



UN-Iraq Reconstruction and Development Update

October 2007



UN-Iraq Reconstruction and Development Update October 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.

Overview

- The Cluster system continued to be refined, in order to align more closely with the International Compact with Iraq (ICI) and to bring emergency responses into coordination processes without creating separate or parallel structures. Discussions placed emphasis on creating three or four "thematic outcome" clusters, with "sectoral" outcome groups reporting to them.

- The latest International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI) conference in Bari was productive, in helping to

clarify the foregoing refinement and agreeing on new Iraq Trust Fund (ITF) Terms of Reference. Donors were generally pleased to see more constructive interaction than at Istanbul and the potential for clearer emergency response mechanisms.

- The Iraq 2006 Situation Analysis is now available in both English and Arabic and is ready for dissemination. The Situation Analysis provides an overall analysis of the situation of women and children in Iraq based on all available recent data, interviews with key government staff, UN personnel, and other key stakeholders in Iraq.

- Acting on the request of the Erbil Governor, UNESCO committed itself to assist the KRG authorities in the rehabilitation of the Erbil Citadel. Consequently, UNESCO and KRG officials have had a number of meetings held in Amman and Erbil on the rehabilitation of Erbil Citadel. In light of these meetings, UNESCO has sent an expert mission to Erbil to visit the site of the project, assess damages, and meet with the concerned authorities in order to prepare an assessment report. The report has been used as a basis for UNESCO work plan.

Following the Turkish government's approval on 17 October for military action against the Kurdish Worker's Party (PKK) within Iraqi territory, thousands of Turkish troops have been amassing along the Turkey-Iraq border for a

possible military offensive. UN agencies diligently developed a Contingency Plan to ensure preparedness against the expected displacement, should an incursion actually take place.

The UNCT for Iraq is:

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

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- The Iraq Reconstruction and Employment Programme (IREP) endorsed applications pertaining to the capacity-building and development of local councils. Ten proposals were evaluated and screened in October, of which eight were approved amounting to \$432,030 as well as benefiting 983 unemployed people.

- UNICEF and UNHABITAT rehabilitated one school during the reporting period, bringing the total of rehabilitated schools to 34. The joint-managed project aims at restoring 160 schools in 18 governorates benefiting 80,000 school-aged children. The physical assessment of 23 schools was completed and 10 schools were under bidding.

- In response to the food needs of Iraq's growing internally displaced population, WFP plans an emergency operation, designed to distribute a supplementary food ration for up to 750,000 IDPs inside Iraq. This project has been endorsed by WFP's Project Review Committee (PRC) and was awaiting final signature from WFP's Executive Director and the Director-General of FAO. This WFP programme aimed at protecting livelihoods from weak coping mechanisms and providing a buffer against further shocks. This 12-month operation is scheduled to begin in January 2008.

- Ongoing violence and insecurity continued to pose challenges to the health status of children, hindering efforts by local health authorities to deliver essential medical supplies, including vaccines, to the most vulnerable locations with a high influx of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and/or disease outbreaks.

- The second round of polio campaigns for 2007 was successfully completed. Vaccinators reached children by foot, by boat and even by donkey. Vaccination even took place in villages recently shelled by Turkey, yet another tribute to the courage and dedication of Iraq's local health workers. Although pockets of Diwaniya and Baghdad will show lower figures as a result of insecurity, initial reports indicated a coverage rate equivalent to 90%, representing 4.7 million under-five children.

- In the same vein, the immunization coverage for DPT3 stood below 80% in some governorates, despite efforts by Directorates of Health (DoH) to ensure that all eligible children were fully immunized. The implementation of the Reach Every District (RED) approach continued in central and southern governorates to further boost the immunization coverage.

- The latest epidemiological data from WHO suggest that the cholera outbreak may be in decline. But while caseloads are falling in the north, the epidemic is further spreading elsewhere, particularly in the capital. The total number of cholera cases recorded by WHO reached 4,356 and caused 21 deaths. Over half of Iraq's 18 governorates (11) have now reported some cholera cases, with 39 districts affected. UNICEF and WHO have submitted an urgent CERF joint proposal to replenish stocks depleted by the initial response.

- As part of ongoing efforts to protect vulnerable populations against water-borne diseases, UNICEF expanded the water tankering operation in cholera-affected regions and increased the supply of water

purification chemicals used at household and community levels.

