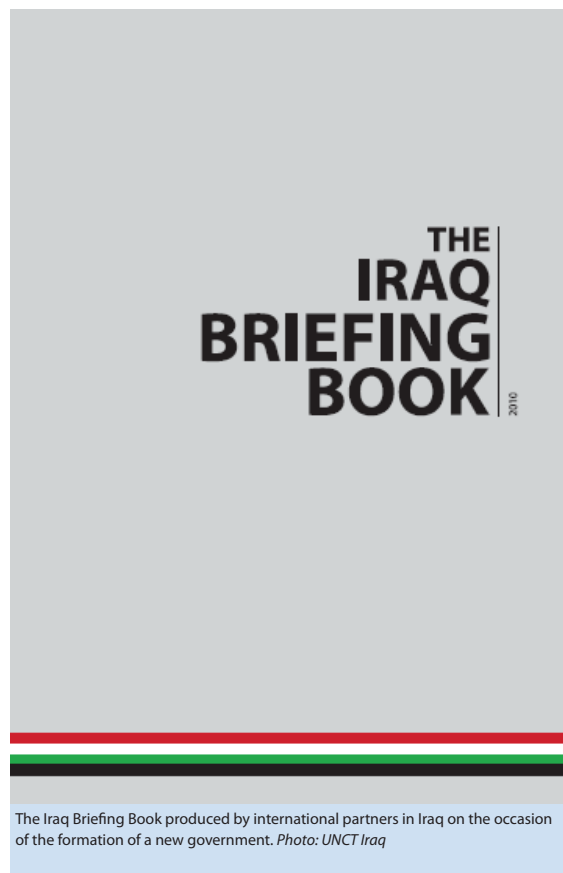




IN THIS ISSUE

The International community submits the Iraq Briefing Book to Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki	1
21st century tools for Iraqi school children: UNESCO launches distance learning	2
UN Women celebrates launch as powerful driver of women's equality	3
UNICEF discusses investments in the most disadvantaged children in Iraq with Prime Minister's Advisory Council	4
Erbil Health Congress on reform and development of health care system in Iraq's Kurdistan region	5
UNICEF and the European Union develop solid waste management plans	5
WHO helps train fifty health workers in effective communication	6
Supporting the micronutrient assessment and response survey	7
A new website for the United Nations Country Team in Iraq	8
IOM Iraq assists dynamic businessmen relocated to Kerbala	8
Civil society help improve local emergency preparedness	9
List of UN Acronyms	9

The International community submits the Iraq Briefing Book to Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki



The Iraq Briefing Book produced by international partners in Iraq on the occasion of the formation of a new government. Photo: UNCT Iraq

tional community in Iraq for the Briefing Book, promising to carefully study it and recommend next steps for engagement by the Government through the relevant ministries.

The Briefing Book is comprised of two parts and a total of 16 chapters covering each of the policy issues with an outline of the challenges based on analysis of Iraq's context and experience; presentation of recent and ongoing policy actions is followed by a series of recommendations for further initiatives.

The first part of the book addresses key policy issues, including: macroeconomic challenges, development planning and prioritization, governance and public sector reform, anti-corruption, private sector development, social protection and the challenges of regional co-operation, and internal disputed territories. The second part focuses on the various

sectors and cross-cutting issues, including: human rights protection, civil society and the media, gender mainstreaming, basic social services, water resources management, agriculture, environment, energy, transport and telecommunications, and cultural heritage.

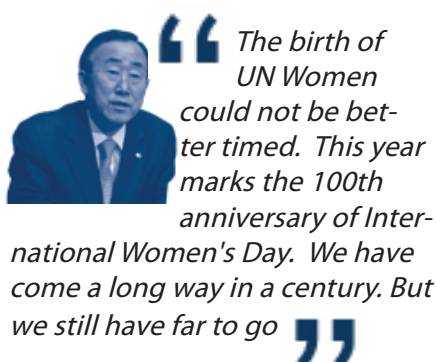
The delegation also included the UN Resident Coordinator ad interim Mr. Daniel Endres and the Acting Country Manager of the World Bank Mr. Yahia Khairi Said.

