



# Frequently Asked Questions

## The Millennium Development Goals in Iraq

### WHAT ARE THE MDGs?

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight goals to be achieved by 2015 that respond to the world's main development challenges.

The MDGs are drawn from the actions and targets agreed upon in the Millennium Declaration adopted by 189 nations and signed by 147 heads of state and governments at the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000.

### WHAT ARE THESE EIGHT GOALS?

The eight MDGs are:

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health,
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Global partnership for development.

### WHAT IS THE TIME FRAME TO ACHIEVE THE MDGs AND HOW WILL THEY BE ACHIEVED IN IRAQ?

The global deadline to achieve the MDGs is 2015. Over the course of the coming five years, the UN in Iraq will work with the Government at all levels and with civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector to promote the MDGs, raise awareness of their importance, and support their achievement.

The United Nations has been working in Iraq since 1955 and remains committed to responding to the needs of the people in Iraq. Supporting Iraq in achieving the MDGs is among the

top priorities for the UN in Iraq as the country moves forward towards achieving development in line with the Government of Iraq's National Development Plan and the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

As part of this endeavour, the United Nations Country Team in Iraq will reach out to the most vulnerable groups: those living on or below the poverty line, refugees, returnees, the elderly and the physically challenged. Special attention will also be paid to the rights of women, youth and children.

### WHAT PROGRESS DID IRAQ MAKE TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE MDGs?

Iraq has made progress towards achieving some of the MDGs including reducing hunger, promoting gender equality and reducing child mortality.

There is still much work to be done in a number of crucial areas including increasing participation in primary education, reducing unemployment, and ensuring access to safe and reliable water and sanitation.

The gap in access to essential services remains wide especially between rural and urban areas and this must and will be addressed.

### HOW DO THE MDGs RELATE TO THE UNDAF?

The MDGs are crucial in achieving a better future for Iraq and its people. Achieving the MDGs will result in a significant and measurable improvement in the lives of Iraqi people. Iraq's first United Nations Development Assistance Framework for 2011-2014 (UNDAF) is based on the MDGs and

the Millennium Declaration as well as the Iraq National Development Plan. The UNDAF provides a coherent and coordinated strategy for the delivery of UN assistance and supports the Government of Iraq to meet the various international obligations and agreements.



**For more information on the MDGs in Iraq please visit the MDGs in Iraq web-page**

<http://www.iauiraq.org/mdgs.asp>

**To download a copy of the Booklet "The Millennium Development Goals in Iraq"**

<http://www.iauiraq.org/mdgs.asp>

**For more information on the UN-DAF for Iraq please visit**

[www.iauiraq.org](http://www.iauiraq.org)