

Iraq

"Humanitarian Assistance Provided in 1991 and 1992 Continues in 1993"

With a population of about 18 million inhabitants and abundant natural resources, especially oil, Iraq has been considered a middle-income country open to the external world for the export of oil products and the import of goods and services for the industry and for local consumption. The country depended heavily on imports of food (about 70% of its requirements), consumer goods, and raw materials for its young industry.

However, after two successive wars followed by civil unrest in certain parts of the country, and the imposition of a total embargo in August 1990, the socio-economic situation of the country has greatly deteriorated. Despite sustained efforts to increase the local production of food and other essential goods, the living conditions of the population in general, and the vulnerable groups in particular, continue to deteriorate.



UNHCR/A Hoffmann Photo

Iraqi children, refugees at Haj camp, Silopi, Sirnak Province (Turkey).