

Southern Iraq



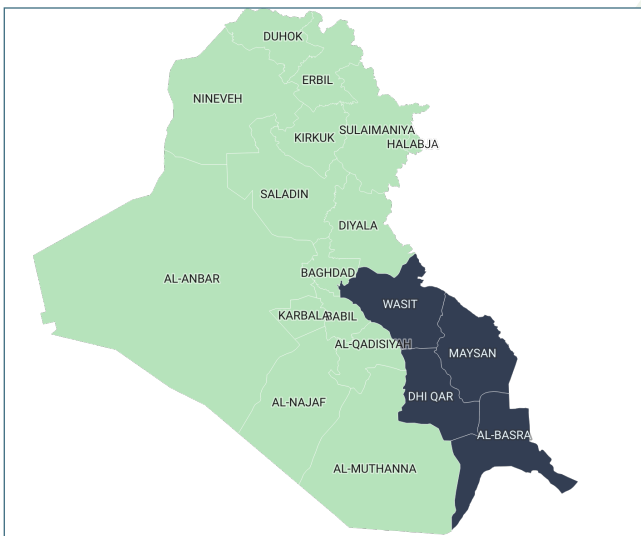
Iraqi boy in fishing boat

By supporting local, regional and international stakeholders, WPS aims to prevent and reduce water-related conflict and turn the vicious cycle of water challenges and instability into a virtuous one of sustainable water management and peace.

tensions to violent protests. WPS works to mitigate and prevent water-related security issues in Basra, Wasit, Missan, and Dhi Qar.

SHIFTING ATTITUDES TOWARDS CONFLICT-SENSITIVE WATER GOVERNANCE

WPS's work has contributed to shifting practices and attitudes to conflict-sensitive water governance in Iraq. This began in 2020–2022 with a training programme for national and provincial representatives of the Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources, focused on the need for conflict-sensitive water governance policies. WPS' continued engagement, including the co-development of an integrated water system analysis and dashboard, which equipped the authorities to engage on these issues. At a WPS roundtable in 2022, the Iraqi Minister of Water Resources stressed the importance of WPS work for conflict-sensitive water management.



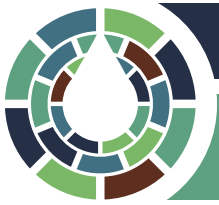
WPS Activity in Iraq

WATER-RELATED SECURITY CHALLENGES

Iraq's water stress has reached crisis levels in the past decade, with increasingly frequent droughts affecting rainfall, groundwater, and surface water in the Euphrates and Tigris rivers. Upstream dams exacerbate the issue, leading to decreased water quality and quantity, which, in turn, impacts health, agriculture, and causes problems like displacement. Dissatisfaction with national water management practices has led to conflict and instability, ranging from political



Fishing boat on dried river bed



CAPACITY-BUILDING & EMPOWERMENT OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

WPS provided local organisations with training for 21 dialogue facilitators on environmental peacebuilding. This enabled them to become effective mediators with regard to water-related security challenges. This prepared some of them to lead the 2023 'WPS edition' of the Dijlah Talks forum in Baghdad, which focused on multi-stakeholder water-sharing agreements, and prepared a conflict-mediation organisation to use environmental peacebuilding tools and strategies in their work.

MOVING FROM COMPETITION TO COLLABORATION

WPS encourages diverse water users to consider shared challenges and discuss potential solutions and collaboration opportunities both within and across Iraq's southern regions. Building on WPS research and engagement, WPS supported a local partner to bring communities together through three provincial focus groups, a regional public session, and using a multi-stakeholder survey to discuss how water users can get involved in mitigating their shared water-related challenges.



Water, Peace and Security Iraq

A dashboard to assess water-livelihood-migration-measures links

Overview Migration About

Governorate

- ☒ Basrah
- ☐ Dhi-Qar
- ☐ Maysan
- ☐ Wasit

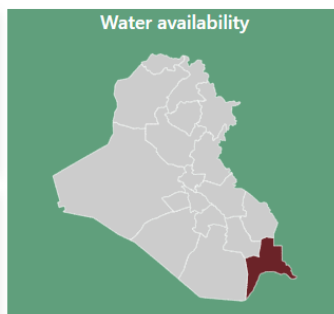
Scenar

- ☒ Business as Usual
- ☐ Extreme climate scenario
- ☐ Moderate climate scenario
- ☐ Population increase
- ☐ Reduced inflow

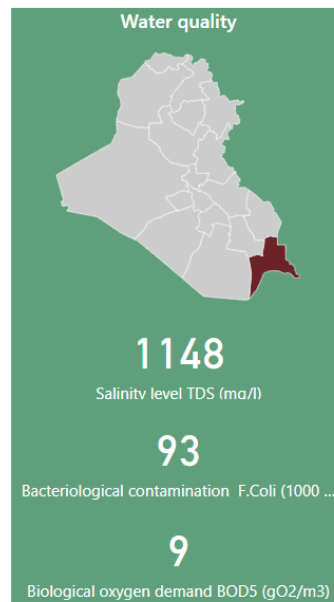
Measures

- ☐ Change in livelihoods
- ☐ Enhance water storage (e.g. new dams)
- ☐ Increase irrigation efficiency
- ☐ Water allocation improvement

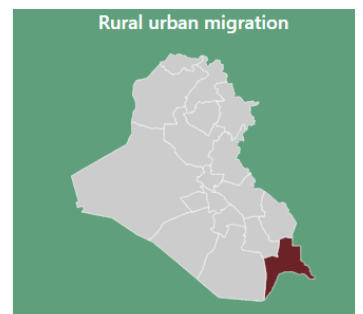
Water availability



Water quality



Rural urban migration



Water security risk



Displacement risk



South of Iraq interactive dashboard for exploring and visualizing key indicators of water security and displacement, with additional insights on migration and data sources.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- www.waterpeacesecurity.org
- info@waterpeacesecurity.org
- @WaterPeaceSec
- Water, Peace and Security

WPS is a collaboration between the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a consortium of six partners: IHE Delft (lead partner), World Resources Institute (WRI), Deltares, The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS), Wetlands International and International Alert.