- The majority of schools in Iraq are facing shortfalls in supplies, stationary and even academic textbooks. The Ministry of Education (MoE) provided all Directorates of Education with supplies such as blackboards and notebooks; however these were not sufficient to cover 15,000 schools. UNICEF was unable to support with supplies this year due to lack of funding.

- The latest report by the UNAMI Human Rights Office (HRO) reaffirmed that many children detained by Iraqi authorities (including the Ministry of Defense), are living in overcrowded conditions, and experiencing serious violations of their rights, including prolonged delays for due legal process. According to HRO, some children have reported rape and torture. Efforts are underway with relevant stakeholders to improve conditions in the short term and ensure safe re-integration of these children back into families/communities as soon as possible.

Education

- The Ministry of Education (MoE) announced a plan to revise school curricula for all levels of education, emphasizing the need to catch-up with emerging scientific developments in the world as well as to address social and political aspects of life.

- The second round of examinations in Iraq was conducted far behind schedule. The Council of Ministers approved reserving seats for participating students in colleges and institutes, to give them an equal chance as their peers.

- The printing of 10,000 copies of the revised version of school attendance and grade registers was still ongoing. The pilot testing of these registers will be conducted in all schools of Basra governorate, in addition to the 110 schools rehabilitated under the Integrated Community-Based Services Project (ICBSP) in Baghdad, Missan, Thiqr, Wasit and Erbil.

- Within the framework of ICT in Education for Iraq, UNESCO organized the second coordination meeting in Amman during 17-18 October 2007. Participants reviewed the project plan and made decisions as regard the implementation modalities of the provision of the ICT Development Centers, selection of the Pilot Schools and trainees for upcoming projects.

- In an effort of "Improving Governance and Relevance of Technical and Vocational Education and Training" programme, UNESCO has been reviewing the framework and equipment specifications for TVET disciplines intended to be established in vocational centres under the Foundation of Technical Education, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and Ministry of Education.

- As part of the "Strengthening Secondary Education in Iraq" project, UNESCO organized a Data Loggers Training Program in Amman during 20 – 25 October 2007. The programme benefited 5 laboratory supervisors and aimed at improving their knowledge, skills and attitudes in planning, preparation and carrying out of science experiments using data loggers.

- "UNESCO also continued to scan and upload Iraqi school textbooks for all grades on the website

(www.schooltextbooks.org), with a view to provide all Iraqi students, especially out of school, IDPs and refugees, as well as school principals, teachers, NGOs...etc with a quick, simple and efficient access to read, download or print these textbooks and use them personally or distribute them to other students."

Health & Nutrition

- In October, UNICEF supported the transportation of vaccines for routine immunization and PNIDs to help avoid vaccine shortages. Efforts are underway to ensure that MoH is able to continue the delivery of essential supplies with minimal support from UNICEF.

- Approximately 60 Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) staff were trained in RED Approach in the governorates of Missan, Wasit and Qadissiyah.

Water and Sanitation

- At the request of the Mayorality of Baghdad, UNICEF expanded the distribution of tankered water to cover ten residential areas, eight main hospitals and several schools in the suburbs of Baghdad. During October, 215,000 people were served with 56 million litres of safe drinking water. In addition, several IDP camps in urgent need of potable water were served by UNICEF's water tankering operation.

- Training for water quality laboratory staff in sampling and testing of chemical and biological parameters for drinking water was completed during the period under review. A similar training was carried out for waste water

laboratory staff in testing of wastewater parameters.

Infrastructure

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) signed On 24 October a landmark agreement following a Memorandum of Understanding between UNDP and JBIC. In accordance with this new agreement, UNDP will establish a facility to support the provision of \$150 million in soft loans from JBIC to Iraq, which will primarily support the Ministry of Electricity of the Kurdistan Regional Government in its efforts to reconstruct electricity networks in Northern Iraq. These soft loans mark the first installment of a \$3.5 billion pledge made by the Government of Japan at the 2003 Madrid Donor's Conference.

- At the request of the KRG Prime Minister's office, a comprehensive report under the JBIC loan programme for the port sector is being prepared outlining future requirements such as, dredging, navigational support, management options and possibility of privatizing parts of the main port of Umm Qasr.

- Negotiations with the selected contractor for the rehabilitation of Al-Karama water treatment plant (Line 1) project were completed and a final agreement was settled. An agreement on all implementation-related technical, operational, logistical issues was reached, as well as the project handover and effective contract dates.

- UNDP finalized contractual modalities on 9 October for the rehabilitation projects for Tikrit General Hospital and Ramadi General Hospital respectively.

