

**OVERVIEW ►**

This week the world marked the third anniversary of the terrorist act that struck the United States on 9/11/2001, killing more than 3,000 people. Kidnapping continues in Iraq as four aid workers from an Italian NGO were kidnapped from their Baghdad office on Tuesday. Joint US and Iraqi forces continue to bombard the northern Iraqi town of Tel Afar in an effort to reclaim the town from insurgents who have reportedly displaced local Iraqi security forces throughout recent weeks. NGOs on the ground have reported that people are fleeing from the city to escape the raids, however it is unknown the exact number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), as well as the expected length of time it may be before they return to their homes.

**UNITED NATIONS ►**

On 6 September, SRSG Ashraf Qazi met Secretary-General Annan in New York to share initial impressions on the re-establishment of UNAMI in Baghdad. He briefed the Secretary General (SG) on meetings he held with President Yawer, Prime Minister Allawi and Foreign Minister Zebari who all encouraged an enhanced UN presence and role in Iraq. He also informed the SG of his engagements with members of the National Conference at which he met party leaders, civic and women's groups, NGOs, tribal leaders, and members of the Najaf delegation who represented a wide range of Iraqi society. The SRSG is expected to brief the Security Council on 14 September.

**HUMANITARIAN ►**

While in Baghdad, Acting SRSG Ross Mountain held a series of meetings with the President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, and with a series of line ministries. He also met several visiting delegations (UK Minister for International Development, UK Prime Minister's Foreign Policy Advisor, and the European Union). In these meetings he highlighted the return of UNAMI and its priorities for the coming months – the political process with a focus on elections. In addition he discussed ways and means by which the UN could meet the implementation challenge in the present circumstances and program development for future engagement. He also described the ongoing UN activities in reconstruction and humanitarian assistance.

A delegation from the European Commission (EC) met in Amman from 7-9 September with the Executive Coordinator of the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund (IFT), the IRFFI Secretariat, the Steering Committee Support Office, the UN Country Team, and Cluster Task Managers to discuss the progress of UN projects/programmes currently being implemented in Iraq and to what extent the UN have engaged in legal commitments for work to the end of 2004 from EC contributions.

The UN last week collaborated with the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation in Amman in responding to their request for inputs to the Draft Iraq National Development Strategy 2005. The UN inputs focused mainly on Human Development aspects of transition covering social development, economic reform and social safety nets, job creation, capacity building, civil society, human rights, and gender.

**UN ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE ►**

A planning meeting was organized in Amman to finalise a programme document which will be submitted to the Steering Committee of the IRFFI Trust Fund in order to secure funds for the electoral assistance support to Iraq. UN Elections Assistance Division (UNEAD) Chief of Operations in NY, UNDP, UNAMI and members of Cluster 11 were provided with a detailed update from the International Commissioner Mr. Valenzuela during his brief visit to Amman.

Five election experts arrived in Amman and an additional one arrived in Baghdad to increase the level of technical support provided to the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq (IECI).

A training programme was completed in Jordan for the directors and the senior staff of the IECEI. A second, four-day training is scheduled to commence on 27 September for the heads of 18 Governorate Electoral Offices.

A phase two project document was approved to provide US\$ 11.5 million from the Cluster 11 earmarked money to immediately purchase and deliver essential equipment and furniture for the IECEI headquarters and governorate offices. A phase three project document will be submitted on 20 September to the Steering Committee to approve another US\$ 15.75 million to contract a data-management company, in order to start creating a voters database to be used as a basis of the registration exercise.

In addition, the IECEI now has access to the complete database of the PDS which was handed over to them last week by the Ministry of Trade.

## PROGRAMME ►

### Education and Culture (Cluster 1)

**Delivery of Education Materials:** To date 374,371 student kits and 10,736 chalk kits have been delivered by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) to Iraq for primary and intermediate level students and schools in all 21 Directorates of Education. Approximately 6.2 million students and 16,000 primary and intermediate level schools have benefited from this programme. The materials for students include exercise books, pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, a drawing book, and a school bag, while each school will receive 10 blackboards and 64 boxes of chalk. Delivery of these supplies, which started late August, will be staggered till November 2004 and delivery is on track.

**Volume I School Survey Finalised:** Volume I of the school survey conducted by the Ministry of Education (MoE) with UNICEF's support has been finalised and endorsed by the MoE and is currently being printed. This volume provides information on students, teachers, and schools desegregated into directorates and by various levels of information. The Web pages on selective national level key indicators was also completed and is being published currently on the MoE server in Baghdad. The survey results and the website were presented to the Minister of Education by UNICEF on 2 September 2004 in Baghdad. UNICEF is currently assisting MoE to release the survey.

