the most prevalent among the types of violence by the spouse.

Iraq is one of the countries characterized by low participation of women in the labor market



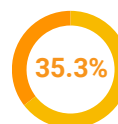
However, up to 25% are willing to work if there is a job available.

The rate of caesarean section has increased by **35.8%**



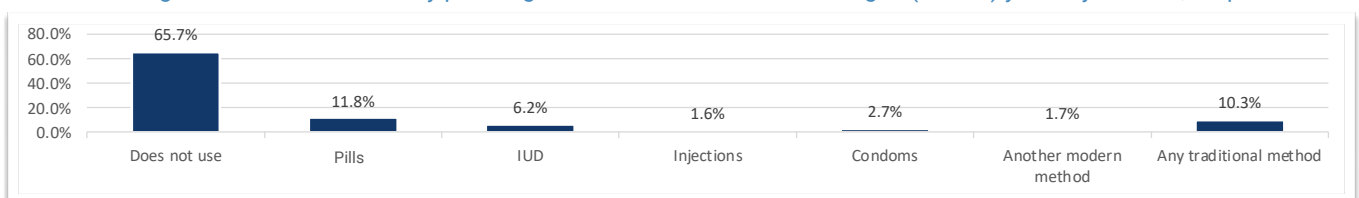
Illiteracy in Iraq

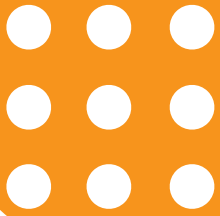
17% Female
7.6% Male



of women in the survey believe that women in Iraq are marginalized, and that society plays a major role in marginalizing women.

Percentage of current use of family planning methods for married women aged (15-49) years by method, Iraq 2021.





CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNED:

Iraq faced a challenging hurdle in early 2022 with prolonged government formation, leading to delays in decision-making and cooperation.

LESSONS LEARNED

Invest in capacity building of MoH and local NGO to improve national ownership and intervention quality.

Involve government in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating interventions for ownership and stewardship.

Increase investment and coordination with high-level governmental entities.

Collaborate with local and international NGOs to access insecure areas.

Donors' engagement in advocacy crucial for mobilizing support and coordination over UNFPA mandate.

CHALLENGES

Bureaucratic system affecting procurement of RH/FP commodities

Weakness in synergy among program thematic areas

Lack of availability of government entities for capacity development and advocacy

Lack of resources to increase interventions

Lack of baseline data for demand creation intervention

Damaged health facilities limiting service delivery

Social norms obstructing progress

Staff shortage in some areas

Lack of clear communication plan



Best Practices & Innovation



LET'S TALK

UNFPA's annual "Let's Talk" conference in 2022 was jointly hosted with UN Women, UNHCR, WFP, and SEED Foundation, in coordination with the General Secretariate of the Council of Ministers of the Iraqi Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government together with Humanitarian and Governmental partners.

Outcome:

- The Conference engaged the private sector community – Korek Telecom, talabat, Careem, Al-Marmouka, and Click Iraq - to pledge their commitment to empowering women and girls from across Iraq and the Kurdistan Region and supporting efforts to end GBV.
- Korek Telecom pledged to build the capacity of 10 women from each of the 19 governorates of Iraq to develop their personal and career skills.
- Talabat is committed to giving young people livelihood opportunities across Iraq from displaced communities.
- Careem pledged to support safe travel for women needing critical protection services by providing discounts to survivors and those at risk of violence.
- Al-Marmouka – Iraq Al-Hadeeth Company, the distributor of Always menstruation pads across Iraq, pledged to raise awareness on menstruation hygiene and provide six months' worth of sanitary pads to 200 girls.
- Click Iraq pledged to train ten young women in social media marketing to develop their skills and will support the trainees through their Job Studio portal to find jobs.



