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United Nations in Iraq marks 65th anniversary of the Organization by engaging Iraqi media



Representatives of Iraqi media and UN officials engage in a roundtable discussion, chaired by SRSRG Melkert, at the UNAMI HQ in Baghdad on the occasion of UN Day. Photo: UNAMI / Sarmad Al-Safy

“ The UN is seen like an international organisation with international representatives being present in a country; but much of the work on the ground is done with national staff. Actually, the large majority of people working for the UN in the world are nationals working in their own country ”

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Ad Melkert

Represented by Mr. Ad Melkert, head of Mission and Special Representative of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in Iraq, UNAMI together with representatives of the United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes operating in Iraq, marked on 24 October the United Nations Day by holding an interactive dialogue with senior representatives of Iraqi media at UNAMI headquarters in Baghdad.

“Where does the UN have an impact? How do the Iraqi people see what the UN does and maybe, even more important, what it could and should do for them? I believe it is very important for us to have the opportunity to discuss that with you in an open and frank discussion and to have that open and frank discussion also in public because this is the way that one can learn, improve and also engage as many people as possible”, said SRSRG Melkert in his opening remarks setting the tone for an open dialogue with Iraq media experts.

Four renowned media representatives, Mrs. Souad Aljazairi, from *Al-Mada* daily; Mr. Ismail Zayer, Editor-in-Chief of *Al-Sabah Al-Jadid* daily, Mr. Hameed Qassim, Managing Editor of *Al-Sabah* daily; and Mr. Sarmad Tae, Editor-in-Chief of *Al-Alem* daily participated in this roundtable and discussed with SRSRG Melkert, and representatives of WFP, UNDP, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNESCO and UNHCR, several issues pertaining to the role and the work of the United Nations in Iraq and the image of the organization in the country.

The media experts unanimously welcomed the United Nations' initiative to hold an interactive dialogue with media representatives and stressed the need for the UN to be more accessible, including by organising regular encounters with media and civil society representatives. They highlighted the important role of the United Nations in Iraq, especially towards empowering Iraqi civil society, and emphasized the need to increase the information flow between the world body and the media.

Acknowledging the United Nations' limited access to the Iraqi public due to security challenges, SRSRG Melkert stressed the keenness of the organization to have direct access to the media, the civil society and the public at large in order not only to inform them on the importance of its work in support of Iraq, but also to hear their views



SRSK Melkert and Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Abbawi cut a cake in celebration of UN Day.
 Photo: UNAMI / Sarmad Al-Safy

on how best the United Nations can fulfill its mandate in Iraq.

Representatives of the United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes operating in Iraq concurred with most comments and suggestions made by media representatives and called for more interaction with the Iraqis and with the Iraqi media in particular.

Several UN representatives underlined the fact that the United Nations' overarching goal is to strengthen the capacity of Iraqis to deliver services to their fellow citizens.

Following the roundtable, media representatives joined in the official celebration to commemorate the UN Day. The ceremony was attended by a number of Iraqi journalists and UN staff and addressed by SRSK Melkert and the Iraqi Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr. Labeed Abbawi.

Commending UNAMI and the UN in Iraq for their increased presence and expanded activities in the country, Deputy Minister

Abbawi announced the Government's decision to increase its financial contribution in support of the Mission's work in Iraq. "I am pleased to announce the Iraqi government's decision to grant UNAMI an additional 25 million dollars for the construction of UNAMI's new premises and facilities. Moreover, we are working on the agreement of the new location in Kirkuk."

In Erbil, Kurdistan Region of Iraq, the UNAMI regional office hosted government officials, representatives from the diplomatic corps, non-governmental organizations, civil society and UN staff in an informal social gathering in celebration of UN Day. The event was held to express UNAMI's and UN Agencies' gratitude to the Kurdistan Regional Government for the strong cooperation in the implementation of UN programmes in the region and to the donors for supporting a strong UN role in Iraq.

