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“ After decades of economic stagnation, reduced access to essential services due to wars, sanctions and conflicts, there is no better means than the achievement of the MDGs to make the lives of millions of Iraqi individuals a better one, and Iraq a safe and prosperous country ”

**Iraq’s Deputy Minister of Planning
Dr. Sami Metti**

Achieving MDGs in Iraq by 2015: More work needs to be done

In a report entitled “The Millennium Development Goals in Iraq” published on 5 August, the Government of Iraq and the United Nations presented the progress made in a number of areas towards achieving the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Iraq by 2015. While highlighting significant progress towards eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, reducing child mortality and promoting gender equality, the report notes slower progress in other areas such as the enrolment in primary education, unemployment and access to safe and reliable water and sanitation services.



Iraqi mother cooking a rice meal for her family. Photo: UNICEF/Sabah Arar

According to the report, the government of Iraq - through the Public Distribution System that provides a monthly food basket to every Iraqi household - has been successful in its attempt to mitigate the effect of the sharp rise in food prices the country has been experiencing since the 1990s due to sanctions, wars and conflicts. The proportion of the population consuming less than the minimum recommended energy intake has dramatically increased from 2 per cent in 1990 to 30 per cent in 1998, before dropping to 7 per cent in 2007. Considerable progress would have to be made if Iraq is to meet the target of 1 per cent by 2015 under MDG One which aims to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, cites the report.

The report also acknowledges Iraq’s considerable progress toward achieving MDG Four which focuses on reducing mortality rates among infants and children under the age of five. The proportion of children dying before reaching the age of five has fallen from 62 to 41 for every 1,000 live births, while the proportion of children dying within

the first year of life has dropped from 50 to 35 for every 1,000 live births. Iraq is aiming to reduce its infant mortality rate to 17 for every 1,000 live births by 2015.

Turning to MDG Three which seeks to promote gender equality and empower women, the report stresses that Iraq remains generally on course for achieving gender parity in primary education enrolment. However, the lowest enrolment rates can be found among girls in rural areas, with as few as 39 per cent of primary school age girls enrolled in rural Missan province. Women’s share of wage employment outside agriculture fell from 11 to 7 per cent between 1990 and 2008.

Under MDG Two which aims to achieve universal primary education, the report explains that the drop in net primary school enrolment ratio from 91 per cent in 1990 to 85 per cent in 2007 indicates that Iraq will face challenges in meeting the target of achieving 100 per cent literacy rates among Iraq’s youth by 2015.

Addressing other areas where slow

progress is registered, the report notes that more than 80 per cent of Iraq's water remains untreated leading to increased pollution of Iraq's wastewater. It also stresses that only a quarter of households in Iraq is covered by the public sewage system, dropping to 2 per cent in rural areas.

Dr. Sami Metti, Iraq's Deputy Minister of Planning noted that "after decades of economic stagnation, reduced access to essential services due to wars, sanctions and conflicts, there is no better means than the achievement of the MDGs to make the lives of millions of Iraqi individuals a better one, and Iraq a safe and prosperous country".

The Government of Iraq and the United Nations have indeed agreed to boost efforts to address these issues by 2015, the global deadline for achieving the MDGs, paying special attention to reducing the gaps between rural and

urban areas.

"The Millennium Development Goals for Iraq report contains a set of key milestones for achieving a better future for the country and its people", said Ms. Christine McNab, the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq. "Supporting Iraq to achieve the MDGs is among the United Nations' top priorities as this will ensure a better life for millions of Iraqis including those who will make Iraq's future: the youth and the children", she added.

The report is part of an outreach campaign launched by the United Nations and the Government of Iraq to raise awareness of the importance of these development goals as part of the development efforts agreed upon in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF 2011 - 2014) signed in May 2010.

"Over the coming five years we will work

closely with the Government of Iraq and key partners including civil society, academia and the private sector to promote the MDGs and raise awareness on the importance of achieving them in line with Iraq's national priorities", concluded Ms. McNab.

The report is published jointly by the Government of Iraq and the United Nations Country Team. It contains a series of maps and graphs with analysis on the progress Iraq has made towards achieving the MDGs. The maps contained in the report are available for public use, with due credit to the UN Country Team in Iraq. The report can be accessed online through a webpage with information on the MDGs and the upcoming General Assembly Summit in September 2010: <http://www.iauraq.org/mdgs.as> ■

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Focus / MDGs

Foreword for the MDGs in Iraq Booklet

Dear reader,

It is my pleasure to present to you this brochure on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Iraq.

