



## **Enhancing Environmental Health at Schools in Baghdad**

**Concept Paper**

**Islamic Relief Worldwide**

## Project Concept Paper

<b>Project Title</b>	Enhancing Environmental Health at Iraqi Schools
<b>Goal</b>	Support Iraqi children to enjoy healthy environment at their schools
<b>Location</b>	Fallujah - Baghdad
<b>Implementing Agency</b>	Islamic Relief - Iraq
<b>Duration</b>	six months
<b>Requested budget</b>	470,000 USD
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	Around 4,000 pupils in 10 schools in Fallujah - Baghdad

### Problem Statement:

The second millennium development goal is to achieve universal primary education. By 2015, the global target is to ensure that children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. It seems this target is very detached from the Iraqi reality. The education system in Iraq is facing complex challenges and demands. Thousands of schools all over Iraq have suffered tremendous neglect and under-funding during long years of war, UN economic sanctions and the current occupation, and internal strife. According to one survey carried out by the Iraqi Ministry of Education in early 2004\*, Iraq has more than 14,000 named primary schools, however, there are only 11,368 actual schools buildings available. About 2,700 of these schools (24 percent) need major rehabilitation.

- Rehabilitation efforts have not been going well in Iraq for the last five years of its occupation. There is a massive backlog in school reconstruction and maintenance, especially of water and sanitation facilities of these schools. The Iraqi educational authorities consider school rehabilitation a priority for times to come. Overall, primary education in Iraq today is characterized by over-crowded schools, poor water and sanitation facilities, widening gender gaps in all governorates and between urban and rural areas; increasing repetition rate; and a low transition rate from primary to secondary—only 52% of children completing primary school enter secondary school.
- The situation has deteriorated further after the escalation of sectarian violence and the internal displacement of about 2.7 million Iraqis since February 2006. A considerable number of IDPs originating from Baghdad have fled to other governorates causing additional burdens on the already degraded infrastructure and services in the host communities. Baghdad is one of the Iraqi towns that have witnessed a massive influx of IDPs recently.

---

\* Source: [http://www.unicef.org.uk/press/news\\_detail.asp?news\\_id=340](http://www.unicef.org.uk/press/news_detail.asp?news_id=340);  
<http://www.nearinternational.org/alerts/iraq420041018.php>

- Estimates provided by Iraqi Red Crescent Society as of June 2008 note of 2.1 million people believed to be internally displaced. More than 82 percent of displaced people were women and children under the age of 12 (IRS, June 2008).

## **Islamic Relief – Iraq:**

Islamic Relief-Iraq (IR-Iraq) through its active presence in the field in Baghdad and other central governorates in Iraq since 2003 has directed wide range of programs, projects and activities to alleviate the impact of war, sanctions and violence consequences on Iraqi community.

IR-Iraq has implemented relief, rehabilitation and development projects in the fields of health, shelters, education, water and sanitation, gender, child rights and employment; emergency relief projects; regular distribution of in-kind donations; and its regular seasonal projects: Ramadan and Qurbani. This is in addition to its orphans support programme.

## **Project Summary:**

- IR.-Iraq will identify 10 schools in Baghdad and will assess the water and sanitation short comes in each school, further to that contractors will be hired to implement the improvements and rehabilitations.
- At each one of the selected schools a health and hygiene-awareness campaign will be carried out by professional people who will engage in developing the knowledge of the children in these schools regarding good practice and bad hygienic practice.
- Some of the teachers would be trained on delivering first aids in order to be ready to contribute incase of any emergency inside the school.

Accordingly, IR Iraq is seeking to rehabilitate the sanitation units in the chosen schools depending on certain criteria such as:

- Numbers of pupils, both male and female
- School's area
- Double-shift schools

**Goal:** Support Iraqi children to enjoy healthy environment at their schools

## **Objectives:**

- Enhanced physical condition of ten schools in Baghdad through rehabilitation of toilet and sanitary facilities.
- Health and hygiene awareness among school children and their teachers are raised and applied as daily custom.
- Enrolment rates at the rehabilitated schools, especially for girls are improved.

## Outputs

- Water and sanitary facilities in 10 schools in Baghdad are rehabilitated or improved.
- Awareness of 4000 pupils regarding hygiene practices is raised.
- Skills of 25 teachers in first aid intervention are improved in a manner that enables them to participate in any emergency situation.

## Project Activities

The project will focus on two main components: rehabilitation and reconstruction of water and sanitation facilities at the schools; and raising awareness of school children.

### 1. Rehabilitation of toilet facilities at 10 schools

The contractor will concurrently rehabilitate toilet facilities at the ten schools. New toilet facilities will be reconstructed to replace the degraded mud brick frame used as the toilet.

#### Activities

- Rearranging & repairing water networks
- Rearranging & repairing sewage networks
- Repairing water fountains (drinking fountains)
- Tiling and plastering of toilet walls and floor
- Installing new toilet seats (Latrines)
- Fixing new doors and windows
- Rehabilitating electric works
- Amending one toilet in each school to be used by children using wheel chairs

### 2. Raising Health and Hygiene awareness of 10 school children

IR-Iraq will engage school children in extracurricular activities and group work to study positive models of health and hygiene and avoiding the negative habits affecting their health. One of the objectives of this activity is to encourage creativity among children and enable them through active participation. And enable some teacher to be ready for interference in any emergency situation occurred in their schools.

Distribution of hygiene kits to all students that will include the basic hygienic necessities as per the schedule below. Noting that we should take care as the distribution could be expanded and that it aims not only the school children, but also their families. This way, the children can encourage their family as well (as part of the awareness –raising goal) to observe the importance of good hygiene. This may be taken into consideration while in the process of implementation. Thus, IR would like to emphasize that extra kits may be needed while in the process of implementing the activity. Moreover, enabling some teachers to be ready for interference in any emergency situation occurred in their schools through participated on first aid training workshop.

#### Activities will include:

- Ten participatory seminars on best health and hygiene practices
- Distribution of hygiene kits to all students
- First aid training workshop for selected teacher from the targeted school