

# IRAQ

## SITUATION REPORT



UNITED NATIONS

20 September – 26 September 2004

UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR IRAQ

### OVERVIEW ►

Amid growing concern that Iraqi elections planned for January 2005 could be postponed, Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi emphasised his Government's commitment to the January deadline during his speech to the United Nations General Assembly. During his trip to the United States, he also appealed to world governments to put aside their differences over the war and help rebuild Iraq. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan recently noted, however, that there could not be, "credible elections if the security conditions continue as they are now."

### UNITED NATIONS ►

Following his address to the Security Council, the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) Ashraf Qazi met with a series of foreign dignitaries in margins of the annual meeting of the General Assembly. These included a number of foreign ministers from the region, as well as the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, the US Ambassador to Iraq, and the UK Special Representative to the Prime Minister for Iraq. Issues surrounding the holding of elections were at the forefront of these discussions, as was the need for enhanced dialogue between Iraqis from across the national political landscape. SRSG Qazi concluded his trip to New York by meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Allawi, prior to the Prime Minister's speech before the Security Council.

### HUMANITARIAN ►

The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General (DSRSG), Mr. Ross Mountain, was in New York on mission until 24 September. While in New York, he met with the Iraqi Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and Development Cooperation, together with the SRSG. He also had various meetings with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), including a meeting for finalisation of the UNAMI 2005 budget proposals.

In his role as Resident Coordinator, he met with the UN Development Group (UNDG), as well as with the heads of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) to brief them on issues arising from his recent mission to Baghdad and the upcoming Tokyo donor conference. In addition, the DSRSG met with the Coordinator of the UNDG Trust Fund to review the latest contributions and commitments.

### UN ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE ►

During the reporting week, voter registration was finalized and approved by the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq (IECI). In addition, drafting of a training handbook and the design of forms for voter registration are being finalized. Also being prepared is the drafting of the certification of candidates and political entities certification.

During the past week, the Electoral Support Cluster (11) was granted approval of a project worth US\$15.75 million. The project will be led by UNDP, who will contract a data-management company to be responsible for data entry and printing of a voters' registry for data centres.

### HUMAN RIGHTS ►

The Human Rights Office (HRO) has conducted close consultations (in Amman) with the Minister for Human Rights on various aspects of the requirements of support for the Ministry. HRO introduced the draft Programme for Human Rights Support to Iraq to Cluster 9 partners, followed by an informal meeting to further define the roles of the other partners in implementing their respective projects. During the reporting period, HRO has continued to follow reports on the situation of human rights in certain areas in Iraq with increasing concern.

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### PROGRAMME ►

#### Health (Cluster 2)

**Polio Eradication:** The World Health Organisation (WHO) supported the Iraqi Ministry of Health (MoH) in the implementation of the first round of polio eradication campaigns in September 2004 and is also supporting the MoH in preparations for the second round, which will be concluded during the first week of October 2004. The campaigns are partly funded by the European Commission/UNDG Trust Fund. To date, 96% of the 4.6 million children below five were vaccinated against polio during the first round.

**Internet Training for Health Workers:** WHO/Iraq organized and supported an MoH training course in Amman, for the first batch, on "Health Internetwork Access to Research Initiative" (HINARI) from 18 - 23 September. The training aimed to provide health workers and specialists access to high-quality, relevant, and timely health information via the Internet. In addition, it aimed to bridge the "digital divide" in health, ensuring that relevant information is widely available and effectively used by health personnel, including professionals, researchers, scientists, and policy makers. Twenty-one participants from the MoH, libraries of medical colleges, teaching hospitals, and specialized centres took part in the training.

**Water Quality Control and Surveillance:** A Working Session on Water Quality Control and Surveillance in Iraq, led by the Iraqi Minister of Environment, Dr. Mishkat Moumin, was organised by WHO/Iraq and held in Amman on 23 - 24 September. The workshop, funded by the UNDG Trust Fund, aimed to introduce the role of the Ministry of Environment (MoE) in Health and Development in Iraq and the work of WHO in the area of environment. In addition, the WHO project "Water Quality Control and Surveillance in Iraq" was introduced, and a plan of action for its implementation was established. The session also sought to bring together key stakeholders working in the area of environment including WHO, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), UNICEF, and UNDP.

**Health Rehabilitation Programme for Iraq (HRPI):** The International Organisation for Migration (IOM)/HRPI supported the Iraqi MoH and liaised with the King Hussein Cancer Centre (KHCC), in Amman, in the participation of eight Iraqi physicians at the Fifth Pan Arab Congress of Neurosurgery. In addition, HRPI supported the Second International Neuro-Oncology workshop, also held at the King Hussein Cancer Centre. The conference was held from 23 - 26 September.

