

Iraq Knowledge Network ESSENTIAL SERVICES FACTSHEET

December 2011

Introduction

The Iraq Knowledge Network (IKN) survey is part of a Socio-Economic Monitoring System being developed by the Iraqi Ministry of Planning to advance evidence based planning and improve services provided to Iraqi citizens. The IKN survey data was collected in the first quarter of 2011 from 28,875 Iraqi households. The sample was designed to provide statistics at the district and governorate levels and nationally by urban and rural areas. This factsheet is a brief analysis of essential services data from the IKN.

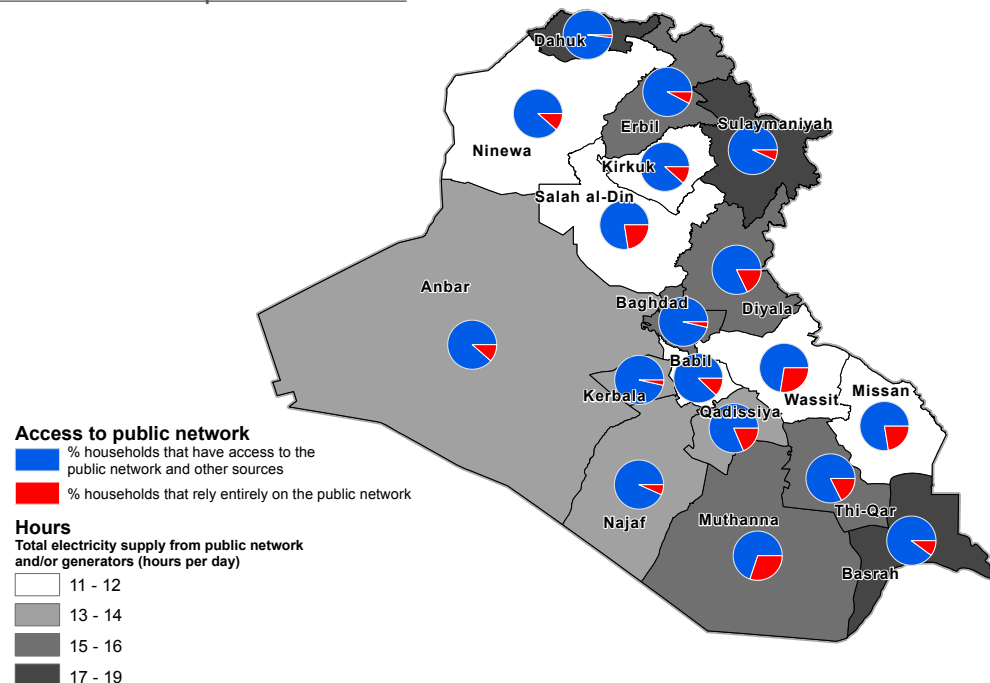
The data on essential services shows sharp disparities across Iraq between governorates and urban and rural areas in access to health, electricity, water, sanitation, housing and solid waste collection services.

Electricity

Households receive an average of 14.6 hours of electricity per day through a combination of the public network or private generators (whether owned by the household or shared with another household). Just 17 percent of households receive more than 20 hours per day from all sources, dropping to 8 percent in rural areas. Electricity is the worst-rated service in Iraq. Seventy-nine percent of Iraqi households rated the service as "bad" or "very bad".

Households in Basrah (19 hours per day), urban Muthanna (18 hours per day) and the KRG governorates (over 16 hours per day) receive the most hours of electricity supply. Basrah and Al-Fao districts in Basrah governorate and Penjwin and Darbandihkan districts in Sulaymaniyah governorate have the highest proportion of households receiving more

Number of hours received from public network and/or generators and reliance on the public network



than 20 hours supply per day (over 73 percent of households). The highest approval rating is in Erbil governorate, where 61 percent of households rated the service as "good" or "very good". With the exception of Basrah and Diyala, over 86 percent of households in all southern and central governorates rated the service as "bad" or "very bad".

More than one third of Iraqi households (35%) believe that electricity should be the top priority for improvement – a higher proportion than any other service, including security (27%). Electricity was only ranked behind security in

areas in the central governorates.