Emphasising strength in diversity and pluralism and building on the success of

existing partnerships between UNAMI and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Ms. Moraig Henderson, Head of the UNAMI Erbil Regional Office, welcomed the guests noting that "this day is not about patting ourselves on the back, rather it is an opportunity to take pause and reflect on what we do, how we do it and learn what works through our partner relations. One key lesson the UN has learned well is that more is possible working with and through others and therefore we will continue to focus on strengthening our existing partnerships while nurturing new partnerships".

The United Nations Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the United Nations Charter. With the ratification of this founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations officially came into being on 24 October 1945.

24 October has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948. ■

“ On this World Food Day, we celebrate the leadership and outstanding contribution of the Iraqi Government towards finding lasting solutions to hunger and malnutrition [...] However, there are still more than two million people in Iraq who do not get enough food to lead a healthy life ”

Country Director of World Food Programme Iraq, Edward Kallon

Photo Gallery



UNAMI Senior Leadership welcome Iraq's Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister, following a Guard of Honour salute from the UN Guards Unit Fijian Contingent.
 Photo: UNAMI / Sarmad Al-Safy



SRSK Melkert and Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Abbawi give live interviews to the Iraqi press.
 Photo: UNAMI / Sarmad Al-Safy



Observers from the media and the United Nations follow discussions at the roundtable meeting.
 Photo: UNAMI / Sarmad Al-Safy

Working to eradicate hunger in Iraq



Food assistance provided by the World Food Programme, Iraq. Photo: WFP Iraq

"A hungry mind cannot concentrate, a hungry body does not take initiative, a hungry child loses all desire to play and study".¹ Such is true in Iraq where the United Nations is actively engaged with the Government of Iraq and development partners to meet the target of the Millennium Development Goal One (MDG1) - to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by the year 2015.

According to several studies undertaken by the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), seven per cent of Iraq's population does not consume enough calories on a daily basis to meet their minimum needs. Although much progress has been made in the attempt to reduce hunger over the past decade, over two million Iraqis still suffer from food deprivation because they cannot afford to buy food, while malnutrition among children persists in Iraq. Statistics recorded in 2007 indicate that 22 per cent of Iraqi children aged under the age of five years continue to show stunted growth, 5 per cent suffer from wasting, while 9 per cent are underweight².

Cases of hunger and food deprivation are prevalent in large households and dwellings in which the head of the household is elderly, unemployed, illiterate, or economically inactive. Among the most vulnerable and poor households, prevalent in rural areas where economic and income generating opportunities are limited, households in Basrah, Diyala, Babylon, Salah al Deen, Kerbala and Muthanna governorates experience food deprivation ranges from 17 per cent to 51 per cent.

Iraq has experienced several sharp food price rises since 1990 during the years of sanctions and conflict, exacerbating the high poverty levels³, while food insecurity in Iraq exists because people lack the financial resources to buy available quantities of quality food items.

In addressing the issue of extreme hunger among the Iraqi population, the Government of Iraq has

designed and implemented a Public Distribution System (PDS) which is a universal food ration that started in the early 1990s. As much as 53 per cent of the population benefits from the use of this system. The PDS is undergoing a process of reform and the Government of Iraq is ensuring that efforts are being made so that the most vulnerable do not go hungry during this process, while also aiming to implement long-term sustainable solutions to eradicate hunger in Iraq.

Iraq's agricultural sector has the potential to contribute significantly towards achieving the target of MDG 1; however, the sector continues to suffer from low productivity due to poor water management, inadequate infrastructure, poor soil quality and lack of extension services. Over the recent years, climatic conditions have also impacted negatively on productivity. Through the National Development Plan 2010 – 2014, the Government of Iraq aims to increase agricultural development and self-sufficiency, and improve livelihoods and food security⁴.

The United Nations is also responding to these needs, by extending support to the Government of Iraq through implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2011-2014, which was endorsed last May. In particular, the FAO is supporting the Ministry of Agriculture in implementation of three pillars of its Agriculture Strategic Plan 2008-2012, while the WFP is supporting the Ministry of Education to implement a National School Feeding programme.

