



Press Release

UNFPA and Iraq Agree to Further Partnership on National Development

Baghdad, 6 July 2009--A series of high-level meetings between Iraqi officials and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) executives just concluded in Baghdad to further strategic partnership on national development.

UNFPA senior executives, such as Deputy Executive Director (Programme), Purnima Mane, the Regional Director for Arab States, Hafedh Chekir, and the Representative for Iraq Dr. Georges Georgi met today with high-level Iraqi officials, including the Minister of Planning and Development Cooperation, the Head of the Iraqi Prime Minister's Advisory Council and representatives from line ministries (Youth, Health, Civil society and Environment), as well as with 10 Iraqi parliamentarians from seven key governorates.

The meetings discussed Iraq's needs and challenges, the strategic partnership between Iraq and UNFPA, current and future cooperation including UNFPA support of various government programmes, especially in the area of data for development, specifically the technical support being provided for the 2009 Population and Housing Census operations and other surveys. Also central to this strategic cooperation are the reproductive health, gender, youth and population development needs in line with the Iraqi National Development Plan 2010 – 2014 and the Fund's priorities for Iraq.

UNFPA executives also met with UN senior officials in Iraq, including the UNAMI Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Andrew Gilmour, and the acting Resident Coordinator / Humanitarian Coordinator, Dr. Naima El Qaseer, to discuss harmonization and close coordination of the UN joint country framework of cooperation for Iraq (UNDAF) aligned with national priorities.

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