

IRAQ

SITUATION REPORT



UNITED NATIONS

04 October – 17 October 2004

OVERVIEW ►

The security situation in Iraq continues to create a challenge for the international humanitarian community to implement programmes. Despite the holy month of Ramadan beginning on 15 October, violence has continued in Iraq. During the reporting period, United Kingdom contractor Kenneth Bigley was executed while being held hostage in Iraq. Two suicide bombers were reportedly behind the separate bombs that rocked the Green Zone and killed at least five people at the Green Zone Café and a bazaar named Vendor's Alley. In an effort to expel insurgents from Falluja, the Multi-National Force (MNF) and Iraqi forces began an air strike campaign in the restive city over the past few weeks. Some residents of Falluja have reportedly begun leaving the city, looking for respite until the conflict subsides. The UN continues to closely monitor the humanitarian situation in Iraq, with particular attention to the growing number of civilian deaths and casualties. According to news agency reports, it is estimated that 147 civilians have been killed over the period of 01 August through 16 October 2004, by military action of the MNF and Iraqi forces. **At the time of publication, it was reported that Margaret Hassan, Care International's head of mission in Iraq, had been kidnapped on 19 October from outside her Baghdad office.*

UNITED NATIONS ►

The third donor conference for the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI) was held in Tokyo, Japan, on 13-14 October. The conference brought together international donors from 57 countries and institutions, a delegation from the Iraqi Interim Government (IIG), and a delegation from the UN and World Bank (WB) to discuss the implementation status of projects and programmes and to seek further pledges for the year 2005 from donors. Major attention of the conference was focused on preparations for the January elections. Donors pledged full support for maintaining the current timetable and emphasised the vital role of the UN in this process.

The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General (DSRSG), Mr. Ross Mountain, made a presentation on UN activities in all eleven clusters, indicating the significant progress achieved under difficult circumstances. He noted that all funds deposited under the UNDG Trust Fund have been allocated to 40 projects.

Iran announced that it will pledge US\$10 million to the Trust Fund for the year 2005. Although not a pledging conference, informal indicators of additional support were given by the European Commission, South Korea, the United Kingdom, Denmark, and New Zealand.

HUMANITARIAN ►

The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) continues to meet with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) on the ground in Iraq and to monitor humanitarian developments as the situations progresses. NGOs are reporting that although the humanitarian situation seems stable in the Lower South for the time being, the lack of resources for internally displaced people (IDPs) in the north is cause for concern. Many Kurds from the North have returned into further displacement and are residing in make-shift camps and public buildings in Kirkuk. The return of Kurds is causing secondary displacement of others, primarily Arabs, that were mainly settled in Kirkuk as part of the "Arabisation" campaign. In the delivery of humanitarian assistance, Cluster 8 and its partners are guided by the "Centre Strategy" which is part of the IDP Strategic Plan for Iraq.

On 14 October, Mr. Suhail Al Hashimi, Chairman of the Iraqi Property Claims Commission (IPCC), briefed the IDP Working Group on the work of the Commission, its presence throughout Iraq with 28 offices opened so far, 600 employees, and more than 30,000 claims received so far. Mr. Suhail was on his way back to Baghdad after attending meetings with UNHCR and IOM both of which are supporting the IPCC.

It has been reported that approximately 1,600 families (11,200 people) have fled Falluja due to the recent attacks of MNF and Iraqi forces on the city. These people have been displaced to six locations in the

surrounding area of the city. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and their implementing partners are providing non-food items (NFI) and intermediate food items to the IDPs and will continue to monitor their movements. *Please see Cluster 8 for further details of IDP activities.*

During a 2 week mission to Iraq in September, the UNAMI Civil Military Coordinator facilitated the set-up of much needed coordination channels between the MNF and the humanitarian community, especially important in light of the recent hostilities in both Najaf and Falluja. In a number of meetings with representatives from both sides, he addressed issues such as the need to regain and preserve humanitarian space, access to vulnerable populations, and the mutual exchange of information. In addition, interventions on various levels with the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and others resulted in greatly simplified interim visa procedures for NGOs implementing in Iraq, and lastly, the Iraq specific Civil-Military Coordination Guidelines were finalized and disseminated among the various actors involved.

