



7 August 2007

FACT SHEET

UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR IRAQ (UNAMI)

BACKGROUND

The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) was established following Security Council resolution 1500 of 14 August 2003. On 19 August, a suicide bomber attacked UN headquarters in Baghdad, killing 22 people. A few weeks later, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan withdrew UN staff from Iraq. Staff began returning, under heightened security, in April 2004. Currently there are nearly 300 UN international staff and 393 national staff serving in Iraq, Kuwait and Jordan. UNAMI Offices in Iraq are supported by a Fiji Guard Unit. UNAMI is led by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq (SRSG), Ashraf Qazi.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Following a meeting with US President George Bush in Washington, D.C. on 17 July 2007, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called the situation of Iraq “a problem for the whole world. As far as the United Nations is concerned, we are prepared to contribute to the Iraqi government and people to help them overcome this difficulty in close coordination with the MNF, including the United States.”

“We are going to help with political facilitation as well as economic and social reconstruction. And we are also going to continue the International Compact process for Iraq, as well as the expanded neighbours foreign ministers meeting. This will provide a good opportunity for the Iraqi people and the international community to work together for peace and security in Iraq.”

The United Nations on 20 July hosted a meeting in New York to review the first annual progress report (<http://www.uniraq.org/ici/ICI%202007%20Mid%20Year%20progress%20Report.pdf>) of the International Compact with Iraq, a comprehensive programme of reforms and investments to be carried out by the Government of Iraq over five years, with the support of the international community.

The report noted progress toward establishing unified security forces, legislative actions and the UN-supported constitutional review process, but also stressed the need for continued support from the international community. The Compact was launched by Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Kamel al-Maliki and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in Sharm el-Sheikh on 3 May 2007.

MANDATE

The Security Council, in Resolution 1546 (8 June 2004), mandated the mission with assisting the Iraqi people and government, “as circumstances permit,” by playing a leading role to:

- Assist in convening in July 2004 a national conference to select a Consultative Council (*achieved*);
- Advise and support the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq, as well as the Interim Government of Iraq and the Transitional National Assembly, on the process for holding elections (*ongoing*);
- Promote national dialogue and consensus-building on the drafting of a national constitution by the people of Iraq (*ongoing*);
- Advise the Government of Iraq in the development of effective civil and social services (*ongoing*);
- Contribute to the coordination and delivery of reconstruction, development, and humanitarian assistance (*ongoing*);
- Promote the protection of human rights, national reconciliation, and judicial and legal reform in order to strengthen the rule of law in Iraq (*ongoing*);
- Advise and assist the Government of Iraq on planning for the eventual conduct of a comprehensive census (*ongoing*).

ACHIEVEMENTS

- The UN contributed to the formation of the first functional and democratically-elected Iraqi parliament in 40 years.
- The UN helped draft the 2005 Iraqi Constitution.
- The UN helped organize the successful implementation of two rounds of general elections and a national referendum on the Constitution.
- UNAMI assisted planning the legislative agenda of the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) and observed the selection process of the nine Commissioners by the Council of Representatives (COR). UNAMI continues to provide technical assistance to IHEC.
- The UN has provided support to the government of Iraq in delivering basic social services in health, education, water and sanitation and employment as well as in raising awareness of human rights.
- The UN has facilitated an enhanced partnership with the international community in support of the country’s transition through both the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI) and the International Compact with Iraq (ICI).

CONSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

- The Office of Constitutional Support (OCS) is currently focused on the provision of technical support and assistance to the Constitutional Review Committee of the Iraqi Council of Representatives, within the formal review process of the 2005 Iraqi Constitution. In particular, OCS has provided the Constitutional Review Committee with a set of recommendations on potential amendments to specific areas of the Constitution, including federalism/fiscal federalism

(wealth sharing), the judiciary, the Federation Council or upper house, independent institutions and human rights.

- In early 2007, OCS organized and led a series of study tours and multiparty dialogues for the benefit of members of the Constitutional Review Committee, with the assistance and support of the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS).
- Prior to beginning its deliberations on the Constitution, members of the Committee visited Spain, Germany and Malaysia, to gain a comparative perspective of federalism. They also discussed the future of the Iraqi judiciary in Cairo, as well as federalism and fiscal federalism in Dubai.

