



# UNAMI FOCUS

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## UNAMI's analysis on Disputed Internal Boundaries



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### What did UNAMI expect to push forward in proposing its analysis on the disputed internal boundaries on 5 June 2008?

The issue of the disputed territories is complex and intersects with the competing narratives of Iraq's history, its current challenges and visions for Iraq's future. It will always ignite passionate responses but the key issue is how to create an appropriate negotiating environment where all angles can be considered.

The question of clarity in administrative jurisdictions throughout Iraq is vital for future growth and development. There is at least one district which is currently part-administered by three different governorates. This clearly has an impact on the delivery of essential government services for the local population. UNAMI's analysis attempts in large part to address the question of administrative clarity.

### What are the factors behind the lack of general consensus on UNAMI's first analysis?

Many of Iraq's political factions were unhappy with the mission's proposal – although this wasn't surprising. We were not expecting any party to welcome the proposals however, senior officials from a number of parties said they support UNAMI's efforts as a whole and want the UN to continue its work. Most parties appreciate the integrity of the work even if they do not agree with all of its conclusions. What most parties also acknowledge is the need for an objective third party to take the lead on advising appropriate mechanisms to deal with the issue.

There are valid questions concerning the relationship between the UN's approach and the constitutional steps outlined in Article 140 for dealing with disputed territories, namely, normalization, census and a referendum. Some parties consider the issue to have somehow expired after the December 31, 2007 deadline, and wanted no further effort to resolve the issue. Others want a resolution as quickly as possible. Either way, regardless of constitutional interpretations, the issue of disputed territories is real, remains a problem and for reasons of administrative clarity alone should be dealt with.

### What are the next steps? Is UNAMI continuing to engage with the various stakeholders?

We continue to engage with all the stakeholders. Not only discussions on the first analysis but on the other disputed areas. I am very pleased with the support we are receiving from many quar-

ters. Iraqi members of parliament, executive officials in government at all levels down to sub-district administrators, tribal leaders from all sides, Iraqi academics and Iraqi citizens have all willingly shared their views on this vital issue.

### Will those views lead to some adjustments in UNAMI's analysis or future proposals, and if so, how?

There will be "minor adjustments" in future proposals based on the responses from all our interlocutors. Some concern questions of methodology others questions of fact. There are ongoing and robust discussions over a few substantive issues and there remain differences in the analytical viewpoints between several communities. All will be taken into consideration, but will not necessarily lead to major changes in the analysis produced to date. However, what is increasingly accepted and more widely becoming understood, quite rightly, is that at the end of the day, it is the Government of Iraq which will decide whether existent administrative arrangements will prevail or should be changed.

## INDEX

UNAMI's Analysis on Disputed Internal Boundaries	1
UNHCR and Implementing Partners Active in Al Sadre City	2
The World Health Organization Continues to Gain Momentum Towards Health Initiatives in Iraq	3
The International Compact with Iraq – One Year after Sharm Al-Sheikh	3

## UNHCR and implementing partners Active in Al Sadre City

By Randa Jamal

The plight and conditions of Al Sadre's 2.5 million people has grabbed the attention of the international community. Over the past several months, military operations have been heavily concentrated in the southern part of the community and agencies have been making contributions to improve the lives of innocent civilians.

In particular, humanitarian assistance has been channeled through UN agencies, such as United Nation International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). These agencies have distributed millions of liters of safe drinking water, water purification tablets, medical supplies and food packages, even throughout the curfew.

UNAMI and UN agencies continued to advocate with all parties for compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights standards, especially to provide access to humanitarian assistance for the residents, and also called for attention to the distinction between civilians and militias during the military actions.

One of the key UN agencies providing services is UNHCR, a refugee organization with a wide focus, including the reconstruction of war damaged houses in order to allow people to stay in their homes. The UNHCR Representative in Iraq, Mr. Daniel Endres, said "The immediate action is required on all fronts especially to help people be able to stay home and not to be displaced." UNHCR with three Iraqi partners rehabilitated 209 homes in Shula and Al Sadre City. In addition to the homes already rehabilitated, UNHCR's joint effort is working on another 1,000 houses mainly in Al Sadre City. The rehabilitation of these



*Damaged Homes in Al Sadre City*

homes, including repairing shops in Al Jameela Market and providing destitute families with household items are estimated to cost approximately 10 million dollars.

