



# UN-Iraq Reconstruction and Development Update June 2007

## United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)

### Background

As part of the UNAMI mandate to contribute 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 has a leading role in the delivery of assistance and the strengthening of national capacity in Iraq. By using the Cluster approach to address areas of common concern, UN agencies through national partners and counterparts combine resources and expertise to implement coordinated transitional and regular programme assistance as presented in the Joint UN-Iraq Assistance Strategy 2005 – 2007. This is done despite continued constraints due to the prevailing security situation.

### Governance and Human Development

Within the UNESCO funded project “Good Governance through support for independent, pluralistic, professional and sustainable media”, part of the UN umbrella Constitution II programme, a coordination meeting was held in London on 21 June with the main implementing partners and several NGOs currently involved in media development and press freedom activities in Iraq. The meeting was aimed at discussing and sharing information on how those activities already in place

can inform and feed into the implementation of the project.

The UNDP Governance Team concluded its second activity of the Public Management Programme on 13 June. Focusing on business planning, performance management and financial accountability, the training was attended by 16 participants: one deputy minister, director generals, and directors from 10 ministries. The third activity to take place in August will focus on financial management and procurement policies for non financial managers. Training will continue until June 2008 and possibly be extended to December 2008. This initiative is supported by CIDA.

A two-day workshop on “Freedom of Information and Investigative Journalism” was organized on 23-24 June by the Article 19 in the framework of the project to support the Legal Development of an Independent, Pluralistic and Diverse Media in Iraq.

A five-day workshop for officials from the Secretariat of the Iraqi Parliament took place on 26-30 June in cooperation with the Lebanese Parliament. Over the course of this workshop, officials discussed best practices for sub-committees. This is the first activity in the programme of assistance to the Iraqi Parliament that is being implemented by UNDP-POGAR.

### 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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## Health and Nutrition

A preparatory meeting was held by WHO from 21 to 22 June 2007 in response to a request from both the Ministry of Health and the Parliamentarian Health and Environmental Committee to facilitate the preparation of the planned national conference in Baghdad on Health Policies, Strategies, and Health Reforms later this year. The objectives of the meeting were to: (a) exchange views on where the country stands with the ongoing efforts to review and update public health policies, strategies, laws, and the current status of the draft document on the Iraqi National Drug Policy and (b) to decide on the next steps for the preparation of the above mentioned conference.

Expected outcomes of the upcoming National conference and a plan of action for its preparation were agreed upon and a Steering Committee supported by Technical committees has been formed to coordinate and oversee the implementation of the action plan. Also, one of the key recommendations of the meeting was to conduct a national survey of the pharmaceutical situation (medicines price survey in Iraq covering also availability of essential medicines and affordability in the private sector) to serve as a baseline on the status of current pharmacy services in the country. Another recommendation was to engage the key partners and invitation will be sent.

Immunization services continue to be affected by insecurity, particularly in Anbar, Baghdad and Diyala. To tackle this issue, the Ministry of Health (MoH) approached UNICEF and WHO to conduct the Reach Every District (RED) approach for all districts with low immunization coverage

(below 80 per cent). The RED approach had already started in 2 directorates of health Northern Iraq with technical and logistic support from UNICEF and WHO. The implementation of RED approach in the south/centre governorates will begin in September 2007, following a RED approach workshop planned to take place by the WHO in Amman during the first week of July.

To assess the efficiency of routine and accelerated immunization activities, UNICEF provided cash assistance to the Kurdistan region (KRG) in Northern Iraq to conduct an Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) coverage survey (20-24 June 2007). A similar survey is planned for the south/centre governorates, for which the dates will be determined following the RED approach workshop.

UNICEF is supporting MoH in the decentralization of vaccine stores through rehabilitation/construction of three regional stores in Erbil, Babil and Basrah. The achievement rate in Erbil has reached close to 30 per cent, while for Babil and Basrah UNICEF is awaiting the final endorsement of Bills of Quantities (BoQs) by MoH.