All Member States of the United Nations are working on a common agenda for development as set out in the Millennium Declaration of the United Nations General Assembly of 2000. This Declaration is the basis of the eight Millennium Development Goals which the UN member states are committed to achieving by 2015. The Secretary-General of the United Nations has announced 2010 as the Year of the MDGs. World leaders will gather together in September this year to "Keep the Promise" to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

The Millennium Development Goals for Iraq contain a set of key milestones for achieving a better future for the country and its people. Over the last few decades, the people of Iraq have suffered the consequences of economic stagnation and reduced access to essential services due to wars, sanctions and conflicts. However, Iraq has started to make progress towards achieving some of the MDGs including reducing hunger, promoting gender equality and reducing child mortality. There is still much work to be done in a number of other areas including increasing participation in primary education, reducing unemployment, and ensuring access to safe and reliable water and sani-

tation. The gap in access to essential services remain wide between rural and urban areas and this needs also to be addressed.

The United Nations has been working in Iraq since 1955 and remains committed to responding to the needs of the people in Iraq. Supporting Iraq in achieving the MDGs is among the top priorities for the UN in Iraq as the country moves forward towards achieving development in line with the Government of Iraq's National Development Plan. The first United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Iraq, 2011-2014, has been designed with the Government and civil society to support Iraq in achieving its development goals including the MDGs.

Over the course of the coming five years the UN in Iraq will work with Government at all levels and with civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector to promote the MDGs, raise awareness of their importance, and support their achievement. As part of this endeavour, the United Nations Country Team in Iraq will reach out to the most vulnerable groups: those living on or below the poverty line, refugees, returnees, the elderly and the physically challenged. Special attention will be paid to the rights of women, youth and children.

We have five years to work hard, work together, hand in hand regardless of eth-



nicity, religion, political affiliation or status to achieve the Millennium Development Goals because Iraq deserves a better, flourishing and prosperous future.

I wish you a pleasant reading of this brochure, the first of its kind on the MDGs in Iraq, and I hope that the information provided here and on our special webpage (www.iauraq.org/mdgs.asp) with visuals, maps and graphs will give you insight into the challenges and the work ahead necessary for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Iraq.

Christine McNab
Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General
Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Iraq

Background on the Millennium Development Goals

When 189 Heads of State and government from rich and poor countries alike, as representatives of their citizens, endorsed the Millennium Declaration at the 2000 UN Millennium Summit in September 2000, there was a palpable sense of urgency.

In the Millennium Declaration, world leaders agreed on achieving a vision for the future by the year 2015: a world with less poverty, hunger and disease, greater survival prospects for mothers and their infants, better educated children, equal opportunities for women, and a healthier environment; a world where developed and developing countries would work in close partnership for the well-being of all.

To provide a framework by which progress could be measured, this vision was transformed into eight Millennium Development Goals (commonly known as the MDGs), 18 targets and 48 indicators (measurable variables). Additional indicators to track progress towards the new targets were also identified, and they now total 60.

The MDGs represent a compact between all the world's major economic players. While poorer countries pledged to improve policies and governance and increase accountability to their own citizens, wealthy countries pledged to provide the resources.

Since the commitment to achieve the goals comes from the highest political levels, for the first time, entire governments are committed to their achievement and major international financial institutions such as the World Bank, the IMF, the regional development banks, and increasingly, the membership of the World Trade Organization have made clear that they will be accountable for achieving the MDGs too.

Performance against these eight development goals is being closely monitored. Precise monitoring mechanisms have been put in place, in the form of national Millennium Goals reports and the Secretary General's reports to the General Assembly. Civil society organizations around the world are creating their own set of reports as well, to ensure that governments are held to the highest possible standards of performance. Over 60 country reports have already been produced so far at the national level.

According to international development experts, the MDGs are clearly achievable. Some have even argued that they are not in fact millennium, but 'minimum' development goals. Individual MDGs have already been achieved by many countries in the space of only 10-15 years.

Please click on each of the eight Millennium Development Goals to view its targets and indicators:



[1 Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger](#)



[2 Achieve Universal Primary Education](#)



[3 Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women](#)



[4 Reduce Child Mortality](#)



[5 Improve Maternal Health](#)



[6 Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases](#)



[7 Ensure Environmental Sustainability](#)



[8 Develop a Global Partnership for Development](#)

All current targets and indicators can be found at: <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Default.aspx>

Women & Peace

Global Open Day for Women and Peace

By Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General



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

This October we will mark the tenth anniversary of the Security Council's groundbreaking resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, which called for higher levels of women's involvement in peace-making and peacebuilding.

