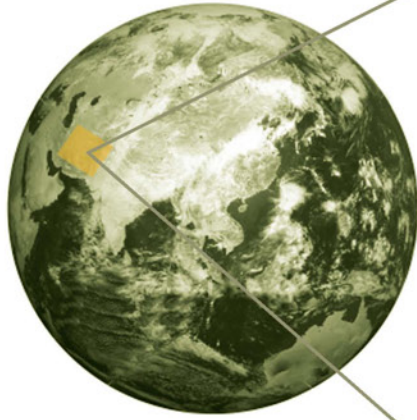


Iraq



Located in Western Asia, Iraq has a very narrow section of coastline on the Persian Gulf



IN BRIEF

Women in Iraq have not traditionally suffered the same type of gender repression found in some other societies. Earlier laws ensured education for girls, family rights, and the right to serve in the government. However, present-day Iraq is plagued by insecurity, transforming the situation for women into a national crisis.

Assassinations and abductions are rampant. In what was once a secular country, there are now threats to women who drive, or don't cover their hair.

Iraqi women struggle to have a role in shaping Iraq's future government, laws and policies – Women for Women International is there to help.

Language: Arabic

Life expectancy (female): 70.99 years

Life expectancy (male): 68.32 years

Population: 28,221,181

Per capita income: \$3,600

Unemployment: 18% to 30%

Literacy (female): 64.2%

- 81% of our program participants can read more than their name

- 80% of our program participants can write more than their name

Literacy (male): 84.1%

Access to safe drinking water: 80%

Learn more about our program in Iraq at www.womenforwomen.org/iraq

A Day In the Life

A typical Iraqi woman's day starts early in the morning, as she wakes up around sunrise to bake, prepare breakfast, and send her children off to school.

During the day, she'll clean her home, do errands, and prepare lunch – in addition to any home-based work she can do to earn money, such as cooking meals to sell at the local market, or sewing. If she has downtime, she'll visit her neighbors, and they'll drink tea and chat together. In the evenings, she'll help her children with homework, and eat dinner – usually rice and chicken – with her family.

One Woman's Story: Wafaa

Wafaa was eating dinner with her husband and four sons when a missile suddenly crashed through the roof of her house. Her husband was killed, and her sons were seriously injured. Wafaa felt hopeless, and isolated herself for months in mourning and grief.

After enrolling with Women for Women International, Wafaa began to realize that she could still live her life and support her sons. Being around other women who'd lost family members helped heal her wounds. And business training inspired her to open her own shop.

Although she faced strong resistance from her in-laws, who told her that women couldn't manage businesses, she pushed back and told them that no one else was going to feed her children. Her shop is now open, and quite successful. Thanks to Women for Women International, Wafaa says, "Nothing seems to be impossible."



HOW DO I SAY?

Hello	Marhaba
How are you?	Kaif halik?
How is your family?	Kef al-usra?
Please tell me about yourself	Argu an tukhbirny an nafsak
My name is . . .	Ismi . . .
I am happy to write you	Ana saaeed liany aktub laka
I am thinking of you	Ana of aker bika
Congratulations	Mabrouk
Thank You	Shukran
Goodbye	Ma'assalama

