



Improving the rights of the displaced

Baghdad, 8 July 2008: The Government of Iraq today launched a policy which will improve the situation for displaced persons and returnees. The *National Policy to Address Displacement* is the result of wide-scale consultations with displaced persons around the country by the Ministry of Displacement and Migration and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in coordination with other partners.

The *National Policy to Address Displacement* describes the rights and the needs of the 240,000 newly displaced families inside Iraq and clearly outlines the need for coordination and cooperation between the different Ministries and the international community. "The Policy also is an important tool in the planning for the return to their homes of persons who are displaced inside Iraq or abroad," according to the Minister of Displacement and Migration, Dr. Adul Samad Rahman Sultan. "By adopting this National Policy the Government of Iraq makes it clear that it wants to strengthen the protection of and assistance to displaced persons, and it indicates its willingness to work towards durable solutions for the displaced," added Daniel Endres, Representative of UNHCR in Iraq.

The launch of the *National Policy to Address Displacement* took place in a National Conference at the Baghdad Al-Rasheed hotel, presided by the Minister of Displacement and Migration, Dr. Adul Samad Rahman Sultan. The National Conference was supported by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and UNHCR and funded by the Government of Australia. Amongst the speakers was the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, Mr. Barham Saleh, representatives from the Kurdistan Regional Government and Displacement Committee of the Council of Representatives, the United Nations Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General and the Representative of UNHCR. The Conference was further attended by high level representatives of the Government of Iraq and the KRG, Governors, tribal and religious leaders, representatives of displaced persons, United Nations organizations and a variety of local and international non-governmental organizations.

For more information please contact:

- MoDM: Ms. Hanan Abdul Hadi, Head of the Media Department, Hadihana@yahoo.com or Minister. office@modm.iraq.org, Tel 079 01 412438
- UNHCR: Mr. Mohammed Al-Ani, Liaison Officer, e-mail Alani@unhcr.org, Tel 079-01941274