CHILD AND MATERNAL MORTALITY SURVEY 1999 Preliminary report



Iraq July 1999



unicef

Ministry of Health

Acknowledgments

This survey was carried out in partnership between the Government of Iraq and UNICEF. The Government's contribution was itself a partnership of major ministries, organizations and institutions. These organizations were brought together with UNICEF in a Government/UNICEF Survey Steering Committee. The level of cooperation was exemplary throughout and contributed significantly to the quality of this survey.

From the Ministry of Health both the Preventive Health Department and the Statistical Department were closely involved in all aspects of the survey. This included planning, sample design, and preparation of the questionnaire and survey training manual. Of particular note is the Preventive Health Department's contribution in fielding the team of data collectors and supervisors as well as the data entry team in Baghdad. Similarly the Department of Surveys and Research and the Department of Demography and Population Studies from the Central Statistical Organization were closely involved in all aspects of the survey but were particularly invaluable in identifying households to be surveyed by their actual physical address. This made the job of the data collectors just that much easier and faster. From the University of Baghdad College of Medicine, both the Department of Community Medicine and the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics contributed to all phases of this project, as did the Community Medicine Department of the Saddam Medical College.

Mr. Mohammed Ali of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine headed a team of consultants fielded by UNICEF to support this survey. He and his team worked with the Government throughout the survey process from planning the survey, sample design, training, preparation and review of questionnaire and training manual, through to data editing, analysis and the report writing. Dr. John Ssebuliba from the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda spent many days working on the data for the survey and also made a substantial contribution to the survey report.

Dr. Iqbal Shah of WHO, Geneva provided generous support in reviewing the survey methodology, fieldwork techniques, data cleaning processes, data checks and the first drafts of the survey report. Dr. Ahmed Abdul-Mun'im, of the Pan Arab Project for Child Development, Alexandria and Mr. Bernard Barrère of Macro International Inc./DHS brought "fresh" eyes to this survey and went over both the methodology and results in great detail. Their searching questions and their support in seeking the answers have given the whole survey team an even greater level of confidence in this survey and its results.