This anniversary is an opportunity to reaffirm the core message of that land-

mark text: sustainable peace is possible only with women's full participation — their perspectives, their leadership, their daily, equal presence wherever we seek to make and keep the peace.

Progress has indeed been achieved. Many peace processes now regularly include consultations with women's peace groups. In many post-conflict countries, the number of women in government has increased dramatically, and they have used their public decision-making roles to advance women's rights. Within the United Nations itself, there are now eight women Special Representatives and Deputy Special Representatives; Bangladesh and India

have deployed all-female UN police units to peacekeeping operations; and UN Police have developed strategies and measures to better protect women from violence. But the gaps remain significant: too few women participate in peacemaking and peace-building, and we have seen a disturbing escalation in levels of sexual violence during and after conflict.

The "Global Open Day for Women and Peace" is meant to reinvigorate our efforts to realize the vision set out in resolution 1325. I count on all partners to support the United Nations in translating women's priorities into real and meaningful action."

Women claim their rightful role in matters of peace, reconciliation and governance



SRSK Melkert engages in active discussion with participants at the meeting. Photo: UNAMI PIO

During a round-table discussion held on 26 July at the United Nations Headquarters in Baghdad, Iraqi women advocates, leaders and parliamentarians joined their voices to that of millions of other women in the world to unanimously affirm the need to engage women as full actors at all levels of decision-making.

The round-table discussion was held on the occasion of the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the landmark resolution of the Security Council of the United Nations on Women, Peace and Security (UN SCR 1325) adopted in October 2000.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSK) for Iraq, Mr. Ad Melkert, chaired the meeting that was co-organized by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Iraqi Gender Task Force.

Participants to the round-table noted with concern that the potential contribution of Iraqi women in all matters that concern society from peace to post-conflict reconciliation and peace-building remains undervalued. They underscored the need to vigorously pursue the objective of ensuring the involvement of the Iraqi society into one

where the role of women is at par with that of their male counterparts.

Several recommendations were made by the participants on ways to advance the role of women in Iraq through equity and equality.

The Acting State Minister of Women's Affairs, Dr. Kholoud Al-Majoun, stressed the importance of transforming the State Ministry of Women's Affairs into a full-fledged Ministry with an approved budget to implement programs aimed at empowering women. "We hope to receive technical assistance and expertise in the areas of negotiations, national reconciliation and capacity-building from the United Nations", she said.

Member of Parliament (MP) Hanan Al-Falawee emphasized the important steps the Government has taken to address the plight of women in Iraq. She welcomed the adoption of the Electoral Law in which a 25 per cent quota has been established to increase women's representation in the Parliament and the Provincial Parliamentary Councils. "This quota is crucial in helping us develop legislation that protects women in all areas", she said. "Emphasis should be placed on supporting the elected Provincial Councils in promoting a greater role for women in peacemaking and adopting the necessary legislations aimed at the protection of women in all areas", she stressed.

In addition to discussing the status of Iraqi women in the legislative and governance sectors, Kurdistan's MP Samira Koran stressed the need for Iraqi leaders to take strategic steps that would be more in line with UN SCR 1325. "Women should also be

represented in educational institutions such as universities, and hold other important positions that would give them a lead in society", she added.

The importance of empowering women as effective civil society actors in all matters that concern Iraq and its people was also underscored during the roundtable discussion. Special emphasis was put on the need to provide financial assistance for projects aimed at supporting Iraqi civil society and women groups. "Donors should prioritize their financial assistance to Iraqi civil society organizations and women groups in accordance with UN SCR 1325 and contribute to campaigns and lobbying activities to promote Human Rights in our country and to eradicate violence against women", emphasized Ms. Hanana Edwar, the Secretary of the Iraqi Amal Association.

In his closing remarks, SRSK Melkert described the event as inspiring and said that the round table discussion "marks a crucial moment for the UN—to hear directly from Iraqi women who are taking the lead in addressing and advancing the role of women in society, whether through government or civil society". SRSK Melkert emphasized the willingness of the United Nations to consider and, where possible, to support the recommendations highlighted at the meeting in line with both UNAMI's mandate in Iraq and UN SCR 1325.

