The situation in Iraq

• Munqith Dagher
• IIACSS Group
• Feb 2021
IIACSS

- The first and the largest private research group in Iraq established in 2003
- Conducted the first poll in the history of modern Iraq
- The first private research company in the Middle East with ISO 9001: 2015 certification
- More than two million field interviews and 2,000 completed projects in various fields
- Member of GALLUP International, and the head of IIACSS Group is the Director of the Middle East and North Africa.
- The first Iraqi company to join ESOMAR
- 5 main branches in Iraq and hundreds of workers and researchers inside and outside Iraq and of both genders
- Completion of the interviews on tablets through a specialized program CAPI and through Computer-assisted telephone interviewing CATI

Data collected through phone (CATI)
- Samples drawn via PPS using up to date population statistics
- Interviewers recruited and trained locally
- Permission from local authorities
- GPS checking
- Audio recordings
- Automatic time stamps

Rigorous quality control:
What is the current situation in Iraq?

• What do Iraqis think of the current situation in the country?
• Let us look at these longitudinal figures which reflect clear trend of distrust in present and future
Generally speaking, do you think that things in Iraq are going in the right direction, or do you think things are going in the wrong direction?

*nationwide survey*
• Thinking about life in Iraq a year from now, do you think that life in the country will be much better, slightly better, about the same, slightly worse, or much worse than it is now?

*nationwide survey 2021
Improvement Obstacles

- Bad Economy
- Corruption
- Ghostcracy
- Lack of Trust
In your opinion, to what extent do you think financial and administrative corruption is widespread in Iraq?
In your opinion, to what extent do you think the government is serious about fighting financial and administrative corruption in Iraq?
Trust in the Government

% of trust


Shiaa Sunna

59% 46% 20% 34% 50% 48% 27% 
35% 24% 20% 28% 40% 33% 18%

Corruption
Lack of trust
Bad economy
Trust in the Parliament

% of trust

- 21% in 2014
- 17% in 2018, 2019, and 2020
Trust in the religious institutions

% of trust

- 2004: 80%
- 2014: 71%
- 2018: 50%
- 2019: 41%
- 2020: 38%
Trust in personal relationships in Iraq

% I can trust the people in Iraq

- 40% in 2013
- 30% in 2014
- 11% in 2018
- 7% in 2020
What influence do you think the following organizations on internal events and affairs in our country--or have you never heard of them?

Iranian backed militias

85% Negative influence
Considering the situation in this area right now, can you tell me whether you would be very concerned, somewhat concerned, just a little concerned, or not at all concerned about:

The threat from Daesh sleeper cells in this area

The threat from other armed militia

- Sunnah
- Baghdad
- Shia
- Sunnah
- Baghdad
- State of Corruption
- Lack of trust
❖ GOI is paying one of every four Iraqis a monthly salary or pension
❖ By the end of 2020, GOI, for the first time since 1921 was not able to pay public employees monthly salaries and wages.
❖ Public employees salaries and wages consumed 74% of the total fiscal expenditures for 2020
❖ Oil sales represent more than 90% of the government annual revenues.
Population Distribution according to Income
Do you consider our country to be governed in the interest of the majority of people or in the interest of some groups?

- Majority of people: 13.5%
- Some groups: 85.7%

To what extent do you support, at the moment...?

- Toppling of the ethno-sectarian system: 94%

% Strongly agree/somewhat agree

*nationwide survey 2020*
Two Paths for Change

- Revolution, military coup, or prolonged protests
- Controlled (election)
Iraqis are unhappy with the current regime

- Clearly, Iraqis are very unhappy with their political choices and voting is increasingly seen as an imperfect solution to Iraq’s political morass.

- A minority of all Iraqis believe that the most efficacious way to affect political decision-making is through voting. Of those who said that ordinary Iraqis can influence the decision-making process, only 14% of Sunnis, 11% of Shia, and 31% of Kurds believe that voting is the way to do that.

- Shia are the most likely to believe that protesting is the best way to influence the political decision-making process. 24% of Shia believe that protesting is the best way to influence politics compared to 13% of Sunnis and just 7% of Kurds. This indicates that many more Iraqis engage or want to engage in protest than actually believe that it will change politics in Iraq. They have largely given up hope on political parties and the institutionalized process.