UNICEF continues to support the delivery of medical supplies for Anbar Governorate. By end of June, 66 truckloads of medical supplies/drugs valued at more than US\$ 3 million were safely delivered to the Directorate of Health (DoH) in Anbar.

Support to routine and emergency health services through provision of essential supplies and capacity building continued throughout the month of June, with special focus on control of diarrhea disease especially amongst IDPs. Emergency basic health kits,

therapeutic foods (plumpy nuts), medical supplies, surgical disposables, blankets and transportation services for the mobile health teams were provided to the Manathera IDP camp in Najaf, the Dohuk refugee camp, and the Hussainiya IDP camp in Diyala, as well as to nearby health facilities.

The monitoring of the local outbreak of Measles in Ba'aj district is continuing. 12 out of 23 clinical cases (reported in May 2007) revealed positive by the National Measles Laboratory in Baghdad.

WHO focal point and Mosul CDC team visited Ba'aj district on 27 June 2007 to investigate this outbreak and to provide the manager of Ba'aj PHC with all needed prevention measures to control this disease. However, it needs to be noted that the recent national immunization campaign was also successful in covering large numbers of children.

On 7 June fifteen biomedical engineers and technicians from the Directorate of Health (DoH) completed a five days training course in Erbil on routine maintenance and troubleshoot of dental units and dental instrumentations. The training was organized by Biomedical Engineering Unit at DoH/Erbil with the support of WHO as part of the in-country training package agreed upon within the project strengthening medical equipment management and maintenance system across Iraq.

Within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), WHO is promoting gender equality and health equity; and to ensure that health policies/programmes and activities include an analysis of

gender issues in order to: (a) increase the coverage, effectiveness and efficiency of health programmes and activities, (b) promote gender roles and relations that protect health, promote equality between women and men and contribute to the attainment of social justice and (c) provide information and policy advice on the influence of gender on health and health care, based on both quantitative and qualitative data.

In collaboration with WHO Regional Office a training of trainers was organized for Seven Iraqis (females) from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of labor and Social Affairs and State Ministry for women in Amman from 18-21 June on Mainstreaming Gender in Health / Training of Trainers. The tools address awareness, analysis and actions required to be able to ensure that public health programs, projects and policies respond to gender differences, norms and inequalities in health.

### **Child Protection and Human Rights**

Concerns have been raised on the increasing number of orphans on a daily basis, many of whom are left to struggle for survival. Iraq's children are being trapped in a worsening humanitarian situation, compounded by loss of caregivers. The ongoing conflict has drastically stretched the capacity of extended families (alternative caregivers), who are finding themselves unable to take on any additional responsibilities; as a result more and more children are being left in orphanages.

Kidnapping of counterpart staff has adversely affected the coordination and effective implementation of activities, causing substantial delays in planned activities and service delivery.

In partnership with INTERSOS, the second phase of the "Capacity Building for Social Workers in Iraq" project started in June. Through this project, 160 social workers involved with MoLSA from all over Iraq will be trained in basic principles of social work, child protection, child rights and MRE. The project will also establish a network for Child Protection.

### **Support to Constitutional Process**

The Office of Constitutional Support continued to engage closely with the leadership of the Iraqi Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) throughout the month of June. The CRC had delivered a draft report on 23 May, but received an initial extension period of one month to develop a consensus on unresolved issues, including the powers of the Presidency and the implementation of Article 140 on the status of Kirkuk. On 23 June, 2007, the Council of Representatives granted the CRC a further extension period, until the first session of Parliament in early September 2007. OCS will continue to provide support to the ongoing political negotiations on the Constitution over the course of the summer. The key outstanding issues on which a political consensus has not yet been reached include the text of the Preamble of the Constitution; the formulation of the personal status clause under Article 41; the powers of the Presidency; as well as the implementation of Article 140, concerning the normalization process for Kirkuk and other disputed territories.

