



Country Card

IRAQ 2024

HI's team and intervention areas

There are 72 staff on HI's team in Iraq.

Pakistan





General country data

a. HI internal classifications of the country context

| Level of violence | Operations Director Focus | Health Focus | Positioning Focus | Emergency Focus |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | Yes for communication and advocacy | Yes | Yes | No |

b. General Data

| DATA | Iraq | Neighbour - Iran | France |
|--|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| Population | 46,042,015 | 91,567,738 | 66,577,649 |
| IHDI | 0.554 | 0.686 | 0.825 |
| Gender-related Development Index | 0.803(2024) | 0.880(2024) | 0.990(2024) |
| Maternal mortality | 76 (2024) | 7(2024) | 4(2024) |
| GINI Index | 29.5 (2012) | 34.8 (2022) | 31,5 (2019) |
| Population within UNHCR mandate | 1053038(2024) | 762000 (2022) | 455295 (2020) |
| INFORM index | 6.7(2024) | 4.4 (2024) | 2.4(2024) |
| Fragile State Index | 88.6 (2024) | 84.182.9 (2024) | 28.3 (2024) |
| Population covered by at least one social protection benefit (%) | 40.5 (2023) | 37.5 (2020) | 99.4 (2021) |
| Net official development assistance received | 1570 (2022) | 289.5 (2022) | N/A |

c. Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

| Humanitarian Law instruments | Status |
|--|---------------------|
| Mine Ban Treaty | Ratified 20/03/2013 |
| Convention on Cluster Munitions | Ratified 05/11/2010 |
| UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities | Ratified 20/03/2013 |

d. Geopolitical Analysis

After seven years of post-military operations against ISIS, Iraq is still experiencing a humanitarian crisis. As of August 2024, around 4.9 million people, displaced during the 2014-2017 crisis, had

returned home, but over 1 million remain internally displaced, primarily in northern regions. The country also hosts approximately 316,908 refugees, mainly from Syria, but is now also seeing the arrival of Lebanese people displaced by the regional conflicts.

Following a tumultuous electoral process, Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani became Prime Minister in October 2022, bringing a period of relative stability. However, Iraq continues to have humanitarian needs and the complex political landscape, characterized by internal divisions and competing interests among political parties, complicates equitable service delivery. Reconstruction efforts have focused on major cities, neglecting areas previously controlled by the Islamic State group (ISIS). Al Sudani's government is endeavouring to attract investment through ambitious reforms, although these may not adequately serve marginalised communities. Armed groups, particularly the Popular Mobilization Forces, operate largely outside government control, heightening security threats.

Iraq's fragile democratic system is influenced by regional powers, including Iran and Turkey. The government has sought to obtain the withdrawal of US troops amid rising popular sentiment against foreign presence. Climate change is placing a further strain on agriculture and water resources, complicating the humanitarian situation still further.

Despite substantial humanitarian responses, there are still many people in need of assistance, as the shift from humanitarian to developmental approaches has led to funding gaps. In January 2023, the Iraqi government announced plans to close IDP camps, potentially leaving around a million displaced people without support.

Regional tensions, linked mainly to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, have also impacted Iraq, with reports of attacks on US military bases by PMF members. Since late September 2024, Iraq has been receiving Lebanese refugees while also tightening restrictions on refugee status and access to services.

Summary of HI presence in the country

HI has been working in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and Federal Iraq since 1991, but has only been registered in Federal Iraq since 2018. Our organisation first worked with representatives from organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs) and service providers, especially health structures and national and local authorities, identifying practical solutions, meeting the specific needs of the most vulnerable populations and ensuring their access to key services. HI also ran regular awareness-raising campaigns on the risks associated with landmines and unexploded ordnance and provided support to the victims of explosive hazards.

In June 2014, HI launched an emergency response to the humanitarian crisis affecting the country, providing assistance to the most vulnerable Syrian refugees living in camps and to internally displaced Iraqis. The emergency intensified in 2016 with the launch of military operations to retake ISIS-occupied territories and in particular in the city of Mosul. Several governorates still host displaced people today, several years after the end of the war against ISIS in 2017.

In 2016, HI launched non-technical surveys and clearance mine action in the governorates of Kirkuk and Diyala. Due to decades of war and a new wave of violence since 2014, Iraq is one of the most contaminated countries in the world, with a broad diversity of explosive hazards. This contamination impedes the safe movement and return of civilians and hinders stabilisation and economic recovery in these areas.

With the end of the military operations to retake control of Iraq's main cities from ISIS the end of 2017 marked the beginning of the recovery period, in which HI has played a key role by ensuring a safer and more inclusive return and reconstruction process. The reconstruction of areas affected by the conflict has provided an opportunity to include vulnerable populations and people with disabilities and incorporate physical accessibility when designing or rehabilitating buildings.

