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## Security Council extends UNAMI mandate until July 2011

Convening on 5 August in the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the Security Council members decided to extend for another year the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) that has been helping Iraq with its efforts to build a peaceful, democratic and prosperous nation.

Unanimously adopting [resolution 1936](#), the 15-member body decided that UNAMI will continue its work until 31 July 2011, as recommended by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his latest report on the activities of the mission.

The Security Council congratulated the people and the Government of Iraq on the holding of the successful 7 March parliamentary election and called on the country's leaders to "form, in an inclusive political process, a Government as quickly as possible, and in accordance with the Iraqi Constitution".

Acknowledging the volatile security situation in Iraq, the Council stressed that "challenges to security in Iraq still exist and that improvements need to be sustained through meaningful political dialogue and national unity."



A wide view of the Security Council as it unanimously adopts resolution 1936 (2010), extending the mandate of UNAMI until 31 July 2011. Photo: UN/John McLwaine

The UN body also urged "the Government of Iraq to address human rights challenges and concerns and also to consider additional steps to support the Independent High Commission for Human Rights".

In his most recent [report](#) on Iraq, presented to the Council on 4 August, the Secretary-General acknowledges that UNAMI is working in an "extremely complex operating environment" and emphasized the importance of the mission's role in assisting the political process in Iraq as well as humanitarian and development efforts. ■

## SRSRG Melkert briefs the UN Security Council

On 4th August 2010, Mr. Ad Melkert, Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSRG) for Iraq, briefed the United Nations Security Council on the significant progress made in Iraq, while also highlighting the challenges that the country and the United Nations continue to face.

In his address, SRSRG Melkert focused on issues concerning government formation, political reconciliation, economic and social conditions, Chapter VII and relations with Kuwait, and the status of the United Nations in Iraq.

Following successful parliamentary elections

and certification of the results on 2 June, the transition to a new government is still pending, stressed SRSRG Melkert. He also emphasised that the responsibility for forming the government and ensuring a peaceful transition rests with Iraq - as a sovereign state. While negotiations continue, it is encouraging to note that the political factions seem to agree on a "partnership government" and UNAMI stands ready to provide support in this process at the request of the Iraqis, he said.

On economic and social conditions, SRSRG Melkert noted that the delay in government formation has also impacted the provision of

basic infrastructure and services thereby affecting the well-being of Iraqi citizens.



SRSRG Ad Melkert Addressing the Security Council on 4 August 2009. Photo: UN /Jenny Rockett

The Government has set priorities to address issues of underdevelopment in the country. Using the National Development Plan as a basis, and following the endorsement of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework in May this year, SRSO Melkert noted that the United Nations Agencies are preparing to provide the technical assistance and advice that should accelerate progress on the ground. He expressed concern, however, that to date only 12 per cent of the required USD 187.7 million sought for the 2010 humanitarian action plan for Iraq had been received, and echoed the Humanitarian Coordinator's appeal to donor countries "not to give up their commitment to the Iraqi people".

Turning to address political developments, SRSO Melkert stated that once the next government is formed, it is imperative that "Iraqi leaders continue to make national reconciliation a priority and address the many outstanding political and constitutional challenges facing the

country". He referred to the Arab-Kurdish relations and the relation to disputed internal boundaries, revenue-sharing, legislation relating to hydrocarbons, the federal framework and the constitutional review process.

SRSO Melkert highlighted UNAMI's continued efforts to promote dialogue in Ninewa governorate where security arrangements between the government of Iraq and the Kurdistan regional forces is central to discussion towards confronting instability in these areas. Through dialogue and discussions, Ninewa's various minority communities are identifying ways to protect their rights. SRSO Melkert expressed hope that the "Ninewa talks could create a positive atmosphere for addressing the issue of disputed internal boundaries and improving relations between the Kurdistan region and the rest of Iraq".

Referring to his June visit to Kuwait, SRSO Melkert noted that the "time has come for a serious concerted effort to draw outstanding

issues to a close". He stressed the need for the new government to quickly fulfill Iraq's outstanding obligations under Chapter VII resolutions, which is necessary if Iraq is to achieve international standing equal to that which the country held prior to Security Council Resolution 883 (1993).

