

CASUALTIES (P4)

Coalition combatant total: 394; Iraqi civilians total: 7,757-9,565; Iraqi combatants estimates range from 13,500-45,000. This brings the death toll between March 20-October 20, 2003 to between 21,700 and 55,000

The 2003 war on Iraq and its aftermath is having a devastating impact on the lives and health of Iraqi civilians, combatants on both sides, and on the environment. See report pages referenced for details

THE WEAPONS (PP2-3)

The coalition used many new and refined weapons of all kinds, such as earth-penetrating bombs known as 'bunker busters', precision-guided bombs and missiles and area-impact munitions

Some of the weapons used are of doubtful legality, or were used in illegal ways because they were indiscriminate and/or were used in built-up areas

Children continue to be killed or injured by landmines and explosive remnants of war – 20 incidents a day in one city alone

Iraq used no weapons of mass destruction and none have been located to date

HEALTH OF IRAQIS (P10)

The mental and physical health of already weakened and unhealthy people is being damaged further

People suffering from the immediate impact of war are more susceptible to further health hazards and less able to mobilise their own resources for survival and reconstruction

Shortages of clean water, adequate food, and power lead to an increase in certain diseases that is likely to result in more deaths than those caused directly by the conflict

Short and long-term physical health effects include disability, infectious diseases, stillbirths, underweight newborns, diseases of malnutrition, possibly more cancers

Short and long-term mental health effects include post-traumatic stress reaction, psychiatric illness, behavioural disturbance and developmental delays in children

With the economy shattered and unemployment running at above 60%, the vicious circle of ill-health and poverty is reinforced

Health services, already running well below capacity, cannot cope well with immediate demands or offer longer-term rehabilitation or preventive health care

SIX MONTHS ON FROM WAR

Governance Iraq ruled by US proconsul Paul Bremer as head of Coalition Provisional Authority. There are now 70 political parties. The US-appointed, 25-strong Iraq Governing Council lacks teeth. US says it will take six months to draw up a constitution, leading to elections and an Iraqi government in 2004

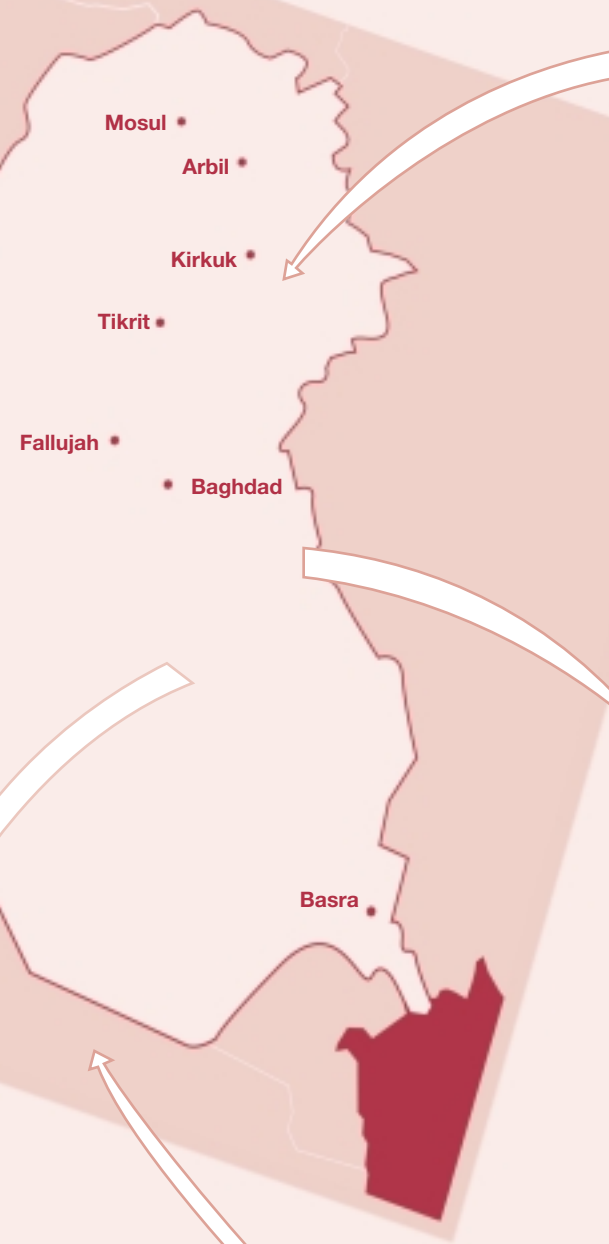
Threats to security These hamper reconstruction, activities of relief/development agencies and daily functioning of education, health and welfare services. There are a reported 15-20 daily attacks on coalition forces and 15-25 civilians shot dead in Baghdad every day. Since the end of the war the Baghdad morgue reports 500 excess deaths per month

Media 189 newspapers and magazines now published, compared with 39 under Saddam which were tightly controlled and censored

Opinion Most Iraqis approve of the removal of Saddam. In a Gallup poll, 62% of Baghdad residents thought their suffering was worth it and 67% thought their lives would be better five years on

(*The Independent* 10.10.03)

cost



A COUNTRY IN RUINS (PP 5,8-9)

Iraq's physical infrastructure, already seriously damaged by the 1990-1991 Gulf War and much of it not repaired, has suffered further enormous damage in air attacks and urban conflict

Destruction of roads, railways, homes, hospitals, factories and sewage plants has created conditions in which the environment is degraded and health threatened

Extensive damage to the environment of Iraq and possibly neighbouring countries: radioactive materials dispersed into the environment, oil wells fired creating oil spills and toxic smoke; troop movements destroy fragile desert ecology; explosive remnants of war and land mines kill, maim and pollute; bombardment destroys buildings, topsoil, and arable/grazing land; pollution of land, sea, rivers, and atmosphere

RECONSTRUCTION (P 11)

Total cost of the war \$79 billion to date including occupation cost of \$3.9 billion a month (double prewar Pentagon estimates)

World Bank estimates over \$55 billion required over 4 years to restore public services including \$1.6 billion for health, \$6.8 billion for water and sanitation and \$12 billion for electricity. US government spokesman says the price of reconstruction is 'almost impossible to exaggerate'

UK has pledged £544 million for the rebuilding of Iraq, and is spending £5 million a month to keep 11,000 troops in the Gulf

No process initiated to heal the deep emotional and psychological trauma of war and oppression, or to resolve tensions peacefully

Ongoing violence, insecurity, lawlessness and social decay resulting in crime, substance abuse, poor school attendance, child abductions, prostitution and mental ill health continue to present obstacles to reconstruction.

Iraqi entrepreneurs are 'queuing up' for franchises to open McDonald's hamburger outlets in Baghdad. 'The Iraqi people would love a Big Mac and fries as much as the rest of the world,' says US Defense Department

All information from references cited in *Continuing Collateral Damage: the health and environmental costs of war on Iraq 2003*, Medact, London, 2003.



www.medact.org

GLOBAL IMPACT

All sides pay a heavy financial cost: arms spending, occupation, relief and reconstruction. Funds being diverted from other lower-profile crises in Afghanistan and Africa

Weakening of authority of the United Nations and of multilateralism; destabilisation of governance at global level