



UN-Iraq Reconstruction and Development Update January – April 2007-06-24

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)

Background

The present trimester 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.

Education

The education sub-cluster has been making an essential contribution to the long term goal through its programmes to undertake the physical rehabilitation of schools as well as to provide essential education and recreation materials. During the period under review, UNICEF reported that the number of children not attending school continues to be of concern. The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS3) estimates that approximately 800,000 children were out of school in 2005/6, even before the current displacement and insecurity (63 per cent of them girls). Drop-out rates are also increasingly out-stripping enrolment rates as an issue affecting the quality of education. Only 30% of Iraq's children complete their primary

education at the correct age (11 years old in Iraq), although many more children do complete their primary education at age 12 years and older. Primary completion rates will certainly be less for 2007. Dialogue continues with the Ministry of Education (MoE) regarding a rapid assessment of the impact of insecurity on school attendance. UNICEF is supporting a baseline study survey on Child Rearing Practices inside Iraq. Preparations for the exercise are ongoing with MoE Baghdad, MoE Kurdistan, Ministry of Planning Baghdad/COSIT and Ministry of Planning Kurdistan/KSRO. In a report entitled "Education Vulnerable to Attack", UNESCO cites Iraq as having one of the worst records for school attacks in the world. According to the report, which was put together in consultation with various UN Agencies and the MoE, 280 academics, including 186 university professors, have been killed since 2003, with 180 killed between February and November 2006. The Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) is an innovative learning catch-up initiative offering a second chance to young people who left the education system prematurely to attend lessons outside normal school hours and even sit for their final exams. Launched by UNICEF and the MoE in 2005, the ALP has become one of Iraq's most successful and inspiring education initiatives. Over 14,000 young people in 2006 passed their primary and intermediate exams. In 2007, 22,000 are enrolled in the programme.

UNESCO organized a workshop to train primary school headmasters in classroom-based and school-based management during 14 – 18 April 2007 in Amman. 24 Iraqi participants from North, Centre and South Iraq participated and expressed their interest in such workshops that aim

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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at upgrading their knowledge and exposing them to good practices of other countries. In April 2007, a new project entitled "ICT in Education for Iraq" was endorsed for joint implementation by UNESCWA and UNESCO during 2007 – 2008 in Iraq. The project is designed to build sustainable capacity in the MoE for the continuing quality improvement of teaching and learning, focusing on the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). Within the framework of the UNDG ITF project entitled "Training of Trainers in Teacher Education for Sustained Quality Education", five Iraqi fellows left to Turin (Italy) to follow their Masters in Peace, Democracy and Human Rights after pursuing an intensive English Language course at the British Council in Amman. In addition, UNESCO conducted an intensive crash course in English language benefiting 13 Iraqi university professors at the British Council during 19 – 28 March 2007, as well as an ICDL training course benefiting 20 others during 25 March – 12 April 2007, whereby those two core teams have become Master trainers in English and Computer and shall train other colleagues inside Iraq. UNESCO organized, in partnership with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and 4 International Universities, a Coordination Meeting to launch the Teacher Training Network (TTNI) in Iraq during 27 and 28 February 2007, in order to discuss modalities of cooperation and partnership between all stakeholders in the implementation of the capacity building programmes foreseen in the project as well as in establishing, supporting and maintaining the Teacher Training Network for Iraq. Finally, as part of the Iraqi Networking Academies (INA) project, UNESCWA organized a "train the trainer" workshop during March-April 2007 at the Lebanese American University (LAU): six instructors from Iraqi universities (Baghdad, Mosul, and Basra) attended advanced technology Cisco courses and were awarded certificates in Network Security and Fundamentals of

Wireless LANs, which are two courses under the Cisco Networking Academy Program (CNAP).



Iraqi instructors with the INA team at LAU

Media Development

The International Conference on Freedom of Expression and Media Development in Iraq, supported by the Office of Development Assistance of Japan and the European Union, was organized on 8-10 January 2007 by the Communications and Media Commission of Iraq (CMC) in cooperation with UNESCO and UNDP. The Conference provided a forum for debate, reflection and analysis of different issues concerning the Iraqi media landscape and its development needs, addressing such themes as journalist safety; international assistance; ownership, editorial independence, pluralism; professional standards; human and institutional capacity building and gender issues; markets and commercial sustainability; public service broadcasting; regulatory frameworks and legislation.



*UNICEF/Iraq/2007
Many ALP students are married with Children*

The participants of the conference - Iraqi journalists, members of parliament and government officials - reached an unprecedented agreement about measures to protect and promote free and pluralistic media in Iraq. The participants adopted a Declaration recognizing the essential role of media in any democratic society. They also addressed concerns regarding the safety of journalists and media regulation.

