



UN-Iraq Reconstruction and Development Update August 2007

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)

Background

The present update is submitted as part of 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. Coordinated through the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), the UNCT has employed a "cluster" approach to its reconstruction and development programmes as presented in the Joint UN-Iraq Assistance Strategy 2005 - 2007. This cluster approach has taken a lead role in the delivery of assistance and the strengthening of national capacity in Iraq. 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.

Water and Sanitation

The ongoing humanitarian crisis and increased displacement continue to place enormous pressure on the existing water and sanitation facilities, leaving a large segment of the population with no access to water and, whenever access exists, populations are increasingly at risk of water-borne diseases.

In the framework of the Capacity Building for Water and Sanitation Ministry, UNICEF helped to train 18 Iraqi governorate engineers on "Planning and Design of Wastewater Treatment Plants"

(11-23 August 2007), and other water-quality staff from the Mayoralty of Baghdad (MoB) and Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works (MMPW) working in their the identification of pathogenic bacteria, giardia and algae in drinking water. Efforts towards establishing a Geographic Information System (GIS) for the Iraqi WatSan sector are ongoing through by demonstrating best practices already used in Amman by the Jordanian government.

Infrastructure

UNICEF commenced the implementation of a Solid Waste Management joint project with UN-HABITAT designed to improve waste management services, initially in Basra. The Ministry of Construction and Housing supported by UNICEF has completed the construction of 122 schools in different governorates throughout Iraq, while Directorates of Education (DoEs) in a number of governorates started the process of building and rehabilitating schools. In Muthanna, 21 schools are being constructed and four are undergoing rehabilitation.

The comprehensive rehabilitation of 33 schools in 8 governorates has been completed and schools have been handed over to the respective DoEs (Wasit 6, Muthanna 2, Salaheldin 3, Kirkuk 3, Ninewa 3, Diyala 4, Dohuk 6, and Baghdad 6). Meanwhile 41 schools are still undergoing comprehensive rehabilitation and an additional 15 schools are

The UNCT for Iraq is:

ESCWA	FAO
ILO	IOM
OHCHR	UNDP
UNEP	UNESCO
UNFPA	UN-HABITAT
UNHCR	UNICEF
UNIDO	UNIFEM
UNOPS	WFP
WHO	

- Background; Governance; Water & Sanitation; Infrastructure **1**
- Education **3**
- Child Protection **5**
- Human Rights; Support to Constitutional Process **6**
- Mine Action **7**
- Health & Nutrition **8**
- Culture; Governance & Human Development **9**
- The Iraq Reconstruction and Employment (IREP) **10**
- Poverty Reduction & Improvement of Productive Capacities; Community Assistance **11**
- Agriculture & Food Security **12**

under bidding. The school rehabilitation project, managed jointly by UNICEF and UN-HABITAT aims at restoring 160 schools in 18 Governorates benefiting 80,000 school-aged children.

The comprehensive rehabilitation of 12 schools in Wassit, Nassiriya and Missan Governorates (3 by UNICEF & 9 by UN-HABITAT) has been completed and handed over to the respective DoEs, under the School Rehabilitation Project (SRP). To date, the project has rehabilitated 77 schools.

UN-HABITAT finalized under the Rehabilitation of Community Facilities and Infrastructure Project (RCFIP) 53 houses of which 13 in Baghdad and 40 in Erbil respectively. In the same vein, under the Educational Facilities Rehabilitation (EFR) project, UN-HABITAT constructed a storm water network in Al-Nafees street in Samawa and the Al-Amal Institute for Deaf and Dumb in Nassiriya while 96 flats were also built in Baghdad.

The first coordination meeting between UN Agencies and Iraqi counterparts from the Ministries of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Labour and Social Affairs, Education, and Foundation of Technical Education, was held in Amman from 26-30 August, 2007. Stakeholders elaborated on the newly approved project "Improving Quality and relevance of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Iraq", which intends to support the rehabilitation and modernization of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector in Iraq on behalf of self-employed young people in the industrial, construction and service sectors of the economy. This project is implemented jointly by UN-HABITAT, UNESCO and ILO.

The implementation of a new project entitled "School Rehabilitation and Capacity Development for Enhanced Access and Retention in Primary Education" has started, aiming at rehabilitating water and sanitation facilities in 200 schools across Iraq and partially rehabilitating school buildings and playgrounds in some of these schools. The project is jointly managed by UNICEF and UN-HABITAT.

As a result of the severe flooding which occurred in Dole Roste, Erbil on 28 July 2007, and a trench was damaged and caused the subsequent destruction of a school's fence. UNICEF is in the process of constructing a new retaining wall which will act as a fence and protect the school from any future flood waves. UNICEF will also construct a new trench and manhole, to collect rain water and prevent such disasters in the future.

In conformity with the Interagency Agreement on Cooperation between Thi Qar University and ESCWA on the Smart Community Project for Iraq, an activity Agreement on establishing Chemistry and Microbiology laboratories for food testing within the University has been initiated.

The majority of dairy equipment has been delivered to both host sites in Sayid Dikhil and Dibs. Agreements with concerned Universities i.e. Thi Qar and Salahaddine on installation and commissioning procedures were activated and discussions are underway to identify national working teams.