Almost all households (98%) are connected to the public network. However, the public network provides households with an average of just 7.6 hours of electricity per day. Only one percent of households receive more than 20 hours of electricity per day from the public network. The majority (82%) receive ten hours or less from the public network. The duration of the service is worst in Ninewa, where 82 percent of households receive less than five hours. Over 50 percent of households in Anbar, Kirkuk and rural areas of Wassit, Salah al-Din

and Najaf governorates also receive less than five hours.

Ninety percent of Iraqi households supplement the public network with private generators (whether owned by the household or shared with another household). Households with two sources of electricity receive an average daily supply of 15 hours, while those with three sources receive 16.4 hours per day.

Rural areas suffer from poorer electricity supplies than urban areas due to lack of access to generators. Almost a third (31%) of rural households rely entirely on the public network for their electricity, compared to five percent in urban areas. As a result, rural households receive an average of 11.4 hours of electricity per day, compared to 15.8 hours in urban areas.

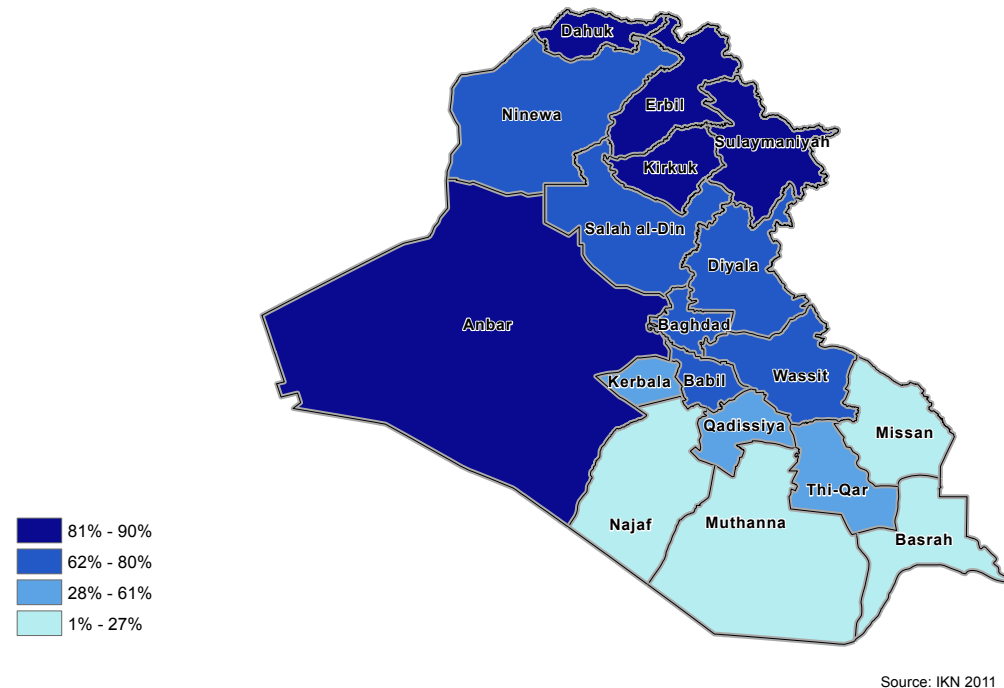
Rural households living in the lowest per capita expenditure quintile (calculated on the basis of expenditure quintile using nominal per capita monthly expenditures) have particularly poor electricity services. These households receive an average of just ten hours per day from the public network and/or private generators. Forty-one percent do not have access to a generator. Fourteen percent of households in rural areas receive less than five hours of electricity per day from all sources, rising to above 30 percent in rural areas of Kirkuk (31%) and Wassit (34%).

Drinking water

Wide disparities exist in access to water sources between governorates, urban and rural areas and even between neighbouring districts.

Sixty-five percent of households use the public network as their main drinking water source. The public network provides 25 percent of its

Percent of Households that use the public network as their main drinking water source



users with less than two hours of water per day. Nationwide, rural households have poorer access to the public network. Just 47 percent of rural households use the public network as their major water source compared to 72 percent in urban areas.

Water salinity is a major issue affecting the public network towards the south east. Public network use is particularly low in the southern governorates of Basrah (1 percent of households), Missan (6%) and some districts in Thi-Qar and Muthanna governorates. With the exception of rural areas of Thi-Qar, households in these areas tend to be provided with bottled or tankered water.