UN ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE ►

Cluster 11 continues to provide support to the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq (IECI) from Amman and Iraq by transferring electoral material, including registration forms and registration kits, to Iraq. The Cluster has requested an additional US\$3 million to fund the recruitment of additional staff to be deployed to Baghdad and Amman. The UN Development Programme (UNDP) started the recruitment process and staff are expected to be deployed to Iraq at the beginning of November.

HUMAN RIGHTS ►

On 21 October 2004, the Human Rights Office (HRO) of UNAMI called a meeting of UN agencies involved in implementing the Human Rights Programme for Iraq (December 2004-2006). All Cluster 9 partners, as well as the NGOs Coordination Committee in Iraq (NCCI), are partners within the United Nations Strategic Plan for Iraq. UNAMI/HRO and Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) subsequently met with the Minister of Human Rights in Amman to discuss specific activities envisaged in the near future under this Programme. Among them are expert meetings and training sessions foreseen for November and December 2004. Reconstruction activities and human rights monitoring go hand-in-hand. The UNAMI/HRO continued to monitor the human rights situations in Iraq with continuing concern.

GENDER ►

1st National Iraqi Women's Forum: Iraqi women held their first national women's forum from 10-11 October in Baghdad. The forum closed with the participation of nearly five hundred delegates from civil society activists, women's NGOs, city councils from different Iraqi governorates, and Iraqi Ministries. The State Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA) organized and fully prepared the first national Iraqi Women's Forum to mobilize women and strategize the work of the State Ministry. The main outcomes of the forum include formulation of a committee to follow-up on conference's goals and the creation of the national strategy for the advancement of Iraqi women. The conference committee was established to ensure coordination amongst its members, as well as follow-up and achievement of their goals. The UN Development Fund for Women's (UNIFEM) role was to support the State Ministry in holding the national conference as a step to building the capacity of the Ministry. In addition, UNIFEM will follow-up on the outcomes of the strategic workshop that took place with the MoWA in Amman in September.

Strategic Workshop for the State Ministry of Women's Affairs: UNIFEM, in cooperation with Cluster 9, organized a strategic workshop with the MoWA, held in Amman from 22-23 September. The workshop aimed to provide the Ministry a forum in which to discuss their priorities and plans. UNIFEM presented a discussion paper based on the State Ministry's plans and proposed to assist the Ministry in the following areas: building the capacity of the Ministry, strengthening its outreach to NGOs, and improving the staff's skills to lead gender mainstreaming within Iraqi ministries. Members of Cluster 9 also attended the

workshop and provided their technical and financial support to the State Ministry through understanding their obstacles and difficulties.

Introductory Workshop for Gender Focal Points from Iraqi Ministries: UNIFEM Arab States Regional Office organized an introductory workshop, from 2-4 October in Amman, for gender focal points from Iraqi ministries on tools and analysis of gender mainstreaming in planning. The focal points represented the Ministries of Municipalities and Public Works (MoMPW), Housing (MoH), Agriculture (MoA), Culture (MoC), Displacement and Migration (MoDM), MoFA, Education (MoE), Human Rights (MoHR), Industry and Minerals (MoIM), Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA), (MoWA, Planning and Development Cooperation (MoPDC), Environment (MoEn), and Interior (MoI). The workshop intended to familiarize the participants with the concept of gender mainstreaming tools and enable participants to implement the gained knowledge in their respective ministries.

Training Workshop for Iraqi Media Focal Points: The workshop, held from 5-7 October, was designed to build the capacity of Iraqi media focal points in their coverage of women's issues. The three day workshop was possible through successful cooperation between UNIFEM and the Centre of Arab Women for Training and Research and brought together thirty participants representing different fields of media in Iraq. The workshop was a starting point for interaction, sharing information, and building knowledge in certain fields of women's issues. The first day of the workshop introduced the Iraqi women's situation and their portrayal in media through examining the messages broadcasted on TV, radio, and published in newspapers and magazines. The second day introduced participants to the connection between gender and the world of journalism by showing participants how to establish patterns for writing articles that can trigger substantive change in Iraq. The third day participants were trained on building alliances with and between various key active partners on the ground. Such alliances will help in making women's issues more visible as a first step to effecting change in handling women's rights and issues in Iraq.

5-7 October, Training Workshop on Women and Elections for Focal Points from the MoMPW: As part of a series, UNIFEM organized a workshop for focal points from the MoMPW to raise awareness on the importance of women's participation in the upcoming elections. UNIFEM collaborated with the Al Quds Centre for Political Studies to hold a training for thirty focal points from the Ministry, covering various topics on the importance of women's participation in elections. The training was designed to enable the ministerial focal points to raise the awareness of women in different governorates and to encourage them to step forward and participate in the process, whether as voters, as candidates, or as members of campaigns of certain candidates. Following this training, a series of workshops will be held inside Iraq as part of the elections project.