Spring Girl

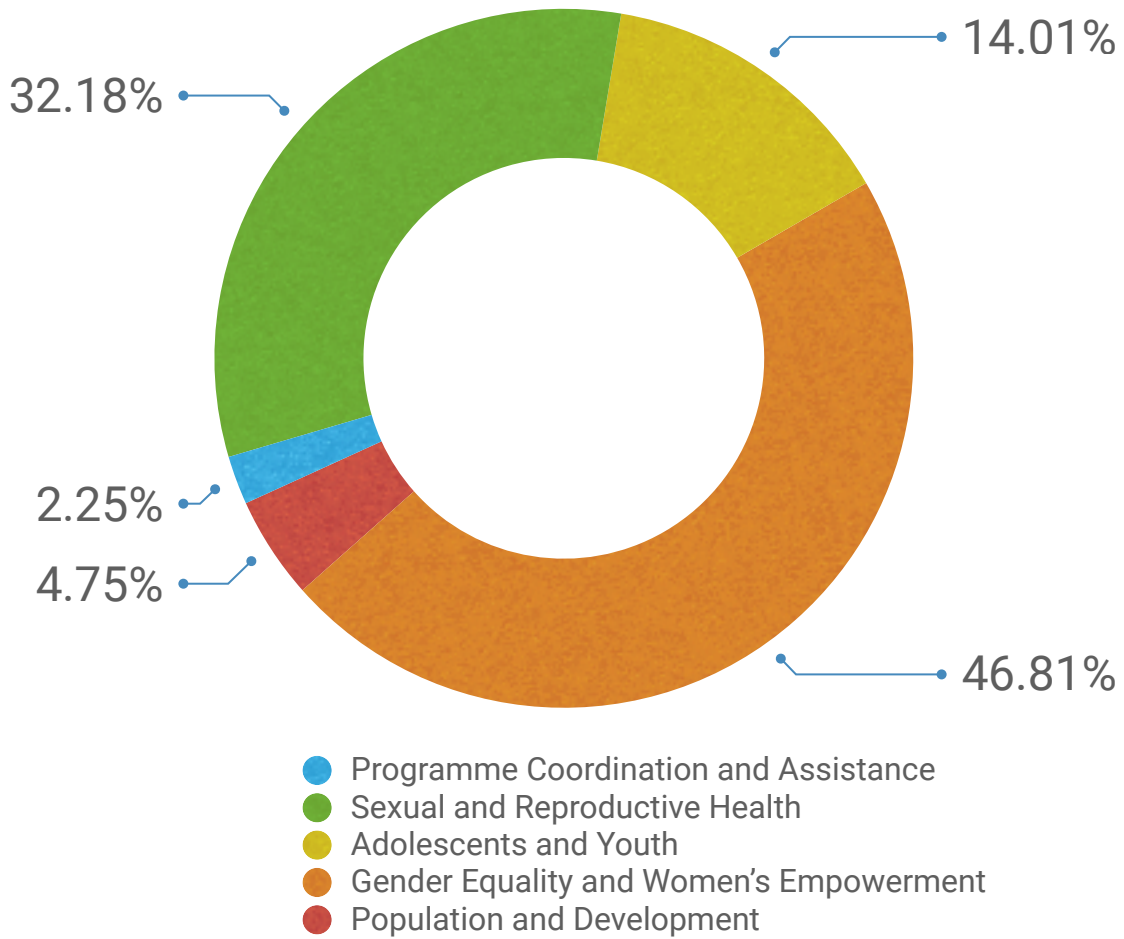
For the tenth anniversary of the International Day of the Girl Child, UNFPA published the "**Spring Girls**" book.

The Book is a collection of adolescent girls' stories expressing their hopes, fears, loves and losses as they endure a challenging present and uncertain future with determination and grace.

The "Spring Girls" initiative aimed to raise awareness among adolescent girls on their rights and provide them with advanced communication and writing skills.

2022 Resources

In 2022, UNFPA Iraq CO utilised a total of 17,522,038.04 US dollars for its Programmes. Budget Allocation and Expenses for January - December 2022



UNFPA RESOURCES 2,447,170
DONOR RESOURCES 15,074,868
TOTAL \$17,522,038

2022 DONORS



من الشعب الياباني
From the People of Japan



Funding provided by the United States Government



UKaid
from the British people



السويد
Sverige



Funded by:



United Nations
CERF | Central
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Response
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United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
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OF DENMARK**



Ministry for Foreign
Affairs of Finland



YOUR GENEROSITY FUELS OUR MISSION.
THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!



