

## OVERVIEW

The Secretary-General announced the appointment of Staffan de Mistura of Sweden as his Deputy Special Representative for Iraq. Mr. de Mistura, who is currently the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for southern Lebanon, will retain this function and will concurrently remain in charge of the Beirut office until his successor in Beirut is appointed.

During the last four years, Mr. de Mistura has served as Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Southern Lebanon, focusing on preventive diplomacy initiatives related to the containment of tension along the Blue Line. In addition, during the same period, he was instrumental in launching and coordinating the highly successful de-mining operation of southern Lebanon. Also Mr. Paolo Lembo, former UN resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, has been appointed as the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator. He will be based in Baghdad but will travel regularly to Amman to in order to liaise and coordinate with UNAMI Amman office and the UNCT.

## HUMANITARIAN

The UN remains concerned regarding the situation of displaced persons in and around Fallujah and regarding the return process. Despite reports of up to 85,000 residents having cumulatively passed through the checkpoints as of 9 January, it is estimated that only about 3,000-8,000 people are actually remaining overnight inside the city due to the harsh living conditions. These include a lack of adequate shelter, electricity, water, and other basic necessities such as access to health care and education. UN partners continue to assess current conditions, and to provide essential support in the areas of health, water, education, food and non-food items. To date UN and IOM partners have distributed supplies to over 26,000 families displaced due to the current situation (see Cluster 8 notes for more details).

In addition UNAMI and other UN agencies are closely monitoring the humanitarian situation in Mosul and a number of other locations.

## UN-HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE

The Ministry of Human Rights and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, Human Rights Office (UNAMI HRO) convened a meeting on 16 and 17 January 2005 related to the establishment of a National Centre for Missing and Disappeared Persons in Iraq. The objective of the meeting was to formulate proposals to the Interim Government of Iraq (IIG). The meeting of the Policy Group was preceded by a Working Group which met on 14 and 15 January 2005. The participants came from the political, religious and civil society sectors. The Minister of Human Rights and the Chief of the Human Rights Office UNAMI, co-chaired the meetings. The Prime Minister of the IIG sent a letter of support which was read by a Special Representative. UNAMI's SRSG, Mr. Ashraf Qazi, addressed the meeting on 17 January and expressed the support of the United Nations to the initiative.

On 17 January 2005, the Policy Group adopted the draft resolution proposed by the Working Group, which called upon the Government of Iraq to establish a **National Centre for Missing and Disappeared Persons in Iraq**, for Iraqis and other nationalities, and to take the appropriate measures under the law by enacting the required legislation. The resolution also called upon Iraqi society, institutions and individuals to cooperate fully with the National Centre to ensure that the fate of those who are missing or who have involuntarily disappeared is determined. The resolution also appealed to the international community to extend its support to the National Centre by assisting with the provision of the expertise and resources that it will require for the successful pursuit of its humanitarian objective.

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### UN ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE

#### Public Outreach

- Training by Amman public outreach of 14 Iraqi IECI Out of Country Voting monitors. The two- day training included a briefing by IOM.
- Printing of 2500 Civic Education flipcharts, as well as 9000 Arabic-language, and 2000 English language Civic Education handbooks.
- Web page design and contents to explain UN technical assistance role in the Iraqi elections. Web pages will be uploaded onto UN Iraq website and will feature links to other prominent Iraqi election websites.
- Preparation and distribution of electoral news clippings
- Printing of 500 UN technical assistance information fact sheets
- EU observers handbook edited for publication
- Coordinated standardised EU FES EIN observation form.

#### Logistics:

Three additional UN staff were assigned to support the IECI logistics operation.

### PROGRAMME

#### Trust Fund

The current gross donor pledges are \$ 658,180,000 USD. Total deposits to date: \$ 573,340,000 USD. Total approved and funded projects by cluster as of January 2005:

Cluster 1 Education and Culture	\$ 69,031,493
Cluster 2 Health	\$ 66,944,083
Cluster 3 Water and Sanitation	\$ 30,762,094
Cluster 4 Infrastructure and Housing	\$ 131,432,631
Cluster 5 Agriculture, water Resources, and Environment	\$ 62,556,186
Cluster 6 Food Security	\$ 4,000,000
Cluster 7 Mine Action	\$ 3,000,000
Cluster 8 IDPs and Refugees	\$16,867,515
Cluster 9 Governance and Civil Society	\$ 5,368,840
Cluster 10 Poverty Reduction and Human Development	\$ 708,105
Cluster 11 Support to Electoral Process	\$ 108,084,247

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### Education and Culture (Cluster 1)

#### School Rehabilitation:

UNICEF is carrying out comprehensive rehabilitation of 84 schools in several governorates and rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities in 20 schools in Missan, while bids for the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities in 63 schools in five governorates including the three northern Governorates and Anbar are being verified. The second/additional shipment of school bags arrived and has been distributed to sub-warehouses.