PROGRAMME ►

Education and Culture (Cluster 1)

Delivery of School Supplies: The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) delivered 1,405,660 student kits and 3,336,953 school bags for children in grades one through four. UNICEF also delivered 711,165 student kits and 1,433, 257 school bags for grades five through nine, and 17,756 chalk kits. These materials were delivered to all 21 Directorates of Education in Iraq.

School Rehabilitation: The rehabilitation of three primary schools by UNICEF began in Kirkuk, while bills of quantity and bidding documents were completed for the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities of 220 primary and intermediate schools in Iraq.

Education Statistics in Iraq: The MoE released Volume One of the 2003/2004 "Education Statistics in Iraq" report. The report was released by the Minister of Education in Iraq and later launched by UNICEF's Executive Director, Carol Bellamy, in a press conference held in Geneva, on Friday 15 October 2004.

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The report, which is the first comprehensive study on the condition of schools in post-conflict Iraq, has confirmed that thousands of school facilities lack the basics necessary to provide children with a decent education. The findings are being released in three separate reports. The first report will cover statistics, the second will provide a qualitative analysis, and the third will present a detailed school-by-school mapping of the findings. UNICEF supported the MoE in carrying out the survey as part of its standing brief as lead UN agency for education in Iraq.

The School Survey Report can be downloaded from the following URL:

<http://www.unicef.org/files/school-survey-vol1-eng.pdf>

http://www.unicef.org/files/School_Survey_2003-2004_Volume_1_Arabic.pdf

In-Service Teacher Training: A coordination meeting took place in Beirut from 28-29 September 2004 with UNESCO and the MoE to finalize the implementation strategy of the “In-Service Teacher Training” project in Iraq. The project aims to develop instructional materials for high quality teachers as part of the training of secondary school subjects such as science, mathematics, English, and computer literacy.

Literacy and Life Skills Development Project: A planning meeting with the Iraqi MoE, the UN Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) National staff, and a team of experts from UNESCO Paris was held from 13-15 October at UNESCO Amman. The meeting was held to discuss implementation of the “Literacy and Life Skills Development Project” designed to provide effective informal education and adult literacy programmes, with a particular focus on women. The project aims to establish a National Literary Resource Centre in Baghdad and subsequently open Community Learning Centres in Baghdad, Erbil, and Samawah.

Conservation of Antiquities: The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), in close collaboration with UNESCO, held a workshop in Amman from 26-30 September to join the Jordanian Department of Antiquities and the Iraqi Museum in sharing their experiences and lessons learned in conservation and preservation of museums, archaeological sites, and intangible cultural heritage.

Safeguarding for the Cultural Heritage of Iraq: UNESCO held a follow-up session to the first meeting of the International Coordination Committee for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of Iraq (ICC), established under the auspices of UNESCO and the Iraqi MoC in September 2003. The meeting, which took place from 24-25 May 2004 at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, identified the need of the Iraqi Government to protect and conserve Iraqi cultural heritage and resulted in several recommendations being put forth by the ICC.

In addition, preparations for the delivery of US\$1 million worth of equipment for the MoC for the security of archaeological sites in Iraq are underway. This includes the procurement of cars and database equipment for site management.

Training on the Protection of Cultural Artifacts: UNESCO, with the support of the Italian Government Carabinieri, finalised a three week training course for “Border Patrols and Site Guards to Stop Illicit Traffic in Cultural Artifacts and Provide Security at Archaeological Sites” from 26 September to 14 October 2004. 76 Iraqis nominated by the Iraqi MoC were trained. A closing ceremony was held in the Iraqi Department of Antiquities on 14 October.

Musical Instruments Procurement: Procurement of musical instruments for the Iraqi Music and Ballet School in Baghdad is underway within the framework of the German contribution. Instruments include French horns, trumpets, tenor trombones, oboes, clarinets, violins, and cellos, worth US\$35,000.

Health (Cluster 2)

Polio Eradication: The second round of Polio National Immunisation Days (PNIDs) ended successfully through a house to house immunisation campaign led the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF. UNICEF provided 10 million doses of Oral Polio Vaccine at a total value of US\$1.2 million for this campaign. UNICEF health monitors supervised the PNID in eight central and northern governorates. With the participation of 20,000 field workers and supervisors, the campaign reached 96% of 4.6 million children under the age of five.