**Dubai TV Telethon:** Built around music, poetry, and live interviews with Iraqis in Baghdad, including children, the telethon was screened on Dubai TV on September 3. Conducted in Arabic, the 6-hour show helped to draw attention to the United Nations and UNICEF at a time when the image of the UN in the region has suffered several set backs. Representatives from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and World Food Programme (WFP) joined UNICEF in calling for increased regional support for Iraqi children. The telethon featured contributions from many famous Arab personalities and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassadors. The show also featured a live-link to Baghdad and interviews with senior Iraqi officials and school children who talked about the problems Iraqi children face today. It is proposed to also screen the telethon, or segments from it, inside Iraq to reach viewers without satellite access. To date the telethon has raised almost US\$2 million. The funds will be used over the next two years on projects developed with the MoE.

### Health (Cluster 2)

**Health Rehabilitation Programme for Iraq (HRPI):** The International Organisation for Migration (IOM)/HRPI has assisted this week in the return of one case from Poland to Iraq, via Amman. Preparation continues for the upcoming training of Iraqi medical staff in Interventional Cardiology at the Chest Hospital Kuwait. HRPI received a delegation from the Basra Teaching Hospital for discussions on the final modalities of the Interventional Cardiology Centre.

# IRAQ

## SITUATION REPORT



UNITED NATIONS

6 September – 12 September 2004

**Polio Eradication:** The Iraqi Ministry of Health (MoH) further completed a Polio National Immunization campaign throughout Iraq targeting approximately 5 million children aged 0 - 5 years, with the support of WHO and UNICEF with funding from the European Commission/UNDP Trust Fund. In addition to the technical and financial support for the campaign, WHO supported the MoH by covering the cost of health workers, transportation, training, meetings, health education materials, and independent monitoring. UNICEF provided 10 million doses of Oral Polio Vaccines (worth over US\$1.2 million) for two rounds in September and October and 12,000 registry books. In addition, UNICEF supervised Polio National Immunisation Days in six governorates.

Despite the security situation in different parts of the country, the teams to date succeeded in vaccinating almost 90% of the age group. In Mosul, the campaign ended successfully on 8 September 2004. As 11,000 children in Falluja are yet to be vaccinated, WHO provided further support to the MoH to extend the length of the campaign to ensure coverage of the entire city.

**Drug Quality Control:** As a result of the visit made by Iraq's National Drug Quality Control Lab (NDQCL) team to Amman (29 August to 6 September) and their discussions with WHO/Iraq and Jordan's Food and Drug Administration, a draft strategy for drug quality control and a work plan for short and long term actions up to the year 2007 have been developed. The draft strategy and work plan define the vision of the centre, the current status, and future plans for a reliable and cost effective services to the MoH and other stake holders. Coordination between WHO and the MoH seeks to ensure that training of Iraqis in neighbouring countries can start as early as October 2004.

**Clearance of Spare Parts:** On behalf of the MoH, UNICEF supported the clearance of spare parts, worth over US\$ 53,000, for 51 Hyundai pick ups donated by KOICA in July this year.

**High Protein Biscuit (HPB) Distribution:** Ten containers containing 165 metric tonnes of HPB, at a value of US\$ 230,000, were delivered to the Northern Governorates. This quantity of HPB will cover the monthly rations of over 70,000 malnourished children under five, as well as pregnant and lactating mothers.

### Infrastructure and Housing (Cluster 4)

**Conference on Shipwreck Removal:** The joint UNDP/Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) conference on shipwreck removal from Iraqi and Kuwaiti waters is scheduled to take place on 5 and 6 October 2004 in Kuwait City, Kuwait. The focus of the conference will be a presentation on the findings from the UNDP survey of 40 shipwrecks that was completed earlier this year, including the findings of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Marine Environmental Laboratory experts that partnered in this work. Pollution levels, contamination treatment, explosive ordnance concerns, and the methodology of shipwreck removal will be outlined. In addition, five priority packages will be presented for consideration of support:

Package 1: Removal of priority wrecks from Khawr Abd Allah (UNDP will dredge this area November 04)

Package 2: Removal of wrecks from berths at Umm Qasr port

Package 3: Address urgent environmental concerns, e.g. Collection and treatment of crude oil

Package 4: Removal of priority wrecks from Khawr az Zubayr and the berths at Al Zubayr port

Package 5: Removal of wrecks from Kuwaiti waters

These packages will be presented in the context of the importance of Iraqi deep-water ports for the short term delivery of humanitarian assistance as well as to the longer term rehabilitation and development of Iraq. A background document on this theme will also be presented in collaboration with WFP.

## Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons - IDPs (Cluster 8)

**Capacity Building/IDP Training:** As part of ongoing efforts to enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) and partners, Cluster 8 organised from 7-9 September a three-day IDP Training Workshop in Amman, Jordan, attended by MoDM/Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) officials, NGO's and UN international and local staff. The workshop focused on explaining the Guiding Principles for IDPs and their application in Iraq and increasing the understanding of legal, institutional, and operational instruments for ensuring the protection of internally displaced persons in Iraq.