The participants to the roundtable discussion were unanimous in underlying the right of the Iraqi women to actively participate in shaping a better future for their country that has been, for decades, ridden by wars, sanctions, segregation and inequality. They all recognized that much remains to be done so that Iraqi women take their rightful place at all decision-making levels. They are determined, however, to get there despite the numerous challenges that lie ahead. ■

Photo Gallery



SRSK Melkert officially opens the Iraqi Leaders Women's Meeting in Baghdad. Photo: UNAMI PIO



Minister Kholoud Al-Majoun, State Ministry of Women Affairs, and SRSK Melkert at the Press Conference. Photo: UNAMI PIO



Ms. Safia Al-Souhail, Member of the Iraqi Parliament, presents her views at the meeting. Photo: UNAMI PIO

About UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security

UN Security Council resolution 1325 was unanimously adopted during the Namibian presidency of the UN Security Council in October 2000. It is a landmark legal and political framework that acknowledges the importance of the participation of women and the inclusion of gender perspectives in peace negotiations, humanitarian planning, peacekeeping operations, post-conflict peacebuilding and governance.

In particular, resolution 1325 calls for:

The **participation** of women at all levels of decision-making, including:

- in national, regional and international institutions;
- in mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict;
- in peace negotiations;
- in peace operations, as soldiers, police and civilians;
- as Special Representatives of the UN Secretary-General.

tary-General.

The **protection** of women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence, including:

- in emergency and humanitarian situations, such as in refugee camps;
- through developing and delivering pre-deployment and in-theatre training to peace operations personnel on the rights of women and girls and effective protection measures.

The **prevention** of violence against women through the **promotion** of women's rights, accountability and law enforcement, including by:

- prosecuting those responsible for war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity and other violations of international law;
- respecting the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps;
- excluding sexual violence crimes from amnesty agreements, as they may amount to

crimes against humanity, war crimes or genocide;

- strengthening women's rights under national law;
- supporting local women's peace initiatives and conflict resolution processes.

The **mainstreaming of gender perspectives** in peace operations, including by:

- appointing Gender Advisors to all UN peace operations;
- considering the specific needs of women and girls in the development and design of policy in all areas;
- incorporating the perspectives, contributions and experience of women's organizations in policy and programme development.

link: <http://www.unifem.org/campaigns/1325plus10/>

Development/ Feature

Programme for Human Security and Stabilization: Reintegration Success in Diyala

By Matthew Graydon, IOM Iraq



Mahmood standing proudly in front of his small grocery shop in the city of Baqubah. Photo: IOM

Standing proudly in front of his small grocery shop in the city of Baqubah, Mahmood is amazed how much his life has changed over the last few years.

Increasing violence in Baqubah forced Mahmood to flee from his home in 2007. With few other options, he and his mother, father and two younger brothers moved to Baghdad. Life there was very difficult.

"During my time in Baghdad, I was mostly unemployed," said Mahmood. "Some days

I was able to find work as a handyman, but it was hard to make enough money to put food on the table."

Mahmood's father is nearly 70 years old, and suffers from high blood pressure and other health problems. For Mahmood, earning enough money to support his family is his highest priority.

When conditions in Baqubah began to improve last year, Mahmood made the decision

to return home with his family. However, returning home after being away for several years can bring its own set of challenges.

To help himself reintegrate into his community and rebuild his former life, Mahmood turned to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for assistance. Through IOM's Programme for Human Security and Stabilization (PHSS), Mahmood was given a modest in-kind grant to start a small business.

Mahmood had experience running a fruit and vegetable stand, so he decided to make use of his knowledge of the local market and start his own grocery store. IOM Iraq assisted Mahmood with developing a business plan and purchasing the supplies he needed to get started.

Today, the shelves of Mahmood's store are packed with colorful packages of biscuits, detergent, cereal and other household essentials.

"I am working every day now," said Mahmood, "and I want to expand my market."

Through his new business, Mahmood now has a steady income and is able to afford food and medicine for his family. His younger brothers are in school, and Mahmood occasionally asks them to help out at the store.

Mahmood is proud that he is able to support his family and his community with his store. By sharing his story, he hopes that other returnees will be inspired to start their own small businesses and improve their lives.

Through the Programme for Human Security and Stabilization,

ity and Stabilization (PHSS), IOM Iraq is working closely with the Iraqi Ministry of Displacement and Migration and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to develop a wide-ranging set of grassroots economic development programmes.

PHSS currently operates in 12 governorates which include Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Basrah, Diyala, Erbil, Kerbala, Missan, Najaf, Ninewa, Sulaymania and Wassit. The Programme supports the efforts of Iraqis to rebuild their local economies while encouraging locally focused, broad-based economic development.

Project Highlight

FAO helps strengthen Iraqi Veterinary Services

By Deya Al-fadil, FAO Iraq



Iraqi veterinarians examining birds. Photo: FAO-Iraq

Following the fall of Saddam's regime in 2003, widespread insecurity, the collapse of Ministries and State agencies that were the sole providers of crop and livestock production, together with significant damages to power supply and communication infrastructure have negatively affected the entire agricultural sector.

