



UN-Iraq Reconstruction and Development Update

January 2008

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)

Background

The present update is submitted consistent with the United Nations' contribution to the nationwide reconstruction and development of Iraq, the UN Country Team (UNCT) in collaboration with the Iraqi Authorities, the private sector and NGO partners. The update complements other reports and information provided to the public, and is not intended as a single source of all information about the combined efforts or the future strategy of the United Nations Country Team. Despite the continued constraints due to the prevailing security situation, reconstruction and development activities are being implemented by the UN agencies through national partners and counterparts.

Highlights

- Preliminary preparations for mobilization works were initiated by UNESCO on 23 January on the site of the Holy Al-Askari Shrine in Samarra marking the launching of phase I of the project. Around (60) workers began digging through the rubble under the golden dome of the Holy Shrine, cleaning and covering the site and mending the windows and doors of the administrative departments in the mosque. Works also started on the two distinctive minarets of the Shrine which were demolished in a second bombing on 17 June 2007.

- WHO and UNICEF supported the second round of Polio National Immunization Days (PNIDs) across Iraq. Despite heavy snows in the north, an 86.7% vaccination rate was achieved for under five year-old children in Sulaymaniyah. PNIDs were launched in Sulaymaniyah on 27 January, targeting more than 216,000 children under five, including displaced children in camps. More than 500 teams of vaccinators and

supervisors took part in the campaign. The area had postponed participation in the last national rounds (November 2007) due to the cholera outbreak.

- UNICEF inputs helped the Shaqlawa Hospital become recognized as the first Baby-Friendly in the Kurdistan Region. Around 400 staff of various levels were trained as part of this initiative, as well as women union representatives and primary school teachers from Shaqlawa district.

- Construction of downstream storm sewer lines in Kirkuk City was completed during January, improving sanitary services for 12,000 inhabitants. Six ongoing Water and Sanitation projects are scheduled to be completed in April-May 2008, which will benefit 119,500 people in Basra, Wasit, Kerbala and Kirkuk governorates.

- The rehabilitation of one school was completed by UNICEF-UN Habitat during the period under review, bringing the total of schools rehabilitated to 57 out of 90 selected in 2006 (33 schools currently undergoing rehabilitation). Meanwhile, the comprehensive rehabilitation of an additional three schools and improvement of water and sanitation facilities in ten schools are ongoing with funds saved from this project.

- Operational aspects linked to holding the Roundtable on the NGO Law for Iraqi policy-makers to expedite the ratification of the much-delayed NGO Law in Iraq, in line with international standards preserving freedom of association and freedom of expression will be facilitated by UNAMI and UNOPS on 3-5 March 2008 in Erbil. In doing so, the UN will help regain momentum on achieving a benchmark stated in the ICI and will assist further the democratization process in Iraq.

- WFP's new regional EMOP 10717.0 – *Assistance to Displaced Iraqis in Iraq and Syria* was approved on 27 December 2007 and officially began on 1 January 2008. This operation targets up to 750,000 vulnerable IDPs inside Iraq with a complementary food basket delivered through five different cooperating partners under the overall coordination of the Iraqi Ministry of Displacement and Migration and the KRG Department of Displacement and Migration in all 18 provinces of Iraq. The first deliveries of food left Jordan for Iraq on 28 January 2008, and distributions in Kirkuk and Sulaymaniyeh are due to begin by the end of February. An induction workshop was organized for all partners and WFP field staff in Amman from 28-31 January, to become familiarized with the project.

- KRG Minister of Environment indicated during a meeting on 28 January with UNAMI, UNDP and UNOPS that the newly established Ministry needed to develop mechanisms and forge technical cooperation with the United Nations, especially UNEP to build capacities of the Ministry and civil society to promote a sustainable environment in the northern region.

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- The Office of Constitutional Support co-chaired the Third Session of the International Legislative Roundtable on 30 January 2008. The aim was to conduct a detailed discussion within the Baghdad-based international community of the legal aspects of two legislative packages: The recently-passed Justice and Accountability Law, together with the draft Amnesty Law; and, secondly, the draft Law on Governorates not organized into a Region, together with the Executive Procedures Law (which will enter into force in April 2008) and the still-to-be-drafted Governorate Elections Law. The Fourth Session of the Roundtable was held on Wednesday, 27 February 2008. The UNAMI Electoral Assistance Team provided briefing on elections, including an outline of the features of different electoral systems.

Health

- UNDP continued the construction/rehabilitation projects of major hospitals in Iraq. Through these projects, UNDP provided equipment and strengthened the service delivery through capacity building programs and community awareness activities. The implementation of these projects was carried out in collaboration with the Iraqi Ministry of Health.

- Through funding from the Japanese Government, the preparatory phase for the rehabilitation project by UNDP of Ramadi General Hospital in Anbar Governorate and Tikrit General Hospital in Salah Ul-Din Governorate continued.

