



UN-Iraq Reconstruction and Development Update May 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

On 2 May 2007, about 200 people attended the opening of the “Open Shutters Iraq” Photo Exhibition in Damascus, Syria. This is part of a UNDP sponsored project to strengthen the Iraqi media. As part of the World Press Freedom Day (WPF) in Iraq, on 3 May 2007 UNESCO and UNDP co-funded a small project to produce a programme on safety for journalists, which was broadcast in Iraq on 3 May 2007. The programmes included interviews with Iraqi journalists about working conditions as well as special features on the situation for journalists in Iraq. In

addition, a short video and booklet were produced in Arabic and English titled: “Forced to be Armed”. It is available on the Internet (at the Niqash website) or upon request to the Governance Media Programme.

On 8-10 May 2007, the NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq (NCCI) Dialogue Workshop brought together 30 journalists, editors and NGO representatives to discuss the role and responsibility of the media in promoting peace education. Furthermore, on 29-31 May 2007, 25 representatives from media, civil society and the Parliament discussed social mobilization and campaigning for civil rights and the rule of law.

Aswat al-Iraq Independent News Agency launched a new website - www.aswataliraq.info that includes a more user-friendly layout, colourful graphics and a full Kurdish language interface.

UNDP, in collaboration with the Government of Iraq, organized in Amman a three-day meeting (15-17 May 2007)-(Iraqi Waters Conference – the Road to 2050) with the participation of over 120 high-ranking Iraqi officials and representatives of the international community. The principal aim of the event was to highlight the major challenges facing the water sector and propose actions that include identifying a long-term strategy, strong coordination mechanisms and sound policies for water resource management.

The UNCT for Iraq is:

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|-------|------------|
| ESCWA | FAO |
| ILO | IOM |
| OHCHR | UNDP |
| UNEP | UNESCO |
| UNFPA | UN-HABITAT |
| UNHCR | UNICEF |
| UNIDO | UNIFEM |
| UNOPS | WFP |
| WHO | |

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The National Forum on Restoring and Strengthening Trust in Government met on 23-24 May 2007 in Amman for three days to discuss how to strengthen public trust in government. Some 50 participants, including 35 senior Iraqis representing a broad section of society *inter alia* academia, media, NGOs, and former high level government officials, recommended that four public sector and public administration reform priority issues (***institutional and organizational reforms, institutional and organizational reforms, monetary, fiscal and investment laws/policies, anti-corruption and public accountability policies and role of the Iraqi Civil Society organizations (CSOs)***) be addressed urgently by the Government with support from the international community. The priority recommendations will be presented at the 7th UN Global Forum on Building Trust in Government in Vienna, Austria, on 26-29 June 2007.

Health and Nutrition

The National MMR campaign, which took place throughout the country over a period of two weeks, was successfully completed reaching 3,560,538 under-five children (92%). Immunization drives supported by UNICEF have reduced measles cases from 9,181 in 2004 to just 491 in 2006. Following the latest MMR campaign, UNICEF is expecting a five fold decrease compared to 2006, representing "less than 100 measles cases" for the entire year. The campaign was halted a number of times due to insecurity caused by insurgency

and counter-insurgency activities.

Following a request from the Government and through its existing transport contract, UNICEF began supporting the delivery of medical supplies to Anbar Governorate. By end of May, 44 truckloads of medical supplies/drugs valued at more than US\$1.3 million were safely delivered to the Directorate of Health (DoH) in Anbar.

With UNICEF support, a two day workshop was conducted for 30 participants representing the National Health Education Committee at the Ministry of Health (MoH). The main objectives of the workshop were to inform the committee of the national communication and social mobilization strategy and identify their roles within their respective ministries.



*UNICEF/Iraq-00/Giacomo Pirozzi
Immunization is critical to protect young babies
Against potentially lethal diseases*

UNICEF is supporting MoH communication and social mobilization activities through the provision of 1000 megaphones, 100 TV sets and 100 DVD players to be distributed to health educators at Primary Health Care Centre (PHCC) level. In May, an additional quantity of zinc tablets (sufficient for the treatment of one million cases of diarrhea) were delivered to Baghdad for

distribution to all Governorates has started.