For more information, please access the online Inter-Agency Information and Analysis Unit World Food Day Fact Sheet: <http://www.iauiraq.org/documents/1123/world%20food%20day.pdf>

Celebrating World Statistics Day in Iraq

On 20 October, UNAMI celebrated with Iraq the first World Statistics Day (WSD). Under the theme 'Celebrating the Many Achievements of Statistics: Service, Professionalism and Integrity', World Statistics Day, globally celebrated for the first time, paid tribute to statisticians' outstanding work in producing and disseminating data needed for responding to everyday challenges and for measuring progress in people's lives.

In Iraq, statistics are of particular significance, and the role of the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) and the Kurdistan Region Statistics Office (KRSO) are vital. New baseline data needs to be established to support sound policy making and development planning and to enable the monitoring and tracking of progress, including that made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Acknowledging the outstanding achievement Iraq has made in the field of official statistics over the last few years, the United Nations also confirmed its willingness to continue supporting the country in developing an integrated and effective statistical system. Such a system would be developed in line with the fundamental principles of official statistics endorsed by the United Nations Statistics Committee, and in accordance with international professional codes and best practices.

In observing the WSD, the United Nations stressed that the upcoming population and housing census is an important opportunity to provide a vital set of indicators, which will underpin development planning in Iraq. Furthermore, while the supply of official statistics was important in the past years, additional statistics are still required for the national and international agenda to track progress of planned programmes to be implemented by the Government of Iraq and the United Nations over the next four years.

The additional statistics will also contribute to the implementation of the National Development Plan, which requires an enabling environment for the CSO and the KRSO to fulfill their duties in a professional manner.

1. (Caulfield et al. *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. 2004 July).

2. Sources: 2006, *GoI/WFP, Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis in Iraq*; 2008, *GoI/WFP, Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis*

3. Central Organisation for Statistics and Information Technology (COSIT) Food Prices Index.

4. Government of Iraq, National Development Plan 2010-2014 (2010)

Iraq, UNDP and WHO implement USD 30 million grant to fight Tuberculosis

By Paal Aarsaether, UNDP Iraq



Dr. Al-Hasnawi, Iraq's Minister of Health, makes opening remarks at the start of the orientation workshop. Photo: UNDP Iraq

In an effort to more actively engage Iraqi partners in the management and coordination of resources from The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, UNDP and WHO organised on 1 October a one-day grant orientation workshop in Dead Sea, Jordan. The workshop was chaired by the Iraqi Minister of Health, Dr. Saleh Al-Hasnawi, and attended by members of the newly established national multi-stakeholder Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) and implementing partners.

"Building the capacity of human resources in fighting tuberculosis is a key partnership of the

Ministry of Health with the Global Fund grant to address the disease in Iraq", noted Dr. Al-Hasnawi.

Each year, tuberculosis kills more than 3,000 Iraqi women, men and children in Iraq. With a disease burden of 16,000 patients annually, Iraq is the ninth-highest ranking Tuberculosis burden nation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region contributing to three per cent of the total cases. The country ranks 44 on the list of 212 countries and territories burdened by tuberculosis in the world.

Iraq has recently received USD 30 million as part of Round 9 of the Global Fund's grant allocation. Starting October 2010, the grant will be implemented over five years as part of a UNDP project carried out in partnership with the Government of Iraq and WHO. The implementation of the Global Fund grant under this joint project is monitored by the CCM - the citizen and public accountability oversight board.

This joint project aims to strengthen the capacity of Iraqis at the national, governorate, and local levels to detect and treat Tuberculosis and to reduce the stigma and burden of the disease. The project also seeks to increase awareness about the disease, to engage new partners and build support from political and community leaders. These activities are a continuation of an existing joint programme which started in 2008 through an earlier grant from the Global Fund focusing on vulnerable populations and building the management capacity of Iraq's national Tuberculosis programme.