Within the framework of implementing the TDP, discussions with Thi-Qar University began to implement an aquaculture pond within the Nassiriyah district. In this regard, business plans as well as feasibility studies will be submitted by the University.

The WHO senior health facility engineer facilitated in Erbil a meeting on 8 August for 20 Engineers and legal advisors from the Ministry of Health (MoH) and Directorate of Health (DoH) respectively to assess the progress of the current joint WHO-MoH rehabilitation and renovation projects to resolve bottleneck issues.

WHO launched the construction of a first Aid unit in Sulaymaniya, Arbat sub district with a total cost of USD\$ 80,298.

Subsequent to the timely rehabilitation of the Taji Gas Power Station, a sabotaged pipeline precluded the resumption of the power plant creating a lack of gas to end-users. UNDP decided to operate the unit on liquid fuel at its full capacity in order to safeguard the intended impact of the project in spite of the insecurity. A UNDP contractor arranged to support the station's engineers and make necessary arrangements of pipes connections, liquid fuel pumps and booster pumps.

A meeting with the Muthanna governorate officials was held in Amman on 9 August to discuss the scope, costs, and expected outcome of the Muthanna Governorate Capacity Building project. UNDP briefed on the progress of the ongoing electricity rehabilitation project for the Muthanna governorate as well as the outcome of the Electricity distribution development plan. Muthanna Officials presented their priority areas, shared their Provincial Development Strategy and agreed to join a technical meeting scheduled on 16-20 September 2007.

UNDP held a coordination meeting with the General

Company Ports of Iraq (GCPI) in Kuwait on 13 and 14 August 2007. The agenda featured the planned December conference on Iraqi ports and the formulation of a Master Plan on development needs of Umm Qasr port. UNDP also introduced a draft concept for the Ports Conference which was officially requested from the PM office on 18 March 2007, requesting UNDP/RCP to take the leadership in organizing with all stakeholders and expert consultants a conference to identify strategic and technical goals and objectives for the Iraqi port sector. A project concept for the development of the port's wet area, the launch of the Navigational Aids project and the transfer of assets from closing projects were also addressed.

A UNDP mission attended a meeting with the US Department of State and Gulf Region Division (GRD) representatives at the US Embassy in Baghdad for the introduction of the Iraq Transition Assistance Office (ITAO) as a substitute to the Iraq Reconstruction Management Organization (IRMO). UNDP gave an overview on contractual status for civil works. ITAO and UNDP are now combining efforts to prepare the annual seminar on Basrah Children's Hospital scheduled for 9-11 September 2007 to be held in the International Zone.

A meeting was held in Baghdad between UNDP and the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator (DHC) on the Mosul dam situation. FAO is presently responsible for procuring four drilling rigs and spare parts on an emergency basis only. The Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator (DHC) is interested in receiving a technical report from UNDP on the situation for the medium and long term. He suggested meeting with the UNDP Senior Management on this issue.



UN-HABITAT

Education

Within the framework of the programme on **"Improving Quality and Relevance of Technical and Vocational Education and Training"**, being jointly implemented with UN-HABITAT and the International Labour Organization (ILO), a coordination meeting was held during 26 – 30 August 2007 in Amman, whereby all line ministries participated; namely: the Ministry of Education (MoE), the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHESR), the Foundation of Technical Education (FTE) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA). The meeting resulted in the agreement on the project implementation strategy and work plans between each UN agency and line ministries.

Most of the equipment foreseen in the project on **"Revitalization of Technical and Vocational Education and Training – Phase II"** were delivered and distributed to the 37 workshops in 37 vocational education schools. Those equipments comprised electrical, electronics, sewing, IT equipment, food production and food services.

The rehabilitation of 55 secondary schools designed to the **"Strengthening Secondary Education in Iraq"** project was completed with the provision of biology equipment, laboratory and library furniture.

Under the **"Training of Trainers in Teacher Education for Sustained Quality Education"** project, UNESCO is currently finalizing the training programmes with 6 international partners ahead of workshops scheduled during the final term of 2007. In addition, about 50 curriculum vitae out of 100 have been collected from 4 Iraqi universities involved in the project, and screened before the final selection of the 80 beneficiaries for the afore-mentioned workshops on subject updating/ curriculum development/ new teaching methodologies and training content development.



UN-HABITAT

Under the **"Literacy and Life Skills Development Project"**, UNESCO is at present concluding the report on the Needs Assessment Survey conducted throughout Iraq on the geographical status of Non-Formal Education and Literacy in Iraq. Moreover, UNESCO is working towards the development of educational advocacy materials in advance of a National Campaign on Literacy in Iraq. The completion of the survey and advocacy materials is anticipated in September 2007.

UNESCO continued to endow Southern Marshlands end-users with education on peace and literacy in partnership with AMAR

International Charitable Foundation, an international NGO who has been working to provide education for the Iraqi people since the 1990s, both in Iraq and in the refugee camps in Iran, recruiting and training local teachers and education experts, and running primary and secondary schooling programmes for girls and boys.