The full text of the Iraq Briefing Book as well as the executive summary in English and Arabic can be downloaded from the UN Country Team's website: <http://iq.one.un.org/the-iraq-briefing-book>

In an effort to boost the reconstruction and development efforts in Iraq and to provide a basis for future discussions on key areas of mutual interest, the Iraq Partners Forum (IPF) prepared the Iraq Briefing Book. The book was handed over to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki on 1 February by a delegation representing the international community in Iraq, headed by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Iraq (SRSG), Mr. Ad Melkert.

SRSG Melkert indicated that the Briefing Book was prepared by the IPF which includes major donor embassies and aid agencies present in Iraq to assist the incoming government.

The Prime Minister thanked the interna-



Secretary – General Ban Ki-Moon

The Prime Minister thanked the interna-

21st century tools for Iraqi school children: UNESCO launches distance learning



Developing Interactive Lessons at Ministry of Education. Photo: UNESCO

Decades of conflict and insecurity in Iraq have led to severe deterioration in education resulting in decrease in enrolment, lack of qualified teachers and schools, lack of educational resources, outdated curricula and outdated teaching methods.

To provide quality education to all Iraqi students inside Iraq and around the world, including enrolled, out of school, Internally displaced persons, refugees, females at home and people with special needs, UNESCO, with the support of the European Union and in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, launched on 23 February in Baghdad the Iraqi Educational Television and The Iraqi Curricula Website.

"These two pioneering projects could not have been timelier, as they not only represent a key strategic priority area for our joint work, that is education, but they also target a key priority category of the Iraqi population,

that is children and youth, who will be the leaders of the future," said the Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Iraq Jerzy Skuratowicz at the Opening Ceremony, adding that "we all should recognize that the transition of Iraq from decades of dictatorship, war and sanctions to a stable and prosperous

democracy is not an easy process that can be achieved overnight. However, it is important for the Iraqi authorities to address, as a matter of priority, the legitimate aspirations of the Iraqi people, in particular the provision of basic services, and economic and social development as a means of ensuring a peaceful, prosperous future for the country and its entire people".

The satellite TV and online educational resources are two new tools that support education in Iraq. The satellite TV programs have a regional footprint and by the nature of the internet, all Iraqis no matter where they live can access educational material and programs from a computer.

Within The Educational TV programming, UNESCO established two TV production / broadcasting studios with a satellite transmission unit, produced 624 TV lessons, provided a total of 725 hours of externally produced TV programs for Iraqi students and

produced 24 episodes of Abu Salam Family, an animated series of 24 episodes focusing attention on civic values, gender equality and human rights. In addition, UNESCO established a TV library and trained all the TV station staff each in his own specialty.

The Iraqi Curricula Website is an online resource with links to all relevant educational materials covering learning from primary to secondary schooling. Among the features of the website are resources for literacy, accelerated learning for students who have dropped off classes and need to catch-up, along with teacher guidebooks and all of the Educational TV programs, including The Abu Salam Family series.

In her speech, Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Iraq/ Resident Coordinator Humanitarian Coordinator Christine McNab said, "These two high-tech projects, and other projects that the United Nations implements in Iraq with its partners in the education sector, aim to make a difference to the learning environment of students, school teachers, university professors, school principals and everyone who believes in the power of education."

UNESCO, along with UNICEF, UN-HABITAT, The World Bank and its Iraqi counterparts, has been working tirelessly to restore the reputation of a system that was once the most developed in the Arab world.

Link to the website and Television:

The Iraqi Curricula Website : www.iraqicurricula.org

The Iraqi educational Television : Iraqi Edu at Nile Sat - Frequency: 10775 GHz – Polarization: Horizontal - Symbol Rate: 27500 - FEC: 3/4)

Link to the speech of DSRSG Mr. Jerzy Skuratowicz:

<http://www.uniraq.org/FileLib/misc/SPEECH%20DSRSG%20Jerzy%20Skuratowicz%2022-02-2011%20ENG.pdf>

Link to the speech of DSRSG/HC/RC Ms. Christine McNab: <http://www.uniraq.org/FileLib/misc/SPEECH%20DSRSG-RC-HC%20Christine%20McNab%2022-02-2011%20ENG.pdf>

For more information please contact Mr. Riyadh Z. Minawi, Project Manager UNESCO – Iraq Office; Mobile: +962 (o) 776 723 402 ; Email: r.alminawi@unesco.org



TV Broadcasting Unit, control room. Photo: UNESCO



The Iraqi Curricula Website

UN Women celebrates launch as powerful driver of women's equality



UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. Photos: UNWOMEN

The UN celebrated on 24 February the historic launch of UN Women, its newest organization, with an evening including luminaries from the worlds of politics, entertainment, business, the media, music and film in the UN General Assembly Hall.