Protecting livestock from epidemic and endemic diseases and increasing the local production through efficient veterinary services is a top priority for Iraqis. Such efforts could increase the supply of good quality meat, milk, eggs and other animal products while contributing to the improvement of human nutrition, household food security and employment. Priority has also been given to controlling zoonotic diseases that are usually transmitted from other vertebrate animals to humans to decrease the risk of contamination

"IOM's experience has shown that small inputs at the community level can bring widespread benefits", said IOM Iraq Chief of Mission Michael Pillinger. "By helping create sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable individuals, PHSS contributes to the overall stability and prosperity of Iraq".

PHSS Phase I was completed in January 2009 and delivered direct assistance to over 9,000 Iraqis. The second phase of the programme is currently ongoing, with the support of the Governments of Australia, Germany and the United States.

among the farmers and general public consumers.

To help strengthen the technical and institutional capacity of the Iraqi veterinary services for effective surveillance and control of zoonotic and transboundary diseases, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) launched in February 2009 a project entitled "Strengthening the capacity of the Iraqi Veterinary Services for control of zoonotic and

transboundary animal diseases". The 18-month project is jointly funded by the United Nations Development Group / Iraq Trust Fund and the Government of Iraq.

Over the past few months, the FAO project embarked on a series of training courses that are critical for improving animal and human health in Iraq. During the month of July, FAO arranged for five Iraqi veterinarians from General State Company for Veterinary Services and the Ministry of Agriculture to be trained on Epidemiology at the Australian Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre, in the Australian city of Perth.

Also during the month of July, FAO organised a training course on Rabies' control and prevention in Morocco. To strengthen the capacity of Iraqis to improve animal health and zoonotic disease control, FAO and Iraqi partners selected four trainees from veterinary clinics in Iraq and the Ministry of

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.

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*Names and locations have been changed.

Agriculture Livestock.

In Iraq, FAO, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, organised a workshop from 19 to 20 July in Baghdad on Rabies diseases for some 150 veterinarians and officials. Rabies diseases are a major concern, both in Iraq and internationally, as they lead to lower production and can also contaminate human health.

FAO Iraq will continue its efforts aimed at strengthening the capacity of Iraqi veterinary services in disease prevention and control and ensuring effective surveillance and control of targeted zoonotic and transboundary animal diseases.

Much of FAO's work in Iraq has been guided by priorities identified through existing strategies including the Millennium Development Goals. Working with relevant line ministries and programmes, FAO interventions cover a vast array of issues ranging from water management and farm irrigation to development of seed policy and sustainable livestock sector.

FAO interventions are modeled through the Organisation's Medium-Term Joint Programming Strategy and Marshlands Strategy and endorsed by several governorates as well as the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of State for the Marshlands Affairs and the Prime Minister's office.

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Cash-for-Work: WFP Supports Rebuilding in Diyala

By Caroline Legros, WFP Iraq



Rehabilitating a creek used for irrigation. Photo: WFP

Diyala city suffered some of Iraq's worst violence in 2006 and 2007 leading to the forced displacement of more than 250,000 Iraqis. With improvements in the security situation, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees began returning home. Returnees were faced with destroyed houses, and looted properties, gardens and orchards. This was compounded by problems with availability of safe water supply (most returnees depend on unsafe water from rivers or wells), electricity and fuel shortages, lack of transportation facilities, difficulties to communicate with other areas and poor accessibility of health and education services.

As part of the inter-agency *Diyala Initiative*, World Food Programme (WFP) is implementing a Cash-for-Work programme in two selected areas of Diyala:



Rehabilitating a public building. Photo: WFP

Ba'quba district and Al Wajehiya sub-district targeting 500 workers and their families, for a total of 3,000 beneficiaries. The initiative provides a series of integrated and coordinated interventions to facilitate the resettlement of IDPs, returnees and other vulnerable groups.

WFP's Cash-for-Work activity aims to rebuild livelihoods and facilitate resettlement and reintegration of internally displaced people with a view to creating employment opportunities, improving purchasing power and access to food and providing sustainable community-based return conditions. This pilot initiative is also expected to test the effectiveness of conditional cash transfers as a basis for development of a larger public works programme and cash-based productive safety nets by the Government of Iraq.

Projects underway have already had an impact on the individual workers and their families as well as benefiting the community at large through improved conditions for all residents.