A mother and baby smile after immunization. Campaigns such as these are sometimes the only chance Iraqi mothers have to get critical vaccines for their babies.

Child Protection and Human Rights

Concerns continue about child victims of domestic violence. The strain caused by decreased livelihood and having to stay at home due to insecurity, especially at times nearing curfews and the subsequent stress being placed During the month of May, The Human Rights Office (HRO) intensified its monitoring and protection activities, in particular in the area of the rule of law and administration of justice. On 17 May, UNAMI HRO visited the Baghdad's Rusafa detention complex and met with director of the Iraqi Correctional Service and the warden of one of the facilities. This visit is one in the series of inspections of detention and prison facilities in recent months, to look into reports of widespread use of torture and other inhumane treatment of detainees and prisoners.

In the Kurdistan region, the HRO closely monitored the situation of security detainees and held numerous meetings

with Erbil Court of Appeal officials, Dahuk authorities and officials in the office of the President urging both instances to undertake investigations into violations affecting detainees and prisoners. The appeals court judges requested training for judicial and security (*Asayesh*) officers on human rights principles and, in particular, investigation techniques.

The HRO continued work on the *study of the Situation of Minority Women in Iraq*, together with 8 research assistants representing different minority communities in Iraq, Minority Rights Group International, UNIFEM and UNOPS. The report is expected to be released shortly.

The HRO continues to work closely with 11 Iraqi NGOs, small grant recipients, implementing the projects on human rights education, advocacy and support to women victims of honor crimes.

In an effort to promote a human rights culture in Iraq, UNOPS through the Justice Network for Prisoners (JNP), conducted its first General Assembly Meeting to evaluate the previous phase and plan for the next 6 months. Furthermore, special sessions focused on increasing the members' skills in terms of financial documentation, monitoring prisons and reporting. During the reporting period, UNOPS implemented the second and third phase, providing training on how to evaluate psychological cases in primary health centres in Nassyria, Diwanyia and Basra respectively for doctors and medical staff.

The training session on Management and Strategic

Planning for Iraqi Human Rights NGOs took place during 18-29 May 2007 in Amman. The training targeted a group of 30 members of NGOs with different human rights specializations.

Support to Constitutional Process

During the period under review, OCS continued to engage extensively with the Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) on the substance of the proposed constitutional amendments, as the CRC developed its own recommendations to the Iraqi Council of Representatives. The CRC 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. In the interim, OCS continues to maintain close contact with Baghdad-based representations of the international community, including the US and UK Embassies and the Delegation of the European Commission, to coordinate the formulation of substantive advice to the CRC and other interlocutors.

In addition to supporting the Constitutional Review Committee directly, OCS has continued to provide support and advice on legislative proposals with constitutional dimensions, including, among others, the hydrocarbon package and the draft Law on Governorates.

Electoral Support

Following the appointment of nine members of the Independent

High Electoral Commission of Iraq (IHEC) by the Iraqi Council of Representative, the United Nations continued its support to the Commission in the following aspects:-

- Assist in the handover between the IECI members and the newly appointed members of IHEC;
- Help facilitate an internal briefing session by all divisions of the electoral commission to the new board;
- A two-week orientation workshop in India for the new members of the board was completed with presentations and practical exercises facilitated by international election experts.

The International Electoral Assistance Team (IEAT) headed by UNAMI will explore further operational assistance to IHEC when and if an electoral event is decided for 2007. In the meantime, UNOPS and UNDP will continue as executing agents to provide capacity building activities towards the institutional development of IHEC at the level of the board of commissioners and their staff.

Infrastructure Rehabilitation

The Integrated Community-Based Services Project (ICBSP) for infrastructure rehabilitation is ongoing in the 20 remaining schools in Thiqr Governorate.

110 schools are covered under the ICBSF. Overall progress of works has reached more than 70%. All ICBSF schools are being provided with sanitation kits and essential sports and recreation kits. The comprehensive rehabilitation of 40 schools has been completed and schools have been handed over to the respective DoEs. Meanwhile, 52 schools are still undergoing comprehensive rehabilitation and the bidding process is under way to 68 additional schools. The school rehabilitation project, managed jointly by UNICEF and UNHABITAT aims at restoring 160 schools in 18 Governorates benefiting 80,000 school-aged children. During May the total employment generation of this project was 12,727 person-days.