The Global Fund grants are the main source for external funding of Iraq's Tuberculosis control activities. The Global Fund is a worldwide multi-billion dollar partnership funding national programmes to decrease the burden of AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria for high-burden countries.

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Health

Pilot confidential enquiry study on maternal deaths in Iraq

By Hikmat Ruba, WHO Iraq

To address the data gaps on maternal mortality over the past few years, a pilot confidential enquiry study on maternal deaths in Iraq for the last three years was carried out by the Ministry of Health with assistance from WHO Iraq. The results of the enquiry study were released and discussed during a seminar organised by the Ministry of Health, in coordination with the WHO, on 8 October at the Ministry of Health in Baghdad.

Attended by the Iraqi Minister of Health, Dr. Saleh Al-Hasnawi, and

several Iraqi and WHO officials, the seminar presented the results of the study which showed that the proportion of women dying in child birth (maternal mortality ratio) currently stands at 32 for every 100,000 live births.

The results also highlighted significant variations in maternal mortality ratios between different parts of the country. The Najaf governorate, for instance, has the highest ratio with 43.49 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births for the year 2009, followed by Baghdad/Karkh province with 36.5 per 100,000



Pregnant woman attending a prenatal care visit at a health care centre in Baghdad. Photo: WHO Iraq

live births for the same year. The lowest ratio was reported in Anbar governorate with 8.04 per 100,000 live births. According to WHO, the maternal mortality ratio in developing countries is 450 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births versus 9 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in developed countries.

The study included a series of recommendations including the need to: 1) assess the current status of health policies, services, and infrastructure to enable health authorities to identify weakness, gaps in maternal neonatal health provision; 2) increase allocation of governmental resources to the

national action plan; 3) develop and manage human resources such as providing quality training for health care providers working at maternity units; and 4) improve the quality of care to improve women's health and increase access to utilize maternal and child health services at all levels of services.

Improving maternal health is one of the eight Millennium Development Goals adopted by the international community at the United Nations Millennium Summit which was convened in the year 2000. In Millennium Development Goal 5 (MDG 5), countries have committed to reducing the maternal mortality

ratio by three quarters between the years 1990 and 2015.

Iraq aims to reduce the number of women dying in child birth to meet the target of 29 for every 100,000 live births by the year 2015.

It is believed that maternal death in Iraq is mainly due to poor birth practices, inadequate referral or availability of emergency obstetric care, and a high level of anaemia among pregnant women.

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Development

Iraq National Housing Policy launched

By Dyfed Aubrey, UN-HABITAT Iraq



Minister Dizayee launches the Iraq National Housing Policy on World Habitat Day in Baghdad. Photo: UN-HABITAT Iraq

World Habitat Day in Iraq was marked on 4 October in Baghdad with the launch of the Iraq National Housing Policy by the Ministry of Construction and Housing (MoCH). The ceremony was attended by the Minister of Construction and Housing, Ms. Bayan Dezayee, and senior representatives of the MoCH, the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office of the Prime Minister and representatives of the United Nations in Iraq.

In her address, Minister Dezayee praised the Housing Policy and emphasized that this crucial planning tool is in line with the National Development Plan and the Government of Iraq's approach to reconstructing Iraq. Minister Dezayee also outlined ongoing projects of the MoCH, while commending its efforts, and those of foreign and national

experts, especially UN-HABITAT, in their contribution to developing Iraq's National Housing Policy.

"I am very pleased this policy is launched today as it will be a milestone in responding to housing and shelter needs and improving access to basic services, which is a priority for our work in Iraq", said UN-Habitat Representative in Iraq, Mr. Doudou Mbye. "However, this is only a starting point and the real challenge will be in the implementation of the policy. UN-HABITAT is committed to work with the different partners to make Iraq a country where everyone has decent housing and shelter. This is crucial in making a positive difference in the lives of each and every Iraqi", he added.

