

**Received Wednesday 28 th September from Dr Ibrahim Al-Kubaisy in Iraq via web-mail
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Transcript from email

The tragedy of Iraqi children is unbelievable and includes many aspects as you have mentioned.

To be honest, we must make one point clear and that is whatever the bad circumstances through which the Iraqi children have passed are nothing compared to the recent situations. In spite of the long duration embargo but there was not such high morbidity and mortality among the children in addition to the psychological traumas which are more serious than others.

- First to speak about is the primary health care programs which are nearly paralyzed. Most of the children in the rural areas can not get health care including vaccination, growth follow up, medical care and even the simplest medications. This is mainly due to the military operations and lack of health centers in many far areas with the difficulties in reaching health centers by many families.
- Also there are increasing numbers of infant deaths or brain damage and handicap during home deliveries because these pregnant women could not reach hospitals due to the curfew at night.
- The other point is the increasing rates of the communicable diseases such as diarrhea, dysentery, typhoid fever, respiratory tract infections and others due to many factors such as poor water sanitation and decrease immunity related to malnutrition and repeated infections.
- Other aspect is the lack of school attendance due to many factors like the business of them in some jobs so as to how many for living and also destruction of schools in cities with military operations and attacks.
- One of the important aspects of children's suffering is the psychological disturbance due to many factors; fear, terror during explosions, bombing, street killings, attacking homes and arresting fathers and brothers in front of their. Also increasing number of orphans and widows and children of prisoner fathers and brothers.
- In general there is no accurate morbidity and mortality rates or numbers nowadays & I'll try to get some numbers.
- We appreciate your offer and we will be so grateful for assist us in decreasing children suffering in any possible ways