Huda, a 22-year old widow, is one of the beneficiaries of the Cash-for-Work programme. She is also the sole breadwinner for her family of two young children, her mother and sister. Fleeing Diyala in 2006, due to violence, Huda has only just returned to her native home as security

conditions in the area has improved. She is grateful for the income that she generates by participating in the Cash-for-Work project, especially as it is currently difficult for women to find work.

Huda is one of the Cash-for-Work workers in Diyala. She is a 22 year old widow, and the breadwinner for her family of two small children, her mother and sister. She fled Diyala in 2006 because of the violence and has returned due to the recent improvements in security. She is grateful for the income from this Cash-for-Work project as it is difficult currently for women to find work.

Support to the most vulnerable, promotion of local economic activities and the re-establishment of livelihoods are crucial to support reconciliation, recovery and stability in Iraq. Cash-for-Work activities create employment and income earning opportunities for vulnerable groups to meet their immediate food needs and support livelihood recovery activities to facilitate reintegration and longer term household food security.

The Cash-for-Work activities are selected in partnership with the targeted communities with a focus on rehabilitation of productive assets in areas of return. Priority activities include: (i) assistance to small farmers for land rehabilitation and ploughing; (ii) cleaning of irrigation networks, drainage ditches and natural waterways such as creeks and rivers used in irrigation for food production; (iii) preparation of animal fodder; (iv) sanitation campaigns and rehabilitation of community gardens, communal roads, small bridges and culverts; and (v) tree planting.

For more information, please contact Caroline Legros, Programme Officer, WFP-Iraq: caroline.legros@wfp.org



Rehabilitating a public building. Photo: WFP

The United Nations condemns the attacks on Al-Arabiya Television

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq (SRSG), Mr. Ad Melkert condemned in the strongest terms the attacks that targeted Al-Arabiya satellite television channel on 26 July which resulted in the killing of a number of its employees and casualties among bystanders.

"Journalists in Iraq have again turned out to be prime targets for insurgents and all parties should act to counter this impunity in the targeting and killing of journalists", the SRSG said. Mr. Melkert extended the United Nations sincere condolences to the bereaved families of those killed and wished a speedy recovery for the injured.

Al-Arabiya's Baghdad bureau, opened in 2003, had been hit by terrorist attacks before and had been temporarily shut down on 25 June 2010 following an Interior Ministry communiqué warning that terrorist groups had threatened bombings.

UNESCO Director-General, Ms. Irina Bokova, also condemned the car bomb attack that devastated the Al-Arabiya television news station bureau in Baghdad.

"I condemn the bomb attack against the Iraqi headquarters of the television news station Al-Arabiya," the Director-General said. "Journalists must be able to do their work without fearing for their lives. When they are targeted, it is an attack on freedom of expression as a whole. I count on the Iraqi authorities to do all that is in their power to pursue the culprits and bring them to justice."

According to the Director of UNESCO Office for Iraq, Mr Mohamed Djelid, UNESCO statistics show that "since 2006, on average at least one Iraqi journalist is killed every six weeks and that is completely unacceptable". ■

DSRSG McNab deeply saddened by tragic Jordan bus crash

The Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Iraq (DSRSG), Ms. Chris-

tine McNab, expressed her deep sadness by the bus crash of 29 July, in which three Iraqi officials and two contractors of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) lost their lives. They were among tens of participants attending a UNDP training on democratic governance. A number of other passengers were injured and received medical treatment in Jordan.

On behalf of the United Nations in Iraq, DSRSG McNab extended her heartfelt condolences to the Government of Iraq and the bereaved families of those who were killed in the fatal accident and wished speedy recovery to those who were injured.

DSRSG McNab thanked the Jordanian authorities for their prompt action in delivering medical assistance to the injured. ■

Iraq: Better security, but Human Rights remains of concern - UN report

Covering the second half of 2009, the latest UN report on the human rights situation in Iraq was released on 8 July 2010. The report, prepared by UNAMI and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Baghdad/Geneva), shows further improvements in security, but warns that the overall human rights situation in the country remains a matter of concern.

The UN report notes the high rate of indiscriminate and targeted attacks that claimed hundreds of lives from 1 July to 31 December 2009. It also notes that while the number of civilian deaths decreased slightly, the number of injured civilians rose dramatically, with 9,747 civilians injured during attacks, compared with 6,188 during the first six months of 2009.

The reporting period also saw continued attacks deliberately targeting religious and ethnic groups and several targeted attacks against the Shabak, a mainly Shiite minority, and Christians. The UN report also describes attacks against civilians at places of worship, with accounts of mosques and churches being targeted.