Culture

Following the approval of the project document in February 2007 for the rehabilitation of the Al-Askaria Shrine in Samarra, UNESCO launched an Expression for Interest announcement in order to list potential contractors having capacity to undertake this kind of project with high expertise on restoration. The Iraqi Government agreed to contribute financially to the project and to procure all equipment related to the security and the installation of the building site. It is anticipated that the final contractual negotiations will be completed soon, and work will begin on the site in the coming months.



© UNESCO
Around 300 participants attended the three-day conference in Paris

Human Development

UNDP launched the Unsatisfied Basic Needs (UBN) study on 18 February 2007 jointly with the

Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation. The UBN study showed that a high percentage of people in Iraq live under various levels of poverty and human deprivation despite the huge economic and natural resources of the country. The study also highlighted significant variations in living standards across the country, with the southern region in Iraq showing the highest level of deprivation. Rural areas show three times higher levels of deprivation than urban areas. The highest deprivation levels are in access to basic services such as electricity and water, followed by economic status of households, then the housing environment. The UBN survey provides for the UN country team and the Government of Iraq important baseline information on macroeconomic policies and budgetary allocation as well as better targeting and prioritizing interventions in the areas of job creation, water and sanitation infrastructures respectively. UNOPS has developed a project in support of poverty reduction and sustainable livelihoods through employment generation in all sectors at the local level in three districts in Basra Governorate. It also will build the capacity of the local governments to effectively address employment concerns in their plans and strategies by way of the implementation of Municipal Development Plans, with an emphasis on social protection, economic development, capacity development and skills development. A Governorate Steering Committee has been established in Basra, composed of representatives from UNOPS, Basra Provincial Council, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works, Al Khaseeb district, Al Faw district, and Shat Al Arab district. Municipal Steering Committees have been established in each district. A total of around 16,000 workdays in the first phase during the quick impact public works will be created in each municipality for the available budget of US\$ 120,000 per municipality.

Governance

In partnership with the Friedrich Naumann Stiftung, UNAMI's Office of Constitutional Support (OCS) and UNOPS organized two study tours in mid-February, one to Germany and Spain and the other to Malaysia. The missions included substantive discussions with high-level government officials. In Europe, the delegates focused on an examination of Spain's asymmetrical federal arrangement and the role of the German Upper House (*Bundesrat*) in coordinating between Germany's states (*Länder*) and its federal government. In Malaysia, the delegates focused on the practice of federalism in Malaysia, with an emphasis on the problems created by the imbalance of the distribution of powers between the federal and state governments, as well as an examination of the importance placed on Malaysia's national unity and integration strategy. From 25 to 28 February 2007, UNAMI's OCS and UNOPS conducted two inter-party dialogues in Dubai, UAE. The first dialogue concentrated on the federal structures envisaged in the Iraqi Constitution while the second dialogue focused on the fiscal arrangements set forth in the document. The dialogues built upon the alternative approaches to federalism that the delegates were exposed to on the study tours. Leading international experts and academics in these fields engaged a delegation of 19 members of Iraq's Constitutional Review Commission (CRC), parliamentarians, and federal government officials on several issues.

Child Protection and Human Rights

Caring for children who slip through the net is a critical issue being tackled. One of several joint WHO/Government of Iraq (GoI) studies on the mental health of children in the cities of Baghdad,

Mosul and Dohuk conducted from January to March of last year noted that 30 per cent of Iraq's children are suffering psychological problems, primarily as a result of the stressful environment that now characterizes most communities in the country. UNICEF is now working on a programme to integrate psycho-social care for children into the education system, within the community and at the family level. Parents and caregivers, who are themselves affected by violence, are less able to deliver care for children in need of psycho-social support. The Child Rights Monitoring and Reporting Workshop were held in Amman from 24-25 April 2007. Around 50 participants from various NGOs working for Iraq attended the workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to consult with NGOs, working for human rights and child rights, and the UN agencies regarding the monitoring and reporting of child rights violations and how this could be effectively done in Iraq. The workshop is a part of the ongoing "Feasibility Study for Setting up Child Rights Monitoring Mechanism for Iraq" which reflects Security Council Resolution 1612 on Children in Armed Conflict.