Despite uncertain and volatile conditions in Iraq, SRSO Melkert assured the Security Council that UNAMI and the United Nations Country Team continue to work on the basis of their mandates to support the leaders and citizens of Iraq and to contribute towards stability, investment and long-term development.

In conclusion, SRSO Melkert said that much progress has been made in Iraq since 2003, but that there are many more challenges to overcome. He stressed the importance of the Security Council and the international community to continue providing the necessary support to Iraq "until such time that it can reach its full potential". ■

## Focus / Humanitarian Day

### Security Council Press Statement on Iraq

The following Security Council press statement was read out today by Council President, 4 August 2010.

Vitaly Churkin (Russian Federation):

The members of the Security Council received a briefing today from the Secretary-General's Special Representative on the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI).

The members of the Security Council strongly urge Iraq's newly elected members of the Council of Representatives to act in accordance with the Iraqi Constitution and in support of the national interest and form, as quickly as possible, a Government that is inclusive and represents the will of the Iraqi people and their hope for a strong, independent, unified and democratic Iraq.

The members of the Security Council underline their full support for UNAMI, headed by the Secretary-General's Special Representative, consistent with its mandate, to support the Government formation process.

The members of the Security Council condemn the recent terrorist attacks. The members of the Security Council reiterate that no terrorist act can reverse the path towards peace and prosperity, which is supported by the people and the Government of Iraq and the international community.

Source: Department of Public Information • News and Media Division • New York

### Message of DSRSG Christine McNab on World Humanitarian Day

Today, August 19th, 2010, we commemorate the World Humanitarian Day. In December 2008, during its 62nd session, the United Nations General Assembly decided to make this date, a day to remember populations affected by natural disasters, epidemics and conflicts, to recognize humanitarian action and the women and men who dedicate their lives to assist these populations often at their own risk. Since 2003, Iraq has been a dangerous and volatile operating environment for relief and humanitarian aid workers. Between 2003 and 2007, it is estimated that 94 aid workers lost their lives and 248 were injured while working in Iraq. This includes 22 UN staff members killed and over-100 injured following the bombing on 19 August 2003 of the former UN Headquarters in Baghdad at the Canal Hotel.

While security has improved since the height of the violence in 2007, aid workers are still exposed to considerable risks. In January 2010, a bomb devastated a hotel containing the offices of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Baghdad injuring several staff and destroying valuable assets.

Iraqi humanitarian aid workers live with the daily fear of being targeted by armed groups. Some keep their work hidden from their neighbours, friends and even their family.

Despite this highly insecure environment, humanitarian aid workers have continued to carry out their work according to the four humanitarian principles: humanity, neutrality, impartiality and operational independence. These principles provide the fundamental foundations for humanitarian action, are



DSRSG/RC/HC for Iraq, Ms. Christine McNab at Casa Arabe Conference, 24 March 2010. Photo: Casa Arabe

central to establishing and maintaining access to affected populations and should be respected by stakeholders.

I would like to use this date to remind all actors in Iraq of their obligation to protect civilian populations under their jurisdiction, to allow free movement of humanitarian assistance and to respect the integrity and life of these workers.

Finally, let me thank all of you working out there for your dedication, commitment and sacrifice. Your actions are contributing to the reduction and alleviation of the suffering of millions of people in need and are making a real difference.

**Christine McNab**  
Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq

## UN humanitarian workers continue to operate in Iraq despite security challenges



Iraqi children in a camp for internally displaced persons. Photo: UN

Since 2003, Iraq has been a dangerous and volatile environment for humanitarian aid workers serving with the United Nations and other local and international organizations.

Between 2003 and 2007, an estimated 94 aid workers lost their lives and 248 were injured while working in Iraq. This includes the 22 UN staff killed and over 100

injured following the 19 August 2003 bombing that rocked the former UN Headquarters at Canal Hotel in Baghdad.

While security has significantly improved since the height of the violence in 2007, aid workers are still exposed to considerable risks. In January 2010, a bomb explosion damaged a hotel housing the offices of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Baghdad, injuring several staff and destroying valuable assets.

