

Qadissiya Governorate Profile



Source map: [IAU](#)

Qadissiya at a Glance

Fast Facts

- Area: 8153 km²
- Average High Temperatures: 15°C (January) to 42°C (July-August)
- Population: 1,076,658
- Capital City: Diwaniya
- Average Low Temperatures: 6°C (January) to 27°C (July)
- Population Distribution Rural-Urban: 43,5%-56,5%

Geography and Climate

The governorate of Qadissiya, alternatively spelled as Qadisiyah or Kadissiya, is located in the plains of south central Iraq. Qadissiya borders the governorates of Muthanna, Najaf, Babil, Wassit and Thi-Qar. The Euphrates and one of its major tributaries, the Shamiya River, both run through the governorate. This abundance of water and rich soil make the governorate one of the most fertile areas of the country.

Qadissiya has a typical desert climate, with hot, dry summers and cooler winters. Rainfall is limited to the winter season and averages at 110 mm yearly.

Population and Administrative Division

The majority of Qadissiya's inhabitants are Arab Shias. The governorate is divided in the following districts: Diwaniya, Afaq, Al-Shamiya and al Al-Hamza.

Economy

Thanks to its fertile farmland, agriculture is one of the main components of the governorate's economy. Rice, wheat and barley are the main crops cultivated in Qadissiya, while hibiscus and melon are also grown on a smaller scale.

A number of factories producing tires, dairy and cotton textiles are located in Qadissiya. Diwaniya, the governorate's capital, hosts the University of Qadissiya. A number of archeological and religious sites are located in the governorate, and could be developed into major touristic attractions.

Qadissiya's economy is hampered by a number of factors. A large number of jobs provided by the agricultural sector are informal and unwaged. Other economic sectors like industry remain underdeveloped. The informality and underdevelopment of Qadissiya's labor market is one of the explanations for the high number of unemployment and child labor in the governorate.

Historical Introduction

The area encompassed by the governorate of Qadissiya was one of the centers of the ancient Sumerian civilization. The famous 7th century battle of Qadissiya, in which forces of the early Muslim Caliphate decisively defeated a Persian Sassanid army, also took place in the area.

During the Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988) the memory of the battle of Qadissiya was skillfully manipulated by Saddam Hussain to portray the current war as a continuation of the Arab-Persian struggles of the past. The geographic location of the governorate however meant that Qadissiya escaped the war unscathed.

The governorate's capital of Diwaniya did see combat during the 2003 invasion of Iraq. After the overthrow of the Ba'ath regime, Qadissiya became a stronghold of the Shiite cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr. In the years after the invasion, Al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia and militias connected to other Shia factions (like the Islamic Supreme Council for Iraq - ISCI) increased their influence over Qadissiya and other governorates in the Shiite south of Iraq, threatening the rule of the central government. The Shia parties



Ruins of a temple in the ancient Sumerian city of Nippur, located in the modern governorate of Qadissiya. Source: [Jasmine N. Walthall](#)

and local tribes often possessed their own armed fighters operating outside of the official security forces, and clashed violently among each other. The militias also launched attacks on the new Iraqi security forces and the international coalition occupational force. Countering the militias was difficult because of the close connections between some factions and the ruling government coalition, which made it hard for the government to crack down on their influence. The problem lingered on until 2008, when the Iraqi government, backed by US forces, launched a campaign to clear the southern governorates of Iraq from the militias.

In Qadissiya this campaign was backed by an initiative to strengthen local tribal councils in an attempt to break the powerbase of the Shiite factions and their clerical leaders.

Over the past few years the governorate of Qadissiya remained relatively peaceful. The governorate also escaped the onslaught of the 2014 IS conquest of large parts of northwestern Iraq. As in other governorates, calls for more local autonomy for the southern - Shia dominated - region of Iraq have also been heard in Qadissiya.

Humanitarian Issues

	Population under the poverty line	Unemployment	Enrollment primary education	Enrollment secondary education	Literacy
Qadissiya Governorate	19,2%	13,7%	86,6%	43,5%	71,5%
National Averages	11,5%	11,3%	90,5%	48,6%	79% ¹

Qadissiya scores below average on all development parameters. Even though the rate of people living under the poverty line of \$2,5 a day decreased greatly from 38,2% in 2007 to 19,2% in 2011, the governorate is still one of the poorest of Iraq. Poverty differs significantly among the various districts of the governorate. Connected to the high level of poverty is the above average rate of unemployment. Food insecurity and child malnutrition decreased significantly over the past few years, with the rate of

¹As by UNICEF, *State of The World's Children 2015 Country Statistics Table*, http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/iraq_statistics.html , 25/02/2015. All other data are from JAU, *Qadissiya Governorate Profile* (2013), <http://www.jauiraq.org/documents/462/GP-Qadissiya%202013.pdf> , 09/04/2015.

food insecurity (3%) being only half of the national average of 6% in 2011. Child malnutrition for children under the age of five dropped from 16,7% in 2000 to 7,1% in 2011.

Qadissiya's enrollment rates for both primary and secondary education are below the country's average level. Not unsurprisingly the literacy rate is also below the national average. It should be noted that enrollment rates did improve in recent years: enrollment in primary education rose from 73,2% in 2006 to 86,6% in 2011, while the enrollment in secondary education reached 43,5% in 2011 compared to 30,3% in 2006.

Only 77% of the inhabitants of Qadissiya have sustainable access to an improved source of water, which is one of the lowest figures of Iraq. As only 72% of the households in the governorate is connected to the public water network it is no surprise that approximately 40% of the population relies on another source, like bottled water or rivers and lakes, as its primary source of drinking water. The majority of the people who are connected to the public network only have water for a few hours every day. The management of waste water is another problem for the inhabitants of Qadissiya: only 15% relies on the sewage network for the disposal of waste water, while the rest of the population uses a covered canal outside the house, or a septic tank. The proportion of households with access to an improved sanitation facility (84,3%) is also below the national average of 93,8%.

Following the IS onslaught in northwestern Iraq, Qadissiya has attracted a considerable number of internally displaced persons (IDPs). The majority of these IDPs fled Ninewa, with smaller groups coming from Kirkuk, Anbar and other governorates. As in other governorates, rented housing or the host community (relatives, friends or unrelated families) are the main shelter arrangement for IDPs in Qadissiya. A considerable number of IDPs is also residing in religious buildings, or other vulnerable settlements like unfinished or abandoned buildings, where they lack access to basic services and risk eviction. For an up to date overview of the numbers and locations of IDPs, refugees and camps in the governorate please consult [IOM's displacement tracking matrix](#) or [REACH Iraq's resource center](#).

Presence of NGOs

Please see the [members' area](#) on NCCI's website for full access to our weekly field reports, which include an up to date humanitarian situation overview. NCCI's [online NGO mapping](#) gives an oversight of local and international NGO presence on a governorate level.

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