In an effort of supporting the development and strengthening of an Iraqi led and owned national human rights protection system, UNOPS and UNAMI's Human Rights Office organized workshops on human rights implemented by Iraqi NGOs. UNDP sponsored in January and February 2007 the third, fourth and fifth workshops of a series of twelve aimed at promoting National Dialogue and Reconciliation. The workshops addressed the themes of the Rule of Law, Civil Society, and the impact of sectarian violence and police brutality on communities respectively. Other activities included:

- Transitional Justice Session

for Iraqi parliamentarians, focusing on "Vetting & De-Baathification" in Amman, with 15 participants, mainly parliamentarians, some government officials and the Minister of Parliamentarian Affairs.

- Transitional Justice Conference in Erbil to increase support of Prime Minister's National Reconciliation Plan, held in cooperation between UNAMI and KRG Ministry of Human Rights.
- Rule of Law meeting in Baghdad, to discuss the strategic framework on Rule of Law and identify priorities and needs of the Higher Judicial Council, Ministries of Human Rights, Interior and Justice, with 50 participants from the government and the donor community.
- "Study on the Situation of Minority Women in Iraq" workshop provided the selected team of research assistants with the knowledge and skills necessary to conduct a field survey and gather the information that will serve as basis for any further analysis into the situation of women of minority communities in Iraq.

The Iraqi Legal Database was launched on 20 March 2007 in Amman, containing over 27,000 documents, dating from 1913, and entered into various categories, such as laws, Revolutionary Council decisions, royal decrees, CPA orders, etc. Copies of the database were given to the Higher Judicial Council, the Ministry of Justice in Kurdistan, and the Judicial Training Institute, with training on how to use the database currently being undertaken in Amman.

UNDP and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) consultants held "The Introduction to Business Planning and Public Sector Values" meeting, attended by 10 Director-Generals representing the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation, the

National Centre for Consultancy and Management Department (NCCMD), the Ministry of Human Rights, the Board of Supreme Audit, and the Commission on Public Integrity.

Mine Action

The country wide hazard posed by landmines and unexploded ordnances continues to hamper the daily routine of the Iraqi population. By limiting access to agricultural and grazing land, roads, water sources and residential areas, the civilian population is constrained from fully participating in the reconstruction and development process. Between 01 January and 30 April 2007, under the supervision of UNDP and through the field operations of the Danish Demining Group (DDG), the national Mine Action NGO cleared 15,104,475 square meters of agriculture land safe for use in the Basra region by searching and disposing of 19,088 Unexploded Ordnances (UXOs) of which 2,685 were cluster bombs. A Strategic Planning Workshop was organized on 15-18 January 2007 at the Dead Sea with the participation of the Director General of the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA), 10 other NMAA professionals and a representative from the Inspector-General's office. Work plans for the preparation of an Iraqi Mine Action Strategy were drafted. Key strategic components included: 1) necessity for legal and policy framework for mine action; 2) more functional structure to be endorsed by the Government of Iraq;



and 3) management capacity building for humanitarian mine action.

An official study visit was undertaken to the Croatian Mine Action Programme during the period 19 April through 31 April 2007. The aim was for 10 senior staff, including the General Director of the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Centre (IKMAC), to exchange knowledge with their counterparts in the Croatian Mine Action Programme and the Croatian Mine Action Centre, and to participate in a symposium on mechanical clearance, alongside more than 170 mine action stakeholders from all over the world.

Health & Nutrition

Immunization services continue to be affected by insecurity, particularly in Anbar, Baghdad and Diyala. To this end, the Ministry of Health (MoH) consulted UNICEF and WHO to conduct the Reach Every District (RED) approach for all districts with low immunization coverage (below 80 per cent); 60 (out of 116) districts to be targeted. It is planned to begin in May 2007 after the MMR campaign for the South/Centre Governorates (for six months).

In March 2007, UNICEF safely delivered to the National Vaccine Store in Baghdad five million doses of OPV. Nearly 4.4 million (out of 4.8 million) children under-five were reached. It demonstrates that Iraq still maintains capacity (despite ongoing insecurity) to reach the majority of children during immunization campaigns.

The pool of children susceptible to measles has risen to nearly one million, constituting a serious outbreak risk; accordingly and as part of the emergency preparedness and response plan, MoH -with full support of

UNICEF and WHO- will conduct an MMR campaign in April targeting over 3.8 million under-five children across the country, with special focus on hot spots.

The UNICEF-supported MMR campaign was launched on 22nd of April targeting over 3.9 million children between 12-59 months. The vaccination teams in Hay Albaladiyat and Maghrib in Baghdad were faced with two explosions – fortunately no one was hurt. In another incident, an ambulance driver and assistant pharmacist were killed while on their way to deliver MMR vaccines to the Dala Abbas PHCC in Alkhalis district of Diyala governorate. As the campaign nears its end, coverage rates are estimated at nearly 90%.