UNESCO delivered the first batch of Textbooks and Reference Books for different university libraries procured under the Qatar Fund for Higher Education .

The Ministry of Culture in Iraq has nominated a higher official from the Musical Arts Directorate to attend the sixth regional meeting for the promotion of the "Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage" in Algiers on 5 to 6 January 2005. Purpose: to raise awareness on the UNESCO Convention, facilitate and accelerate the ratification, acceptance or approval of this Convention, inform UNESCO Member States of the need for appropriate legal protection of intangible cultural heritage, and provide forums for exchange of national experiences on practical and legal issues that arise in the protection and management of intangible cultural heritage.

### Health (Cluster 2)

#### Emergency Health Support:

UNICEF, in coordination with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and the Ministry of Health (MoH), is providing emergency health support to children and their families in conflict areas. Support was provided in the form of 51 infant beds with 55 mattresses (part of the larger shipment) delivered to the Ministry of Health (MOH) warehouse, 100 castors with breaks and 100 without brakes, and 1,000 cartons of therapeutic spread sachets at a total value of \$50,000 for the treatment of severely malnourished children.

The following urgently needed medicines (at a total value of \$200,000) were delivered to the Kemadia warehouse in Baghdad:

- 250,000 ampules of Gentamycine injections
- 34,280 pints of Dextran 70 injections
- 13,920 pints of Sodium chloride injections

In addition, UNICEF delivered 1 video camera to the AIDS Research Centre, 12 Colour printers to Al-Kadhemia and Al-Iskan teaching hospitals, and 1 PC and 1 Colour printer to the Iraqi Red Crescent Society.

Government receipts of supplies delivered to MoH and Geological Surveillance and Mining are being finalized. Supplies included; Uniscales, infant weighing scales, IV fluids, Incubators, Potassium Iodate, and other medicines.

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### Other Activities:

UNICEF held the following operational meetings with counterparts:

- UNICEF Health monitors conducted visits to health centres in Baghdad, Mosul, and Kirkuk.
- EPI manager to review 2005 vaccine requirements
- Preventive Health Deputy DG to review 2005 Plans
- Kimadia officials to follow up on supplies arrival/ distribution to all governorates Meeting with Custom Clearance officials to expedite delivery of UNICEF supplies to the central warehouses
- the Kimadia warehouse manager to expedite/ follow up on transportation of supplies to the three northern governorates.
- account staff in MOH to follow up on liquidation of outstanding advances

### Health Rehabilitation Programme for Iraq (HRPI)

IOM facilitated the travel of 6 children for heart surgery to India. They were accompanied by 4 Iraqi health professionals ( Cardiologist, Cardiosurgeon, Nurse and an Anaesthetist ) who will be having one months onsite training in Cardiology, during the childrens' treatment.

### Access to Quality Health Services

The physical rehabilitation of the National Drug Quality Control Laboratory which started on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2004 and will last 150 days is progressing as scheduled. Information provided by the Ministry of Health Engineering Team, indicates that the civil engineering and sanitation works are 20% completed and the mechanical and electrical works are 10% completed.

### Prevention and Control of Diseases – Communicable and Non-Communicable

The implementation of the final stage of the Schistosomiasis and STH survey is being implemented successfully in Iraq. WHO has provided technical and logistical support to conduct the survey and is in regular contact with the focal point from the Ministry of Health Communicable Disease Control Centre, as part of the support.

A second shipment of 40 entomological test kits procured by WHO, was sent to Baghdad on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2005. These kits – requested by the Ministry of Health – are important for the entomological surveillance activities conducted by the Ministry.