Humanitarian workers in Iraq live with the daily fear of being targeted by armed groups. Lack of access to beneficiaries, corruption, under-funding and poor information on humanitarian needs are

just some of the other problems faced on a daily basis by aid workers who strive to respond to the humanitarian needs in Iraq

Aid agencies have provided food, nutritional supplements, cash-for-work, education support and healthcare to meet Iraqis' short-term humanitarian needs. Assistance targeted the most vulnerable, including children, pregnant or nursing women, the poor, disabled, internally displaced and returnees.

USD 94 million has been committed to humanitarian assistance in 2010, including USD 60 million channeled through the 2010 Iraq Humanitarian Action Plan.

### Related Links:

For more information on Humanitarian needs in Iraq, please visit [Humanitarian Day Fact Sheet](#)

World Humanitarian Day documents can be downloaded from [OCHA Online](#)

### We are humanitarian workers: Quotes from Iraqis

**Female, 46, international organization, central Iraq:** "Most of my friends and all my neighbors don't know that I'm working in an international humanitarian organization for security reasons... My worst fear is to be threatened or targeted by armed groups, who do not recognize the big role of any humanitarian organization toward the Iraqi people...and who are confused between the international organization and the USA aids."

**Male, 26, Iraqi organization, eastern Iraq:** "I will never forget how we were attacked by militias while we were distributing assistance to families in Diyala and they accused us of being affiliated with the Americans. If it were not for the local beneficiaries we would have been all dead by now!"

**Male, 46, international organization, eastern Iraq:** "We were threatened by militias. We had to either leave or work according to their wishes. It took so much diplomacy and statesmanship to overcome the ordeal until we finished the project..."

**Male, 42, international organization, all Iraq:** "I was imprisoned for 12 days only because I was trying to help ethnic minorities who were in need..."

**Female, 30, Iraqi organization, eastern Iraq:** "I felt proud of myself when we managed to help a number of poor women and provide them with clothes for their children and organizing a joint meal for them."

**“** We just had a brief but very solemn ceremony remembering our fallen colleagues seven years ago in Baghdad. They are not the only ones, unfortunately. We have lost so many colleagues, so many humanitarian workers. Our thoughts are always with those heroic colleagues who have given their lives in the cause of humanity. Pakistan. Somalia. Sudan. Haiti [...] Today, on World Humanitarian Day, let us remember the many millions of the world's people, living in such hardship in so many places, people who look to us for help. Today, let us honour those who have fallen in the name of this noble cause. They are an army of peace, bearing the torch of hope. They are the unsung heroes, the international aid workers, relief specialists, doctors and nurses and so many others. **”**



United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon. Photo: UN

**Excerpts from Secretary-General's remarks at the ceremony marking World Humanitarian Day, 19 August 2010.**



## IOM assists 45 families affected by Baghdad bombing



Damaged houses in the aftermath of Hay Al-Qahera bombing in Baghdad. Photo: IOM

In the early morning of August 25, a bomb ripped through the neighborhood of Al Qahera in north Baghdad. The bomb was targeted at a local police station, and was one in a series of apparently coordinated attacks that occurred throughout Iraq the same day. The explosion damaged and destroyed the homes of many families, causing some of them to become displaced.

Immediately following the bombings, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) monitors assessed the affected neighborhoods and, working in close cooperation with the Baghdad Provincial Council and other local authorities, determined that a group of 45 families living in Al Qahera were urgently in need

of assistance.

Relief items from IOM's emergency warehouse in Erbil were dispatched that evening, with distribution activities beginning in Baghdad the following day.

IOM provided the families with a package of essential household supplies including mattresses, plastic mats, pillows, blankets, bed frames, a gas stove, a fan, thermoses, plastic furniture and a hygiene kit that was prepared by UNICEF.

"It will take time for the families here to put their homes and lives back together after such a terrible attack," said IOM Head of Baghdad Hub Antonio Salanga, "but with these supplies the families will at least be able to cook and sleep

comfortably."

Having met the immediate needs of the families, IOM is planning to provide follow-up assistance through a range of humanitarian, development and livelihood initiatives, including the Programme for Human Security and Stabilization (PHSS).

Funding for IOM's emergency distributions is provided by USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA).

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.

**For more information on IOM Iraq, please contact Matthew Graydon:**

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Relief items distributed by IOM to 45 families affected by Baghdad bombing. Photo: IOM.

### Photo Gallery



Relief items distributed by IOM to 45 families affected by Baghdad bombing. Photo: IOM.