In the rest of the country, use of the public network is much more widespread, particularly in urban areas. Households with higher

expenditure per capita often use bottled water, particularly in western areas of the country. In rural areas there are still large proportions of households without access to the general network, water tankers or bottled water, mostly among households with lower per capita expenditure.

Those without access to these services in mountainous areas of the North and East areas tend to use closed wells. However, many others are forced to draw their drinking water directly from rivers lakes and streams. This reaches over a fifth of the rural population in Thi-Qar (36%), Babil (31%), Baghdad (31%), Wassit (26%), Kirkuk (22%) and Diyala (21%) governorates.

Just 38 percent of households rate the availability of drinking water as “good” or “very good”. The highest approval ratings are found

in the KRG, reaching up to 89 percent in urban areas of Erbil governorate. The lowest approval ratings are found across most rural areas of the south and centre, dropping to as low as one percent in rural Missan.

Sanitation

A third (30%) of households has access to the public sanitation network. Sixty-six of all households with access to the public network are concentrated in urban areas of Sulyamaniyah and Baghdad governorates. Eighty-four percent of urban households in Sulaymaniyah governorate rate the availability of sanitation facilities as “good” or “very good” – the highest in the country.

In most other areas, access to the sanitation network is very poor, dropping to just four percent among rural households. Access to the network is also below 10 percent in urban areas of Dahuk, Ninewa, Diyala, Babil and Muthanna.

Nationwide, over half (53%) of households in the highest expenditure quintile have access to the public network, compared to nine percent in the lowest quintile.

Households without access to the public network tend to use either a septic tank or a covered drain to dispose of waste. Forty percent of households use a septic tank and a quarter (25%) use a covered drain. Six percent of households use an unsafe sanitation method, such as an open drain, rising to 13 percent among households made from non-durable structures.

There is widespread dissatisfaction with sanitation facilities in Iraq. Fifty-nine percent of the population rated their household’s facility as “bad” or “very bad” rising to eighty-five percent in rural areas. The worst ratings are in rural areas of the south and centre.

In spite of widespread discontent with the quality of sanitation, only four percent of

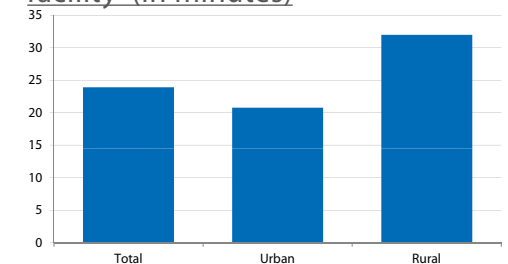
households stated that sanitation should be the top priority for improvement. This is even lower in rural areas (2%), where concerns over sanitation are outweighed by concerns over water and electricity.

Health

The average household is just over twenty minutes away from the health facility they go to when a family member is ill. This is slightly higher at over half an hour (32 minutes) among rural households. The longest average journey times are experienced in rural Baghdad and Wassit (almost 50 minutes).

A significant number of households go to either a public hospital (48%) or a government clinic (24%) when a family member is ill. The primary barrier to access for these services was lack of medical equipment (38%). Twenty-nine percent of households also stated that

Average journey time to the health facility (in minutes)



lack of doctors was a problem and 29 percent stated that there were insufficient female staff members. It is important to note that this does not reflect the actual availability of medical equipment or staff in Iraq’s health care facilities but people’s perceptions of them.

Twenty-one percent of households go to either a private hospital or private clinic, rising to 37 percent among households in the highest per capita expenditure quintile. Lack of affordability is a barrier to access to private facilities for 71 percent of households.

Use of Public Healthcare Centres (PHCs) varies widely across governorates, but is generally higher in rural areas. Kerbala (25%) and rural areas of Qadissiya (43%) and Kirkuk (31%) have the highest rates of PHC usage.

Over half (58%) of households nationwide experience at least one obstacle to accessing a PHC. This figure rises to 72 percent in Baghdad 74 percent in Anbar 75 percent in Babil and 79 percent in Sulaymaniyah governorates.