- Construction by UNDP of a 50 beds Maternity and Children's Hospital in Halabja through funding from the Japanese Government was in progress. Meanwhile, Peace Winds Japan finalized drawings and construction works estimates as well as the lay outs of the landscape and sought approvals from the Departments of Health in the north of Iraq.

- UNDP supported the construction of Basra Children's Hospital through funding from the Trust Fund (Government of Spain).

- UNDP continued the preparation for a donor conference in Erbil in April to coordinate water and sanitation efforts to deal with the Cholera control efforts in Iraq.

- UNDP was the Principal Recipient of the Global Fund Grant for a five-year program for the "Strengthening the TB Control in Iraq". UNDP will be working with the Iraq MoH, National TB Programme, WHO, Red Crescent and the Anti-TB NGO on this program.

- As part of the ongoing reintegration project, 32 social workers (17 women and 15 men) and 18 psychologists (8 women and 10 men) were trained with UNICEF support to work better with children in state houses (orphanages) and to help in their reintegration. UNICEF supported the training of 30 social staff including MoLSA staff, NGOs and civil societies in the North on street/working children

- UNICEF and professional experts from Stockholm University/ Sweden organized two workshops to develop Social Work Education Programme in Iraq and to build capacity of MoLSA. In addition, an analysis of psychosocial capacity and programming in Iraq is underway with counterparts, NGOs and UN agencies.

- IOM established a new Community Assistance Project of Mobile Medical Teams to improve health services for IDPs in Suleimaniya. This initiative will benefit 3,400 IDPs and 3,000 host community population respectively in the governorate.

Education

- As part of the comprehensive school rehabilitation funded by NOKIA, the selection and physical assessment of eight schools have been completed and contracts for rehabilitation activities will be awarded in early February. The project implementation will benefit over 6,700 school children and teachers.

- Training of 250 teachers, including kindergarten teachers and caregivers from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) in the use of ECD kits was completed in five governorates.

Training involved sessions on trauma relief and psychosocial support to young children.

- Within the framework of the "Training of Trainers in Teacher Education for Sustained Quality Education" project, an All-in-one Training Course on Environment Education was organized at Bangor University – UK during 17 January-5 February 2008. Key topics covered New Teaching Methodologies, Subject Updating, Curriculum Reform, and Training Packages Development. Participants from Iraq comprised eight university professors from 4 main Iraqi Universities.

- In cooperation with the Municipality of Turin and Turin University, UNESCO Iraq office made the necessary arrangements for 4 Iraqi students to travel to Italy to follow their Master Studies on Peacekeeping Management at Turin University. The main objective of this study is to duplicate the programme in the Iraqi Universities and transfer the knowledge they acquired to their colleagues in Iraq.

- IOM assisted 50 IDPs and most vulnerable families with in-kind grants to fund the creation of economic services in the towns of Al-Tajhi and Sab'a alBor. IOM also funded the vocational training of 80 IDP women in Basrah and host communities. MoDM-Basrah Branch will conduct the selection of candidates. Women will be trained in tailoring skills and be given sewing machines, enabling them to produce marketable items and generate income for their families. The project is expected to have an indirect impact on the lives of 480 individuals.

- IOM is renovating and expanding the Primary School for displaced students in Shekhanook Haji Village in Ninewa. This project is expected to benefit 73 (638 individuals) IDP families and 40 families (196 individuals) from the host community.

Water and Sanitation

- IOM renovated the water network in Bandawaye Village in Ninewa to encourage the return of IDPs to their

original village. It was expected that 57 families would benefit from this project.

- Rehabilitation work of three sewage laboratories in Najaf, Ninevah and Diwaniya governorates is ongoing, with an average completion rate of 20%.

Electricity

- With funding from SIDA, UNDP responded to the urgent sub-optimal electricity supply to health facilities through the provision of diesel generators including their operation and maintenance and thus making these facilities better functional. The project is implemented in Abu Hanifa Area of Adhmyia District in Baghdad, Samaraa district in Salah Ul Din and Halabja City in Sulaymaniyah. Meetings were held in these sites to prepare for the start of the implementation of project activities.

Mine Action

- 100 master trainers in Basra and Thiqr covered 661 schools with Mine Risk Education (MRE) sessions in December and January. A total of 43,554 students, of which 23,083 are boys and 20,471 are girls; and 650 teachers benefited from the sessions. Additionally, 523 people received MRE emergency response training in Missan and Muthanna governorates during this period, of which 165 are men; 48 women; and 310 boys and girls. Some land mines and UXO incidents were recently reported in these governorates.

Human Rights

- HRO also met on 24 January with the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs to discuss pressing issues under the jurisdiction of the Ministry, notably the training of prison guards and foreign workers' rights and duties in the KRG.