Targeted assassinations against government officials and high profile figures

continued throughout the reporting period. UNAMI also received reports of killings, bomb attacks, and abductions of journalists by unknown groups.

The report also draws attention to the human rights situation in prisons and places of detention in Iraq, as well as the fact that as of 31 December 2009, 1,254 prisoners were facing executions in the country.

The report also indicates a dramatic increase in death penalty with 93 people, including three women, executed during the reporting period, compared to 31 (one woman) in the first six months of 2009.

While recognizing various reform efforts by the Government, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navi Pillay, urged the Government of Iraq to investigate all allegations of ill-treatment and torture in detention facilities and bring those responsible to justice.

Human Rights Report: 1 July-31 December 2009 : (*)http://www.uniraq.org/documents/UNAMI_Human_Rights_Report16_EN.pdf

Aid agencies worried by consequences of lack of humanitarian funding for Iraq

Six months after launching the 2010 Iraq Humanitarian Action Plan (IHAP), many of Iraq's humanitarian needs remain unaddressed and the lack of donor funding towards the IHAP means that much needed UN and NGO assistance has been unable to reach vulnerable Iraqis.

During the launch of the IHAP Mid-Year Review in Geneva, it was revealed that out of the US\$187.7 million required, only US\$22.3 million has been received from donors to Iraq. This lack of funding has real consequences for the most vulnerable within the Iraqi population.

"Food distributions to 800,000 pregnant and nursing women and malnourished children have had to be suspended", said World Food Programme's Representative for Iraq, Mr. Edward Kallon. He added that "food distribution to 960,000 school-going children has also been suspended".

News Briefs

The livelihoods of 500,000 people affected by drought in Sulaimaniyah and Dahuk governorates are threatened and some have been displaced, while the plan to support 22,500 vulnerable IDP families with emergency shelter provision - compliant with Sphere standards - will now have to be suspended.

Thousands of Iraqi families will therefore be left to continue living in desperate shelter conditions, unable to be protected from often severe climatic conditions and vulnerable to sickness through inadequate water and sanitation provision.

At the beginning of 2010, eight UN agencies, seven NGOs and the International Organisation of Migration developed the Iraq IHAP to address the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable people in Iraq.

"We appeal to donors not to give up on their commitment to the Iraqi people and to help pave the way for Iraq's future development", urged Christine McNab, Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq.

Mid Year Review of the Iraq Humanitarian Action Plan 2010

[http://ochadms.unog.ch/cap-exchange.nsf/0/D25AB-](http://ochadms.unog.ch/cap-exchange.nsf/0/D25AB-B87C7214CB0C1257762005A8F18/$FILE/IRAQ%20HAP_MYR_2010.doc)

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Regulation to the new Iraqi NGO law: A new step in support of civil society

On 4 July, representatives of various Iraqi governmental institutions and non-governmental institutions agreed on recommendations to guide the implementing regulations for the new Iraqi Law on Non-Governmental Organizations which entered into force in April 2010. Representatives included the Iraqi Council of Ministers' Secretariat (CoMSec) including the Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Directorate, several Iraqi Government Ministries, outgoing Chair of Iraqi Council



NGO law implementing regulation roundtable held in Erbil 2-4 July. Photo: UNOPS

of Representatives' Civil Society Committee and Iraqi and International NGOs.

"The passing of the NGO law in early 2010 was the successful result of years of consultations and negotiations, but without clear guidelines for how to put its provisions into practice, neither Iraqi authorities nor NGOs will fully benefit from the law", said the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Portfolio Manager for Civil Society Mr. Adam Styp-Rekowski.

Over the course of the past months, the Iraqi CoMSec - in consultation with several international partners including UNOPS - worked on drafting guidelines on the implementing regulations that would reflect Iraqi needs and enable easy implementation of the NGO Law.

The recommendations agreed on by the participants will be used by CoMSec to finalise the draft regulations.

"With consensus on the practical issues, we will soon be able to look beyond the law and see how we can support civil society further", said the outgoing Chair of the Iraqi Council of Representatives Civil Society Committee, Ms. Alaa Talabani.