The CRC is working towards a consensus agreement and will solicit, as necessary, the support of the political leadership of the respective factions to resolve the controversial issues. The

expectation is that the CRC will present a final draft in early September, for adoption by Parliament and presentation to the people of Iraq in the form of a national referendum. In the interim, OCS is assisting the CRC in the task of drafting the text of the constitutional amendments.

OCS also continues to maintain close contact with Baghdad-based representations of the international community, including the US and UK Embassies as well as the Delegation of the European Commission, to coordinate the formulation of substantive advice to the CRC and other interlocutors.

### **Infrastructure Rehabilitation**

During the month of June 2007, the comprehensive rehabilitation of 8 schools in Basrah, Nassiriya and Missan has been completed and schools have been handed over to the respective DoEs. To date, the project has rehabilitated 48 schools. Meanwhile, the rehabilitation of Basrah DoE has been completed by UN-HABITAT. The School Rehabilitation Project is managed jointly by UNICEF and UN-HABITAT.

The rehabilitation works for 40 houses in Erbil has been completed under the Rehabilitation of Community Facilities and Infrastructure Project implemented by UN-HABITAT.

UNDP experts and contractors have completed fifty per cent of the network modeling for the 400kV and 132kV power systems of the

National Dispatch Center.

The monitoring company selected for UNDP Samara projects is currently checking the work achieved/reported earlier through pictures “before” and “after” sent by the contractor and the Qaiem Maqamyat staff. The first work package is processed and the release of the second package for these projects will permit the contractor to start the second phase.

Commissioning tests have been completed on Unit No. 1 at Taji power station. Works are in progress to use liquid gas for energizing the unit.

In the same vein, a truck with a hydraulic crane and auger and another with a crane (total cost EUR 248,000.00) have been delivered to Muthanna Governorate for acceleration of rehabilitation work of the electricity distribution network there.



*School's furniture: UNICEF*

Rehabilitation activities are ongoing in the 20 remaining schools in Thiqr Governorate, out of 110 schools covered under the ICBSP. Overall progress of works has reached more than 75 per cent. All ICBSP schools are being provided with sanitation kits and essential sports and recreation kits.

Meanwhile 45 schools are still undergoing comprehensive rehabilitation and an additional

20 schools are under bidding. The school rehabilitation project, managed jointly by UNICEF and UNHABITAT aims to restore 160 schools in 18 Governorates benefiting 80,000 school-aged children.

Rehabilitation of Al-Shua'iba boosting station in Basrah governorate was completed, increasing access to safe water for 50,000 residents. An additional 29,000 people in Thiqr governorate have benefited from rehabilitation of three sewage networks. A number of other water and sanitation rehabilitation projects which commenced in 2007 are in various stages of implementation.

UNICEF commenced implementation of a Solid Waste Management joint project with UN-HABITAT aiming to improve waste management services in Iraq. The project is planned for completion in December 2008. As part of the project, an Integrated Solid Waste Management Master Plan for Basrah will be developed, laying ground for further medium and longer term investments in the sector.

## Mine Action

In partnership with INTERSOS, the second phase of the “Integrated MRE Project” started in June and will be implemented in four landmine/UXO contaminated governorates of southern Iraq. The project will provide training for teachers on MRE, educate around 160,000 children on risks and safe behavior, and sensitize around 50,000 community members and at risk populations in the selected areas through direct MRE and mass media channels.

A training course for 16 Iraqi mine action practitioners started on 24 June-5 July 2007 in Petra, Jordan.

The course addressed “Information Management in Mine Action Operational Planning”. This is a practically orientated course including some field work and is being presented by the Mine Action Team with the support from some consultants. In the context of regional cooperation, a member of the Jordanian NCDR has also been invited to attend the course.