UN Women, formally known as the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, combines four previous UN bodies and represents the United Nations' most ambitious effort ever to accelerate actions to achieve gender equality. Around the world, supporters of women's rights have heralded its debut.

"With the birth of UN Women, we welcome a powerful new agent for progress on gender equality and women's empowerment," says UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. "The challenges are great, but I believe that with the new energy, the new momentum and the new authority that UN Women brings, these challenges will be met. True gender equality should be our shared legacy in the 21st Century."

The Secretary-General appointed Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile, to be the first Executive Director of UN Women. Calling the launch the first of many important milestones in the global pursuit of gender equality, Ms. Bachelet emphasizes that the decision to establish UN Women reflects ongoing frustration with the slow pace of change. UN Member States unanimously agreed to create the new organization, following longstanding advocacy by women's activists.

"Think of how much more we can do once women are fully empowered as active agents of change and progress within their societies," Ms. Bachelet says. "Historically, we are at a point of great potential and change for women. Now we must seize that opportunity." She adds, "My own experience has taught me that there is no limit

to what women can do."

UN Women will support individual countries in moving towards gender equality in economics and politics, ending the worldwide phenomenon of violence against women. It will assist in setting international standards for progress, and lead coordinated UN efforts, to make new opportunities for women and girls, central to all UN programmes for development and peace.

UN Women Goodwill Ambassador and Academy-Award winner Nicole Kidman describes personal experiences of seeing women change the world: "There are incredible testimonies of resilience, strength and dignity—and ultimately of hope." She adds, "this is why I say that the women and girls I have met are my personal heroes. It is my pleasure and pride to be with UN Women, the new, strong voice for women around the world."

H.R.H. Princess Cristina of Spain, in her capacity as President of the Institute of Health of Barcelona, urges broader understanding of how an investment in women is an in-

vestment in families, communities and nations. Citing uneven progress on aspects of the Millennium Development Goals such as reduced maternal mortality, she calls on "all stakeholders and champions—governments, foundations, the private sector, civil society, academic institutions and individuals—to invest in women's empowerment as an instrumental strategy to achieve the MDGs."

ABC News anchor Christiane Amanpour serves as emcee of the celebration. Other speakers include UN General Assembly President Joseph Deiss; the President of the UN Women Executive Board and former Foreign Minister of Nigeria, Ambassador Joy Ogwu; Nepalese activist Bandana Rana and former Commander of the all-female Formed Police Unit in Liberia Rakhi Sahi.

CNN founder and Chairman of the UN Foundation Ted Turner urges men and the private sector to get involved in achieving gender equality. Actress Geena Davis highlights the role of the media in promoting positive images. The singer Shakira offers a special message emphasizing the importance of education.

The programme concludes with the performance of the song "One Woman," which was written for the occasion, with lyrics by Beth Blatt, and music co-composed by Graham Lyle and Clay.

The celebration of the launch of UN Women can be seen via webcast at <http://bit.ly/unwomenlaunch>



UNICEF discusses investments in the most disadvantaged children in Iraq with Prime Minister's Advisory Council



Targeted investments in the most disadvantaged and vulnerable not only prioritizes children most in need but speeds Iraq's attainment of its Millennium Development Goals. Photo: UNICEF-Iraq/LeMoyné

To discuss a concept note UNICEF had sent to the Prime Minister's Office on the creation of a government fund for targeted investments towards the most deprived children in Iraq, The Prime Minister's Advisory Council (PMAC) invited UNICEF Iraq's Country Office to make a presentation on the current situation of children in Iraq as well as on examples elsewhere in the region and the world, on government funding mechanisms, criteria and impact. Against this background, UNICEF Iraq's Country Office met with PMAC on 6 December 2010 to propose a governmental mechanism to make targeted investments in the most disadvantaged children in Iraq. The intended outcome of the meeting was to have a concrete proposal to submit to the Prime Minister, Mr. Nouri Al-Maliki.