- On 26 January, HRO attended the International Conference on Genocide against the Kurdish People. International and national experts facilitated presentations on human rights, politics, and judiciary topics. Diplomatic missions of the United States, United

Kingdom, Netherlands and Germany attended the conference.

- HRO visited Nawa Center for abused women on 31 January. The centre currently accommodates ten women along with six children. It was established by the KRG Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA) in October 2007 to protect and assist women suffering from domestic violence and life threatening conditions. Two other centers in Sulaymaniya were also established. A previously existing centre in Dahuk Governorate is managed by the civil society and will be transferred to MoLSA in the near future. HRO recommended closer cooperation through the review of policy and code of conduct and possibly capacity building of the centre staff.

Support to the Constitutional Process

- The Constitutional Review Committee's mandate expired on 31 December 2007, but has since been extended until the end of the current legislative term (June/July 2008). In the interim, the Council of Representatives has passed the Law on Governorates not organized into a Region on 13 February 2008. At the request of Deputy Speaker Sheikh Khaled Attiya, the Office of Constitutional Support prepared and submitted technical advice on the scope and application of the principle of administrative decentralization and on possible options for the calibration of federal oversight powers over executive-level officials in the governorates.

- The Law on Governorates was then vetoed by the Presidency Council on 26 February 2008, on the basis of concerns over the constitutionality of various provisions in the text. However, it appears to be agreed among the major political blocs that the 01 October 2008 election date set in the law will not be put into jeopardy as a result of this veto. Moreover, the law's substantive provisions are not intended to apply to the current Provincial Councils and Governors.

- The Office of Constitutional Support (OCS), jointly with the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), continued to advance preparations for the planned visit by members of the Constitutional Review Committee to Northern Ireland. OCS and UNOPS met with members of the Committee to refine and finalize the agenda for the tour, which will take place from 01 – 09 March 2008.

Culture

- A delegation from UNESCO Iraq Office composed of the Director of UNESCO Iraq Office Mr. Mohamed Djelid visited Erbil on a mission from 6-9 January 2008. The mission was partly a follow-up, in joint cooperation with UNDP Iraq, on the Revitalization Project of Erbil Citadel with the newly assigned High Commission for Erbil Citadel Revitalization (HCECR), the implementing partner in Kurdistan Region. A coordination meeting was held on 7 January 2008 with the HCECR and UNDP in the Council of Ministers, Erbil. On the same day, UNESCO delegation along with UNDP delegates visited the Erbil Citadel site.

Communication

- In the framework of UNESCO's ongoing Constitution II Project "Strengthening good governance through support for independent, pluralistic, professional and sustainable media", IREX Europe, one of main implementers of the project, finalized the second of three scheduled panels on the Media Sustainability Index (MSI) for Iraq. Building on the successful production conducted in 2006, the MSI 2008 for Iraq will serve as an important benchmark with respect to media development and progress in Iraq.

Natural Sciences

- In collaboration with the Islamic Education, Science, and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), nine Iraqi teachers and curricula specialists in chemistry participated in a Micro-science Experiment Training Workshop on 26-27 January in Amman. The

practical and affordable micro-science methodology gives primary and secondary school pupils and students alike an opportunity to conduct practical scientific experiments in physics, chemistry and biology using compact kits with learning and teacher guide books. This workshop was a pilot project to see whether the methodology can be adopted in the scientific curricula in Iraq.

UNICEF Iraq Programme 2008	Needs	% Funded	Shortfall
IMPACT: Iraq (emergency)	37,580,411	4%	36,044,528
Survival & Growth	18,354,791	55%	8,275,111
Learning & Development	23,125,092	54%	10,734,260
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	25,570,000	18%	20,913,987
Child Protection & Participation	5,623,000	47%	2,972,000
Policy, Advocacy & Partnerships	1,270,681	47%	675,681
Operations	8,000,000	38%	5,000,000
Regular Programme Total:	81,943,564	41%	48,571,039
COUNTRY TOTAL inc. IMPACT:	119,523,975	29%	84,615,567

Capacity Building/ Technical Cooperation

- The Capacity Building in Integrated Border Management at the Southern Borders of Iraq Programme (CBIBMP) will pilot the implementation of IBM in Iraq by promoting active intra-service and inter-agency cooperation amongst Iraqi state agencies and ministries involved in border management, at both the national level and the Border Crossing Points in the Basra region as well as by enhancing common surveillance capabilities for the flow of legal persons and goods through targeted infrastructure upgrade and improved border management training. This will be complemented by institutionalizing cooperative data collection, sharing and analysis for risk management, as well as enabling the rational appropriation of new IBM concepts by the Government of Iraq (GOI) in support of their subsequent replication nationally.



Ms. Nadwa Ahmed, Programme Coordinator, DDM, and, Mr. Asghar Abdul Razzaq, Deputy Minister, MoDM at the EMOP Induction Workshop, Jan 28, 2008.

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Teachers learning the methodology of micro-science experiment with teaching guide books