- Training on installation and commissioning of medium voltage switchgear was completed on 25 October for the Al-Muthanna Governorate Electricity Network.

- Schools were being identified and selected for rehabilitation in Basra, Erbil and Wasit through a joint planning and selection process by the teams of Governorate Council and Departments of Education with support from UNICEF. To date, 13 schools through the Integrated Community Initiative for Children (ICIC) have been earmarked in Basra, for which physical assessment was ongoing.

- A joint UNICEF/UNOPS proposal is being finalized to build 100 schools in KRG and Kirkuk.

- UN-HABITAT completed comprehensive rehabilitation of 8 schools in Missan Governorates during the month of October 2007 under the School Rehabilitation & Capacity Building on School Maintenance Project.

- The construction of new dispensary building in Samawa, rehabilitation of youth center in Rumaitha/ Samawa and rehabilitation of Samawa Maternity and Children Hospital have been completed under the Rehabilitation of Community Facilities and Infrastructure Project. In parallel, the rehabilitation of one secondary school in Samawa was finalized as well as the delivery of equipment to the Al-Zafaraniyah Technical Institute.

Community Assistance Projects (CAPs)

Nine new grants were signed for Income Generation projects in Kerbala and Missan,

raising awareness of water users in Diyala, rehabilitation of a pumping station and water network in Wassit, support to Departments of Health and Water for the cholera epidemic in Sulaymaniyah, drainage system for Gardasin camp, and the construction of two Provincial health centers in Babylon Governorate. The grant to train traditional birth attendants in Basra was also extended.

Mine Action

- Within the framework of the "Inter-Agency Pilot Project in National Injury Surveillance integrating landmine and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) victims", a project board meeting and the Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop were completed as an initial implementation step. The project will test the methodology in three representative governorates from the north, centre and south. The research will be hospital-based and cover all types of injuries.

- The National NGO Rafidain Demining Organization has made 1,044,605 sqm of agriculture land safe for use by searching and disposing of 2,456 explosive items of which 344 were cluster munitions.

- Project Cooperation Agreements (PCA) between UNDP and the Victim Assistance Centres composed of the Diana Prosthetic Limbs Centre (DPLC), the Prosthetic Limb Centre Dahuk (PLCD) and the Kurdistan Organization for Rehabilitation of Disabled (KORD) were signed on 25 September 2007.

The projects are part of the UNDP/WHO joint projects for Victim Assistance in the KRG

area, funded by the Government of Japan. They are aimed at socio-economic re-integration of mine/UXO survivors through rehabilitation, vocational training and micro grant projects as well as psychological rehabilitation for the survivors. The first installment for the centres, as entitlement upon signature of the PCA, has been delayed due to the budget revision for the centres.

- UNDP provided training to the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) staff from Erbil, Baghdad and Basrah to re-enable the production of mine contamination maps for the South and Centre of Iraq.

- A data cleaning plan was developed in cooperation with the NGO Information Management and Mine Action Program (IMMAP). UNDP and IMMAP are collaborating closely in two projects: (1) the revival of the mine action information systems, and (2) the implementation of the Operational Activity Security Information System (OASIS).

Child Protection, Women and Child Rights

- A toolkit has been finalized for rapid and in-depth assessment of child detention facilities and has been shared with the UNAMI HRO and other concerned partners.

Culture

- UNESCO organized in Istanbul on 18 October - 3 November 2007, a training course for twelve Iraqi architects/ engineers (five on following up and monitoring the Samara Shrine restoration project and seven on conservation and restoration techniques of archaeological sites including the Erbil Citadel).

- A contract with ICCROM (International Center for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) was signed on 24 October for technical supervision of urgent preventive works and final restoration project of Al-Askari shrine in Samarra.

Communication & Information

- 15 participants representing a variety of high profile Iraqi broadcasters attended the workshop on Code of Ethics development/ Security Awareness that took place from 21-25 October in Amman, Jordan. These activities were undertaken by UNESCO within the on-going Constitution II Project "Strengthening good governance through support for independent, pluralistic, professional and sustainable media." The BBC World Service Trust (BBC WST), UNESCO's main implementing partner, facilitated the workshop, including sessions on security awareness and a journalists' trust fund. Delegates mutually agreed on a number of detailed principles which will be incorporated within a draft of the "Code of Professional Conduct for the Iraqi Media" previously known as the Code of Ethics.