Under the Rehabilitation of Community Facilities and Infrastructure Project implemented by UN-HABITAT, works under all housing contracts in three governorates: Basrah, Samawa, and Najaf were completed and are now in the maintenance stage. This project aims at improving housing conditions for 2,369 vulnerable families in Baghdad, Basrah, Samawa, Najaf and Erbil, and providing adequate shelter and auxiliary facilities for about 1,100 orphans and physically challenged persons. It also aims at improving water supply and sanitation infrastructure in eight urban areas to benefit about 650,000 persons.

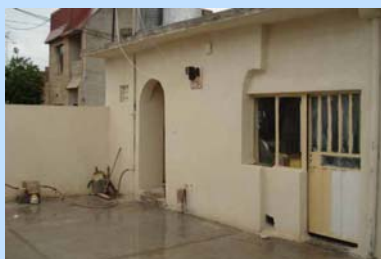
Two water distribution networks in Basrah governorate have been rehabilitated enhancing access to water services for 70,000 inhabitants. In addition, and to

further increase access of populations to safe water and improved sanitation, UNICEF continues its rehabilitation activities in Wasit, Kirkuk, Basrah and Kerbala Governorates. Projects totaling US\$ 5.5 million will be completed in March-May 2008, benefiting an estimated 1.5 million people. The completion of a joint UNICEF/UNOPS **Power Sub-station for a Water Treatment Plant** is rescheduled for December 2007 due to delays in implementation of civil works. However, the main equipment has been manufactured and shipped to the construction site.

Rehabilitation of Houses



Before



After

Mine Action

The National NGO Rafidain Demining Organization registered with the Iraqi authorities on 3 May 2007 and has since made 3,299,675 sqm of agriculture land safe for use by searching and disposing of 1656 Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) devices of which 1,282 were cluster bombs. The accreditation process of the

NGO with the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) has been initiated.

Education and Culture

The Ministry of Education (MoE), its Directorates and other concerned bodies such as the Ministry of Construction and Housing, Governorate Councils and Councils for Reconstruction are coming together to implement education projects, using the national budget. These projects to be carried out in several areas including Baghdad, Thiqr, Ninevah, Missan and Qadisiyah focus on the provision of learning materials, equipment and furniture to schools (libraries, laboratories etc.), the construction of new schools, repair and rehabilitation of existing schools, and the printing of text books.

UNESCO, in cooperation with the ILO, organized a Coordination Meeting in Germany during 1 – 12 May 2007 with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Together with InWent, representatives of the Iraqi Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA), the Iraqi Foundation for Technical Education (FTE) and the Ministry of Education (MoE), they agreed on the implementation strategies for two projects. One aims at strengthening the Technical and Vocational Education in Iraq and the other is with the Local Area Development Programme being implemented with UNDP,

UNHABITAT, ILO, UNOPS, WHO and UNIFEM.

Within the "Strengthening Secondary Education in Iraq", a Training Workshop for Secondary School Principals took place in Germany during 19-28 May 2007. The workshop benefited nine Iraqi secondary school principals and it aimed at upgrading the MoE officials' knowledge, skills and attitudes in basic management concepts and related skills for effective school management. Another training workshop for Laboratory Technicians organized in Germany during 25 May-3 June 2007 was designed to enhance the Ministry of Education (MoE) officials' knowledge, supervisory skills and attitudes of chemistry, physics and biology teachers in

conducting experiments, tests and analyses.

The Ministry of Education (MoE) announced that more than six million students from all academic levels will participate in the final examinations commencing on 1 June, and that security and safety measures have been considered to protect examination centres, including the setting up of checkpoints near the centres.

UNESCO coordinated the First Teacher Training Network Steering Committee Meeting in Amman during 20 and 21 May 2007, whereby the Teacher Training Network for Iraq was officially launched and UNESCO signed the Memorandum of Understanding with all

implementing international partners. A detailed work plan for the implementation of the future activities of the project was put in place and the partners agreed on future operation of the network.

In an effort to encourage Iraqi children to express their experience, through pictures and paintings, the Iraq Child Media Project was launched in May 2007.

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