

Physicians for Human Rights: The population of Iraq is extremely vulnerable:

- Most of Iraq's 26 million people are almost entirely dependent for daily survival on the monthly rations distributed under the Oil-for-Food Program (OFFP). A disruption in the OFFP is likely to have extraordinary health consequences unless a comprehensive and effective food distribution plan is rapidly in place. In addition, war in Iraq is likely to disrupt supplies of other essential goods such as medicine, water and energy. In recent days, the UN has confirmed that OFFP personnel will be evacuated from Iraq should a war commence. In mid-February the UN emergency relief coordinator announced that the UN was ready to feed 250,000 people for 10 weeks. However, the anticipated need may be 40-times greater.
- The combination of a rapidly deteriorating health infrastructure, decline in access to public health and medical services, and a marked decline food availability to the Iraqi population for more than twelve years have contributed to a sustained deterioration of health status. During the past decade, infant mortality more than doubled to 107 deaths per 1000 live births per year, and the under-five mortality rate also more than doubled to 131/1000 live births per year. War will compound the precarious nature of the health infrastructure and fragile health of the most vulnerable within the population.

Preventative public health and curative medical services in Iraq are inadequate for the health and medical emergencies that are likely to result in the event of armed conflict. The number of primary health care (PHC) and maternal and child clinics, the principal providers of basic health care in Iraq, have declined by nearly half since the Gulf War in 1991 -- according to UNICEF, there are 929 PHC centers remaining out of a pre-Gulf War network of 1,800. Most of the health facilities are in poor physical condition. They often lack water and electricity and, hence, severely limit the quality of patient care.

Physicians for Human Rights: The population of Iraq is extremely vulnerable:

- Most of Iraq's 26 million people are almost entirely dependent for daily survival on the monthly rations distributed under the Oil-for-Food Program (OFFP). A disruption in the OFFP is likely to have extraordinary health consequences unless a comprehensive and effective food distribution plan is rapidly in place. In addition, war in Iraq is likely to disrupt supplies of other essential goods such as medicine, water and energy. In recent days, the UN has confirmed that OFFP personnel will be evacuated from Iraq should a war commence. In mid-February the UN emergency relief coordinator announced that the UN was ready to feed 250,000 people for 10 weeks. However, the anticipated need may be 40-times greater.
- The combination of a rapidly deteriorating health infrastructure, decline in access to public health and medical services, and a marked decline food availability to the Iraqi population for more than twelve years have contributed to a sustained deterioration of health status. During the past decade, infant mortality more than doubled to 107 deaths per 1000 live births per year, and the under-five mortality rate also more than doubled to 131/1000 live births per year. War will compound the precarious nature of the health infrastructure and fragile health of the most vulnerable within the population.

Preventative public health and curative medical services in Iraq are inadequate for the health and medical emergencies that are likely to result in the event of armed conflict. The number of primary health care (PHC) and maternal and child clinics, the principal providers of basic health care in Iraq, have declined by nearly half since the Gulf War in 1991 -- according to UNICEF, there are 929 PHC centers remaining out of a pre-Gulf War network of 1,800. Most of the health facilities are in poor physical condition. They often lack water and electricity and, hence, severely limit the quality of patient care.

Physicians for Human Rights: The population of Iraq is extremely vulnerable:

Physicians for Human Rights: The population of Iraq is extremely vulnerable:

Most of Iraq's 26 million people are almost entirely dependent for daily survival on the monthly rations distributed under the Oil-for-Food Program (OFFP). A disruption in the OFFP is likely to have extraordinary health consequences unless a comprehensive and effective food distribution plan is rapidly in place. In addition, war in Iraq is likely to disrupt supplies of other essential goods such as medicine, water and energy. In recent days, the UN has confirmed that OFFP personnel will be evacuated from Iraq should a war commence. In mid-February the UN emergency relief coordinator announced that the UN was ready to feed 250,000 people for 10 weeks. However, the anticipated need may be 40-times greater.

The combination of a rapidly deteriorating health infrastructure, decline in access to public health and medical services, and a marked decline food availability to the Iraqi population for more than twelve years have contributed to a sustained deterioration of health status. During the past decade, infant mortality more than doubled to 107 deaths per 1000 live births per year, and the under-five mortality rate also more than doubled to 131/1000 live births per year. War will compound the precarious nature of the health infrastructure and fragile health of the most vulnerable within the population.

Preventative public health and curative medical services in Iraq are inadequate for the health and medical emergencies that are likely to result in the event of armed conflict. The number of primary health care (PHC) and maternal and child clinics, the principal providers of basic health care in Iraq, have declined by nearly half since the Gulf War in 1991 -- according to UNICEF, there are 929 PHC centers remaining out of a pre-Gulf War network of 1,800. Most of the health facilities are in poor physical condition. They often lack water and electricity and, hence, severely limit the quality of patient care.

Most of Iraq's 26 million people are almost entirely dependent for daily survival on the monthly rations distributed under the Oil-for-Food Program (OFFP). A disruption in the OFFP is likely to have extraordinary health consequences unless a comprehensive and effective food distribution plan is rapidly in place. In addition, war in Iraq is likely to disrupt supplies of other essential goods such as medicine, water and energy. In recent days, the UN has confirmed that OFFP personnel will be evacuated from Iraq should a war commence. In mid-February the UN emergency relief coordinator announced that the UN was ready to feed 250,000 people for 10 weeks. However, the anticipated need may be 40-times greater.

The combination of a rapidly deteriorating health infrastructure, decline in access to public health and medical services, and a marked decline food availability to the Iraqi population for more than twelve years have contributed to a sustained deterioration of health status. During the past decade, infant mortality more than doubled to 107 deaths per 1000 live births per year, and the under-five mortality rate also more than doubled to 131/1000 live births per year. War will compound the precarious nature of the health infrastructure and fragile health of the most vulnerable within the population.

Preventative public health and curative medical services in Iraq are inadequate for the health and medical emergencies that are likely to result in the event of armed conflict. The number of primary health care (PHC) and maternal and child clinics, the principal providers of basic health care in Iraq, have declined by nearly half since the Gulf War in 1991 -- according to UNICEF, there are 929 PHC centers remaining out of a pre-Gulf War network of 1,800. Most of the health facilities are in poor physical condition. They often lack water and electricity and, hence, severely limit the quality of patient care.