Paralysis Surveillance: WHO hosted an orientation session on the objectives and methodology to conduct a review of Acute Flaccid Paralysis Surveillance in all governorates and particularly on the activities of the MoH and the major tertiary level hospitals. 11 Iraqis from universities and research institutes, who are highly experienced in polio eradication, participated in the two day session, held from 10-11 October.

Rehabilitation of the Mosul Public Health Lab: The rehabilitation of the health lab was fully completed by WHO during the reporting period.

Rehabilitation of Nursing Training Centres: To date, 90% of the Nursing Training Centres in Basrah and Sulaymaniyah have been completed by WHO.

Delivery of Teaching Materials: Microscopes, lab equipment, and other teaching materials were delivered to colleges of pharmacy in Baghdad, Erbil, Mosul, and Basrah.

Schistosomiasis and STH Surveys: WHO continues to provide technical support and equipment for the preparations of the survey, due to be released in early November 2004, on the prevalence and intensity of Schistosomiasis and STH in Iraq. Four training courses on the survey activities have been held throughout the country, training over 113 Iraqis.

Malaria and Leishmania Spraying: Spraying campaigns for malaria and Leishmania have been conducted in many governorates throughout the country and are expected to be completed within the next reporting period.

National Drug Policy for Iraq: WHO attended a meeting, chaired by the Minister of Health, regarding the draft document of the Iraqi National Drug Policy. The meeting was attended by senior staff from the MoH and the National Drug Quality Control Lab. Participants also included national and international advisors to the MoH, the Chairman and members of the Iraqi Syndicate of Pharmacists, the Chairman of the Iraqi Medical Association, faculty from the College of Pharmacy, and representatives from the private sector.

Health Rehabilitation Programme for Iraq (HRPI): On 4 October IOM held a midterm evaluation seminar for an Iraqi medical team. The team consists of four doctors and four nurses who are training for one month in interventional cardiology at the Chest Hospital in Kuwait. The training will enable the Iraqi medical team to work in the Interventional Cardiology Centre in Al Tamimi Hospital in Basrah. The midterm evaluation assessed the feedback of the trainees on the training topics and modules learned during workshop. In addition, IOM is facilitating the arrival of equipment for the Interventional Cardiology Centre in Al Tamimi Hospital in Basrah.

Over the reporting period, IOM's HRPI programme also assisted in the return of one case from the USA back to Iraq. To date, IOM has facilitated the medical treatment of 266 cases evacuated from Iraq, of which 247 have returned home after successful treatment.

Emergency Health Support: UNICEF, in coordination with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and the MoH, is providing emergency health support to children and their families in conflict areas. Support will be provided in the form of 100 first-aid kits and 30 emergency kits to be dispatched to Samarra. IRCS also delivered 100 first-aid kits to Fallujah from 4-10 October. Additionally, 300 hospital beds (100 paediatric

and 200 adult) were delivered to Al-Kadhemia, Al Elwia, Al-Numan, and Al Chewader Hospitals in Baghdad Governorate. UNICEF also delivered computers and other equipment to the Al-Kadhemia General Teaching Hospital and the Al-Noor Teaching Primary Health Care (PHC) Centre.

Training of Trainers: UNICEF supported the participation of nine managers and the national programme manager from the Breastfeeding Programme in a two week training of trainers course entitled, "Training Methodologies and Principles of Adult Learning; The Lactational Amenorrhea Method and Infant and Young Child Feeding." The training course was jointly organized with LINKAGES, Academy for Educational Development, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Jordanian MoH. Topics covered in the course included principles of learning, training methods, facilitation skills, supervision, and monitoring and evaluation of training events.

Deficiency Disorders Survey: UNICEF supported a technical meeting between the MoH, the Nutrition Research Institute (NRI), and the Central Statistical Organization held in Amman from 11-14 October. The workshop aimed to design the protocol and a plan of action for a National Micronutrients Deficiency Disorders Survey. Technical experts were provided by UNICEF and WHO to facilitate the process. A draft survey protocol was developed and will soon be submitted to the MoH for approval.