Infrastructure rehabilitation

As a vital ingredient in ensuring the sustainability of Iraq's long term reconstruction and development, the UNCT continues to undertake considerable capacity building activities in all clusters working with a wide range of Iraqi stakeholders. The following is a cross-section of these activities:

UN Habitat organized a start-up workshop in Amman on 2-3 April 2007 with a participation of 18 engineers from Center and South governorates, 6 engineers from Kurdistan Region and 9 participants from UN Habitat and UNICEF. The workshop featured a number of presentations on the issues around asset management of schools, good practices and innovations and several break-out sessions on planning and programming of maintenance of school buildings.

During the period under review UN-HABITAT completed the following Technical Advice/ Capacity Building and Rehabilitation Projects.

- Rehabilitation/construction/extension of 18 school buildings (13 in Basra, 4 in Thi-Qar and 1 in Missan).
- A total of 720 apartments in Al-Faw Residential Complex in Basra.

- Installation of a Water Treatment Unit (WTU) processing 1 million gallons/day at Bahla Village in Basra, generating employment for 59 person-days.
- The supply of materials and installation of a WTU of 1 million gallons/day at Karmat Ali in Basra complex.
- Rehabilitation of Al-Boktaeeb WTU and upgrade it to increase its capacity from 250,000 to 1 million gallons/day in Basra.
- Rehabilitation of 687 and 150 dwelling units and apartments in Samawa and Najaf respectively.
- Construction of the orphanage in Samawa, generating 362 person-days of employment.
- Construction of additional classrooms for Al-Salman Primary School in Samawa.
- Rehabilitation of 60 houses in Erbil, generating 390 person-days of employment.

The close collaboration between the Prime Minister's Office and UNDP's Infrastructure Team continued during February with a meeting between UNDP, the newly appointed Head of the Iraq Airports and Ports Oversight Management Office, and Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister. UNDP presented the findings and recommendations of the assessment of the civil aviation sector conducted in November and advised of future proposed actions by the UNCT. UNDP has provided ongoing assistance to the transport sector including advisory services to senior airport directors regarding the draft civil aviation law, sector-related restructuring needs and the organization of the ICAA. UNDP will facilitate and organize a conference on the Port sector with the introduction of private sector operators and leasing options for Iraqi ports, scheduled tentatively for mid-year 2007.

UNOPS' project "Establishment of Solid Waste Management System in Kirkuk City" started in April. Employment opportunities, especially from vulnerable elements of society,

have been made available to meet one of the key objectives of the project. Simultaneously, solid waste removal has had a dramatic and positive effect: accumulated waste has, to all intents and purposes, been eradicated and the project is now focused on routine collection across all 12 sectors of the city, with daily collection quantities reducing from approximately 825 tons to 550 tons per day accordingly. The reduction has permitted the Municipality, with the support of UNOPS, to establish Emergency Cleaning Teams, with effect from 21 April 2007, directed towards cleaning areas such as public parks, schools, colleges and government offices, as well as providing reinforcement to sector teams as and when required. These teams have provided effective cleaning services at five schools, an education college, a female teachers' institute and several government buildings. Road sweeping to date is 44.15 kilometers.

The project has been successful in meeting its targets to provide employment opportunities to the people of Kirkuk. In addition to those employed by the Municipality, UNOPS has also hired the services of 13 monitors and 7 supervisors who assist the UNOPS Site Engineer with on-site, local supervision, monitoring and evaluation. Additionally, the numbers of heavy equipments [dump trucks] being hired on a daily basis has met expectations, facilitating waste collection throughout the city, as well as supporting income generation within the local economy.

The project covers an area of approximately 135 km², which represents the urban spread of the city's 12 sectors. A joint UNICEF/UNOPS project aims at providing adequate power supply to operate the Sharq Dijla WTP to ensure availability of potable

water for 2.7 million people in east Baghdad. This US\$ 5.6 million project is currently at the stage of implementation of civil works. Manufacturing of the main equipment is completed and shipping to the site initiated by the supplier. Anticipated project completion date is October 2007.

Towards the end of April 2007, UNESCO started to rehabilitate 37 secondary schools out of the 55 foreseen in their project. Insecurity prevented the local contractors from working in certain areas. In April 2007, the MoE warehouses received the library furniture and ICT facilities for the 55 secondary schools. Education quality continues to be a major concern for all students in the south/centre. Advocacy is ongoing with the Government of Iraq to find ways to alleviate the pressures on classrooms.



Before



After

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

(UNAMI)

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