WHO shipped 3,000 doses of rabies vaccine and 600 doses of anti-rabies immunoglobulin to the Vaccine and Sera Institute of the Ministry of Health on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2005. This was an emergency response to the urgent request from the Ministry of Health. On the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2005, the Ministry confirmed that – given the urgency – both types of items were promptly distributed to all governorates, including Missan.

WHO Iraq has supported and facilitated the visit of two Tuberculosis physicians from the Ministry of Health, to the Tuberculosis sanatorium in Jordan, from the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> January 2005. This visit

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was held to arrange the treatment of Multiple Drug Resistance cases in Jordan; an encouraging partnership between Iraq and Jordan

### **Mother & Child Health and Reproductive Health**

The Integrated Management of Childhood Illness country profile of Iraq has been finalised by WHO, with the early implementation phase and future activities for 2005 being confirmed.

### **Environmental Health**

On the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2005, three truck loads of food quality control equipment were shipped from Amman to Baghdad. This equipment will be installed at the National Food Control Laboratory located in the newly rehabilitated Nutrition Research Institute, as part of the process to strengthen the analytical and testing capacity of the food quality control authorities, as was agreed in the strategy and plan of action adopted during the 10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> July 2004 national workshop on food safety programmes in Iraq. This procurement has been funded by the European Commission.

### **Water and Sanitation (Cluster 3)**

#### Emergency Water Tankering:

As part of the UNICEF emergency response in Fallujah City, 7,000,000 litres of water were distributed to 70,000 IDPs in 5 sub-districts.

Due to damages in the main water trunk pipe feeding Baghdad City, around 3,000,000 inhabitants suffered from lack or scarcity of water. UNICEF, in co-ordination with the Baghdad Water Administration, responded to this crisis by distributing 186,000 liters to 11,000 beneficiaries in 4 residential areas and 92,000 litres to 3 main hospitals in Baghdad City.

#### The Participatory Water Rehabilitation and School Sanitation and Hygiene Project:

UNICEF initiated a Participatory Water Rehabilitation and School Sanitation and Hygiene Project through the INGO LIFE/ANERA in Qalet Saleh district, Missan Governorate. Ministry officials were contacted, draft Bill of Quantities for implementation of the works were prepared and are currently in the process of procuring items needed for testing water as part of the water needs assessment exercise for Missan Governorate.

#### Emergency Sanitation Intervention and Health Campaign:

UNICEF through the INGO ACTED has just completed the "EMERGENCY SANITATION INTERVENTION & HEALTH CAMPAIGN" in the Muthanna and Thiqr Governorates. The activities included increasing coverage of the sanitation network (Thiqr), rehabilitation of Al-Skaarn sewerage system, laying of new open drainage channels in Al-Sharqi and Al-Gherbi quarters and conducting a hygiene campaign (through media) in Samawah and Nasiriyah.

#### Training and Operational Meetings:

UNICEF a training programme on the operation and maintenance of Reverse Osmosis treatment plants in Kuwait for the Southern governorates.

UNICEF held Meetings with the ACTED team in Kuwait to finalize the draft proposal submitted for UNICEF's approval- "Community based Urban Sanitation Rehabilitation - Muthanna and Thiqr".

A review was also held with UNOPS in Kuwait to review the findings of the preliminary assessment exercise carried out by the UNOPS Consultant for water facilities, and plan a joint

involvement. The water facilities covered include Al-Maymounah and Al-Adl water projects in Missan Gov., Al-Fuhood, Al-Shuyoukh, Al-Nasr and Al-Batha Water Projects in Thiqr Governorate and Al-Hay Water and New Aziziyah Water Projects in Wasit Governorate.

### Infrastructure and Housing (Cluster 4)

#### Electricity Rehabilitation:

Under stage I of the HARTHA project, the second shipment of equipment and spare parts totalling to a value of US\$ 824,120.00 were delivered to the plant on 13 January 2005. This brings the total value of goods delivered so far to US\$ 5,290,984. A third and last shipment under this project is expected to be delivered around end February-early March 2005.

The rehabilitation of Units 1 and 4, the scope of the project, started late last year will continue with the delivery of the equipment of the second shipment. In addition, the second group of two engineers returned to Iraq from Japan after attending a training course on X-ray and Burner Control Systems. Both activities were funded from the same project.