Health Activities in Basra: During the reporting period, the Nutrition Programme Manager of the Basra Directorate of Health established 14 nutrition rehabilitation units, undertook the physical rehabilitation of 14 community child care units, organized a training of trainers workshop for 20 paediatricians on a targeted nutrition programme, produced different information, education, and communication materials, and established a Breastfeeding Counselling clinic.

Support to Emergency Obstetric Care: Contacts with the International Health Department (IHD) and MoH were maintained throughout the reporting period to follow-up on issues related to activities under the UN Populations Fund (UNFPA) project, "Support to Emergency Obstetric Care (EOC) in Iraq." In this respect, UNFPA requested the IHD to provide import licenses for select drugs on the project's drug list, as required by the drug suppliers. IHD was requested to provide a formal list of the 21 health facilities that will be renovated under the EOC project.

Early Detection of Breast Cancer: UNFPA representatives attended a national seminar on 11 October 2004, regarding the early detection of Breast Cancer. The seminar was held by the MoH, the Department of Medical Operations and Specialized Services, and the Training Department, in coordination with the NGO Movimondo. The seminar was attended by the Minister of Health, who spoke in his opening speech of the deteriorating health situation, as well as the dilapidated status of most health facilities in the country.

Water and Sanitation (Cluster 3)

Rehabilitation to Sewage and Drainage Works: UNICEF, in coordination with its implementing partner, completed 80% of rehabilitation works to sewage and drainage systems identified for rehabilitation in Muthanna and Thi-Qar Governorates, namely in the cities of Samawah and Nasiriyah. The project includes raising public awareness of solid waste problems and health risks posed to children from raw sewage in urban areas. 87,000 people will benefit from this awareness campaign.

The rehabilitation projects in Thi-Qar stand to potentially benefit 30,000 people from Al Shuda Sewage Pumping Station, 7,500 people from the Al Iskaan sewerage, and potentially 20,300 people from the construction of new street drainage channels in Al Sharki and Al Gerbi.

Supply of Water to Schools: An agreement was signed between UNICEF and Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) in April 2004 to deliver water to 111 schools, 29 health clinics, and 10 hospitals in the Basra Governorate during the summer season. While schools were closed, water was delivered to the most vulnerable parts of the population.

Infrastructure and Housing (Cluster 4)

Shipwreck Consolidated Review: UNDP, in collaboration with the Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), conducted a shipwreck consolidated review from 5-6 October to address environmental concerns and launch pollution control measures vital for the gulf region.

In-depth explanations were provided as to the location, condition, and obstruction of wrecks and related potential dangers. Five packages of clearly defined interventions were shared with the participants that indicated the immediate need for the removal of priority wrecks and collection and treatment of pollutants. Currently the marine environment around Umm Qasr waterways is being heavily polluted due to wrecks leaking hazardous contaminants and the lack of enforcement of forensic pollution abatement. All participants agreed the level of information and quality of the presented documentation deserved a wider audience. As a result, it was decided to repeat the meeting early 2005 in Amman.

Rehabilitation of HARTHA Power Plant: The entire consignment for the first shipment to the HARTHA Power Plant has been delivered by UNDP without any damage or shortage. Payments totalling US\$2.5 million have been processed. With the first shipment, the majority of stage I equipment has been delivered. The second shipment will be delivered in December 2004 and the third in February 2005, which will conclude stage I. With regard to stage II, an offer has been received from an international contractor and price verification has commenced. A contract will be finalised by the end of November 2004, with an expected value of approximately US\$15 million.

Rehabilitation of Electrical Supply: An assortment of essential material and equipment was reviewed by UNDP regarding the repair and rehabilitation of electrical supply sites and projects under UNDP. This included the delivery of low voltage cable and a 500 kVA generator for a water pumping station. 100,000 litres of transformer oil will be forwarded to the Iraqi Ministry of Electricity (MoEI) to maintain power and distribution transformers and 3,400 kilograms of SF6 gas for repairing and maintaining substation high voltage circuit breakers.

Diesel Generator Sets: Phase I of consultancy services for installing diesel generator sets in Baghdad, Basra, Kirkuk, and Mosul have been completed. This includes inspection of sites and preparing drawings and the necessary bills of quantity.

Agriculture, Water Resources, and Environment (Cluster 5)

Environmental Site Assessment: As part of its environmental capacity building programme for the Iraqi Ministry of Environment (MoEn), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) developed a workshop on environmental site assessment. The workshop, organised in close cooperation with the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), trained 20 Iraqi MoEn staff in conducting contamination assessments. The training focused on the technical details of taking samples and their analysis. The aim of this assessment is to facilitate preliminary data collection that will assist with the planning of a later, more detailed assessment. The participants have been provided with the knowledge and tools required for this initial assessment.