Photo: UNICEF-Iraq/LeMoyné

Iraq Country Representative, Mr. Sikander Khan, Deputy Representative, Mr. Osama Makkawi, with the participation of chiefs of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation and Strategic Communications and Partnerships, and Knowledge Management Specialist. The Government of Iraq was represented by PMAC Chairman, Thamer Ghadhban, and PMAC sectoral advisors.

The presentation introduced UNICEF's sharpened equity-based approach and 'Narrowing the Gaps' study which was published in September 2010 as well as a situation analysis of children in Iraq during the last 30-40 years in comparison to other countries in the region, which demonstrated how over this time Iraqi children have not progressed at the same rate as in other countries.

Moving forward, highlighting the merits of an equity-focused national development strategy in Iraq, UNICEF noted that focusing on improving the well-being of the most deprived and in-need children, and minimizing their existing multiple rights violations - will be cost effective in terms of the number of lives saved per dollar spent, which in turn will seriously accelerate the attainment of Iraq's Millennium Development Goal targets by 2015. In essence, that an equity-focused national development

approach is right in principle, right in logic, and right in practice.

Following the presentation, the Government of Iraq representatives accepted the added value of an equity-based approach to accelerate progress for children and expressed their interest as well as the opportunity to develop social transfers and innovative taxation as possible mechanisms to make the targeted investments needed.

Targeted investments in Iraq's most deprived children could ensure the enrolment of most of the 730,000 children between the ages of 6-11 currently out of primary school (MDG targets 2 and 3), could guarantee that most of the 36,000 infants who are currently perishing before their 1st birthday will survive (MDG 4), and that many of the three million who do not have access to safe water would have access (MDG 7). If these investments are prioritized, not only would Iraq be taking care of its most deprived and vulnerable children, Iraq will be much more likely to attain with equity its MDG targets by 2015, and ultimately make the country better fit for its children.



Children smelting remains of military vehicles for metals in the outskirts of Baghdad. Photo: UNICEF-Iraq/Khaibar

Link to UNICEF Iraq's Narrowing the Gaps' study:

http://www.unicef.org/publications/files/Narrowing_the_Gaps_to_Meet_the_Goals_090310_2a.pdf

For more information, please contact Mr. Jaya Murthy Chief of Strategic Communications and Partnerships, UNICEF Iraq: +962 79 692 6190; jmurthy@unicef.org

Erbil Health Congress on reform and development of health care system in Iraq's Kurdistan region



Dr. Syed Jaffar Hussain, during the opening session of Erbil Health conference. Photo: WHO

By Ruba Hikmat, WHO - Iraq

To bring the key players working for the Health Sector in Iraq's Kurdistan region on a single platform to discuss the current situation and the need for the reformed areas in order to meet the current and emerging needs of the region in a more responsive and effective manner, WHO participated in the congress on Reform and Development of Health Care Sys-

tem in Iraq's Kurdistan region which took place on 2nd, 3rd and 4th of February 2011 in Erbil.

The Congress addressed six pivots based on the priorities of the KRG government namely health economics, health policy and management, accreditation of health facilities, public-private partnership, health referral system and pharmaceutical management.

In their address, WHO representative Dr Syed Jaffar Hussain and his team provided in-depth analyses and recommendations on the way forward in regards to reform in a wide range of areas including primary health care, social health insurance, social health protection and the move towards universal coverage, accreditation, public/private partnership and management of the pharmaceutical sector.

WHO has a long history in Iraq. It has been present since 1948 providing strategic and policy guidance in the area of health governance and assistance in scaling up essential prevention treatment and care services since 2003. A total of 26 programmes have been funded to revitalize and strengthen and sustain the Iraqi health system. Programmes implemented focused on health care service delivery mainly Primary Health Care, infrastructure rehabilitation, establishing referral laboratories, and emergency response. Currently WHO has more than 100 focal points, logistical and technical staff working in all 18 governorates and will be providing monitoring and oversight of all activities implemented. WHO works closely with the Ministry of Health through teleconferencing and direct meetings in Iraq (Baghdad, Basra and Erbil) and in Amman, Jordan, in order to manage and monitor its country wide programs for Iraq.