Over the past 18 months, the UN-HABITAT Iraq Programme has supported the MoCH to

formulate this policy in consultation with several ministries linked to the housing sector and non-governmental stakeholders, as well as Iraqi and international housing experts. It is built on an analysis of key thematic areas in the housing sector such as land management, housing production, housing finance, infrastructure for housing, housing management and maintenance, construction materials and informal housing.

The United Nations Development Programme in Iraq will work alongside UN-HABITAT to support the implementation of the National Housing Policy in Phase III of the Strengthening the Capacity of the Housing Sector in Iraq Programme.

Iraq's housing shortages currently stand at approximately two million units, affecting over 300,000 families throughout the country. The current centralised system of housing delivery is unable to reach the growing housing demand resulting from population growth, urbanisation and deterioration of existing housing.

It is estimated that 71 per cent of Iraqis live in urban areas with 37 per cent of urban houses having three or more people per room. According to UN-HABITAT's definition, 57 per cent of the urban population in Iraq experience one or more slum conditions.

Since its inception by the UN General Assembly in 1985, World Habitat Day has been celebrated annually on the first Monday in October.

The Iraq National Housing Policy is available on the Iraq Information and Analysis Unit website: <http://www.iquiraq.org/reports.asp>

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Strengthening Iraq's capacity to support the private sector

By Cristiano Pasini, UNIDO Iraq

To help young Iraqi entrepreneurs introduce themselves to the international business community, showcase their skills and identify the prospects of upgrading their enterprises through international partnerships, 10 Iraqi entrepreneurs from the governorates of Baghdad, Thi Qar and Erbil participated in the Young Entrepreneurs Forum held from 13-15 October in Tunis, Tunisia.

The participation of these entrepreneurs in the forum was a UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) investment promotion mission organised for entrepreneurs who had completed training and business counseling courses in the UNIDO-supported Enterprise Development Units.

The Tunis Forum was a joint initiative of the Tunisian Agency for the Promotion of Industry and Innovation, the Ministry of Industry and Technology, Ministry of Vocational Training and UNIDO. It hosted 16 trainings and workshops for participants to share best practices in the field of enterprise creation and development, and managing and financing small- and medium-sized enterprises. The young Iraqi entrepreneurs also had the opportunity to visit relevant institutions and companies and to participate in business-to-



Ten Iraqi entrepreneurs participated in the UNIDO mission to Tunisia for the Young Entrepreneurs Forum. Photo: UNIDO Iraq

business bilateral meetings thus allowing them to connect with other young entrepreneurs from the region and to establish business partnerships.

The Iraqi entrepreneurs were also briefed on the latest machinery, equipment and technologies that are employed in their respective sectors, including textile, food processing, electrical equipment, transportation, trade, construction, interior design and media training.

At a press conference organised during the Forum, Mr. Hoger Shahli of the Kurdish Regional Government of Iraq said, "Our goal is to find the expertise and know-how Tunisian businesses and enterprises and this Forum

allows us to further our economic relations with our neighbours. We want to encourage partnerships to support the development of the private sector, particularly in key sectors such as construction, pharmaceuticals, food processing, metallurgy, textile, energy and healthcare".

UNIDO's Investment Promotion for Iraq programme strives to increase the competitiveness of the existing enterprises in Iraq, and facilitate linkages with foreign markets for partnerships leading to the acquisition of technology and know-how. With the organization's support, the Enterprise Development Units were established in the governorates of Baghdad, Thi Qar and Erbil to serve small and medium enterprises by providing them with services such as management trainings, business counseling, technology tie-up and financial linkages.

The Investment Promotion for Iraq programme will allow these units to expand their services to include linkage development with foreign companies based on UNIDO's investment promotion models, and training sessions on relevant topics for Iraqi entrepreneurs.

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Relief

Delivering assistance to IDP families in Mosul

By Matthew Gradyon, IOM Iraq



IOM Iraq staff distribute basic supplies to IDP families in Mosul. Photo: IOM Iraq

The sight of a cluster of makeshift mud and tin huts along the outskirts of the sprawling Al Arabi garbage dump near Mosul city is shocking at first. It is difficult to conceive how any person could live in such harsh conditions. Yet these huts are home to over one hundred displaced Iraqi families.