HI is currently:

- Assisting victims of the conflict through: the provision of physical and functional rehabilitation services; psychosocial and psychological support; transportation and tailored support to access external services; support to health centres, including equipment for physiotherapy rooms; training of physiotherapists; provision of assistive devices; training of non-specialised actors in psychosocial support; awareness-raising on the inclusion of people with disabilities; and technical support to external service providers to improve the inclusiveness of their services
- Carrying out risk awareness sessions and promoting safer behaviour with regard to explosive ordnance and helping to set up community safety committees and safe spaces for children and communities. HI carries out technical surveys on contaminated land with a view to land release. Our teams no longer conduct non-technical surveys.
- Enhancing awareness of the rights of people with disabilities, their roles and the value of their participation by:
 - Providing inclusion awareness and accessibility support to national and international actors; supporting the advocacy efforts of local and national actors, building capacity of civil society organisations/organisations of people with disabilities to support social cohesion efforts.
 - Supporting the autonomy and economic participation of people with disabilities by working with local businesses and organisations to create inclusive workplaces, providing vocational training and skills development programmes, and advocating for disability-inclusive employment policies.
 - Promoting inclusive education and the adaptation of national systems to include people with disabilities in education.
 - Promoting the ability of people with disabilities to influence the decisions that affect their lives and participate in decision-making processes. This may include building the capacity of people and representative organisations to effectively engage and advocate with authorities and decision-makers and raising awareness of disability rights among other key stakeholders. With a specific focus on supporting people with disabilities to overcome barriers to political participation, in particular access to election processes.

Overview of ongoing projects

Sectors where HI conducts projects, with a focus on beneficiaries and operational partnerships

| Project title & main sectors | Main activities | Beneficiaries | Partners | Location | Duration | Donors |
|---|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Support to populations affected by explosive ordnance through a comprehensive approach to Humanitarian Mine Action 2022 - 2026 Armed Violence Reduction Rehabilitation | Safer access for local communities to land released through the reduction of the threat posed by explosive ordnance including IEDs Increased awareness of safe practices through effective mine action community liaison Improved access to and quality of physical and functional rehabilitation services, including referrals for victims of EO | Direct beneficiaries: 25,238 Indirect beneficiaries: 250,000 | National Mine Action Authorities representatives (Directorate of Mine Action) Directorate of Health | Salah al Din, Kirkuk Governorates | July 2022 – June 2024 | German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) |
| People affected by conflict at the heart of HI's response Armed Violence Reduction (Victim Assistance) | Up-to-date service mapping produced and disseminated Victims provided with case management support to access services Increased capacity of civil society organisations/organisations of people with disabilities to support victims Accessibility works on facilities Inclusion training to service providers | 2000 victims received update on the available service mapping 50 service providers and civil society organisations/organisations of people with disabilities | Civil society organisations/organisations of people with disabilities Directorate of Mine Action | Governorate of Ninewa | June 2022 – December 2024 | Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMOFA) |



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|---|--|---|--|---|----------------------|--|
| | | 600 beneficiaries of case management services 1080 trips for the beneficiaries of cash to access services | | | | |
| Safe and secure environments for a sustainable and inclusive educational path for vulnerable boys and girls in the governorates of Nineva, Salah Al Din and Sulaymaniyah in Iraq. Armed Violence Reduction Inclusion | Protection: vulnerabilities of households and especially girls and boys out of school or at risk of dropping out are reduced and their sense of safety and social and emotional well-being in schools and in communities is improved Girls and boys have enhanced access to sustainable, inclusive, and efficient formal and informal learning opportunities. | 145 teachers and school management staff receiving capacity building training on EORE and Inclusion 1040 direct EORE beneficiaries | Consortium with Intersos Directorate of Mine Action Directorate of Education | Governorates of Ninawa and Sallahadin | Jan 2023-Dec 2023 | Italian Agency for Development Cooperation |
| Promoting Effective and Active Civic Engagement among persons with disabilities in Iraq (PEACE) | Increased capacities of and resources for representative organisations for people with disabilities to promote the political, social, and economic rights of people with disabilities and enhance their democratic and political participation Women with disabilities empowered to advocate for their rights and political participation and foster | 60 OPDs and CSCs supported 105 staff from OPDs provided with capacity building training | Consortium with Sheyaw and IADO | Baghdad Ninawa Sulaymania Basrah | Sep 2023 Feb 2025 | Democracy Human Rights and Labour |



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|----------------------|---|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Inclusive Governance | conditions for inclusion in existing OPDs, CSOs, and women-led organizations OPD-led disability alliances and stakeholder coordination forums established to foster dialogue and cooperation at the governorate, regional and national level to further the political, social, and economic rights of people with disabilities | 3 governorate level forums | | | | |
|----------------------|---|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|

Donors

German Federal Foreign Office



Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)



Democracy Human Rights and Labor (DRL) of the US department