For more information, please contact Ruba Hikmat: kawafhar@irq.emro.who.int

UNICEF and the European Union develop solid waste management plans



Participants in UNICEF's workshop discuss solid waste management plans for Basra. Photo: UNICEF-Iraq

Most municipalities in Iraq lack effective means of garbage collection and handling which has littered Iraq's streets with garbage. Even where garbage collection systems do exist, user participation is very low. Existing landfill sites are also operated with outdated equipment and there is a desperate need for modern operating procedures to manage landfill sites.

The absence of centralized recycling programmes and the lack of effective control and

handling of solid waste is a major national public health hazard as well as an environmental issue, ultimately hampering the attainment of Millennium Development Goals 4 (Child Mortality), 6 (Eradicating Disease) and 7 (Environment - access to safe water and adequate sanitation facilities).

To help address this problem, UNICEF is implementing the Solid Waste Management Project in partnership with the Iraqi Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works (MMPW) and the European Union in the governorates of Basra, Suleimaniya, Dohuk, Anbar and Thi-Qar.

On 23 November 2010, UNICEF trained 25



Basra residents dispose household solid waste along river banks. Photo: UNICEF-Iraq/Arar

senior engineers from the MMPW on Solid Waste Management in Basra with support from the European Union and in cooperation of Basra's Provincial Council.

The Solid Waste Management Project in Basra governorate consists of two components: the first includes the development of an integrated solid waste management master plan, the rehabilitation/upgrade of the existing landfill site and the establishment of a demonstration project; and the second includes strengthening the capacity of MMPW in solid waste management programmes and policies.

The project is helping Basra Governorate establish a sustainable and effective solid waste management system for the entire governorate. As a sign of the governorate's commitment to taking ownership of the project and improving public health and environmental living standards for its citizens, it has already put mechanisms and contracts in place to provide for the regular collection and disposal of solid waste through a contract with a private sector partner. Furthermore, UNICEF is supporting Basra Governorate to seek further private sector partnerships to ensure the

sanitary disposal of unusable waste and maximization of waste recycling and re-use.

Based on the successful implementation of the project in Basra governorate, the MMPW requested UNICEF to carry out similar projects in Anbar, Thi-Qar, Dohuk, and Suleimaniya as well as now Erbil (which UNICEF is currently seeking support for), all of which have similar solid waste issues. These projects are currently ongoing with anticipated completion dates in the second half of 2011. Moreover, UNICEF has expanded the capacity development component of the project to include three additional governorates: Kut, Salahaldin and Mosul. This will ensure that where UNICEF is not implementing Solid Waste Management projects, governorate officials and professional staff will acquire the knowledge needed to develop Waste Management Programmes in their respective governorates.

In response to UNICEF's development of the Integrated Solid Waste Management Master Plans for the above mentioned governorates, MMPW has also agreed to develop landfill sites and procure necessary machinery and equipment to operate garbage collection and disposal in the Anbar, Thi-Qar, Dohuk, Suleimaniya and Erbil Governorates.

For more information, please contact Mr. Jaya Murthy Chief of Strategic Communications and Partnerships, UNICEF Iraq: +962 79 692 6190; jmurthy@unicef.org

WHO helps train fifty health workers in effective communication

By Ruba Hikmat, WHO - Iraq

Health communications, plays a vital role as the link between technical health workers and the larger public. In addition of conveying correct information to the public, they can advocate for appropriate health behaviors as well. To enable the media to take on such a vital role, health workers need to explain health issues in all their complexities including policy, practices and correct behaviors. For instance, to prevent the deaths of infants and young children from diarrhea, many countries have been using TV and radio broadcasts to train the public to treat the disease, distribute



During training, lab technicians conduct tests on Hemoglobin using Hemocue. Photo: MOH-WHO



Participants discuss the media and health promotion units communication action plan. Photo: MOH-WHO

relevant health materials and set up places where mothers could learn how to prepare medication properly.

Against this backdrop, WHO organized on 22 - 26 February the "Effective Media Communication Workshop", bringing together about 50 health promotion specialists and media practitioners representing the central Ministry of Health (MOH) in Baghdad and the Ministry of

Health of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) as well as all governorate Departments of Health in Iraq. Held in Amman, the workshop put a special emphasis on managing emergencies of public health concern to protect the health of communities in general and that of mothers and children in particular.