A demonstration was arranged on 18 June 2007 for interested parties from UNDP and other agencies on the OASIS system. This system will be used by the Mine Action Team to enable access through the internet to the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database. The National NGO Rafidain Demining Organization has made 3,063,751 sqm of agriculture land safe for use by searching and disposing of 3,035 unexploded ordnance (UXO) devices of which 515 were cluster bombs.

## Education

The number of teachers fleeing to safer areas continues to rise, causing staffing gaps in many schools and contributing to the ailing education system and low attendance rates, particularly in hotspots. Another problem is the transfer of teachers from the south/centre to Arabic schools in the North, where teachers receive their salaries from MoE KRG without the Ministry being reimbursed by MoE Baghdad, which places a tremendous burden on the education budget in Kurdistan.

Despite all measures taken by the Ministry of Education

(MoE) to ensure the safety of students during the examinations period, many security incidents targeting schools were reported. With increasing IDP concentrations in areas where schools have been destroyed, MoE announced that priority will be given to the implementation of projects aiming at building more than 4,000 schools and rehabilitating thousands of others across Iraq, in order to respond to the continuously increasing number of over-crowded schools.

Following-up the training of 36 master trainers conducted in April, an Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) coordination meeting took place in June, where representatives of the Curriculum Department in Baghdad, the Primary Education Department in Kurdistan and others from governorates where ALP is implemented discussed the expansion of ALP and exchanged ideas on improving support to ALP schools, teachers and students. Detailed planning to train 1000 additional ALP teachers was made and preparations for training inside Iraq are ongoing. In addition, ALP textbook revisions will be realized during the summer holidays to ensure the distribution of revised textbooks at the beginning of the new scholastic year; mid September. Results of final examinations for ALP students will be announced by MoE as soon as the correction of exam papers is completed.



*Director of UNESCO Iraq office, Mohamed Djelid, and Government of Iraq (GoI) representative, Hak Al-Hakeem, signing the MoU for the Samarra reconstruction project (Phase I)*

The Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) announced that starting from next year; human rights lessons will be included in the school curriculum of all levels within the National Education system.

## Culture

On 24 June, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNESCO and the Government of Iraq launching the first phase for the restoration project of Al-Askari Mosque in Samarra (Iraq) was officially signed in Amman.

Two attacks against the revered shrine on 22 February 2006 and 13 June 2007 respectively destroyed the Golden Dome and the two minarets of the mosque,

According to the agreement, works for the first phase of the project will start as soon as security conditions are guaranteed and continue over a period of ten months. Main activities will include a series of preventive works, an assessment of needs and the preparation of the final restoration project. The total budget for the first phase of the project will amount to \$US8.4 million. The United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund (UNDG ITF) with funds from the European Commission (EC) will provide \$US 5.4 million and the Government of Iraq \$US 3 million.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Mohamed Djelid, Director of the UNESCO Iraq office, and Hak Al-Hakeem, advisor to Iraq's Prime Minister for Reconstruction and Environment Affairs. The next day, on 25 June, UNESCO and a Turkish specialized company signed the contract related to the project.

The first Aswat al-Iraq Photo-Exhibition took place on 7-22 June 2007 in Madrid aimed at giving people an insight into life in Iraq today, as seen through the eyes of the photographers at a nascent Iraqi news agency. The Spanish Secretary of State for International Cooperation attended the opening session, among representatives from all the organizations that support the *Aswat al-Iraq* project.

On 13 June 2007, a one-day forum brought Iraqi and international (mainly Spanish) lecturers together, including the International Crisis Group Coordinator for the Middle East, to discuss the situation in Iraq, with emphasis on the media and civil society, along with some reflections on its regional and global impact. This exhibition has proved to be a unique way to raise awareness of the life in Iraq and create linkages between the Spanish and Iraqi citizens.

## Water and Sanitation

The ongoing humanitarian crisis and increased displacement continue to place enormous pressure on the existing water and sanitation facilities, leaving a large segment of the population with no access to water and, whenever access exists, populations are increasingly at risk of water-borne diseases.

