

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATIONORGANISATION MONDIALE
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Methodology of Health Protection for Local Areas

ABSTRACT OF REPORT ON IRAQ

Iraq is divided successively into 14 liwas, 58 kadas, 162 nahiyas and 9381 villages. The health unit is the liwa, under a chief medical officer, who is responsible for preventive and curative medicine. The 14 health units are administered from the Directorate General of Health.

2.01 The total population of Iraq is 4,799,500 (25% urban) and the area 435,415 sq.km. Liwas vary in size from 5,000 to 50,000 sq. km. and in population from 101,000 to 805,000.

Communication is by rail, river and road.

2.02 Services rendered include:

Hospitals (82 altogether (4,812 beds) with 62 outpatient clinics; there are general, maternity, infectious diseases, tuberculosis, psychiatry, venereal disease, paediatric, leprosy, and ophthalmic hospitals)

Dispensaries (free to the poor; there are 433 altogether, some staffed by doctors, some by "health officials", some by dressers)

Environmental sanitation
Control of communicable diseases
MCH (only in towns)
School health (examination)
Laboratory service in Baghdad
Immunization (smallpox)

2.05 There are 724 medical practitioners in Iraq of whom 280 work for the State part-time. Other personnel include midwives, pharmacists "health officials" (staffing village dispensaries), nurses, dressers, "health inspectors" (sanitary staff), and public vaccinators.

Income of medical officers is roughly one-half of earnings of private practitioners.

2.06 The cost of medical care per head per annum is 322 fils (about 90 cents).

2.07 Technical supervision is by the Chief Medical Officer of the Liwa and administration by staff from the Ministry of the Interior.

Certain medical problems, e.g. nutrition, school health, concern Departments other than that of Health (Agriculture, Education). Voluntary Societies do some MCH work and tuberculosis campaigns.

2.08 Finance is from the national budget.