The five-day workshop equipped the partici-

pants with skills on how to better handle risk communication during disasters and emergency situations, to develop effective messages, to prepare advocacy and educational materials and to interact effectively and appropriately with the media and the community in a timely manner. The workshop also provided an opportunity to familiarize them with

the Ministry of Health and WHO joint programmes aimed at strengthening Iraq's emergency medical services and improve the health of mother and child.

The training allowed participants to share and exchange different experiences towards establishing a national communication and media network that would help them assist the government and communities' efforts to respond to any emergency situation in Iraq and report more effectively in a timely fashion from the field, and to develop best practices in communicating and sharing effective health messages with decision makers and all stakeholders.

This training was funded by the United Nations Development Group-Iraq Trust Fund (UNDG-ITF) and from the European Union through the Programme to Support Specialized Medical Services in Iraq.

For more information, please contact Ruba Hikmat: kawafhar@irq.emro.who.int

Supporting the micronutrient assessment and response survey



Participants for Micronutrient Assessment and Response Survey. Photo: MOH-WHO

As part of the "Addressing Micronutrient Deficiencies in Iraq: Assessment and Response (MNAR), project, a Micronutrient Assessment and Response Survey will be implemented towards the end of April 2011. To train the survey team on survey design and methodology, data collection and standardize laboratory staff, the Ministry of Health with support from

WHO Iraq, trained 66 Iraqis from all governorates in Iraq.

The training took place in Erbil on 23-28 January and facilitated the by Survey Steering Committee and Survey technical team, consultants from CDC Atlanta, WHO and UNICEF-Iraq. Training programme included a one-day pilot survey to test the three questionnaire forms (household,

women and child forms), and sample collection of blood and urine from non pregnant women (15 - 49 years) and children aged 6 - 59 months.

As part of the MNAR project, on 29-31 January 2011, WHO Iraq supported another training course in Erbil which focused on data entry and CSpro Data Entry Programme, benefiting 15 data programmers from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Planning /COSIT and KRG in both Baghdad and the Kurdistan region.

The MNAR project is designed to build the capacity of the Ministry of Health to more effectively manage existing nutritional interventions and to adequately plan, implement, and monitor new prevention programs and evaluate their impact. Tools and systems for effective management, planning, monitoring and evaluation will be developed from local to central levels of the Ministry. The integration of nutritional data as a new component into the national diseases surveillance and Health Information System will improve sustainability of national nutritional monitoring and response.

For more information, please contact Ruba Hikmat: kawafhar@irq.emro.who.int

A new website for the United Nations Country Team in Iraq



The United Nations Country Team for Iraq has launched a joint website available from the following link: www.iq.one.un.org. The website aims to serve as a platform to share news and updates, and raise awareness with the UN partners and stake holders including the Government of Iraq, civil society, media, academia and the donor community

At present, the website provides information on the 20 UN agencies working in Iraq and has a number of key sections including :

- Facts & figures on Iraq
- Media centre
- Latest publications and reports from UN agencies
- Frequently Asked Questions on the UN in Iraq
- Links to partners and interlocutors
- Photo gallery
- Job opportunities with the UN in Iraq

The website home page links users to thematic areas the UN Country Team has been working on in Iraq such as the Millennium Development Goals, the UN Development Assistance Framework, water and youth. The site offers also a link to the Information Portal where users are able to download maps, retrieve indicators and receive real time news on each of the 18 governorates in Iraq.

To post information on the website and for comments or more information please contact Ms. Juliette Touma:

toumaj@un.org

About the UN Country Team in Iraq

The UN Country Team works in all of the 18 governorates of Iraq and operates at the community, governorate and national levels. National and international staff members are deployed throughout the country in cooperation with local, provincial and national counterparts.

The UN Country Team has been leading the humanitarian, reconstruction and development agenda in a coordinated manner and in alignment with national priorities.

In line with the priorities stipulated in the Iraq Five Year National Development Plan (2010-2014) the UNCT has signed in May 2010 the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Iraq. It will be implemented between 2011 and 2014 in close cooperation and partnership with the Government of Iraq, civil society organisations and a number of partners and coun-

terparts including Iraqi and international non-governmental organisations, academia, private sector and the international donor community.