Activities implemented by AMAR within the Literacy and Life Skills Development Project are benefiting about 1,800 persons since 2006 to-date. The programme is being efficiently implemented and yields positive results. Concurrently, UNESCO is establishing, in partnership with the Norwegian Church Aid, a **Youth Centre in Basra**. The centre has already been refurbished and equipped with all essential furniture and equipment. It was officially inaugurated during August 2007. The centre will be teaching literacy classes, information technology, English language, first aid, electrical maintenance, sports and other extra-curricular activities to students ranging from 7 to 18 years old. In the context of the continuing education programme, UNESCO is now implementing the **"Online Textbooks Project"** for IDPs, refugees and school drop-out children to gain knowledge in basic reading, computer and clerical skills.

With UNICEF support, a group of specialists from the Ministry of Education (MoE) Curriculum Department and specialist teachers have been trained in the development of worksheets for the main subjects Arabic, Mathematics, Science and English in line with the Iraqi curriculum for grades one and six, and once these have been piloted, materials will be developed for the other grades. These worksheets can be used

by children, whose education is interrupted due to security circumstances or displacement, to help them draw level.

Within the framework of the Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme, a field/household survey of Child Rearing Practices in Iraq was concluded in nine governorates. The survey aims to provide a deeper understanding of prevailing child rearing practices in Iraq.

Following-up on the training of 36 master trainers conducted in April 2007, the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) teacher training for 1000 teachers is ongoing in 15 Governorates. Teachers gain knowledge about child centered teaching methods, classroom management, Life Skills Education (LSE) and adolescent psychology. In addition, ALP textbooks in Arabic and Kurdish have been revised to better tailor the needs of the targeted age group (youth between 12-18 years of age). Approximately 40,000 sets of ALP books will be printed inside Iraq to cater for the planned expansion of ALP schools and classrooms.

The Ministry of Education (MoE) has announced that it will distribute copybooks and stationary to all students across Iraq, to encourage school children ahead of the new academic year. MoE is planning to include human rights lessons in the school curriculum of all levels within the National Education System, as well as additional classes on HIV/AIDS and agriculture in the purpose of "Value Education" among citizens.

Further to an independent evaluation of the Integrated Community-Based Services Project (ICBSP) by the Iraqi National Centre for Consultation, the Management Development (NCCMD) and an international team leader, ICBSP is being expanded as an Integrated

Community Initiative for Children (ICIC) for an increased focus on integration, community involvement and recognition of child rights.

Future plans for the ICIC include: strengthening the area-based integrated services approach; concentration on Basrah, Erbil and Wasit governorates with improved integration amongst sectors and more partners, enhanced community participation, improved monitoring modalities to include qualitative information on child development indicators. To ensure a bigger role for communities in the ICIC project, UNICEF supported a four-day workshop attended by 26 participants from Basra, Wasit and Erbil governorates representing governorate counsels, district counsels as well as the Directorate of Health (DoH), Directorate of Education (DoE), Directorates of Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) and Municipalities.

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) continued to deliver training programmes in Multi-purpose Technology Community Center (MTCCs), including basic computer skills, language courses, and internet usage in Sayid Dikhil and Altun Kopri. To date, over 250 trainees have completed courses in computer literacy. In parallel, coordination and partnerships have been established to undertake trainings and capacity building programmes to raise awareness in the context of literacy and women empowerment, with Qushtapa Cultural Centre, Gilkent Women Centre, Iraqi Women Democratic Organization,

Althamun Women organization, ThiQar Farmers Union, the School for adult education at ThiQar, and both directorates for Education in the region of Erbil and ThiQar.

ESCWA organized the Iraqi National Training Workshop on "Human Development, Literacy and Adult Education (WHD)", in Istanbul- Turkey on 6-12 August 2007. The workshop is intended to generate qualified social workers in literacy training for gender mainstreaming and advocacy. The Workshop introduced techniques confirmed successful in adult education and marginalized school-dropouts and working children groups.

ESCWA organized its third coordination meeting on the Smart Community Project for Iraq, in Istanbul, Turkey from 12 to 14 August 2007. Participants shared comprehensive presentations, achievements as well as a review of the agro-food processing units (AFPU) economics and Technology Dissemination Programme (TDP) implementation plans. Presentations also featured vocational training programs as well as quality control systems in the AFPU on the establishment and management of small and micro enterprises. Three databases aimed at collecting and collating demographical and socio economic aspects of the host localities, networking institutions and interested individuals with community development, and providing access to employment opportunities have been finalized. These databases will support local and national efforts in community-based development and aid poverty reduction on the basis of modern technology inputs, highlighting the needs of women and youth. All

databases will be posted on the SCP website.

Links with additional Iraqi Universities (Mosul, Waset, Baghdad and Al-Qadisiya) were established towards implementing the Technology Dissemination Programme (TDP) and the final phase of the SCP activities.

The afore-mentioned academic institutions expressed interest in forging partnerships with ESCWA through the TDP. In this regard, a suitable agreement aimed at establishing community Development Units (CDUs) within Iraqi Universities has been drafted. This agreement is set to enhance community development activities and disseminate SCP pilot facilities into other localities within Iraq designed to build capacities and generate new employment opportunities within rural communities.