Relief items distributed by IOM to 45 families affected by Baghdad bombing. Photo: IOM.



Relief items distributed by IOM to 45 families affected by Baghdad bombing. Photo: IOM.

## UNIDO trains Iraqis on business counseling to support small and medium enterprises

By Ozlem Eskiocak, UNIDO Iraq



UNIDO trainer gives a lecture on modern marketing concepts. Photo: UNIDO Iraq

To support small and medium enterprises in Iraq, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) completed an awareness training on business counseling on 1-3 August in Erbil. The awareness trainings benefited 26 Iraqis from various institutions including the Iraqi Businessman Union, the Iraqi Engineering Union, the Iraqi Federation of Industries, and the Ministry of Industry representing the governorates of Erbil, Thiqr, and Baghdad.

Out of the 26 trained participants, 14 will be further trained in business counseling at the UNIDO - Arab Regional Centre for Entrepreneurship and Investment Training, using UNIDO's Enterprise Development and Investment Promotion (EDIP) methodology. The primary function of the EDIP programme is to stimulate the emergence of new and growth of existing enterprises to provide employment and income for people, and thereby contribute to poverty alleviation and overall economic growth.

The second round of UNIDO training aims at enabling the selected trainees who have successfully graduated from the Training of Counselors course to join the existing Team of Counselors at the UNIDO Enterprise Development Units. Each of these units is hosted by an Iraqi institution in Baghdad, Thiqr and Erbil, and provides business advisory services to Iraqi entrepreneurs trained through the EDIP Project.

To complement the achievements of EDIP in Iraq, UNIDO's project, Enterprise Development through Information and Communication Technology, aims to train 500 entrepreneurs through online and offline trainings that will be available at the Technological Poles which will be established at the host institutions.

Since 2005 UNIDO's assistance to Iraq has expanded with a budget amounting to USD 68 million. The assistance focuses on helping reconstruct devastated livelihoods as well as the productive capacity of the country. UNIDO's role is to support private-sector, economic recovery, and energy and environment sectors. Currently, UNIDO implements 18 projects across Iraq.

**For more information please contact UNIDO at [office.iraq@unido.org](mailto:office.iraq@unido.org)**

## Human Rights

### UNAMI and partners train Iraqi civil society representatives on monitoring and reporting on human rights in Iraq

To help enhance the skills of the Iraqi civil society organizations in monitoring the situation of human rights in the country, UNAMI Human Rights Office, in partnership with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), trained 16 Iraqi civil society representatives in reporting mechanisms to the United Nations human rights treaty bodies. The training took place in Erbil from 2 - 6 August.

The four-day training was delivered by experts from the Human Rights Law Centre of the UK-based Nottingham University, under the UNAMI Support to Iraq's Preparations for the universal periodic review (UPR) project. The two-year UPR project started in April 2009 and is funded by the Government of Finland and the

European Union through the United Nations Development Group - Iraq Trust Fund.

Established in 2006, following the establishment of the Human Rights Council by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 60/251, the UPR is a unique process which involves a review of the human rights records of all 192 United Nations Member States once every four years. The mechanism provides an opportunity for all States to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to overcome challenges to the enjoyment of human rights. The UPR also includes a sharing of best human rights practices around the globe. Currently, no other mechanism of this kind exists.

To help Iraq meet its obligations under the new Human Rights reporting mechanism, the UPR project, assisted the Iraqi government with the drafting of its first national submission of the 2009 UPR report. Building on this partnership with Iraqi partners especially from the Ministry of Human Rights, the UPR project expanded its empowerment efforts to the Iraqi civil society through a training package on how to produce shadow reports to treaty bodies. Shadow reports, often called 'alternative reports', are submitted by civil society organizations that deal with human rights to treaty monitoring bodies at the United Nations and other international institutions in parallel with a government's official report regarding the human rights situation in a given country.



This month's training was the first of a series of four training courses targeting civil society representatives that will be completed in Erbil by the end of the year. So far up to 30 NGOs have benefited from UPR project's training programme which focuses on building the knowledge of representatives of the Iraqi civil society on the human rights treaties that Iraq has either signed, ratified or acceded to. The training also highlights how these treaties can be used by civil society to protect human rights in the country.