The most common reason was insufficient staffing and facilities. Almost half (44%) of households cite lack of medical staff or equipment as an obstacle to access, rising to

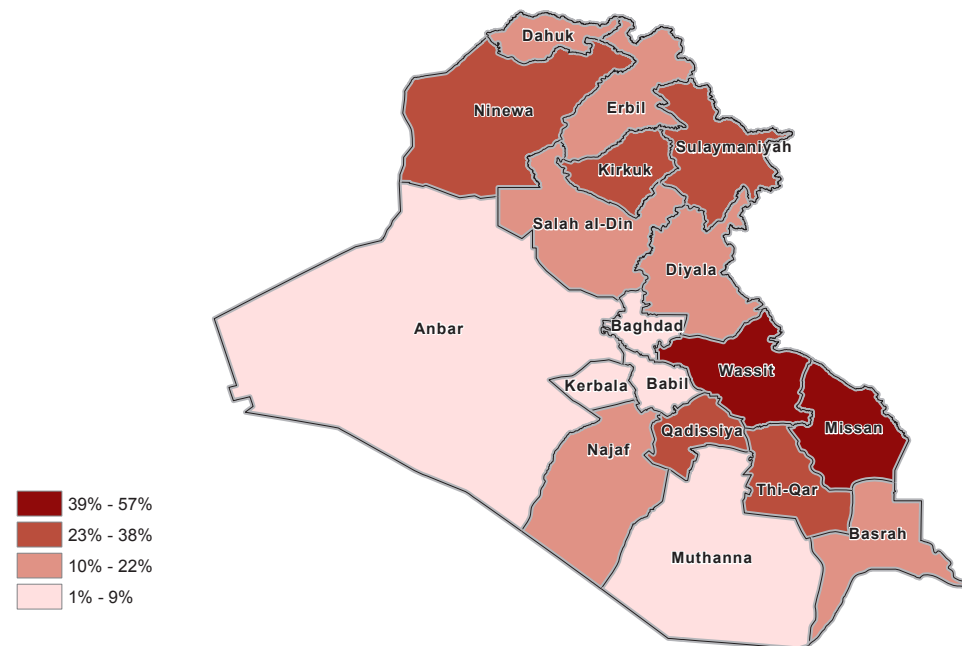
almost two thirds in Babil (67%), Anbar (64%) and Sulaymaniyah (63%).

Under a third of households (29%) have a positive opinion of health services. This figure is much lower in rural areas (18%) than in urban areas (33%). Highest approval ratings are found in urban areas of Muthanna, Najaf, Kerbala and the Kurdistan Region. The worst ratings are found in rural areas of Wassit, Thi-Qar, Missan, Kirkuk and Baghdad.

Housing

Nine percent of houses are made of non-durable materials, such as clay, wood, or metal plating. Almost three quarters (73%) of these

Number of rural people living in non-durable housing



Source: IKN 2011

houses are concentrated in rural areas. This is most common in rural areas of Missan (57% of households), Wassit (48%), Mosul (38%) and Kirkuk (37%).

Twelve percent of households suffer from overcrowding (having more than 3 persons per room in a household), rising to 17 percent in rural areas and 25 percent among households living in non-durable structures, such as clay, wood and metal plating. Overcrowding is particularly common in rural areas of Missan (49 percent of households) and also affects approximately a quarter of households in rural Thi-Qar, Najaf, Qadissiya, Kirkuk and Ninewa, and 10 percent of households in Baghdad.

Solid waste collection

Just over half (52%) of households receive solid waste collection services either directly to the household or from a nearby container. Solid

waste collection services are most common in urban areas of the Kurdistan Region, where 96% of households have their rubbish collected from their house or a nearby container, compared to 54 percent in urban areas of the South and Centre.

Solid waste collection services are rare in rural areas. Eighty-five percent of rural households burn or bury their rubbish, or dump it in open areas. This figure rises to above 93 percent in rural Ninewa, Muthanna, Qadissiya, Thi-Qar, Babil and Wassit. Where waste collection does occur in rural areas, a fifth of households receive the service less than once a fortnight.

Public opinion on solid waste collection services is poor. Sixty percent of households have a negative opinion on solid waste collection services, rising to 88 percent in rural areas. The worst ratings were reported in rural areas of southern and central Iraq.

Percent of households that burn, bury or throw waste into open areas