Material and links for the Smart Community Project (SCP) in Iraq has been finalized and posted on the ESCWA website. This website will represent an avenue for networking among experts and institutions concerned with community development and dissemination of best practices.

A substantive training material has been designed for the manufacture of dairy products from the processing to the marketing stages. In support to the textual content of the computer-based course, reality movie clips illustrating the development were appended to each module in the course.

A training Course on quality control has been finalized with modules enclosing aspects such as codex principles, hygiene, equipment and facility

design, storage requirement, parasite control, and waste treatment.

ESCWA has developed a training course for local community members wishing to gain clerical skills for an office career. Training modules encompassed questions/answers examinations as well as exercises, best practices and case studies with illustrative pictures and templates for easy understanding and reference.

Child Protection

UNICEF is deeply concerned about the situation of 700-800 children currently detained by the MNF-I, while the number of children detained by the Ministry of Defense remains unknown. To this end, UNICEF met with the Baghdad Provincial Reconstruction Group for Rule of Law. The group was also briefed on the international standards of Juvenile Justice. UNICEF is exploring proper channels of negotiating for UN-led assistance to detained children, while discussions are ongoing with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) over possible co-operation with UNICEF in addressing this issue.

There is little information about living standards in these detention facilities. UNICEF is neither informed about the health and education needs of the children nor their human dignity. A concerted and immediate action is required to protect detained children against possible abuses and exploitations. There is need to create alternatives for reintegrating these children back into their families and communities for adequate

social rehabilitation.

The International Medical Corps (IMC) and UNICEF are supporting an assessment of orphanages in Iraq expected to begin in mid-September; UNICEF has engaged a consultant to supervise the assessment while IMC field workers will conduct the data collection in Iraq. The findings of the assessment will provide baseline information and gap analysis for the reintegration of children back into their families or communities.

Recent violence in Kurdistan has raised concerns over the possibility of an increasing number of children without caregivers requiring special protection.

Human Rights

The Justice Network for Prisoners (JNP) directory board met during 6-8 August in Erbil. Stakeholders discussed the activities of the JNP members across Iraq and the challenges, threats, financial matters, funding, and upcoming plans. The next meeting for the directory board will take place in October 2007.

The "Iraq Al Ghad" campaign for non-violence, reconciliation and tolerance is in its second phase. During the second phase, the coordinating groups will conduct 15 workshops in each of the 8 governorates, including Diyala, Sulaymaniya, Erbil and Dohuk to sensitize on non-violence, reconciliation and coexistence. This campaign will continue until the end of October.

Support to the Constitutional Process

Due to the Parliamentary recess, no significant

developments were made concerning constitutional review process. In the reporting month, the Committee's draftsman, Dr. Hassan Al Yasserli sent the draft amended Constitution produced by the Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) to experts residing in and outside Iraq to solicit their comments and opinion. This would allow the CRC to polish their final recommendations prior to submitting to the Council of Representatives (COR).

The CRC is yet to find a compromise formulation on outstanding issues such as the Pre-Amble, Article 3 (National Identity), Article 41 (Personal Status), and Article 79 (Powers of the Presidency). Similarly, a way forward on the contentious issue of Article 140 (disputed territories and Kirkuk) has not been found and the Committee is awaiting the outcome achieved from the political agreement which will have a bearing on whether the CRC is able to deliver a consensus based final report when Parliament resumes on 4 September.

In the interim, the Committee on the implementation of article 140 met in Baghdad under the new leadership, Raed Fahmi, the Minister of Science and Technology. The committee had not met for several months since the withdrawal of its former head Hashim Shbli. The meeting was to discuss the progress already made on the implementation of article 140.

Prior to the end of the reporting month, political leaders met in Baghdad and were reported to have reached a top-level consensus on the passage of two pieces of draft legislation with constitutional dimensions, namely, the formation of a Higher Commission for

Accountability and Justice, to replace the controversial draft De-Baathification law, and the draft law on Governorates not incorporated into a Region. In addition, the leaders and the Political Council for National Security agreed to continue debating multiple pieces of legislations that have significant constitutional implications including the draft Oil and Gas law, and the Financial Resources law.

On 6 August, after postponing its scheduled recess, the Kurdistan National Assembly adopted a Petroleum law for the Kurdistan Region of Iraq in an extraordinary session despite ongoing negotiations on the draft Oil and Gas law. Given the current structure of the Iraq's Constitution, the adoption of regional oil legislation may have the determining say on how revenues are shared throughout Iraq.

OCS will continue its engagement with members of the Constitutional Review Committee on outstanding constitutional issues more over that the parliamentary session resumes in September. It is likely that the mandate of the CRC will be extended since its current extension of the mandate expires on 4 September. During the reporting period, OCS engaged with Baghdad-based representations of the international community to highlight the importance of the recently adopted Petroleum Law for the Kurdistan Region and its implications for the stability of the national Hydrocarbon Law in the absence of Constitutional amendments. OCS will continue to provide support to the ongoing political

negotiations on the Constitution and will also continue to maintain close contact with Baghdad-based representations of the international community.