Training participant Susan Aref from the Women Empowerment Organisation noted that seeing positive examples of human rights work from the Arab region as part of the training was inspiring: "This gives us the hope as Iraqi organizations that someday we will reach

higher levels of protecting human rights in Iraq", she said.

Iraqi officials from the Ministry of Human Rights joined some sessions of the training as part of an ongoing process to promote dialogue between government and civil society and build mutual knowledge and understanding of Iraqi human rights commitments.

Under the UPR mechanism, civil society organizations including non-governmental organizations are entitled to participate in the UPR process. They can submit information which can be added to the "other stakeholders" report which is considered during the UPR review.

Iraq has signed, ratified or acceded to the following Covenants and Conventions:

- International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racism (ICERD), 14 January 1970
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), 25 January 1971
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), 25 January 1971
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), 13 August 1986
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 15 June 1994
- Optional Protocol (OP)

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## Development

# UN-HABITAT continues to train Iraqi partners in urban planning and economic development

By Muna Fadhil, UN-HABITAT Iraq



Iraqi planners at the UN-HABITAT training in Amman, 5-9 August 2010. Photo: UN-HABITAT

To help strengthen the capacity of Iraqis in the field of urban planning and economic development, UN-HABITAT, under the auspices of the Government of Iraq, hosted a workshop in Amman on 5-9 August for 30 participants including Iraqi government urban planners, committee members of the Iraqi Local Government Association. UN-HABITAT training experts from Baghdad and Erbil and urban planners from planning institutes in India and Malaysia also participated in the training session.

The workshop presented assessments of previous training modules on urban planning and economic development supported by UN-HABITAT and carried out by the General Organisation for Physical Planning (GOPP) in Egypt. It also reviewed the training modules against the long term requirements for the

Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works (MMPW) and the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation (MoPDC) to build up the skills of their respective professional staff.

As pointed out by Dr. Mohammed Shabandar, the Director General of Physical Planning in MMPW, there is a growing need to enhance the capacity of urban planners in Iraq. "There are currently only seven qualified city planners working in Baghdad and another seven in other governorates of Iraq", Dr. Shabandar noted.

During the workshop, Urban planners from India and Malaysia shared with Iraqi counterparts the experience of these two countries in establishing a professional Institute of Town Planners. In addition, the event included a tour of the Amman Institute for Urban Development which is a regional think-and-do-tank focusing on urban

governance, community planning and sustainable community development.

Participants identified the need for increased cooperation with urban planning institutes in the region, agreed on specific areas of urban planning and local economic development which need to be given priority in future capacity building activities and set the basis for future cooperation modules with both GOPP and the Amman Institute.

This workshop is part of the activities undertaken under the "Local Government Association and Urban Development Capacity Building Project" which is implemented by UN-HABITAT and funded by the European Council and Spain under the Iraq Trust Fund.

UN-HABITAT is the lead United Nations agency for cities and human settlements and is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. UN-HABITAT leads the Millennium Development Goal 7, Target 11 aiming at "making a significant difference in the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020".

UN-HABITAT Iraq focuses on the areas of rehabilitation works, housing, capacity building and institutional reform. The Iraq Programme relies on non-core resources to implement its programmes. Since 2003, the overall portfolio reached around USD 100 million, distributed among 25 projects and programmes. Most of the projects are funded through the United Nations Development Group-Iraq Trust Fund while only a small number of projects have been funded through bilateral channels.

**For more information, please contact Mr. Doudou Mbye:** [Doudou.Mbye@unhabitat.org](mailto:Doudou.Mbye@unhabitat.org)

## Message of DSRSG Christine McNab on International Youth Day



DSRSG/RC/HC for Iraq, Ms. Christine McNab.

### Baghdad, 12 August 2010

This year's commemoration of International Youth Day is a particularly important day for youth around the world as it marks the launch of the International Year of Youth, which was proclaimed by the United General-Assembly in December 2009 under the theme "**Dialogue and Mutual Understanding**". The

choice of the theme reflects the United Nations' commitment to encouraging dialogue and understanding across generations, cultures and religions as well as its recognition of the need to ensure that the voices of youth around the world are heard for they are the leaders of the future and they must be involved in its shaping.

