

Iraq Waterkeeper Environmental Law and Advocacy Project



This Project is Funded by European Union



Water Right Foundation

Partnership

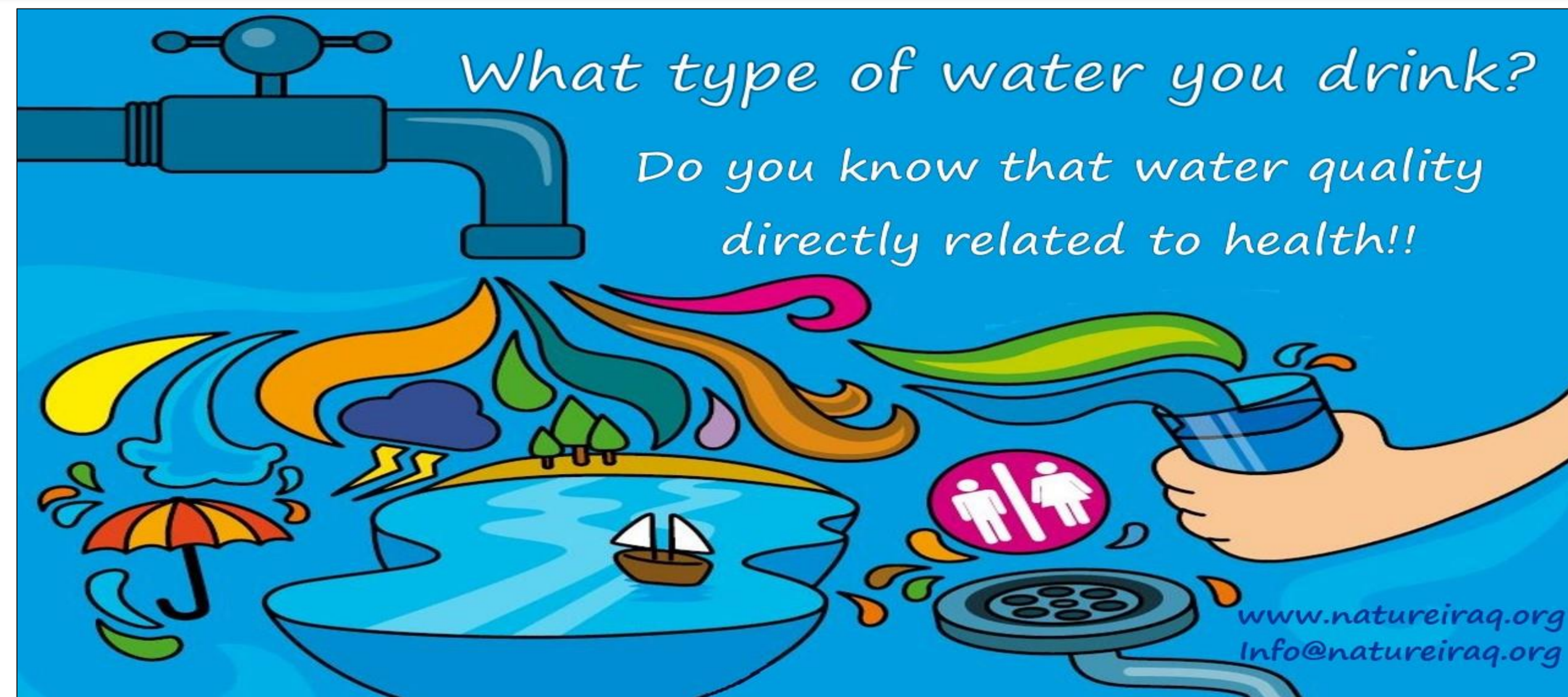


Implemented by NI

Newsletter No.9

April – 2016

Page 1 of 1



Where does my drinking water come from?

The drinking water that is supplied to our homes comes from either surface water or ground water. Surface water collects in streams, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs. Ground water is water located below the ground where it collects in pores and spaces within rocks and in underground aquifers. We obtain ground water by drilling wells and pumping it to the surface.

Public water systems provide water from surface and ground water for public use. Water treatment systems are either government or privately-held facilities. Surface water systems withdraw water from the source, treat it, and deliver it to our homes. Ground water systems also withdraw and deliver water, but they do not always treat it.

A private well uses ground water as its water source. Owners of private wells and other individual water systems are responsible for ensuring that their water is safe from contaminants.

What type of health issues can be related to water quality?

The presence of certain contaminants in our water can lead to health issues, including gastrointestinal illnesses, reproductive problems, and neurological disorders. Infants, young children, pregnant women, the elderly, and immunocompromised persons may be especially at risk for becoming ill after drinking contaminated water. For example, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children.



Iraq Waterkeeper Environmental Law and Advocacy Project



This Project is Funded by European Union



Water Right Foundation

Partnership



Implemented by NI

Prepared by : Shilan Aziz & Diary Muhamad Rashid

Www.NatureIraq.org

Invitation from KRG Minister of State for Environmental Affairs

On February 1st 2016, the advocacy project team of Nature Iraq was invited by the Minister of State for Environmental Affairs at the Environmental Protection and Improvement Board in KRG, Mr. AbdulRahman AbdulRahim, to recognize the efforts of the advocacy team for publishing the first environmental legal guide, which was published in December 2015 in three languages (Kurdish, Arabic and English).

During the meeting the team addressed the main goals and objectives of the advocacy project in encouraging the different agencies and Civil Society Organizations to have an active role in the development of environmental laws and regulatory policies with best practice examples from the Government environmental bodies and NGOs and the different advocacy activities that exist in KRG, chiefly on the legal environmental issues.

His Excellency Mr. AbdulRahim expressed commitments to support the advocacy project in order to further achieve the goals and objectives of the project. Moreover, under the name of the Kurdistan Environmental Protection and Improvement Board, the Advocacy team received a Letter of Appreciation for the achievements of the project. This eminent letter is an encouragement for our team to work harder in accomplishing our goals in protecting our water resources.



Mosul dam engineers warn it could collapse at any time, killing one million people due to poor maintenance

The Mosul dam in northern Iraq, holds back more than 11bn cubic meters of water from the Tigris River Iraqi engineers involved in building the dam 30 years ago have warned that the risk of its imminent collapse and the consequent death toll could be even worse than reported.

They pointed out that pressure on the dam's compromised structure was building up rapidly as winter snows melted and more water flowed into the reservoir, bringing it up to its maximum capacity, while the sluice gates normally used to relieve that pressure were jammed shut. The Iraqi engineers also said the failure to replace machinery or assemble a full workforce more than a year after Islamic State temporarily held the dam means that the chasms in the porous rock under the dam were getting bigger and more dangerous every day.

The engineers warned that potential loss of life from a sudden catastrophic collapse of the Mosul dam could be even greater than the 500,000 officially estimated, as they said many people could die in the resulting mass panic, with a 20-metre-high flood wave hitting the city of Mosul and then rolling on down the Tigris valley through Tikrit and Samarra to Baghdad.

Source: The Guardian & Daily mail.



Kurdish fighters (Peshmerga) stood guard at Mosul Dam in Iraq in August 2015 after they and Iraqi forces retook the dam from the Islamic State

Residents of Mosul have been advised to move at least 3.5 miles away from the river