These efforts, even if small in scale, have indeed made a difference in the lives of ordinary citizens. The UNHCR Iraq Representative said "Humanitarian interventions in such moments, in spite of risks and impediments, are an important symbol of solidarity that could indeed make a difference in people's lives." He added, "If you are in Iraq and you meet the people who went through many hardships, but yet have much enthusiasm towards improving the conditions in their country, I become more convinced that my presence as the head of UNHCR in Iraq is not only important, but

necessary."

Endres also elaborated on the state of Iraqi refugees and IDPs saying "one out of six Iraqis is displaced, making this an immense humanitarian crisis in recent history". A large number of Iraqis, 1.5 million people, were displaced in 2006 and 2007. On an optimistic note, Mr. Endres indicated "It is good to see that there has been no significant displacement since last summer and that in fact some have started to return."

In addition to these rehabilitation efforts, non-food items, such as mattresses, blankets, jerry cans, stoves, and kitchen sets, were distributed by UNHCR to families who were displaced or identified as vulnerable as a result of the prevailing violent circumstances.



*UNHCR distributes Non Food Items in Sholeh and Al Sadre City*

## The World Health Organization Continues to Gain Momentum Towards Health Initiatives in Iraq



WHO officials visiting the Baghdad Teaching Hospital

**By Randa Jamal**

In June, the *World Health Organization* (WHO) and its partners engaged with the Iraqi Ministry of Health to develop an initial framework for health sector reform. Dr. Naeema Al Gaseer, the WHO Iraq Representative, emphasized that health reform "should ensure the delivery of health services using the primary health care approach which entails care of mother and children, safety of food, access to safe water, reduction of communicable diseases, healthy environment in order to meet the *Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs)."

Additionally, a WHO expert worked with several key Iraqi stakeholders in Baghdad and the Ministry of Health to explore *Emergency Preparedness and Response*. This group built awareness of natural hazards, such as areas that are susceptible to earthquakes, floods, and droughts, and discussed how to handle violent deaths in the context of people-made disasters and crimes.

On June 9, Dr. Al Gaseer visited The *Baghdad Teaching Hospital*

(located in Adhamiya), along with other international experts. WHO has previously provided advice and technical support for the facilities of the hospital. Dr. Al Gaseer and her colleagues optimistically noted the tremendous improvements made in the hospital's infrastructure since WHO's visits in 2004 and 2006. These included the professionalism of its staff members, the cleanliness of the hospital, the availability of medicine, the hospital's capacity to absorb more patients, and the readiness of emergency unit to deal with incoming cases.

However, medical care here suffers from brain-drain, as many prominent doctors have migrated from Iraq to other parts of the world, leaving gaps in specialty expertise. The young physicians and nurses at *Baghdad Teaching Hospital* asked WHO to provide educational advancement in these specialties.

The health officials spoke with patients and their families and were inspired to learn that patients were satisfied with the hospital and its services. A

mother of a six-year-old child with hearing difficulties, who underwent a surgery to implant hearing aids, said to Dr. Al Gaseer, "My child can hear now and has started to learn to speak, thanks to the competent speech therapist here who has made it possible for me to communicate with my son."

The WHO Representative also visited the *Kadhimiya Women's Prison* to assess the availability of health services, especially in relation to psychological and mental health and communicable diseases. Dr. Al Gaseer observed that the prison's infrastructure is in very poor condition and in need of substantial enhancement. While basic medical services are available, the health professionals need further training to improve their technical skills and the health clinic needs to be separated from the main prison. Moreover, Dr. Al Gaseer was struck that inmates had no privacy when their families visited.

Consequently, WHO and UNAMI's Human Rights Office requested that the Ministries of Health and of Justice follow-up on prison conditions and improve service provision, including water sanitation and vocation training.

### The International Compact with Iraq – One Year after Sharm Al-Sheikh

Co- chaired by the United Nations and supported by the World Bank, the Arab Fund for Development and the Islamic Development Bank, the Iraqi 5-year vision for development for a solid partnership with the international community to achieve stable democracy and inclusive growth was launched in May 2007 in Sharm Al- Sheikh. Participants included neighbouring countries, international organiza-



The UNSG co-chaired the ICI Consultative Group Conference

tions and other donors supporting the reconstruction of Iraq.