*nationwide survey 2020*
60% of Iraqis support October uprising

38%

Of Iraqis and 56% of Shias stated that they either participated or intended to participate.

*nationwide survey 2020*
Election could be a good chance

Yet, it is facing number of significant challenges
1. Election Integrity
2. The consequences of the new law
Controlled : Election

Good News

To what extent do you support, at the moment...?
% Strongly agree/somewhat agree

Holding early parliamentary elections

84%
### The Perceptions of Electoral Integrity index summary scale ranges from 0-100.

The PEI country-level mean scores cover national elections held 2012-2019.

**Source:** The Perceptions of Electoral Integrity expert survey, country-level (PEI 7.0)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N&amp;W Europe</th>
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<th>C&amp;E Europe</th>
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<td>Micronesia</td>
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| Ireland    | Mexico | Armenia | Solomon Isl. | Iraq | Nigeria |
| Belgium    | Colombia | Hungary | Indonesia | Syria | Sierra Leone |
| Cyprus     | Bolivia | Albania | Nepal | Total | CAR |
| Spain      | Bahamas | Kyrgyzstan | Fiji | Egypt | Sao Tome Pr. |
| Italy      | El Salvador | Montenegro | Myanmar | Total | Niger |
| Greece     | Belize | Ukraine | Samoa | Total | Gabon |
| UK         | Guyana | Serbia | Singapore | Total | Malawi |
| Malta      | Suriname | Macedonia | Maldives | Total | Comoros |
| Turkey     | Ecuador | Russia | Sri Lanka | Total | Zambia |
| Paraguay   | Paraguay | Bosnia-Herz. | Philippines | Total | Spain |
| Guatemala  | Antigua Bar | Kazakhstan | Thailand | Total | Sudan |
| Antigua Bar | Dom. Rep | Belarus | Laos | Total | Senegal |
| Venezuela  | Venezuela | Uzbekistan | Pakistan | Total | Kenya |
| Honduras   | Nicaragua | Tajikistan | Bangladesh | Total | Mali |
| Haiti      | Nicaragua | Pakistan | Malaysia | Total | Guinea |

| Total | 74 | Total | 56 | Total | 56 | Total | 54 | Total | 49 | Total | 46 |

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**By region:**

The PEI country-level mean scores cover national elections held 2012-2019.
The global map of electoral integrity

Notes: The categories are constructed from the average score for each country in national presidential and parliamentary elections in the 100-point Perceptions of Electoral Integrity Index.

Source: The Perceptions of Electoral Integrity expert survey (PEI 7.0), country-level www.electoralintegrityproject.com
New Election Law (SNTV)

• On 5 November 2020, the President of Iraq ratified the Law for the Election of Iraq’s Council of Representatives (CoR Election Law No. 9 of 2020)

• The new law introduces the Single Non-Transferable Vote (SNTV)

• The law divides Iraq into 83 electoral districts

• 25% (83 seats) of the parliament’s 329 seats reserved for women

• Nine seats reserved for minority representatives
How the new electoral system, SNTV, will affect the process and outcomes?

- 2018 proportional representation open list system (Open List PR) → 2021 Single Non-Transferable Vote (SNTV)
- 2018 voting based on an electoral list or individual representatives → 2021 voters to choose an individual candidate in an electoral district
- Consequences → unexpected results and potential violence
How the new electoral system, SNTV, will affect the process and outcomes?

**Proportional**

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<th>Party</th>
<th>Votes</th>
<th>Seats</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>A</td>
<td>51%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>15%</td>
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**SNTV possibility**

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<td>Candidate 3 (Party A)</td>
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<td>Candidate 4 (Party A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Candidate 5 (Party A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Candidate 1 (Party B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Candidate 2 (Party B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Candidate 3 (Party B)</td>
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<td>Candidate 4 (Party B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Candidate 1 (Party C)</td>
<td>15</td>
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</table>

6 Member constituency

*IFES Iraq*
THANK YOU