UNOPS and ILO held a project inception meeting in Sulaymaniyah on Aug 6th with representatives from the Governorate, Provincial Council, NGOs and the private sector. In this meeting, project partners approved the final target areas for the LADP (*Local Area Development Program*) in the North (Districts of Sayyed Saddiq and New Halabja), as well as the constitution of Local Steering Committee to oversee implementation and make important decisions on how the project funds for economic development and basic services will be invested. The Committee is composed of 17 people representing the governorate and municipal authorities, elected councils, civil society and the private sector and includes four women.

UNOPS is about to conclude National Reconciliation Grant Fund (NRGF) that has been launched in cooperation with 20 NGOs to support the process of constitutional revision and national dialogue among publics and between publics and lawmakers. UNOPS is beginning to receive final reports from these NGOs with recommendations they collected and brainstormed with publics attended workshops organized under NRGF. Most of NGOs reported that the public interest in the constitutional process is increasing and this is one of the objective UNOPS is seeking throughout this grant.

Mine Action

In partnership with a local NGO, UNICEF started a Mine Risk

Education (MRE) project for 25 schools in Baghdad, targeting 5000 children who will be provided with awareness on the risks and threats associated with mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and safe behaviour. In addition, around 50 teachers will be trained in MRE and equipped with MRE materials.

Concomitantly, 28 social workers and teachers completed training on MRE, as part of the "Capacity Building for Social Workers in Iraq" project, which aims to train 160 social workers involved with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) from all over Iraq in basic principles of social work, child protection, child rights and MRE. Training on Child Protection and basic elements of psychosocial support is planned to begin in September 2007.

The UNDP supported national NGO Rafidain Demining Organization (RDO) has made 1,395,775 sqm of agriculture land safe for use by searching and disposing of 1,087 unexploded ordnance (UXOs) devices of which 504 were cluster munitions.

The National Technical Advisor in Basra assisted RDO with the preparation of documentation for accreditation with the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA). facilitated mine action support to the South Oil Company and the Ministry of Electricity, coordinated activities of the UNICEF funded INTERSOS Mine Risk Education Project, and finally initiated the formation of a Storage Committee to ensure the safeguarding of the vast amount of mine action equipment owned by the NMAA.

The Republic of Iraq acceded to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty (APMBT) on 15 August 2007, becoming the 155th State Party. The treaty will enter into force for Iraq on 1 February 2008. In this regard, Iraq would be required to submit the initial transparency report required under Article 7 of the APMBT by not later than July 2008. The APMBT treaty deadline for Iraq for the destruction of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines is 1 February 2012, and the deadline for the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control is 1 February 2018.

A meeting was held between UNDP, WHO and consultants on 22 August 2007 to discuss the initiation workshop for the Victims Assistance Project in Erbil from 26 to 30 August 2007, and to finalize the arrangements for a workshop on the joint Victims Surveillance Pilot Project Workshop. The selected dates for the workshop are from 9 to 13 September 2007.

Under the patronage of his Excellency the Minister of Health in Kurdistan Region, Dr. Abdul Rahman Yonus, a workshop on "The Victim Surveillance and Victim Assistance (VS/VA)" was held in Erbil August 26–28, to address the issues of establishing a victim surveillance system for mine/UXO victims and to provide physical, psychological and vocational rehabilitative services assistance to survivors of mines in Kurdistan.

Participants developed during the workshop a National Achievable Strategy for VS/VA

in Iraq with short and long term interventions for implementation based on the analysis of situation, needs, capacity, services, opportunities and, key actors. Landmines, unexploded ordnances and abandoned munitions threaten one of every five Iraqis.

This workshop is part of the WHO/UNDP Joint Victim Assistance 2007-2009 project in Kurdistan Region with the support of the Japanese Government.

Health and Nutrition

In response to the Government of Iraq's request to the United Nations to assist the country in the process of developing food control mechanisms, a seminar on Codex Alimentarius Commission and Food Standards Programme was held in Amman on 13-16 August.

Fifteen national experts representing the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Trade, the Ministry of Planning through the Central Organisation for Standardization and Quality Control (COSQC), the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Science and Technology discussed the role of the Central Office of Standardization, Quality Control (COSQC) and other partners in Food Safety in Iraq as national standards for food safety constitute an integral measure in mitigating the spread of food-borne diseases, protecting health consumer's health and

ensuring fair practices in food trade.

The training of Trainers workshop on "school health promoting and school health screening" project was held from 26-31 August 2007 in Amman, Jordan.

Sixty participants representing the Iraqi Ministry of Health and regional health departments, the Iraqi Ministry of Education and regional departments, the Ministry of the Environment, Jordanian Ministry of Health / Health School and WHO / Iraq Office reviewed the health promoting schools project objectives and work plan, selected the number and name of schools which must be covered, agreed on the distribution plan of equipments and supplies, reviewed the final version of the schools questionnaire that include both (mental health and school health), reviewed the implementation phase, finalized the check list on health screening for children in primary schools for (visual, hearing difficulties and muscle skeletal abnormalities) and discussed the future implementation phase. This 12 months program is financially supported by the UNDG (ITF).

According to WHO, it was estimated that nearly 2,000 cases of acute watery diarrhea have been reported of which 128 confirmed cholera cases and 10 fatalities in Sulaymaniya. There were also 72 reported cases of cholera in Kirkuk and figures were expected to rise. The outbreak is associated with a serious problem with water supplies (water treatment) and sewage disposal in the area.