For more information, please contact Caroline Hammarberg, Public Information & Project Development Officer: CarolineH@unops.org

UNEP and UNDP Support Iraq Tackle Climate Change

As part of a project launched this year to assist the Iraqi Government in introducing better practices and knowledge to help the country mitigate and adapt to Climate Change, a key high-level conference organised by UNDP, UNEP and the Iraqi Ministry of

Environment was held in Amman, Jordan, from 4-8 July. Some 100 senior Iraqi and UN officials and Climate Change experts participated in the event. The meeting is a response to Iraq's immediate Climate Change needs expressed by the Iraqi government, and takes into account the currently limited data and information on the effects of Climate Change in Iraq. The following issues were discussed:

- How to better use available data and increase awareness of Climate Change in Iraq, and in particular the threats, challenges and opportunities posed by it.
- How to train Iraqi officials to better understand key Climate Change aspects related to their functions.
- How to formulate a work plan to prepare the first National Communication



UNEP-UNDP Iraq Climate Change Conference Amman July 4 2010. Photo: UNDP-Iraq

(NC) to the UNFCCC and agree on the composition and Terms of Reference to establish a national NC team and its working groups.

The event is part of UNDP's preparatory assistance on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation to the Government of Iraq, with technical support from UNEP's Regional Office for West Asia.

The conference particularly responds to the training needs of Iraqi officials and experts, while overall the project also supports the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Iraq, and in particular MDG 1: Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, and MDG 7: Ensuring environmental sustainability.

For more information, please contact Mr. Paal Aarsaether, Chief of Communications and External Relations, UNDP-Iraq: paal.aarsaether@undp.org

United Nations in Action

FAO:

◆ Completed on 4 July a study tour in the Moroccan capital, Rabat, for Iraqi authorities and livestock farmers' production groups and associations. The study tour offered participants an opportunity to benefit from the Moroccan experience in milk production, collection and processing at the regional level. Participants engaged in discussions and evaluation of the organization of the dairy cattle sector with particular reference to milk collection centers and cooperatives in Morocco. They also visited various institutions and met with staff in charge.

UN Country Team:

◆ On 4 July, the UN Country Team participated in the official launch of the Iraq National Development Plan (NDP) for 2010-2014 in Baghdad. Aiming at diversifying the Iraqi economy, the plan comprises more than 2,700 projects worth approximately US\$186 billion. The NDP sets out a development vision, with quantitative and qualitative goals and identifies challenges and capabilities at the macro, sectoral and local levels in line with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for 2011-2014, signed on 11 May 2010.

UNDP:

◆ Organised this month the Training of Master Trainers Programme on E-Governance as an output of the first activity of building Iraq's e-Governance Action Plan under the "Public Sector Modernization Programme". The objective of this programme is to train up to 35 master trainers from public institutions, universities and academic institutions, and consultants to train government officials responsible for taking ICT-decisions and the development and implementation of ICT-based applications, as well as to de-

velop a training curriculum with five initial modules including e-overview, e-strategy, e-planning, e-implementation and e-organisational impact.

UN-HABITAT :

◆ Iraq Programme supported an orientation tour from 28 June to 2 July 2010 in Boston, USA, for five of the Senior Managers from the Foundation of Technical Education (FTE). The tour was designed to acquire up-to-date knowledge on recent developments in construction and building technologies including quick housing construction and building materials; and to establish educational partnerships and channels with a number of technical construction institutions and colleges. As a result, FTE has signed a number of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with technical and vocational colleges and institutions in Boston to further enhance the capacity of the Iraqi FTE teachers and students. In addition, a series of 'Training of Trainers' courses, on five construction trades, took place in Cairo during the month of July.

UNIDO:

◆ Conducted a rehabilitation needs survey in July in 153 small and medium enterprises in the Anbar Governorate under the project Technology Acquisition to Re-start and Generate Economic Transformation.

UNHCR:

◆ Of some 1.5 million persons displaced in Iraq, many reside in public buildings and have in some instances been served with eviction orders in accordance with the applicable national regulations. UNHCR is working closely with the Ministry of Displacement and Migration to identify long term solutions to this problem. While in some cases eviction orders have been temporarily suspended, UNHCR

and its implementing partners continue to monitor the situation of families potentially facing eviction from land and property informally or illegally occupied. In Baghdad, in Al-Nasir Wal-salam sub district in Abu Ghareb, some 530 internally displaced families received eviction orders. In Wassit governorate, 360 families in Al-Hawrrar quarter in Kut were also notified to leave the land they are occupying. In July 15, 375 families – including 78 internally displaced families and seven refugee returnee families - were evicted from a complex in Al-Mutanzzah Park in Missan Governorate.

WHO:

◆ During the month of July, a WHO team visited Baghdad for meetings with representatives from the Ministry of Health departments. They discussed strategic directions related to the reform in the health sector and support through the implementation of the Iraq-Public Sector Modernization. Discussions also focused on the current status of emergency medical services, response to mass casualty incidents, the global programme on Good Governance of Medicines and laboratory diagnosis capacity in hospitals and in public health laboratories in Baghdad and the governorates.

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