The majority of the families came from the Shikhan district of Ninewa in 2003, when they were forced out of their native village in a territorial dispute. The rest of the families were displaced from the Hatra district of Ninewa in 2009 due to a severe drought that affected their crops and livestock.

With nowhere else to turn, the families set up their homes in Al Arabi, on a dusty, barren plain in the shadow of the refuse from Mosul city. Here, the families have extremely limited access to basic services such as healthcare, clean water, and education for their children. To provide for themselves, many of them scavenge through the dump looking for plastic and scrap metal to sell.

Acting on a recommendation from local authorities, IOM, joined by UNHCR and UNICEF, conducted an assessment of the settlement on 21 July 2010 to determine the most immediate needs of the families living there. The results revealed that the families were

in need of basic supplies to protect their homes against the elements and improve their living conditions.

The day after the assessment, IOM dispatched trucks from its emergency warehouse in the neighbouring governorate of Erbil and implemented a direct distribution of relief items benefitting 127 families. The distribution took place in coordination with UNHCR and the local authorities in Ninewa, and was funded by USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance.

With the supplies they received - including plastic sheeting, hygiene kits and gas heaters - the families will be able to repair their homes and make their situation more bearable. An estimated 7 per cent of the internal displacement in Iraq following the 2006 bombing of the Samarra Al-Askari Mosque originated in Ninewa, and IDPs from Ninewa make up 46 per cent of all IDPs in the north of Iraq.

IOM has assessed approximately 13,000 of 19,000 families displaced since 2006, and will continue working to provide these families

with targeted humanitarian and developmental assistance.

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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Health

Global Handwashing Day

Thousands of Iraqi students conclude Global Handwashing Day celebrations; Handwashing with soap could save thousands of children's lives in Iraq.

By Jaya Murthy, UNICEF Iraq



Children celebrating Global Handwashing Day at Amina-bint-Wahab school in Baghdad. Photo: UNICEF/Sabah Arar/2010

Celebrating Global Handwashing Day on 15 October, over 30,000 school children across Iraq concluded activities promoting the importance of handwashing. Under the slogan "Clean hands save lives", students in 26 schools were shown how to wash their hands correctly and how stomach aches can be avoided if hands are washed.

"The aim of this celebration is to focus people's attention about methods of prevention that do not cost much but can be very effective in keeping disease away. We spend thousands of dollars dealing with diseases while something as simple as washing your hands can prevent disease and keep children healthy" said Saeed Jasim, the Director General of the Baghdad Department of Health.

The two largest killers of under-five children in Iraq are acute respiratory infections, which causes around 33 per cent of all under-five child deaths and diarrhea which causes 26 per cent of all under-five child deaths. The simple act of handwashing with soap, particularly at critical moments such as after using the toilet and before eating food, can reduce diarrhea by almost 40 per cent and respiratory infections by 23 per cent amongst children under the age of five. Handwashing with soap, as a result, has a major impact in supporting Iraq attain its Millennium Development Goal child mortality (MDG 4) and combating disease (MDG 6) targets.

With more than 1,000 teachers trained to promote hygiene education in schools and after piloting the celebrations in schools the

previous year, more school children in Iraq than ever before are acting as agents of change and taking the good practices of hygiene learned at school back into their homes and communities. Dr. Bushra Jameel, from the Baghdad General Health Department, notes "schools are the right venue to celebrate this day because a word from a teacher can change children's behaviours which will save lives. Teachers are now leading the effort to spread the message that washing hands with soap is easy, cheap and very effective."

Appealing to all Iraqi teachers, parents, and boys and girls, UNICEF's Representative to Iraq, Sikander Khan, stated "We call on Iraqi teachers to educate your students on the life-saving benefits of handwashing and ask all girls and boys across Iraq to wash your hands. If more of us properly wash our hands we will see healthier and happier children throughout the country."