Stage I of the HARTHA contributes to increasing the generation capacity of units 1 and 4 of the plant by 40 MW, while stage II of the project, under which a contract was signed late December 2004, will contribute in ensuring the long term availability and reliability of the units.

#### Dredging of access channels:

An operational meeting with the selected international contractor took place in Kuwait on 9 January 2005. The survey phase ( UXO and bathymetric) of the approach channels of the port of Um Qasr will commence on 18 Feb. 2005 while the dredging will start around 22nd Feb. 2005. The objective of this project is to increase the navigational capacity of the port of Um Qasr and its approach channels enabling access of larger vessels and consequently increasing the flow of humanitarian aid and reconstruction needs into the country.

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

Against US\$35.7 million received from the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund in mid-2004, FAO, through the Special Emergency Programmes Service (TCES), prepared some US\$20 millions' worth of delivery, of which US\$9.2 million were committed by the end of 2004 as follows:

#### Improvement of Drainage Conditions in Major Agricultural Areas – Ramadi Drain

This project aims to connect, widen and deepen the drainage network from the Ramadi and Saqlawiya irrigated areas to the Main Outfall Drain. This will eliminate flooding, reduce salinity

build-up in agricultural lands and avoid contamination of fresh water in the Euphrates with saline water. The technical dossier required for the preparation of a contract for civil works for the Ramadi Drain Project (Falluja district) was completed. Tenders for equipment supplies for a value of US\$1 million were also launched.

#### Improvement of Water Supply and Drainage Provisions through the Rehabilitation of Pumping Stations

Results from the field surveys of four of the original twelve pumping stations to be rehabilitated were received and analyzed. Proposals for the replacement of the pumps, motors and ancillary equipment for these stations, amounting to an estimated US\$4.6 million, were requested from potential suppliers.

#### Assessment, Emergency Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Community Irrigation Schemes and Restoration of Water Supply in Rural Areas.

For this project, FAO liaised with the World Bank, which also aimed to rehabilitate community level irrigation systems with the MoWR. Five potential project sites were identified with the MoWR. The technical dossier of one of the five sites was completed and tendered for. Agricultural commodities, supplies and equipment valued at US\$6.1 million were procured at the end of 2004 for delivery in early 2005. The outline of a major training programme was submitted to the MoWR. The training proposal went much further than addressing just the immediate needs of the UNDG irrigation projects and was designed to have a substantial long-term beneficial effect, by strengthening the general irrigation training and extension services within the country.

#### Restoration of Veterinary Services:

Procurement of US\$2.2 millions' worth of veterinary equipment and supplies was completed. Another US\$1.3 million was tendered for commitment in early 2005. A comprehensive training programme was designed in consultation with the Iraqi veterinary services to enhance disease surveillance, diagnosis and control capacity nation-wide. The first training session in Amman for 28 Iraqi veterinary staff was successfully completed. The layout plan for nine veterinary centres was agreed with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and tender documents were prepared. Specifications for the cool rooms were also agreed upon with the MoA and procurement was initiated for commitment early in 2005.

#### Cottage Industry Project:

UNIDO reviewed the responses from consultants to its bid request for the assessment work for the Cottage Industry project. Chakib Jenane, the Project Manager, is planning to short list consultants pending receipt of clarifications to the offers, and awards the contract to start February 1, 2005. The assessment covers specifically the lower south governorates. This is a joint project with FAO.

#### Dairy and Date palm Project:

UNIDO also finalized the logistics for its Dairy Pilot Rehabilitation project workshop for January 17 and its Date-palm development workshop for January 18. Approximately 10 government and state owned enterprise representatives as well as UN experts are expected to attend.

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### Food Security (Cluster 6)

#### Supplementary Feeding

The Project Management Committee (PMC) for the WFP project on assistance to primary school children and vulnerable groups announced that the Health Technical Team of the Ministry of Health has approved the awareness materials, to be used at health facilities to promote awareness and knowledge on nutrition and health. The materials will be printed for distribution shortly.

#### School feeding

A PMC operational meeting on school feeding was held in Baghdad in early January. A strategy for roll-out of the yearly school feeding design competition in Iraq is being elaborated.