An Iraqi medical team consisting of four cardiologists and four nurses began their training at the Chest Hospital in Kuwait on 20 September. IOM sponsored the training as part of the establishment of the Interventional Cardiology Centre at the Teaching Hospital in Basrah. During the reporting period, HRPI also assisted in the return of one case from Amman back to Iraq.

**Support to Emergency Obstetric Care in Iraq:** A meeting was held joining the International Health Department (IHD)/MoH and the UN Populations Fund (UNFPA) on 15 September, to review progress made in the implementation of activities under the agency's project, "Support to Emergency Obstetric Care (EOC) in Iraq". In this respect, UNFPA informed IHD that it has initiated the procurement of the drugs, surgical and medical equipment, and 21 ambulances needed to equip the 21 health facilities in 12 Governorates that will be renovated under the project. Additionally, three armoured vehicles and three field vehicles are being procured. UNFPA requested IHD to follow-up with the relevant MoH departments to provide the final list of facilities to be renovated under the project.

**Training of Trainers:** To initiate the training foreseen under the EOC project, UNFPA officially requested the MoH to nominate a group of eight key MoH personnel, who will be involved in overseeing the implementation of the project, to participate in a study tour intended to visit health institutions in the region (Arab Republic of Egypt and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan) where the training will be conducted.

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**Maternal and Obstetric Care Services:** The UNFPA project, "Improve Emergency Maternal and Obstetric Care Services for Women in Conflict-Affected Areas in Iraq," funded by the Arab Gulf Programme for UN Development Organisations, has recently finalized the list of drugs, surgical and medical equipment, and initiated the procurement process. In addition, all participating parties agreed in principle with the Training and Development Department of the MoH on the training programme and schedule, which is intended to train doctors, nurses, midwives, and traditional birth attendants on EOC services.

**Delivery of First Aid Kits:** In coordination with the Iraqi Red Crescent, UNICEF is preparing a convoy carrying 200 First Aid Kits to be delivered to children and their families in Tel Afar and Fallujah.

**High Protein Biscuits (HPB):** Twenty-two containers (52,800 MT) of HPB were delivered by UNICEF to all governorates. 422.4 MT of HPB were delivered to all public health centres and Community Child Care Units to cover monthly HPB rations of 176,000 provided to malnourished children under 5, and pregnant and lactating mothers.

### Infrastructure and Housing (Cluster 4)

**Electricity Requirements Workshop:** During the reporting period, UNDP sponsored a workshop, held in Amman on 20 - 21 September, dedicated to the electricity requirements of southern Iraq. The objectives of the workshop were two-fold first, to coordinate ongoing and future funded activities in the electricity sector in southern Iraq; and second, to identify priority areas for which donor funding could be sought. At the close of the meeting, specific recommendations and courses of action were presented for the different sub-sectors. Several sub-stations were identified for rehabilitation and certain villages prioritized for electrification. By renovating the electrical network in these areas, as well as ancillary services such as warehouses and electrical cranes, employment opportunities and income for workers could be generated in the region.

### Agriculture, Water Resources, and Environment (Cluster 5)

**Rehabilitation of Irrigation Pumping Stations:** Two irrigation-pumping stations in Baghdad Governorate, at Al-Maden and Saba-Nissan, were fully rehabilitated by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) during the reporting period. Spare parts and maintenance services were provided to two irrigation pumping stations in Muthanna Governorate at Um-Aldeshish and Dob-Ghadhban and one in Anbar Governorate at Sabal-Bor. In Babylon Governorate, a project worth US\$100,000 enabled a drainage pumping station at Keesh to be reactivated. This enabled a total of 61,000 hectares of irrigated area to be returned to full production, benefiting 20,500 farming families.

**Veterinary Services:** 350,000 doses of poultry, ruminant, and sheep injectables (valued at US\$25,000) and 8,500 litres of external and internal sheep and goat anti-parasitic chemicals (valued at US\$40,000) were delivered to Kirkuk Veterinary Centre.

**Cereal Production Support:** FAO provided 190 combine harvester owners with specific spare parts, valued at US\$30,000, for their maintenance and rehabilitation.

**UNDG Programme Implementation:** From September 23 - 26, a team of FAO technical and operations officers met in Amman with their Iraqi counterparts from the Ministry of Water Resources for the second projects implementation meeting. The Minister of Water Resources, Mr. Abdul Latif Rasheed, participated in the final wrap-up session where important strategic decisions were made on the water resources, pumping stations, irrigation, and drainage projects.

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**Iraqi Marshland Management:** On September 21 - 22, UNEP organized a Round Table on the Iraqi Marshland Management. UNEP presented a project titled “Support for Environmental Management of the Iraqi Marshlands” and discussed its implementation plans with various stakeholders. The meeting was also held to provide a platform for exchange of information on marshland management among local, national, and international partners, as well as to examine the current status of marshland management and various United Nations initiatives that support marshland management and to identify areas for cooperation.