Environmental Leadership Training: During the reporting period, UNEP met with the United Nations University – International Leadership Institute to lay the foundations for a pilot academic environmental leadership training programme. This training is scheduled to take place in January 2005.

Coordination with the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR): On 2 October, UNESCO held a meeting with Dr. Abdul Latif Jamal Rashid, Minister of Water Resources, to discuss the implementation of the “Capacity Building in Water Institutions of Iraq” project. It was agreed that the MoWR would authorize a national focal point for the project and subsequently the official kick-off meeting would be organized jointly by UNESCO and the MoWR in Amman. The UNESCO pipeline project, “The National Water Master Plan –

Phase 1, Water Resources Assessment” was also briefly discussed in the meeting. The Minister confirmed the high importance of such a project and proposed it be initiated immediately, as it is in line with the policy of sustainable water management in Iraq. He also stressed it should be well designed and should address all water-consuming sectors.

Surveys of Cottage Industries in Iraq: The UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) headquarters in Vienna continued to carry out field assessments for the “Pilot Project for the Rehabilitation of the Dairy Sector in Iraq” and the “Promotion of Cottage Industry in Rural and Urban Areas.” This principle was agreed upon by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), the MoPDC, and UNIDO during their meeting in Amman from 17-18 August. The purpose of the assessment will be to survey the cottage industry in the targeted project area. The assessment is planned to begin in November, with a duration of two months. A meeting with the MoPDC, MoA, and MoLSA will be held to establish a national level steering committee to be mandated with coordination, review, and approval of procedures and policies for the project.

UNIDO is also finalizing a workshop, to be held in early November in Amman, for the “Pilot Project for the Rehabilitation of the Dairy Sector in Iraq”. This meeting will bring together the stakeholders from the MoIM, MoA, Municipality of Basrah, NGOs, technical representatives from interested donor countries, and cluster members to agree on implementation roles and modalities.

Rehabilitation of Pumping Stations: FAO and the MoWR Iraqi team met in Baghdad and agreed upon additional information required to proceed with the rehabilitation of prioritized pumping stations in Iraq. A survey assessing the condition of pumps, motors, auxiliary equipment, and infrastructure was completed. Based on the results, procurement of equipment to be replaced or repaired will be determined.

Rehabilitation of Water Resources: Under the project, "Rehabilitation of Community Irrigation Schemes and Restoration of Water Supply in Rural Areas," FAO has carried out pre-feasibility studies of seven schemes for rehabilitation in collaboration with MoWR. Feasibility studies are currently underway for the rehabilitation of schemes benefiting 3,625 farming families. These studies and the preparation of survey, design, and tender documents are planned to be completed by mid-November. Irrigation equipment, as well as agricultural supplies and commodities have been identified and procurement worth US\$ 3 million is currently underway.

Hydrological Network for Iraq: Preliminary discussions were held with the MoWR on a project that will complete a survey of hydrological monitoring sites and the design of a hydrological network in southern and central Iraq, and the implementation of networks in the north, centre, and southern parts of the country. The project also plans to install monitoring equipment at key sites in the centre and south during the first year, to be used for water use planning. The MoWR has given the establishment of this network a top priority. The network closely ties in with the Water Control Centre being established by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Hydrological Modelling Study currently being initiated by the Agency.

Mine Action (Cluster 7)

Mine Risk Education (MRE) Workshop: UNICEF, in coordination with National Mine Action Authority (NMAA), organized a “Mine Risk Education Needs Assessment and Strategic Planning Workshop” from 10-14 October in Amman. Participants to the workshop were from a number of government ministries, local and international mine action NGOs, ICRC/IRCS, and UNDP. As a result of the workshop, a MRE needs assessment document and a draft strategic plan for MRE in Iraq were developed, which included the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in implementing the plan.

Mine Clearance Activities: UNDP supported mine clearance activities continued in the south, although there has been an increased threat from vehicle-borne and roadside improvised explosive devices. During

the reporting period, a total of 91 bomblets and 15,477 items, weighing 2,573 kilograms, were destroyed, as well as a total of 275,491 m² of land were cleared visually. This positively impacted the living conditions of an undetermined number of families living and moving throughout the area.