UN CLUSTER APPROACH

Some 16 UN agencies, funds and offices constitute the UN Country Team. To ensure integrated strategic planning, the agencies participate in the seven clusters addressing the following sectors:

- A. Agriculture, Food Security, Environment and Natural Resources Management;
- B. Education and Culture;
- C. Governance and Human Development;
- D. Health and Nutrition;
- E. Infrastructure Rehabilitation;
- F. Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Durable Solutions;
- G. Support to the Electoral Process.

The Clusters are responsible for the review and endorsement of projects to ensure they are in keeping with the National Development Strategy, after which the projects are submitted for review and approval by the Iraq Strategic Review Board. In light of the current humanitarian crisis, which UNAMI reported in May “requires immediate recognition and support,” the Cluster mechanism is being reviewed to determine how it might be adapted or integrated into the humanitarian coordination requirements.

FUNDING

The Madrid Conference, held in October 2003, initiated the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI). To date, more than \$1.2 billion has been deposited by 25 countries into the two Iraq Trust Funds that constitute IRFFI, i.e. the UN Development Group (UNDG) Iraq Trust Fund and the World Bank Iraq Trust Fund.

The IRFFI is strongly linked to the National Development Strategy, and therefore is primarily intended to fund reconstruction and development initiatives. A humanitarian funding mechanism is being devised to ensure a well-resourced response potential for the UN and its partners. An initial \$500,000 is required to activate the new fund.

PROJECTS AND IMPLEMENTATION CONSTRAINTS

The projects implemented by participating UN organizations with funding through the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund (ITF) are based on the joint UN/World Bank Needs Assessment and emerging Iraqi priorities and plans, as indicated in the National Development Strategy and the International Compact with Iraq. The UN, in consultation with the Iraqi authorities, has developed a Joint UN-Iraq Strategic Assistance Plan, as well as the recently endorsed Joint Priority Action Plan which has been designed to illustrate the UN's support to the International Compact with Iraq. All ITF-funded projects pass through the Iraqi Strategic Review Board.

As of 30 June 2007 a total of 152 projects have been approved, for more than \$1 billion. Total actual disbursements amount to about \$648 million, representing 63% of total approved funds, while total commitments amount to about \$765 million, representing 74% of approved funds.

Security represents the greatest implementation constraint, limiting access to areas of need and requiring the UN to use a remote management mechanism to implement activities. Reliance on national and international NGO partners is also part of the mechanism, which has had the secondary effect of strengthening civil society capacity in Iraq.

HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION AND RESPONSE

UNAMI has provided capacity building and support to the Government of Iraq on humanitarian issues over the past 24 months, including through the secondment of advisors to the Prime Minister's Office, as well as by advocacy through human rights reports and other public documents. Recently, the UN and its partners developed the Strategic Framework for Humanitarian Action in Iraq, which has been fully endorsed by the Government of Iraq as well as by the international humanitarian community. The process of developing the operational plan is underway. The Strategic Framework seeks to address the growing humanitarian crisis, in which eight million Iraqis are in need of humanitarian assistance. Of those eight million, four million Iraqis have left their homes and more than two million are now refugees in neighboring countries.

In the past 24 months, UNAMI has disbursed more than \$1.3 million in small grants through NGO partners, providing food and non-food items, emergency health supplies, water and sanitation, educational materials, and shelter to IDPs throughout the country.

In 2007 alone, \$600,000 in humanitarian assistance has been programmed, with an additional \$660,000 in expenditures planned should funding be available.

UNAMI was extensively involved in supporting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the preparation of the first meeting of the neighboring countries on refugees convened on 26 July in Amman. The one-day meeting looked at ways to ease the burden of countries, particularly Jordan and Syria that together are hosting more than two million Iraqis. Participants agreed to consolidate general objectives and the need to establish working groups in key sectors (health, education, economic impacts and protection) under the auspices of a tripartite arrangement, whereby the UN acts as an observer and moderator between the host government and Iraq.

On 27 July, the UN launched a \$129 million appeal to ensure that tens of thousands of children who have fled Iraq will be able to continue their education. UNHCR and UNICEF will support host governments such as Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon in providing schooling for 155,000 young Iraqi refugees during the 2007-8 school year.

On 29 July, the World Health Organization (WHO) convened a meeting of health officials from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Syria in Damascus, to plan ways to deliver health care to Iraqi refugees in neighbouring countries. Under the health component, UNHCR and its partners, particularly the Red Crescent Societies, will focus on the immediate provision of medical care, rehabilitation of hospitals, the opening of clinics, capacity building for medical staff and provision of new medical equipment, including at least 11 ambulances in Syria.

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