UNICEF helped the Ministry of Health (MoH) negotiate access

to the Central Vaccine Store during a blockade of the areas by MFN-I/ISF, and provided five rounds of transportation services to safely deliver 10 million doses of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) and 12,000 registry books from Baghdad to all governorates. In addition, 20,000 doses of tuberculosis (BCG) vaccine were delivered to the Erbil vaccine store. Polio National Immunization Days (PNIDs) in Sulaymaniya have been postponed due to the cholera outbreak.

UNICEF supported a five-day workshop for the development of communication strategies for behavioral impact in areas of hygiene promotion, HIV prevention among young people, utilization of iodized salt and girls' education. The workshop was attended by 40 participants representing five key ministries from Baghdad and Kurdistan, and included four young Iraqis.

UNICEF continued to provide support to various Directorates of Health (DoHs) to improve their capacity in dealing with increased number of IDPs, as well as the IDP affected population. In August, UNICEF provided 29 basic health kits to Diwaniya, Missan and Thiqr sufficient to support 29,000 people over a period of three months. In addition, 36,000 sachets of plump nuts were distributed to Basra, Nasiriya and Missan.

UNICEF also continued to provide transportation services for mobile health teams in Najaf, Baghdad and Dohuk, to support vaccination, provision of medical services, health education, growth monitoring of children under-five and hygiene promotion

campaigns to IDPs in camps as well as those in large IDP concentration areas.

In the interim, UNICEF continues to support the Government in dealing with increased number of injuries as a result of escalating violence in various parts of the country. UNICEF responded immediately to the recent bombing incidents, which occurred in Sinjar, where more than 150 patients, including children, were admitted to various hospitals.



Meeting between Dr. Naeema and MoH Erbil

Culture

The final workshop for the project "Museum Management Enhancement and Capacity Building in Museums in Iraq" funded by the Government of Norway was conducted on 12-28 August 2007 in Amman for 9 Iraqi curators throughout Iraq. The course aimed at enhancing knowledge and skills for formulating policies and strategies in modern museum management. The workshop covered topics such as copyrights, licensing, international contracts, fund raising, corporate/ individual sponsorship, foundation grants, financial accounting, public relations and museum management.

Within the framework of the project of "Healing through Music", the second summer school was organized on 15-29 August 2007 for 10 Iraqi students of the Music & Ballet School in Baghdad. The training is intended to develop talented students on both music and ballet. The closing ceremony took place on 30 August 2007 at the Performing Art Centre (PAC) in Amman in cooperation with the Arab Alliance of Women in Music (AAWM), who sponsored the summer school. The UNESCO Good Will Ambassador, UNHCR and the United States embassy in Iraq made donations to the project worth respectively US\$30,000, US\$20,000 and US\$7,000.

The International Research and Exchange Board (IREX) Europe, one of the key operators in the Constitution II project entitled "Good Governance through Support for Independent, Pluralistic, Professional and Sustainable Media in Iraq" built on the successful production of the Media Sustainability Index (MSI) for Iraq conducted in 2006 to duplicate the assessment of the Iraqi media sector.

The MSI provides an important advocacy tool for shaping policy and interventions as well as a monitoring and evaluation mechanism. In addition, the MSI process itself provides an important opportunity for Iraqi media professionals to come together to discuss issues of common concern. The MSI is statistical and descriptive, giving a uniquely comprehensive assessment of the inter-related components of a nation's media sector.

In this context, the MSI will be conducted throughout Iraq as it was in 2006. It will cover the Southern, Northern and Kurdistan provinces, while the national MSI encompasses Baghdad. To this end, IREX Europe has currently contracted a facilitator to manage the MSI and short listed panel participants for the North and South regions.

Governance and Human Development

During the International Water Week 2007 in Stockholm, Sweden, UNESCO organized the Middle East Seminar "Trans-boundary Groundwater Resources in the Middle East" with the Swedish International Water Institute, the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). The Iraqi groundwater specialists presented the status of Iraq's groundwater utilization on how to promote sustainable shared aquifer management in the region. In this regard, countries in the region need to establish the national groundwater quality and quantity monitoring, which Iraq has to imperatively address for its national water security.

The tenth National Dialogue Workshop brought together on 1 – 5 August academic and administrative staff from the Baghdad University. Two participants from an earlier workshop had proposed mirroring the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/ NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq (NCCI)

model in Iraqi universities, with Baghdad University being a pilot. Participants gained skills for initiating dialogue within the colleges at Baghdad University.

The Governance and Civil Society team concluded on 30 August the third activity of the UNDP supported Public Management Programme. This workshop focused on Financial Management for Non-Financial Managers and built on the Introduction to the Public Sector Reform meeting (April) and the Business Planning and Performance Management Workshop (June). It was attended by 18 Iraqi senior managers who also participated in the first two activities. The same participants are expected to undergo the training until June 30, 2008. The next workshop on Train the Trainer will take place in November 2007.