Strategic Planning Workshop: A 2005 strategic planning workshop for the three northern governorates of Iraq was conducted from 11-12 October in Dahuk Governorate. The workshop was hosted by the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Centre and participants included local authorities, NMAA, a number of local and international NGOs, and commercial companies. Due to lack of security clearance and communication difficulties, the UN Mine Action Cluster Manager participated through a written speech, which was read in the session.

Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons - IDPs (Cluster 8)

Strategic Action Plan for IDP's in Iraq: In August 2004, following extensive work undertaken by the IDP Working Group, a Strategic Action Plan for IDP's in Iraq was submitted to the UN Under Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. Recently this plan, developed as a test case in applying the procedural steps as agreed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee members on implementing the collaborative response to IDP situations, was endorsed. The plan highlights a wide range of protection and assistance needs and identifies appropriate actors, as well as activities to respond to these needs. Amongst many other issues, the plan distinguishes between newly displaced and protracted displacement situations and focuses on the need to avoid additional or secondary displacement, if and when return takes place. The plan provides various recommendations, such as needs assessments and community based programmes.

Distribution of Items to IDPs and Vulnerable Persons around Falluja: To respond to the immediate needs of IDP and vulnerable populations around Fallujah, IOM in coordination with the MoDM, the Ministry of Trade (MoT), and other relevant actors will begin the distribution of 4,750 mattresses, 6,600 blankets, 1,650 cooking stoves, 3,300 jerry cans, 3,300 buckets, 1,650 hygienic kits, 8,250 canned chicken meat, 3,300 milk powder, 1,650 canned beans, 1,650 canned chicken pieces, 1,650 canned lentils, 6,600 canned vegetables, 3,300 canned date syrup, 1,650 canned cheese, 1,650 tomato cans, and 3,300 vegetable oil for 1,600 displaced families (11,200 individuals) in the areas of Habaniya, 'Al Karmah, 'Al `Amiriyah, Nieamiya, and 'As Saqlawiyah around Falluja. To meet the immediate needs of 100 families (700 individuals) displaced in Habaniya, an IOM implementing partner distributed 100 family tents and 200 mattresses to this location.

IDPs in Samarra: IOM monitoring partners have distributed NFIs and intermediate food items (230 jerry cans, 230 hygiene kits, 460 cans of vegetables, 460 cans of meat, and 460 cans of cheese) to 230 families (1,610 individuals) temporarily displaced due to fighting in Samarra. Distribution occurred in Samarra city and Al Daur military compound.

IDP Governorate Profiles: On 17 October, IOM released the fourth instalment of the IDP Governorate Profiles. In addition to the 15 centre and southern governorate profiles, UNOPS will also contribute to the overview of the three northern governorates. In addition, IOM finalized agreements with partners across the 15 centre and southern governorates for a continuation of monitoring activities. Agreements constitute the third phase of monitoring activities and will run through the end of the calendar year.

Monitoring Database Review: IOM conducted a "Monitoring Database Review and Training Session" in Amman, on 13 October, for monitoring partners throughout the 15 centre and southern governorates. The review focused on improving field assessment tools. Also in attendance were representatives of the MoDM and the UNAMI Chief of Human Rights.

Winterisation Training: On 14 October, IOM conducted a "Winterization Warehousing and Distribution Database Training" in Amman for partners operating in Iraq. The database was developed to provide the

most up-to-date information in a standardized manner for procurement, warehousing, and distribution activities over the coming months.

Mine Awareness Training for IDPs: IOM approved the project “Mine Awareness Education in the IDP Sites” for an implementing partner to facilitate in Salah Al Din Governorate. The project will partner with other NGOs in order to provide essential mine awareness training to 1,000 families.

Capacity Building of Health Services: Through its implementing partner, IOM has approved a health project in Al Qasim, Babil. The project aims to build the capacity of the District Health Office and strengthen health service delivery by providing mobile health teams, physical rehabilitation of health centres, as well as training for health staff members.

Distribution of Potable Water: In direct collaboration with the Water Department of the Municipality of Tikrit and Al Daur, an IOM monitoring partner distributed potable water from 3-7 October to Samarra’s population, through the provision of 13 trucks over a period of five days.

Third Country Nationals (TCN): IOM assisted 32 Sudanese nationals from the Jordanian-Iraqi border to Amman. They will later receive IOM repatriation assistance.

