

## **UNICEF, Government of Iraq \_ Strategy Meeting**

**Baghdad, 28 January 2010---** As part of UNICEF Iraq's consultative process for its 2011-2014 Country Programme of Cooperation with the Government of Iraq, a strategic meeting defining the theme and parameters of the country programme was successfully held in Baghdad today.

The meeting, led by the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation and attended by members of the parliament and representatives of line ministries entrusted with delivery of services and programmes for the women and children in Iraq, follows consultations held in the previous months for the UN's Common Country Assessment and Development Assistance Framework and fully integrates the priorities of the Government's National Development Plan.

The theme for the 2011-2014 country programme of cooperation is children's protection, participation, and child well-being for development. This will be manifested through delivering child health, education, water, and protection responses in selected areas of acute child vulnerability, contributing to the development of cities that are friendly to children, and empowering children to participate in decision making processes that affect their lives.

Additionally, being the last programme cycle before the global deadline for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015, the four-year programme puts maximum focus on attaining the MDGs, all of which are central to the survival and development of children.

"This next country programme is critical to start building the foundations of an Iraq that is fit for its children" said Sikander Khan, UNICEF Representative in Iraq. "With the Government and other duty bearers we look forward to prioritizing investments in every one of Iraq's 15 million children in order to secure the country's future stability, development and prosperity".

UNICEF delivers programmes and interventions to children throughout Iraq with government counterparts, civil society, nongovernmental organisations and children and young people themselves.

### ***About UNICEF in Iraq***

*UNICEF has been on the ground in Iraq since 1983 working to ensure Iraqi children survive and realize their full potential. UNICEF is supporting the Government of Iraq to develop child-friendly policies, build the capacity of institutions, and mobilize resources to realize the full rights of Iraqi children. Via a network of staff and partners, UNICEF's programmes continue to improve basic health services, safeguard quality education, rebuild water and sanitation systems, protect children from abuse, violence and exploitation, and meet the needs of the most vulnerable in crisis situations.*

### **For further information please contact:**

Jaya Murthy, UNICEF Iraq, +962 79 692 6190, [jmurthy@unicef.org](mailto:jmurthy@unicef.org)  
Ban Dhayi, UNICEF Iraq, +962 79 6505008, [bdhayi@unicef.org](mailto:bdhayi@unicef.org)