

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS - *OCHA-Online*  
*Iraq Field Coordination Efforts*

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## Iraq Summary/Overview

YEAR ?

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### **SUMMARY/OVERVIEW OF THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE EFFORTS**

The gulf crisis and the sanctions imposed on Iraq have rendered many of Iraq's health, water and sanitation facilities inoperative contributing to worsening public health situation. The recent outbreak of hostilities in northern Iraq during the period September to November has further exacerbated these problems. Schools, hospitals, water and sanitation systems and government buildings have been damaged or looted. Discontinuation of electricity supply to Erbil and Suleimaniyah governorates has adversely affected water supply and public health services. The majority of the population is below the poverty line and malnutrition has become rampant. There are hundreds of thousands of displaced people and refugees who are dependent on relief assistance. Due to continuous security problems, a need for more security by the UN has been necessary and is being provided by the UNGCI.

In accordance with the provisions of Security Council Resolution 986 (1995) signed between the Government of Iraq and the United Nations, US\$1.13 billion will be provided out of a total of US\$ 2 billion from the sale of proceeds of Iraqi petroleum and related products, from 10 December 1996 to 10 June 1997, for the provision of humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi population. While DHA and the UN are responsible for the distribution of humanitarian aid in the northern governorate, the government of Iraq retains responsibility of distribution of food and other items in the center and south. In order to ensure adequacy and equity in distribution of relief supplies by the Government of Iraq in the centre and south, special arrangements have been put in place for "observing" the delivery of all imports under the umbrella of SCR 986 for their proper utilisation. In addition to sectoral and geographical observers, and in order to allow DHA to report with a degree of confidence on the utilisation of commodities imported under the resolution, a multi-disciplinary Observation Unit composed of experts in each sector of activity has been established by DHA.

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