### Mine Action (Cluster 7)

#### Activities (achieved/ongoing):

UNDP entered into a contract with Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAFA), in late December 2004. The purpose of the contract is to provide seven technical advisors to the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) in the fields of mine action operations management and capacity building; mine risk education, victim support services, public relations, multimedia/information technology, finance/audit. UNDP has finalized the required arrangements, agenda and training package for the technical advisors mission training from 16 – 20 January 2005 in Amman, before their deployment into Iraq.

UNICEF conducted a two days workshop with counterparts and National Mine Action Authority to review 2004 activities and programme plan for 2005. At the end of the workshop, a draft plan of action for Mine Risk Education in Iraq has been developed and the programme activities that will be supported by UNICEF were identified.

The UN supported clearance activities continued by Minetech International (MTI) and Danish Demining Group (DDG) in Basrah.

The UNOPS proposed project for continuation and expansion of MTI mine/UXO clearance operations in south of Iraq, which has been approved by Iraqi Ministry of Environment, ISRB and SC in earlier stages, is still awaiting funding from the ITF to start implementation. The MTI contracts represents 70% of the UN's contribution to clearing mines and UXO in Iraq and 50% of the clearance capacity in the south.

#### Support Activities:

A Mine Action Coordination Meeting took place in Amman-Jordan on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2005, chaired by the Deputy Minister of Planning and Development Cooperation "Mr. Behnam Puttrus", attended by the National Mine Action Authority Director General and two more senior staff, UN Mine Action Cluster and a representative from the US Department of State/RONCO. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss, come to an agreement and coordinate a number of important



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issues related to the mine action programme in Iraq including institutional development of the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA), progress of international technical advisors provision to NMAA, donor conference in Amman, NGOs coordination with NMAA, emergency response capacity, Mine Risk Education planning with Ministry of Education, explosives donation by DIFID to NMAA, development of local mine action operations capacities, fund raising for MTI contract with UNOPS for continuation of their operation in Southern region of Iraq, and brief of meetings with mine action agencies and other stakeholders

Several individual operational meetings took place with Jordanian Mine Action Programme Technical Advisor, RONCO and VVAF Land Mine Impact Survey (LIS) team leader to coordinate and get an updated parameter of mine action programme progress and situation inside Iraq.

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

#### Capacity building

UNHCR and IOM hosted a seven-day working group session for a delegation from the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) to work on the Ministry's Statute (basic law). To enhance the Ministry's ownership of its basic law, the Minister attended the last two days to comment on and endorse the proposed draft. The law is presently with the Ministry of Justice and will consequently be subject to approval by the Legislative Consultation Council.

A capacity building training was held in Amman with the aim to assist the MoDM in the formulation of its institutional and organizational framework. The workshop was jointly organised by UNHCR and IOM. The main focus was on identifying MoDM's populations of concern, the primary purpose and ultimate objective of the Ministry for each group and the role of MoDM to ensure effective protection and assistance for the different groups.

#### Policy Issues

Cluster 8's IDP Working Group, with facilitation by UNHCR, launched a process of reviewing and updating the UNCT IDP strategy in light of the evolving situation in Iraq. The review has started during the reporting period and will take place over a sequence of meetings during the month of January. The strategy will include comprehensive guidance to the UNCT to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach in providing protection and assistance to IDPs and seek durable solutions. The results will feed into Cluster 8's review of 2004 activities and lessons learned as well as its finalization of its 2005 plan of work which will form part of the UN Assistance Strategy for Iraq 2005-2007.

#### Voluntary Repatriation/ returnees

UNHCR has assisted some 21,800 Iraqi refugees to return to Iraq primarily from Iran but also from Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Jordan and beyond. Returnee monitoring continues in the south and north of the country to identify assistance and protection needs for returning refugees and IDPs. To date, over 800 villages have been assessed in the south and north. UNHCR is now compiling and analyzing results which will be released shortly.

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During the reporting period, UNHCR's implementing partner completed the construction and rehabilitation of houses in the south of the country benefiting over 2,000 beneficiaries (returnees and other vulnerable populations). Other projects completed by UNHCR partners include

installing safe drinking water units in 6 locations. The construction of 4 health clinics, 11 primary schools and 3 community centres has also been completed. In light of returnee communities identifying their most urgent needs, four foot bridges in Thi-Qar governorate were built as quick impact projects, two more bridges will be finalized in the next weeks.