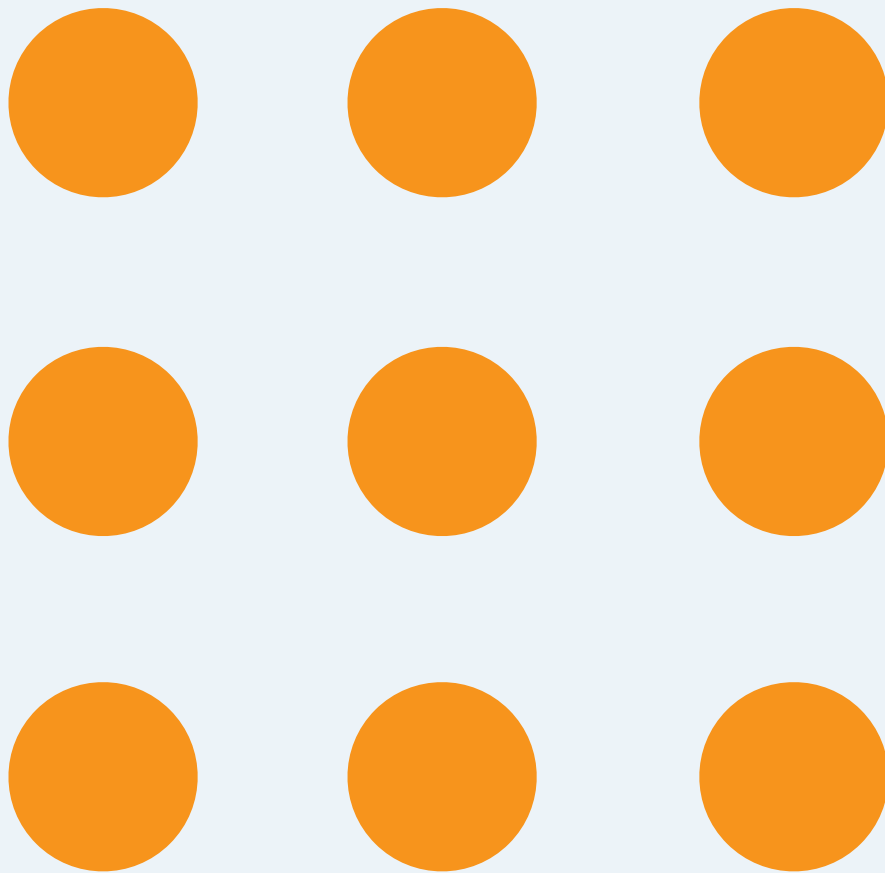
2022 PARTNERS

- Governorate of Diwaniyah
- Governorate of Anbar
- Folke Bernadotte Academy
- Central Statistical Organization (CSO)
- General Directorate for Combatting Violence Against Women (GDCVAW)
- Women Empowerment Department (WED)
- Kurdistan High Council for Women Affairs (KHCWA)
- Kurdistan Region Statistics Office (KRSO)
- Ministry of Culture & Youth at the Kurdistan Regional Government
- Ministry of Health & Environment at the Federal Government
- Ministry of Health at the Kurdistan Regional Government
- Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs at the Federal Government.
- Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs at the Kurdistan Regional Government
- Ministry of Planning at the Federal Government
- Ministry of Planning at the Kurdistan Regional Government
- Ministry of Youth & Sports at the Federal Government



IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS - INGOS, NGOS AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTES:

- Tajdid- Iraq for development
- Al-Mesalla organization for development
- Zhian Health Organization
- Harikar NGO
- Dary human organization
- Iraq Health Access Organization
- Organization Together Organization
- People Development Organization
- United Iraq Medical Society
- Al Amal
- Cordaid



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United Nations Population Fund Iraq Country Office