Through the implementation of the UN-DAF the UNCT aims to provide coherent and coordinated assistance delivery in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and help the Government of Iraq to meet its various obligations. These include the Millennium Declarations and the Millennium Development Goals and International Treaties to which Iraq is signatory. The UNCT remains particularly concerned about the Iraqi people's ability to lead normal lives and all aspects of their safety. Protection of targeted and vulnerable groups including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), refugees, returnees, minorities, children, youth and women are a top priority of the United Nations Country Team's in Iraq.

IOM Iraq assists dynamic businessmen relocated to Kerbala



Iraqi businessman trying to settle into his new life in Kerbala. Photo: IOM

Within the framework of the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) worldwide return and reintegration activities, IOM assists migrants who wish to return home. In the month of January alone, 117 Iraqis were assisted by IOM in their voluntary return.

One of these beneficiaries was the creative and highly adaptive Mr. Almusawi who was previously the owner of a travel and tourism company in Baghdad yet he had ended up in Kerbala, where he has started up his own fabric sales business. What happened in between is a story that is fairly common to those Iraqi migrants that fled from the escalating violence of the war in Iraq.

While residing in Baghdad, Mr. Almusawi's tourism company had flourished, even during the first years after the start of the war. However, as the security situation

rapidly destabilized, especially after the bombing of the Al Askari mosque in 2006, Mr. Almusawi realized the danger posed to both his family and himself. The Almusawi family sold the bulk of their property in order to finance their move to Sweden in November of 2007.

Mr. Almusawi and his family resided in Sweden for several years until his petition for asylum was denied. The family returned to Iraq in February of 2010 and re-located to Kerbala, given that Mr. Almusawi determined that the security situation in Baghdad was still too dangerous. After reaching out to IOM, he received monetary re-integration assistance which he used to secure accommodation for his family. He finally started up a fabric sales business in partnership with one of his friends. According to Mr. Almusawi, "I'd like to encourage IOM to keep their good efforts to help Iraqis who are interested to return back."

Since it began in June 2003, IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme has benefited 19,007 Iraqis.

As a member of the UN Country Team (UNCT) for Iraq, IOM Iraq works closely with the United Nations System and the Iraqi authorities in support of the Iraqi National Development Plan 2010 - 2014, and is integrated into all sector outcome teams of the UNCT Coordination Structure.

Civil society helps improve local emergency preparedness

The integration of civil society into emergency response structures has been improved in six governorates of Iraq. Following the successful conclusion of UNOPS project to support the development of local emergency preparedness structures, Iraqi authorities and their NGO partners have been taking stock of their newly developed cooperation. Following training on Disaster Risk Reduction and Coordination Mechanisms for NGOs and representatives of Governorate Emergency Cells (GECs) from the governorates of Diyala, Dohuk, Ninewa, Misan, Thi-Qar and Wassit, local NGOs were empowered to set up and run projects to strengthen emergency coordination amongst governorate state and non-state actors. Activities included trainings, campaigns, and workshops targeting local citizens and authorities alike, as well as the production of posters, booklets and radio programmes on the role of civil society in emergency response. Following a lessons learned conference

in Erbil on the first week of February, organized by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in cooperation with the NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq (NCCI), and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), the participants in the project believe that the relations and cooperation mechanisms established will continue to be developed and benefit citizens in the six governorates. Participants included local NGOs and GECs in the six governorates, the Ministry of Science and Technology, representatives of the United Nations, International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Iraqi Red Crescent Society and Civil Defense from Ninewah. The project is a key component of a wider programme implemented by UNOPS with funding from the European Union, the Government of Finland and other donors to support civil society in becoming a viable partner in the development of Iraq. Emergency response is one of many examples of

where civil society can ease the work of the authorities and enhance services available to citizens.

For more information please contact Mr. Adam Styp-Rekowski at adams@unops.org or telephone +964 77 00 472519

UNAMI Newsletter is published monthly by the UNAMI Public Information Office. Contents do not necessarily reflect the official position of the United Nations or that of UNAMI. Articles may be freely reproduced, with credit to UNAMI Newsletter. For comments and suggestions, contact unami-information@un.org
 Editor-in-Chief: Radhia Achouri
 Managing Editor: Aicha Elbari
 Staff Writer: Randa Jamal
 Photo Editor: Bikem Ekberzade
 Graphic Designer: Salar A. Brifkani



List of UN Acronyms

There are 16 UN organisations, programmes, agencies and funds working in Iraq. They are the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), World Food Programme (WFP) and World Health Organization (WHO).