**Capacity Building/Situational Emergency Training (SET):** From 11-16 September, the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) commenced a SET in Amman for MoDM/ KRG officials, local/international NGO's, and UN staff. The training, which was Iraq specific, focused on preparedness during emergency situations and provided participants with tools to deal with crisis situations.

**Facilitated Repatriations to Iraq:** A total of 251 Iraqi refugees left Ansar camp in Iran on Tuesday morning and arrived later that day in Basra, in southern Iraq, as UNHCR resumed its voluntary repatriation programme for Iraqi refugees in Iran. This was the first such convoy in over a month, as all return movements were halted on 12 August at the request of the Iraqi authorities due to security concerns.

**First Convoy for Non-Camp Iraqi Refugees:** Nine buses, carrying 276 refugees, travelled from the south western Iranian city of Ahwaz to Basra on Wednesday. This was the first convoy UNHCR was able to organise for the non-camp Iraqi refugees in Iran, many of whom have been asking for assistance to repatriate for several months. Convoys for urban refugees are now scheduled to depart Ahwaz weekly, provided security conditions in Iraq allow such movements. UNHCR does not encourage Iraqis abroad to repatriate now, as Iraq is not yet ready to absorb large numbers of returnees. UNHCR continues to provide assistance to refugees in neighbouring countries who insist on returning despite the difficult conditions in Iraq. Around 14,000 Iraqis have repatriated with UNHCR help from Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Lebanon since last year - 9,000 of them from Iran.

**Winterisation Activities:** Throughout the 15 Centre and Southern Governorates, IOM has received and is compiling forecasting reports from implementing partners across the country in preparation of Winterisation activities. Once completed, IOM will be able to begin procurement activities in advance of the coming winter months.

**Emergency Health Kits:** IOM received four Emergency Health Kits at the Baghdad airport and is awaiting transport to warehousing location. The kits will cover the needs of approximately 40,000 persons for three months.

**Food and Non-Food Item Distribution:** In order to meet the immediate needs of 450 IDP families (3,150 individuals) in Tikrit on September 11, IOM partners distributed 10,800 cans of cheese, meats, and vegetables, 450 jerry cans, and 450 hygiene kits.

## Poverty Reduction and Human Development (Cluster 10)

**Employment Assistance Services Training:** The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) staff members from the Employment Centres of Diwaniya, Nassiriya, Khanaqin, Baqubah, and Baghdad participated in a training course held in Amman, Jordan, by IOM on *Employment Assistance Services*. Overall, the training was designed to provide MoLSA staff with a clearer vision of the role of Employment Centres in Iraq today. Specifically, it helped participants strengthen their skills as counsellors for jobseekers, or as outreach officers, who were taught extra negotiating skills to help them increase the number of job opportunities available in the local communities. To date 111 MoLSA staff members from

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## SITUATION REPORT



UNITED NATIONS

6 September – 12 September 2004

UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR IRAQ

19 Employment and Training Centres have participated in the IOM *Employment Assistance Services* training held in Amman.

Personnel Database: IOM's implementing partner in Baghdad has assisted the Human Resources Unit of the Labour and Vocational Training Pillar in the creation of a Personnel Database. Staff members of the HR unit have been trained in its use and 80% of all staff members assigned to the Pillar have been entered.

Standard Operating Procedures: Standard Operating Procedures for the monitoring and evaluation of *On-the-Job Training filled vacancies* and for the *Field Coordination Unit* have been developed by IOM's implementing partner to further support their work during assessment visits to Employment Centres around the country.

Reporting and Statistics Training: IOM's implementing partner, jointly with the MoLSA Statistics Department, provided "*Reporting and Statistics*" training to staff members from 13 Employment Centres in Iraq who are responsible for preparing regular reports and statistics for their area of responsibility.

Equipment Packages: The MoLSA received standard equipment packages for 10 Employment and Training Centres provided by IOM. Each package includes 15 computers, 15 UPS, 3 printers, office furniture, a photocopy machine, and 10 air conditioning units. The equipment will improve the operational capacity of each centre and will increase the assistance the centre provides to jobseekers and potential employers.

FAFO/CSO/UNDP Living Conditions Survey. FAFO-AIS and the Central Statistical Office (CSO) are currently working on the preparation and finalization of the first drafts of the three main products of the survey: the Tabulation Report, the Socio Economic Atlas, and the Analytical Report. The Tabulation Report will be used for a Review Workshop which UNDP Iraq is arranging to take place in Amman, 5-7 October. This workshop will be a two-day event to discuss the findings of the survey and provide inputs to the analytical report. The workshop will bring together representatives from the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation, line ministries (Health, Education, Labour and Social Affairs in particular) in addition to participants from the international humanitarian assistance community. The release of the full-fledged survey is planned for the end of 2004, after 14 November. The impact of the survey so far is the improved capacity of the CSO to conduct living conditions surveys using the modern techniques that have been transferred to it through its collaboration with FAFO on the fieldwork.

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