This is particularly important in countries like Iraq where nearly half of the population is less than 19 years old and where youth represents a tremendous wealth that could be a driving force towards a better future, provided that the country invests in its young people and prepares them to take up their role as its future leaders.

However, this will require intensive efforts. From unemployment, lack of education, exclusion and limited opportunities, the challenges that face Iraqi youth who were born under sanctions and raised in violence, are many.

The United Nations in Iraq is committed to supporting the country's efforts to-

ward empowering its youth. Several United Nations agencies operating in Iraq have already carried out various projects to aid and assist youth in multiple areas. Moreover, the United Nations is currently working with the Government of Iraq to develop a national strategy to integrate youth issues into the national development agenda.

Keeping Iraqi youth in school, creating more jobs and engaging them in cultural and social activities will enable Iraqi youth to be a driving force towards the achieving of the Millennium Development Goals and the promotion and protection of the values of dialogue and tolerance, a stepping stone for a healthy, stable and prosperous society.

As Iraq celebrates its youth this year, the United Nations reiterates its readiness to assist in helping Iraqi youth build a safer, prosperous and stable Iraq and in all Iraqi efforts aimed at including young people in policies, programmes and decision-making processes that benefit the country's future.

For more information please contact: Juliette Touma, Office of the RC/HC, [toumaj@un.org](mailto:toumaj@un.org), +962-77-67-29707

## Young Iraqis at the crossroad of crisis and hope

With almost half of its population under the age of 19 years, Iraq is one of the most youthful countries in the world. With education, employment, social opportunities, both young women and men stand a good chance to participate in the development of their country and to become a driving force towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals. They can also play an instrumental role in facilitating dialogue and mutual understanding in Iraq.

However, surrounded by turmoil and conflict for nearly three decades, Iraq's youth face a daunting future. Many young Iraqis show symptoms of acute stress. According to the 2009 Iraq National Youth and Adolescent Survey conducted by the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA), 24 per cent of Iraqi youth suffer from nervousness, 17 per cent suffer from permanent headaches, while 32 per cent tend to cry easily.

To help young Iraqis find hope in their country's future, several United Nations agencies including UN HABITAT, UNHCR, UNESCO, UNOPS, WHO and UNFPA have carried out projects benefiting youth in multiple areas. From training them in conflict mediation, providing technical and vocational training, increasing literacy programs and educating them in life skills to raising health awareness, the United Nations continues to be committed to youth in Iraq.

Looking to the future, the United Nations is working with the Government of Iraq to develop a national youth strategy to integrate youth issues into the national development agenda.



Young Iraqis eager to farm. UN Photo

**More information on the situation of the Iraqi youth education, employment, sports & arts and social and political participation is available through the [Fact Sheet on Iraqi Youth](#).**

## The United Nations condemns terrorist attack on Iraqi army recruitment centre

The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) strongly condemned the 17 August terrorist attack on an Iraqi army recruitment centre in Baghdad that claimed the lives of dozens of military recruits and left over a hundred injured.

UNAMI expressed concern over the continued acts of violence targeting the Iraqi people, including those perpetrated during the holy Muslim month of Ramadan that symbolizes the values of peace, tolerance, generosity and solidarity.

UNAMI reiterated that agreement on the formation of the government will greatly contribute to strengthening Iraq's ability to protect its citizens and respond effectively to those who aim at perpetuating instability and insecurity in the country and reversing its path towards peace and prosperity.

## DSRSG McNab advocates for MDGs in Iraq on Al-Jazeera



In advocating the United Nations' commitment to help create a better life for Iraqis, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Ms. Christine McNab, was a guest speaker on Al-Jazeera's Inside Iraq weekly programme, together with Iraq's Minister of Planning, H.E. Ali Baban. The live interview was broadcast on Al-Jazeera network on 21, 22 and 23 August.

DSRSG McNab spoke at length on the progress made in Iraq in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, while highlighting the challenges that the country still faces ahead. The United Nations, in partnership with

the Government of Iraq, is working towards ensuring that Iraqi citizens have easy access to basic services such as education and health facilities, clean and safe water sources, but noting that sanitation and environmental issues continue to pose enormous challenges in the way forward towards meeting the MDGs.

H.E. Minister Ali Ban acknowledged that Iraq has indeed achieved a lot, but there are many more challenges that the country faces, including the lack of stability in the country.