The ICI marked its first anniversary at a Consultative Group Conference hosted by the Government of Sweden on May 29 bringing together ministers of foreign affairs and diplomatic representatives of over 100 countries, along with key international organizations.

Citing significant achievements in improving security, expanding dialogue to achieve national reconciliation and stability and in promoting economic growth, Prime Minister Al Maliki stressed the commitment of the Government of Iraq to continuing economic and social reforms. He called upon the international community to engage in a strategically realigned partnership with Iraq for expediting the process of the country's reintegration in the region and in the world economy.

The Government of Iraq (GoI) encouraged by constant increase in economic output and enhanced spending capacity in its national and local public investment programs, shared with its development partners its optimism for a new beginning for Iraq within the framework of mutual commitments to attaining peace, reducing unemployment and poverty, continuing decen-

tralization and expanding bilateral, regional and trans-regional economic initiatives.

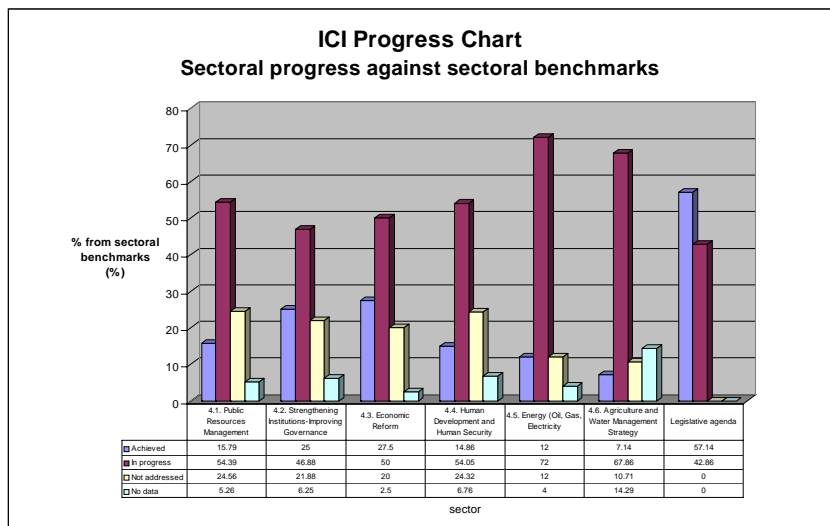
To enforce its proposal for a new partnership for development, the GoI announced its readiness to embark on co-funded projects, requesting the donor community to permit the use of its financial resources for development with the assistance of potential international partners for better performance manifested as an enhanced spending capacity at international quality standards.

Additionally, in a special ceremony held during the conference in Stockholm, the GoI endorsed the OECD Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness joining over 90 countries and 26 inter-

national organizations for an aid management policy. This aid management policy is based on alignment with the ICI and NDS goals and guaranteeing harmonization of donors for results-based, mutually accountable partnerships for development under full ownership of Iraq. By becoming a signatory member of the OECD Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness, Iraq is fully empowered to guide external aid received towards its economic, social and political priorities.

The positive response of the donor community in Sweden to the proposed co-funding mechanism within the COMPACT framework and under the principles of the Paris Declaration encourages Iraq to remove all institutional obstacles that have prevented the Government over the last years to engage in cost-sharing cooperation particularly needed for wide scope projects for which the substantially broader funding required could not be supplied by donors solely.

Hence, Iraq's legislative achievements in promoting good governance, transparency and rule of law, translated into the ratification of the UN Conventions against Corruption and Torture and in instating provincial powers and decentralization of capital spending have been



acknowledged by all participants in Stockholm and highlighted the role the International COMPACT has played in enabling the Government to pave the way towards a new Iraq. Also, by continuing efforts for a constructive regional dialogue and for harmonizing trade policies to rejoin the WTO, Iraq firmly proved its determination to remove tensions and to sustain diplomatic and political goals through enhanced regional and international eco-

nomie cooperation.

As the UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon pointed out, the word of the ICI Conference in Sweden was "hope" encouraging Iraq's international partners to strengthen cooperation with Iraq's Government and civil society who, working together, have found a way out of violence and instability.

For the remaining 4 years of Iraq COMPACT partnership with the

international community, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General in Iraq, Stefan de Mistura, reiterated the organization's firm commitment to continuing assistance and support to shorten Iraq's transition towards a solid democracy and guaranteed human rights in a society that should regain its glorious history and its place amongst prosperous economies.

### UNAMI Focus

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