### **Mine Action (Cluster 7)**

**Support for Local Mine Action:** In its efforts to develop local/national capacity, UNDP has continued ongoing preparations and facilitation to create a local mine action non-governmental organisation (NGO) in Basrah Governorate. The Cluster is currently waiting for written approval from the Ministry of Planning, which has verbally supported the concept, and the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA).

**Mine Risk Education (MRE):** UNICEF continued to provide MRE technical support to NMAA and continued preparation and facilitation for the “Needs Assessment and Strategic Planning Workshop for Mine Risk Education,” scheduled to take place from 10 - 14 October 2004.

**Mine Action Course:** A senior level person from NMAA is currently attending a one-month Senior Mine Action Managers course conducted in the United States. UNDP facilitated his attendance and covered all costs of his participation.

**Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD):** In the field, the EOD Deminer Course (Level 2), which commenced 11 September with 21 deminer students and four medical assistants, was successfully completed on 23 September. With regard to mine clearance, teams on the ground now in their tenth week continue the long and manpower-intensive task of clearing explosive ordinances, of which significant numbers continue to be found. Although the task area is sparsely populated, there is a great deal of economic activity creating heavy movement of people and traffic.

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

**Coordination with the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM):** Several meetings have been held between the Cluster 8 Task Manager, presently in Baghdad, and the MoDM, discussing the upcoming UNHCR’s Annual Executive Committee Meeting (EXCOM), Tokyo donor conference, refugee issues, and capacity building. A MoDM delegation will be travelling in early October to Geneva, to participate in the EXCOM meetings and to discuss several refugee related issues. Later in the month, the Iraqi Government will be represented at the Tokyo donor conference. While displacement issues have so far not been put as a main item on the agenda, they will most likely be discussed during break-out sessions and bilateral meetings with donors interested in the humanitarian issues.

**Capacity Building:** One year since the MoDM’s establishment, a great deal has been achieved by the Ministry, including the playing of a central role in coordinating emergency response to the recent crisis in Najaf (also noted in the Secretary General’s report to the Security Council). Tremendous efforts in the provision of equipment and trainings have been exerted, chiefly by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and IOM. While the international community remains committed to providing aid, greater ownership and leadership is expected to come from the Iraqis. This is particularly important as the country strives to regain its sovereignty. The need to speed up opening of MoDM offices in the region is urgent. The Ministry confirmed that by the end of September, offices in Basrah, Missan, and Diyala will be up and running, with Mosul and Kirkuk expected to follow.

**Iraqi Property Claims Commission (IPCC):** The Cluster 8 Task Manager was briefed in Baghdad by the IPCC on the progress made thus far. Three offices have opened in Baghdad to date, one of which is located

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in the MoDM. In total, 30 offices have been opened throughout the country, with the last one being in Najaf. Seven senior judges, thirty 1st grade judges, and 600 staff are now employed by the IPCC. A total of 18,500 claims have been filed thus far with 1,500 before the judges. In addition, the Commission is gradually launching an information campaign. UNHCR and IOM's Public Information Officers are presently assisting with the development of this IPCC (out of country) information campaign.

Facilitated Repatriation Movement: During 19 - 26 September 2004, UNHCR facilitated the return of 271 Iraqi refugees from Iran to their home country. UNHCR has not facilitated returns to northern Iraq since 12 August; however, there are hopes to resume these returns in the near future. Since 2003, UNHCR has facilitated the return of 14,634 Iraqi refugees from Iran, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, and Jordan back to Iraq.

Palestinian Refugees: According to the MoDM, all but three families registered by UNHCR last year have been relocated from the Haifa Sports Club to rented apartments. A new group of 45 families, however, have recently arrived claiming to be in need of accommodation. UNHCR, through its partner, the MoDM, is stressing the immediate importance of closing the Sports Club as a refugee camp. UNHCR is presently assessing the possibility of carrying out vulnerability assessments and devising community-based programmes to help those in need.

Southern Iraq: UNHCR hosted a meeting with implementing and prospective partners, along with the head of the regional Basrah MoDM office, to discuss coordination and priorities for 2005. Sister UN agencies and cluster members also participated including UNICEF, IOM, and the World Food Programme. Interested NGOs were invited to submit proposals for UNHCR funding by 7 October. A follow-up meeting is planned with Baghdad MoDM officials on 11 October.

UNHCR's partner in the south has started building 50 new traditional houses in Meysin, bringing their total this year to 200 houses in Meysin. The houses are intended to help persons in public buildings find an interim durable solution whilst freeing up the public building to enable its return to the government.