Global Handwashing Day was initiated in 2008 by the Global Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing with Soap, and is endorsed by a wide array of governments, international institutions, civil society organizations, NGOs, private companies and individuals around the globe. More than 200 million schoolchildren, parents, teachers, celebrities and government officials in more than 80 countries around the world lathered up for this year's global handwashing day celebrations.

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For more information on Global Handwashing Day, visit: www.globalhandwashingday.org

Capacity Building for Integrated Border Management Programme

By Matthew Gradyon, IOM Iraq

The final activities for IOM Iraq's Capacity Building in Integrated Border Management Programme (CBIBM) have been successfully completed.

The overall objective of this pilot project was to establish a replicable Integrated Border Management (IBM) system at the borders of the Basrah region of Iraq, incorporating relevant approaches from best international practices through cooperation and capacity building of border, customs and other authorities involved in border management.

The concept of IBM entails dynamic coordination and cooperation of all relevant services and agencies involved in border control and procedures in order to build a functional, effective and integrated system of border management with a common goal of creating open, but controlled and safe, borders.

Based on consultations with Iraqi officials and

border management experts, equipment such as x-ray machines, handheld metal detectors and basic surveillance tools were purchased for various border authority offices. In addition, IOM arranged for the installation of 11 communication towers and the purchase, delivery and installation of state-of-the-art thermal surveillance cameras for monitoring key border crossing points. The project also



Front line immigration staff at the training centre in Basrah.
Photo: IOM Iraq

supported the establishment of a training centre in Basrah which offers a hands-on training and working environment for front line immigration staff.

In response to the need for improved co-operation in the field of data collection, analysis and information sharing among the agencies involved in border management, the project facilitated the establishment of Data Analysis and Forensic Examination Centres (DAFEC) in Basrah and Baghdad International Airports.

Integrated border management is now a worldwide standard for effectively controlling a country's borders. IOM stands ready to provide further technical assistance to the Government of Iraq on such initiatives and looks forward to close cooperation in the future.

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Snapshots

United Nations in Action

UNDP

- UNDP in cooperation with the Ministry of Science and Technology led training for the government and civil society in Electronic Governance.

UNESCO

- UNESCO organised a workshop on "Preventing Media Incitement to Violence in Iraq". The workshop included building participants' theoretical and practical understanding of content analysis, raising awareness of how this builds improves news coverage.

UNICEF

- UNICEF Grave Child Rights Violations Database was finalised with support from the Information and Analysis Unit. The reporting module generates reports and graphs by month, governorates, number and percentage of verified and unverified incidents.
- Through support from UNICEF and WHO a house to house campaign vaccinated 5.6 million under-5s against poliomyelitis. This is the 10th year that Iraq has achieved polio free status.

UNIDO

- Conducted an entrepreneurship course in Fallujah under the "Technology Acquisition to Re-Start and Generate Economic Transformation". Project partners learnt about micro and small business development in a post-crisis scenario using Lebanon as a case study

UNOPS

- Under the "Support to Reconciliation Strategies in Iraq" project, UNOPS held a training on conflict mapping and analysis for researchers based in the Disputed Internal Boundaries area from Ninewa, Diyala and Kirkuk. Participants were provided with the necessary skills to conduct a conflict assessment, while field work will start immediately after the training. The project will be operational for three months.
- The newly constructed and fully equipped Emergency Coordination Center in Sulaimaniyah was completed and handed over to the Directorate of Health in Sulaimaniyah under the "Regional Health Emergency Response Project" financed by

the World Bank and implemented by UNOPS.

WFP

- In collaboration with the Government of Iraq, FAO and UNICEF. WFP launched a report on "Food Deprivation in Iraq" marking World Food Day on 16 October. The report showed that whilst national levels of hunger have been kept in check with the safety net system, more than two million Iraqis are still unable to meet their minimum food needs.

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List of UN Acronyms

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