The execution of the first two weeks of a six-week training course, organised by UNDP, took place in Tunis, Tunisia on performance auditing for 29 auditors of the Board of Supreme Audit of Iraq and the Office of Financial Monitoring in Erbil.

A meeting between the World Bank and UNDP was held on 20 August within the framework of joint collaboration for the institution-building of the Bureau of Supreme Audit.

A two-day project progress evaluation meeting took place in Amman on 23-24 August between the Executive Secretary of ISRB and the Donor Assistance Database (DAD) project manager. Topics on the agenda encompassed the Ministry of Planning and Development

Cooperation (MoPDC) progress report on donor activity for the first quarter of 2007, standard operating procedures for donors to follow with regard to reporting to the MoPDC and UNDP support to MoPDC for the upcoming International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI) donor meeting in October 2007.

From 26 August to 5 September 2007, 11 technicians were trained on the Donor Assistance Database - Windows 2003 server and Oracle 10g in Amman.

UNDP-Iraq in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, supported and funded a Defense Advocacy project consisting of two seminars held in the International Zone, from 28 August 2007 through 8 September, 2007. The first seminar was on Selected Topics in Defense Advocacy before International and Internationalized Criminal Courts and Tribunals for defense counsel specifically, while the second was on Selected Topics before International and Internationalized Criminal Courts and Tribunals for judges and prosecutors.

Sixteen members of the Iraqi Lawyers' Union attended all sessions, while ten Iraqi High Tribunal (IHT) Judges and Prosecutors attended the second session. All defense counsel, the prosecutor and three of the five judges who are participating in the current IHT trial ('91 Uprising) were present. The participants were drawn from all major groups in Iraq and the instructors are, or have been, employed by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and/or the International Criminal Court.

The Iraq Reconstruction and Employment Programme (IREP)

Within the framework of, UNDP completed the Analysis and Statistical Tables of the Human Security Poll conducted in April 2007 for the National Human Development Report (NHDR) while the second draft of the NHDR indicators and tables is for review by the project's statistical advisor.

UNOSAT, a United Nations programme created to provide the international community and developing countries with enhanced access to the use of remote sensing and satellite imagery for mapping of groundwater resources and tentative agreement provided a technical presentation and capacity-building to Iraqi counterparts;

An Agreement was reached with the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) to invite Iraqi delegates to the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) capacity building sessions in 2007 & 2008. Meanwhile, a meeting was arranged with the Euphrates/Tigris Initiative for Cooperation NGO and an agreement was concluded with SIWI to support them with institutional development and networking with several UN, bilateral and other agencies and individuals specialized in the water industry. Furthermore, an accord was signed with UNDP Water Governance Facility to develop a water governance strategy for Iraq.

Poverty Reduction and Improvement of Productive Capacities

Three joint UNIDO-FAO projects are under implementation in Thi-Qar, KRG - North Iraq (Erbil and Sulaymaniya) and Diwaniyah Governorate. The purpose of these projects is to increase the capability of rural and urban communities to engage in viable non-farming agro-enterprises addressing not only their priorities but also improving their on-going participation in their development process. The underlying approaches of these projects are improving institutional capacities vocational training centers and community centers by providing machinery, equipment and training trainers; provision of new technology, and training vulnerable groups with new skills.

In August, a total of 114 end-users were trained in six technologies including: carpet weaving, date, fruit and vegetable and dairy processing in Thi-Qar Governorate (Since the start of the project in 2005, some 1200 beneficiaries, about 40% women have been trained in food processing and non-food technologies). The trainees are also given appropriate household equipment and tools as in-kind project contribution to assist beneficiaries get employment or start self-employment.

A Project Steering Committee, composed of counterparts, the Ministry of Agriculture, and Ministry of Industry (KRG), UNIDO and FAO was held on 28-29 August in Amman, Jordan. The meeting reviewed progress of project implementation and took important strategic and

administrative decisions.

The project for Diwaniyah governorate has awarded a contract to an Iraqi firm for the detailed design and BOQ for the rehabilitation of a Vocational Training Centre in Diwaniyah, offered by the Ministry of Agriculture as in kind contribution to the project on behalf of the Government of Iraq (GoI).

The Central Office for Statistics and Information Technology (COSIT) has also been commissioned to conduct a socio-economic survey in Diwaniyah governorate that will assist the project to identify: natural resources that would benefit from up-grading existing processing technology, appropriate technology taking into account the absorptive capacity of the communities, capacities and range of facilities of existing training providers.

Eleven experts representing the Ministry of Industry and Minerals and the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation and COSIT held a planning meeting for the implementation of project "Technical assessment for the development of agro-industries sector in Iraq". The expected outcomes of the project are: comprehensive agro-industrial survey, upgraded COSIT capacity in collection, analysis and dissemination of industrial statistics; and improved capacity and capabilities of the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation (MoPDC) to formulate industrial strategy.

Community Assistance

ESCWA assigned four photo printers to both MTCCs in Sayid Dikhil and Altun Kopri to

support MTCC operations and increase income. In addition, a total of twenty four sewing machines (16 manual & 8 automated) have been delivered to the MTCC in Sayid Dikhil. These machines are to be distributed to NGOs and women's associations with a view to enhancing capacity building activities and new employment opportunities. Concurrently, ESCWA has designed video packages enfolding Action programmes for rural development and income-generating activities to train women on novel handicrafts and artisanal activities, including sewing, weaving, and decorations.