Facilitated Repatriation: During the reporting period, a total of three convoys returning 199 persons to southern Iraq and five convoys returning 926 people to northern Iraq were facilitated by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and its partners on the ground. In all, a total of 16,400 people have now returned to Iraq via transport facilitated by UNHCR. The exact number of spontaneous returns is unknown, but it has been estimated to be over 100,000 people.

Iraqi Refugee Resettlement: After having lived nearly one and a half years in the desert between eastern Jordan and Iraq, solutions have been found for some of the 1048 refugees living in no-man's land. Recently the Swedish Government decided to accept a total of 384 Iranian Kurds for resettlement. The Iranian Kurds fled to Iraq after the Islamic Revolution in Iran and settled in Al Tash, outside of Baghdad. After the fall of Saddam Hussein, many of the refugees decided to leave. Some went to northern Iraq, some returned to Iran, and approximately 1500 crossed into Jordan.

UNHCR has advocated very strongly for a solution for these "lost" people at the borders. This year alone, UNHCR submitted files for the resettlement of 879 individuals from the camps in eastern Jordan. The 384 people who will be resettled in Sweden have recently been moved from no-man's land to Ruweished Camp (inside Jordan) where the Swedish Government will provide them with an orientation briefing and prepare all the necessary documents for them before they depart.

Governance and Civil Society (Cluster 9)

Training for the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works (MoMPW): UNDP is facilitating a study tour of five senior civil servants from the Iraq MoMPW to Latvia in mid-November 2004. Key topics of the study tour will include the reform process of the municipal system in Latvia, decentralization, municipal management and development, water treatment and management, regional and municipal road management, and waste management and utilization.

Civil Society Development: UNDP has signed an agreement with an international NGO to execute the UNDP funded project, “Iraqi Civil Society Development Programme (ICS DP).” The eight month project will support the training of 55 civil society organisations (CSOs) in the governorates of Erbil, Kirkuk, Mosul, and Sulaymaniyah. The training will cover needs assessments, proposal writing, and monitoring and reporting and will provide 55 small grants to the CSOs.

IRAQ

SITUATION REPORT



UNITED NATIONS

04 October – 17 October 2004

UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR IRAQ

Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN): IOM and UNDP intend to enhance the institutional capacity of Iraqi public sector institutions through the insertion of Iraqi expatriate experts, who will fill qualified or specialized positions in the public sector, as well as provide on-the-job training for the existing staff in ministries to ensure that human resource gaps are filled. The deployment of experienced and highly qualified expatriate Iraqi personnel will ensure an immediate and direct contribution to the Iraqi effort to restore its public administration. The preparatory actions will include the identification of the human resource needs in public administration, targeted outreach to the Iraqi émigré communities based on those needs, and establishment of a database of Iraqi émigré experts willing to take assignments in their home country.

Poverty Reduction and Human Development (Cluster 10)

Fire in a MoLSA Warehouse: On 4 October, a fire in one of the MoLSA warehouses destroyed the equipment donated by IOM to the Ministry to enhance the capacity of 10 Employment Centres in the country. Police investigations are still on-going to determine the cause of the fire.

Training for MoLSA Staff Members: During the reporting period, IOM held a training in Amman on “Employment and Assistance Services” for seven MoLSA staff members. Additionally, IOM held a workshop on “Management and Maintenance of the MoLSA Jobseekers/Employers Matching Database” for 13 MoLSA staff and one staff member from an IOM implementing partner. To date, 155 MoLSA employees from 20 Employment and Training Centres in Iraq have attended sessions in Jordan delivered by IOM.

Trade Migration Seminar: IOM facilitated the participation of the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs and the Deputy Minister to a “Trade Migration” seminar held in Geneva from 4-5 October. The seminar organized by IOM, WB, and the World Trade Organization, focused on the actual experiences of governments in managing the movement of people and balancing issues of interest to both trade and migration authorities.

Iraq Reconstruction and Employment Programme (IREP): The implementation of IREP, through international NGOs on the ground, has seen steady progress despite the declining security situation. Reports received from participants indicate that Iraqis are working, wages are received regularly and in a timely fashion, and project goals are being met. Reports indicate, however, that only a few organisations are still active in the north of Iraq and that the number is declining. Since the start of the IREP Programme in March 2004, 119 projects worth approximately US\$3million, involving 16,000 workers, have been created in the Lower South. This, in turn, has generated over 670,000 worker days.

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