- The IMSG (Iraqi Media Security Group) in partnership with the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and the BBC High Risk team addressed during the workshop issues pertaining to the safety of media workers. Recognizing the legal and moral responsibilities of media organizations in protecting its employees, the representatives of the Iraqi media organizations endorsed the Iraqi Journalists' Safety Code.

Governance and Human Development

- A training course on "Project Screening and Appraisal" for 20 staff from the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation was held on 16-26 October in Amman, Jordan. The overall purpose was to enable the Ministry of Planning staff (primarily ISRB) to more thoroughly and efficiently screen and assess development projects that they receive from concerned line ministries and donors. The second and third will take place 12-23 November and 26 November – 7 December 2007.

- On 22–24 October, the 12th and final National Dialogue Workshop focused on grassroots initiatives for peace, particularly the role of women and youth. Thirty-five representatives of youth groups, schools, colleges and women's NGOs participated in this seminar. Phase one of the National Dialogue Project will be completed with a final conference in late November. The NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq (NCCI) and UNDP were currently working on the project document for Phase 2 which was scheduled to start in January 2008.

- A meeting was held on 31 October with Aswat el Iraq (Voices of Iraq) news agency. With Reuters Foundation during which UNDP helped establish the wire service that has been receiving national and international tribute for their professional journalism services. Aswat el Iraq was first established in Baghdad but due to the security situation the head offices have now moved to Erbil, KRG. (According to the BBC, some 234 Iraqi journalists and photographers have been killed in Iraq since 2003).

- UNDP attended on 18 October an event in London, England at the invitation of the Index of Censorship, to mark the opening of the Open Shutters exhibition on London's South Bank. The Open Shutters exhibition organized by Index on Censorship, an NGO which promotes freedom of the press worldwide and sponsored by UNDP has been running in London from 3 October to 2 November. The exhibition narrated the individual stories of six ordinary Iraqi women and one child through their own photographs. There are plans to extend the exhibition to other European, American and Middle Eastern cities.

- UNDP participated on 21-25 October in the MDG regional workshop in Cairo with a three-person delegation which included a representative from the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation (MOPDC), Central Office for Statistics and Information Technology (COSIT). UNDP will build on this workshop by developing together with the MOPDC, Millennium Development Goals (MDG) support programme to cover the entire MDG cycle from strategic planning, costing, implementation, reporting and M&E.

- Towards the development of IRAQ info, UNICEF conducted two rounds of trainings involving mainly government counterparts from the Ministry of Planning in Baghdad and Erbil as well as UN agencies. IRAQ info will be developed as part of the DevInfo software, which is a UN sponsored database system for the storage and dissemination of key human development indicators on Iraq through a website.

- Two UNDP Poverty team staff members were trained in the use of the DevInfo MDG indicators monitoring system. The MoU with UNICEF and the Iraqi Central Organization for Statistics and Information Technology on the customization of DevInfo to Iraq Info was reviewed with a proposal for an action plan and a revised organizational structure.

- An e-governance training session took place between 28 September and 5 October 2007 in Estonia. Twenty-two representatives from five ministries in Baghdad and four ministries of KRG participated in the study tour.

- A train-the-trainer module for 18 auditors of the Board of Supreme Audit of Iraq and the Office of Financial Monitoring was held in Erbil on 21 October 21-1 November.

Technical Assistance/ Capacity Building

- In response to a request from the Ministry of Trade (MoT), WFP has submitted to MoT a substantive outline plans to enhance the PDS capacity in areas such as importing & contracts, quality control, transportation & freight, food pipeline management, and warehousing in order to help the government

overcome some of the bottlenecks that they are currently facing. WFP is still awaiting the official endorsement of this proposal from MoT.

- The Capacity Building in Migration Management Program (CBMMP) has developed an "Addendum to the Summary of IOM-Gol Istanbul Workshop, April, 9-12 April 2007 on

Border Management in Iraq". This Addendum corresponds to the Report of the Assessment of Border Management in Iraq (ABMI) conducted by IOM from August to December 2006. The workshop summary as well as the Assessment of Border Management of Iraq report was shared by the Program Manager with the Director General of Border Guards during his last visit to Kuwait from 20 October thru 22 October 2007.

- Within the framework of the Capacity Building in Integrated Border Management at the Southern Borders of Iraq Programme (CBIBMP), IOM started the civil works and renovation of the Immigration Training Extension Centre (ITEC) within the premises of the Police Academy in Basra. The Capacity Building in Integrated Border Management (CBIBM) plan is to have the ITEC fully equipped and ready to receive students by the beginning of January 2008.