**To view the 23-minute interview, please click on the following link:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qql8m9d2pg>

## WFP expands Cash-For-Work programme in Iraq



Rehabilitating a public building. Photo: WFP

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is targeting unemployment in some of the areas most affected by violence and insecurity in Iraq through expanding its cash-for-work programme to reach more than 11,000 vulnerable people and help them meet their daily food needs.

The scheme provides beneficiaries with short-term employment in agricultural infrastructure projects with the long-term aim of ensuring they don't go short of food.

The UN food agency is implementing the scheme in Diyala and Baghdad governorates where many people have returned from overseas, or from elsewhere inside the country, to find their properties looted and jobs lost.

WFP piloted the scheme earlier this year as part of the "Diyala Initiative," which included measures to help with the reset-

tlement of internally displaced persons, returnees and other vulnerable groups. With the support of USD 5 million from the United States government, this project is now being expanded so that other beneficiaries can provide for their families.

## DSRSG McNab visits School in Sulaimaniyah

During her recent visit to Iraq's Kurdistan region, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Ms. Christine McNab, visited on 18 August a mud school in Sutka village in Sulaimaniyah. The four-classroom school is built by UN-HABITAT under a project carried out in partnership with UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO and UNIFEM with funding through the Iraq Trust Fund.

The project supports efforts by the Government of Iraq to develop the capacity of the Iraqi education sector and enhance the learning environment in vulnerable areas in the country, aiming to meet the Education For All goals. It also aims to support the education sector by addressing information management strategic planning and policy formulation at the Ministry of Education and Directorate of Education and by establishing 25 primary and intermediate school facilities replacing old mud schools in the most deprived rural areas in the Sulaimanyiah, Salaheldin and Thi-qar governorates.

The project also intends to strengthen the participation of local communities in various education aspects such as literacy, formal and non-formal education, school design and management and school maintenance.



DSRSG McNab visits the Sutka village in Sulaymaniyah. Photo: UN-HABITAT Iraq



## United Nations in Action

### UNESCO

- From 3-5 August, UNESCO organised a workshop to develop training packages on fine arts, education for children with special needs, family planning and peace and democracy. Under the Literacy Initiative for Empowerment project, UNESCO organised a workshop to develop a teacher's guidebook on tools to eliminate illiteracy. The project aims at supporting the Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry of Education in providing quality teacher education and therefore to improve the quality of secondary education in Iraq as referred to in the UN Assistance Strategy for Iraq and Iraq's National Development Strategy. To this end, the project will create a critical mass of highly qualified teacher trainers who will ensure quality of teacher education in the reform process. A total of 308 lecturers from the colleges of science and education, from four geographically selected universities, will participate in capacity-building activities which include upgrading subject materials, training of trainers in the English language, computer skills, and new teaching methodologies in addition to short term fellowships.

### UNDP

- From 23-27 August, the Private Sector Development Programme for Iraq organised in Istanbul a joint workshop with the three Governorate Steering Committees of Anbar, Basra and Erbil to discuss the programme's priorities and challenges with Iraqi and United Nations counterparts. The discussions focused on Development Planning for the electricity distribution networks in Anbar, Basra and Erbil and the establishment of Economic Development Units as well as micro-lending operations and foreign investors' partnerships in each of the three governorates.
- Two lessons learned workshops for the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) on the Council of Representatives 2010 elections took place in Beirut. The workshops were jointly implemented by UNDP, UNOPS, UNAMI and the IHEC. The first workshop took place from 10-14 July and addressed lessons learned in conducting the election's field operations. It was attended by 40 IHEC participants from all Governorate Electoral Offices and the National Office, who were involved in planning and managing the implementation of the field operations. Relevant international advisors working with the IHEC on a daily basis in Baghdad also attended the workshop. The second

workshop took place from 27 July-1 August and addressed institutional management, policy and decision making. This was attended by 25 IHEC policymakers, including the Board of Commissioners and other relevant members of senior management.

UNDP supports the Government of Iraq in strengthening participatory mechanisms to improve electoral processes. This includes capacity development of the IHEC to carry out fair and transparent elections, increase public awareness campaigns with effective support from the media and Civil Society Organisations on electoral processes to encourage participation in elections and the promotion of independent media and protection of press freedom.

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