The WHO representative for Iraq, Dr. Naema Al-Gasseer portrayed 35 portraits donated by WHO Iraq employees during the opening ceremony on 23 August of an art work charity exhibition in Amman, Jordan. The proceeds will help buy clothing, bed sheets and blankets for Iraqi orphanages across Iraq. The aim of this initiative is to partially support textile factories in Iraq, as well as raising awareness on the basic right of every human to a safe and healthy place.

IOM signed four new Community Assistance Projects (CAPs) for Mobile medical teams in Babylon, Qadissiya, and Wassit and maintenance and service training for Badrah Reverse Osmosis Station in Wassit. In parallel, two grants were completed for a water extension network for Fayda camp in Ninewa and support to 30 businesses creation projects to provide income generation in Missan.

Nine representatives from the Commission for Resolution of Real Property Disputes (CRRPD) traveled to Geneva from 26-30 August for a workshop on Decision Page component of the CRRPD Claims Application. IOM assists the CRRPD by advising on best practices from other relevant international and national claims programmes and by proposing solutions to specific needs and problems the CRRPD encounters in its work.

The representatives reviewed the Decision Page of the CRRPD Claims Application, its purposes and functions; trained CRRPD participants on how to enter key information from decisions issued by the CRRPD Judicial Committees and Cassation Commission; and discussed legal issues related to the use of the CRRPD Claims Application. The programme intends to support the establishment of an effective and modern migration management system for Iraqi ministries with migration functions through the provision of a meaningful technical assistance and material resources in the areas of institutional and operational capacity building in migration and border management.

The International Organization of Migration (IOM), with financial support of the Government of Australia held a staff retreat team in Amman on 8-9 August Capacity Building in Migration Management Program (CBMMP) to reassess the accomplishments, identify the strengths and weaknesses of the CBMMP and Capacity Building in Integrated Border Management (CBIBM)

programmes and discuss plans for 2007-2008. A project extension proposal will be developed in September for CBMMP interventions in 2008. The interim report covering the period January-June 2007 has been drafted and will be shared with the Government of Australia once cleared.

The draft document of the National Migration Policy document Arabic version will be shared with the Policy Task Force (PTF) members for their feedback, and expected to be publicized before end of 2007 through an inter-ministerial workshop/conference in Amman.

CBIBM will support the participation of the Director General of Travel and Nationality Directorate to join the International Forum for Travel Documents (IF4TD). The forum aims to be a single point of contact/reference for technical information on all passport/ travel documents and identity card related issues as well as issuing systems of participating member countries/territories, to share documents, experience, etc via the website and to use the website to conduct online surveys.

CBIBM has finished allocating an Immigration Training Extension Centre (ITEC) within the premises of the Police Academy in Basra. The final estimated budget for ITEC training ITEC was finalized and a new training development consultant was hired.

IOM continued consultations with the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and other senior Iraqi officials to endorse the formation of the Border Control Oversight Committee (BCOC)

and establish project implementation structures including allocation of a lead agency (LA) for CBIBM and representatives for Programme Advisory Committee (PAC).

The proposal to Phase Three of Iraqi Rebuilding Iraq (IRI) is under discussion with UNDP and the Iraq Trust Fund. IOM and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are jointly implementing the IRI project in coordination with the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation to assist the Iraqi Government in recruiting and placing qualified nationals for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the country.

Agriculture & Food Security

The FAO/UN has been providing continuous support through the project "*Restoration and Modernization of fish production in Iraq*" budgeted 7.3 million US dollars covering the period of 2006-2008. The area currently devoted to registered fish farms is estimated at 11,000 ha and expected to increase fish production at an optimum level.

This project will directly benefit more than 1,500 farmer families in rural areas of Iraq providing them an additional income. Giving priority to modernization of the sector most of the project funds has been reserved for procurement of high standard equipment, construction of

new farm buildings and training of government officials, and technicians on new knowledge related to inland fish production.

Among the key activities a closed recirculation hatchery system worth nearly USD 2 million will be established in Wassit while pilot project cage culture facilities worth USD 560,000 will be established in Kut and Hindia dams by the end of this year. In view of the isolation of Iraqi professionals from the updated knowledge for a considerable period, capacity building of General Board of Fish Resources Development, Iraq (GBFRD) staff is recognized as an important component of the project.

Accordingly, 5 officials from GBFRD have been already

trained under the Network of Aquaculture Centres of Asia-Pacific (NACA) through study tours in Thailand and China. Furthermore 24 Iraqi professionals will be trained on inland fisheries development and management by the end of this year.



Figure: Five officials from GBFRD have been already trained under the Network of Aquaculture Centres of Asia-Pacific (NACA).

WFP continued to support

access to health services by delivering food through local level Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Child Care Units (CCUs) for pregnant/lactating women, TB patients, malnourished children under 5 years, and their families. During August, a total of 628.86 metric ton (mt) of food (141.67 mt high-energy-biscuits & 487.19 mt of vegetable oil) was distributed to 356,502 beneficiaries.

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