During June, 125,000 people were served with 40 million liters of safe drinking water in six residential areas on the outskirts of Baghdad, as well as three main hospitals and

several schools. Based on the needs on the ground, UNICEF extended its water tankering operation to other IDP locations and provided an additional 7 million liters of water to IDP camps in Baghdad and Anbar benefiting 9,000 people.



*UNOPS WatSan*

Lack of safe water, proper means of sanitation and solid waste disposal, and continuous power shortages deprive the vast majority of the Iraqi population from access to basic services and create life threatening conditions, especially for displaced populations and host communities.

As part of the Water quality control project phase II, sixteen training courses organized by the Ministry of environment with the support of WHO took place during the period of 26-28 June 2007 with 400 participants representing different ministries and community leaders in 8 governorates namely (Baghdad, Basra, Maysan, Thiqr, Dewanyia, Kut, Najaf and Erbil).

The training raised and developed awareness among the communities of the need for protection of water resources for fair and sustainable usage of water in Iraq.

## **Reconstruction and Employment Programme**

Five new projects were approved and operational. Interventions are in the form of supporting local community in water network connections, environmental safety and hygiene as well as rehabilitation of basic infrastructure. UNDP is developing an assistance framework for the ongoing IDP monitoring and support activities undertaken by the Ministry of Displaced and Migrants. A meeting with the UNHCR and IOM was arranged to develop the project proposal, ii) Completion of the background papers for the NHDR and start-up of drafting chapters one and three, iii) Completion of the English version of the Unsatisfied Basic Needs (UBN) assessment.

## **Capacity Building in Integrated Border Management at the Southern Borders of Iraq Programme (CBIBMP)**

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is in contact with the advisor to the Prime Minister (PMO) and other senior Iraqi officials to promote the creation of the Border Control Oversight Committee (BCOC) and to assign a lead agency (LA) for CBIBM and representatives for Programme Advisory Committee (PAC). IOM will send an official request to PMO accordingly.

CBMMP organized a consultation meeting in Kuwait on 14 and 15 June 2007 with Nine Iraqi Officials from Ministries of Interior, Finance/Customs, and the Ministry of Transportation. The meeting objectives were to brief the Iraqi officials on CBIBM set up process, review the project original implementation plan, discuss the project details and develop a concrete action plan for identified priority activities. Representatives from Governments of Australia and

Japan attended this meeting.

Following discussions and coordination with relevant stakeholders and in response to IOM request for allocating venue for the Immigration Training Extension Center (ITEC), the site for the (ITEC) was identified within the premises of the Police Academy in Basra which is under the administrative management of the Department of Border Enforcement (DBE), Ministry of Interior (Mol). IOM will equip ITEC with IT, Language, Document Examination Labs and other relevant equipments.

## **Agriculture**

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) - Iraq organized a 3-day National Seed Workshop at Amman as part of the on-going project "Rehabilitation and Development of the National Seed Industry in Iraq". The Honorable Deputy Minister of Agriculture Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture Dr. Subhi Al-Jumaily delivered the opening remarks of the workshop attended by 35 participants from Iraq representing stake-holders in government (Ministry of Agriculture), research, private seed producers, seed companies, farmers in seed sector of the country. Eight working papers were presented in the Workshop. Experts from FAO headquarters Technical

Division (Seed and Plant Genetic Resources Service, AGPS) and Operational Division (Special Emergency Programmes Service, TCES) Rome and FAO of Iraq Programme provided technical as well as operational guidance.

It is envisaged that the Workshop recommendations will be implemented for formulation of national policy and contribute in putting in place a sustainable seed production and marketing system in the country resulting in increased crops production and food security.



*Hon. Deputy Minister Dr. Jumaily delivering opening remarks*

*Prepared by DSRSG/RC/HC's office based on agency inputs.*

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## **United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq**

**(UNAMI)**

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