Procurement for Winterisation Stocks: Procurement continues in the country. Further to two main depots in Baghdad and Samawah (Muthanna), four more warehouses will be established in Mosul, Hilla, Kirkuk, and possibly Basrah to allow decentralised access and coordination of the dispatch of items to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other vulnerable groups in the 15 centre and southern governorates. The planned date for commencing distributions in some governorates is mid-October 2004.

Monitoring Partners: Due to the heightened insecurity in September, IOM's monitoring partner in Baghdad will not be extending coverage of IDP populations in October. New partners are being perused for the Baghdad governorate. However, in the centre area, IOM has extended the monitoring agreements of partners in Ninewa and Salah al-Din until December 2004.

Review of the IDP Monitoring Framework: IOM is also planning to hold an informal review of the Integrated IDP Monitoring Framework which has been the basis of information collection in the whole country. The review is an integral part of the Framework, and is designed to occur on a regular basis, of which this is the first since the framework's launching in April. The review will take place on 13 October, targeting primarily national staff of partner NGOs and the MoDM.

Support to IDPs: In Ninewa, IOM has approved a project to support IDPs in a camp through the provision of water and sanitation services. The project aims to construct pit latrines and extend the water-network to the IDP camp through a cash-for-work-project, thus generating temporary employment for IDPs in the camp.



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### Governance and Civil Society (Cluster 9)

Minister of Human Rights: As a follow-up to the Human Rights conference held in July, one of several meetings with Mr Bakhtiar Amin, Minister of Human Rights, took place on 18 September. The UN is now moving towards a programmatic approach to design and deliver joint programmes on human rights and the rule of law for the Government of Iraq. In this approach, the Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is developing the programme framework. UNDP is the primary agency, assisted by the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the UN Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), UNICEF, and UNOPS.

Minister of Women's Affairs: UNIFEM organized a Strategic Planning session with Ms. Nirmeen Othman, Minister of Women's Affairs, on 22 - 23 September. Cluster 9 members were invited to participate on Day Two of the workshop, as were various NGOs, the NGOs Coordination Committee in Iraq (NCCI), and Amnesty International. Under the chairmanship of UNDP, the second day of meetings aimed to identify and prioritize the needs of the Ministry. Participants focused discussions on how to organise the preparation and participation of Iraqi women in the upcoming elections. As identified, support for women is greatly needed at the central, regional, and local levels.

UNIFEM and UNDP will ensure that training opportunities are developed in the upcoming months, from October through December, to ensure that female candidates are equipped to manage their campaigns and to obtain the necessary campaign information and publicity/media materials, as well as prepare candidates to liaise with the media.

Minister of Environment: On 24 September 2004, at the request of WHO, UNDP met with Dr. Mishkat Al-Moumin, the Minister of Environment, to assess the Ministry's needs in institutional and capacity building. The Minister requested UNDP to help conduct a full needs assessment to identify human resources and organizational gaps to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry. Discussions focused on initiating a two-day Strategic Planning session to identify human resources and training needs, as well as institutional needs of the Minister's office, senior management, and line supervisors. Support to local administration will also be included.

NGO Management Training: Thirteen representatives from Iraqi civil society organisations (CSOs) have attended phase-two of the Fundamentals of Management Skills Training on managerial skills, organized by UNDP in coordination with the International Management and Training Institute in Lebanon. A further group of fourteen representatives from different CSOs also finished the first phase of the training, both of which were held in Amman. A follow-up meeting will be organised in November 2004 to develop the training manual and other materials.

### Poverty Reduction and Human Development (Cluster 10)

Training for the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) Staff: A week-long training on "Employment Assistance Services" for ten MoLSA staff members was hosted by IOM in Amman. Participants work in the MoLSA Employment Centres of Ramadi, Najaf, Falluja, Kut, Baghdad, Mosul, Kirkuk, and Samawah. To date, IOM has provided 590 hours of training in Amman to 135 MoLSA staff members.

Standard Operational Procedures: IOM and its implementing partner, together with MoLSA, have finalized the Standard Operational Procedures for the Counselling Department. Training of counsellors in counselling techniques continues on schedule in Baghdad.

Iraq Reconstruction and Employment Programme (IREP) Workshop: IREP took another step towards nationwide implementation this week through a workshop held in Amman, from 23-24 September. The aim of the workshop was to familiarise the new IREP team members from Baghdad and Erbil (one team

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currently exists in Basrah) with the programme's modus operandi and to adopt a work flow based on previous experience that would be adaptable for new regional activities in central and northern Iraq. Additionally, in close coordination with a UNDP Mine Action Advisor, a basic mine awareness course was included to remind all staff of the dangers of careless behaviour in the field. IREP programme managers facilitated the workshop. Participants included all team leaders, chief engineers from the three implementation teams, as well as management from the UNDP Iraq Office in Amman.

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