- The Programme for Human Security and Stabilization in Iraq (PHSS) agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs detailing the parameters of our cooperation with the PHSS partnership ministry. PHSS has placed staff in Muthanna to monitor the two grant agreements we have signed with two implementing partners and to continue program development in the city of Samawah and in Muthanna province.

A third grant agreement focusing on agriculture is in development with another INGO and IOM will be leading its operations in Muthanna focusing on individual grant recipients. In Basra, PHSS is now in the initial stages of opera-

tions, soliciting proposals from approved INGO's and selecting staff.

- The Arabic version of the National Migration Policy draft was proofread. It will be shared with the Policy Task Force (PTF) members for their feedback, and will be publicized in December through an inter-ministerial workshop in Amman or Beirut.

- As part of the Ministry of Displacement and Migration Capacity Building Programme (MoDM CBP), a second workshop with MoDM was held in Amman, Jordan on 3-5 October 2007 to jointly review and discuss an initial draft of the Ministry's Policy Development Manual. Twelve MoDM representatives participated in the workshop, including a Deputy Minister, eight officials from the Humanitarian Affairs Department (the principal beneficiary of this programme activity) and three from the Minister's Office, the Media Office and the Administration & Finance Department.

Support to the Constitutional Process

- The Grant Fund, a component of UNAMI-OCS/UNOPS Project 'Facilitating Reconciliation in Iraq through Constitutional Dialogue', worked with 20 reputable and non-partisan NGOs in 18 Governorates in Iraq. The Grant Fund promotes the involvement of the civil society in the discussion on the review of Iraqi Constitution. Activities covered issues related to the judicial system, bill of rights, separation of powers, management of natural resources, federalism, status of individuals and groups in the law.

- NRGF funded 20 projects; approximately 541 events (workshops, seminars, theatre plays, art shows, lectures, school-based educational activities, radio / TV panel discussions, mediation and conflict transformation trainings, etc.) were organized. The events gathered around 34117 participants representing a broad range of political, religious, social and sectarian groups from all over the country. They enjoyed also media coverage of TV and radio stations as well as press.

- The Chairperson of the Constitutional Review Committee (CRC), Sheikh Hammam Hammoudi confirmed that the CRC will be involved in the development of draft laws mandated by the Constitution. At the same time, the CRC remains charged with bringing the Constitutional Review Process to a conclusion, a task that will, in Sheikh Hammoudi's estimation, extend into 2008. Significant work has already been done to date on the less controversial articles of the Constitution.

The CRC identified several pieces of legislation as priorities, including the law on the Civil Service Commission; the draft Law on Governorates not incorporated into a Region; the enabling legislation

for the Federal Constitutional Court; the draft Law on Water Resources, and some others. In the interim, OCS and members of the Baghdad-based international community, agreed to reconvene the Legislative Working group for the purpose of information sharing, technical assistance coordination and substantive discussion on Iraqi draft priority legislations and select policy issues.

- The Chair of the Regions Committee, Dr. Hashim Al Ta'ee advised OCS formally that the preparatory work on the draft Law on Governorates not organized into a Region is now finished. Two readings were held, and comprehensive negotiations took place, which include the incorporation of the reply of the Court. The Shura Council is currently examining the draft from a legal and logistical perspective. Following this step, the draft will be put to a vote. Dr. Al-Ta'ee believes that the constitutional dimensions of the transformation from governorate to region are clear. Powers that are not exclusively allocated to the federal government belong to the regions *and* governorates not organized into a region (Article 115). The powers of governorates and regions are therefore essentially seen as

the same.

There are differences and conflicting views regarding this, hence there is a need for political consensus for the law to be passed. Essentially, the purpose of the draft Law on Governorates not organized into a Region is to provide wider authorities to the governorates so that they can "run themselves" and provide basic services. These powers will include an authority to levy taxes, although the allocation of these tax revenues will be subject to further legislation, in part to prevent corruption.

- The Committee on the implementation of Article 140 has made significant progress under the chairmanship of Fu'ad Husayn. The Committee has taken various decisions as far as normalization and compensating the victims of Arabisation policy is concerned. The next step would be to conduct a census. However, it is unlikely that the Committee would be able to meet the deadline for the referendum of 31 December 2007. The office of Constitutional Support continues to closely monitor political developments concerning the Constitutional Review Process and the implementation of article 140.

**Prepared by the DSRSG/RC/HC's
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