### Refugees

Palestinian and Syrian refugees have increasingly faced searches, destruction to property and arbitrary detention. UNHCR has worked in coordination with MoDM to ensure mechanisms are in place to provide physical, legal and material protection to the refugees. This includes providing rental assistance to vulnerable groups, legal assistance, monitoring and advocacy.

### IDP Assistance:

#### Winterisation

Over 15,000 displaced and vulnerable families have received Winterisation packages to date. Distribution has been implemented in Tameem, Baghdad, Anbar, Diyala and ongoing in the rest of the country. Insecurity in Ninewa has led to suspension of distributions in parts of Mosul and Telafer, and the resultant surplus packages redirected to safer areas in the governorate including the high profile Fayda camp in Mosul. All planned 43,000 IDP families will be covered by end January.

#### Emergency Distributions

Covering over 29,000 IDP families who fled from Fallujah in November 2004, IOM and UNHCR have completed the distribution of items IDP families in Ana, Rawa, Haditha, Heet, Habaniyah and Amiriyah, Karma, Saglawiyah and Neimiyah. This distribution has taken two weeks longer than planned due to the insecurity along the roads leading to some of the locations, most notably Amiriyah, where 3 staff from the NGO partner were kidnapped by resistance groups last week. All staff were released the same day and the items secured to Amiriyah.

In Baghdad, IOM and partners started on 15 January 2005 distributing NFI and food items for over 9,000 Fallujah IDPs in six areas in Baghdad; Abu Ghreib, Taji, Karkh, Tarmiya, Aadamiya and Khadmiyah. The distribution which focuses on locations on the outskirts of Baghdad is expected to be finalised in two weeks time.

In Anbar and Baghdad, the Fallujah IDPs continue to move from one location to the other within Anbar, and reportedly more into Baghdad. The total figure of populations assessed in the main IDP areas in both governorates has dropped from 43,000 IDP families to 33,000.

Due to the detainment of some Sheikhs accused of 'harbouring resistance groups', many sheikhs are disengaging from registering and supporting IDPs from Fallujah. More investigation is needed on this topic, as this could lead to serious implications for the IDPs in terms of assistance delivery normally facilitated by many of the mosques.

Food needs for IDPs from Fallujah appear to be getting better coverage from MoT in Anbar and to a lesser degree in Baghdad. IOM partners together with WFP and MoT have been coordinating

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to increase the coverage to locations that do not have access to the Public distribution System (PDS) ration.

### **Returnee Intentions**

UNHCR through implementing partners have finalized the returns intentions survey for those who have been displaced by the Fallujah crisis. The survey captured over 4,500 families in Al Anbar

and Baghdad. Initial results indicate that ninety-five percent of the population would like to return if international forces present in the city left. Other concerns expressed include a lack of information about planned assistance and compensation, the presence of UXOs/mines, health fears associated with use of munitions, and lack of shelter. The vast majority indicated that they will wait for at least three months to monitor the situation in Fallujah before fully returning families.

In the meantime, UNHCR has been supporting the MoDM with non food items for returning inhabitants of Fallujah. In addition to stocks previously reported, UNHCR has released a further 3,000 blankets, 200 tents, 500 heaters and 500 plastic sheeting for distribution by MoDM inside Fallujah.

As a contingency, UNHCR has further replenished its in-country stocks of relief items including tents, blankets, heaters/stoves and plastic sheeting.

### **Return and Reintegration of IDPs and Iraqi refugees in the Northern Governorates Project**

In its partnership with UNHCR, and funded by the UNDG ITF, UNOPS continued to work closely with the local authorities of Kalar, Sulaymaniyah, to develop integrated solutions for providing rural livelihoods for returning families. Out of 225 selected beneficiaries, more than 100 were verified according to the UNHCR criteria, by the end of 2004. Verification process of the remaining list has been undergoing over the last weeks.

In the municipality of Sarsink, Dahuk UNOPS, in co-operation with the authorities, has undertaken identification of new shelter assistance locations for the returning families, as the beneficiaries have been reluctant to re-settle in the previously selected villages. Some 8 to 9 new locations have been considered for this purpose and UNOPS has initiated the screening process in January 2005.

Procurement of shelter materials has continued in January 2005. The municipality of Kalar contributed an additional warehouse to the project. The warehouse is now operational and has received first deliveries in the past two weeks.

## **Governance and Civil Society (Cluster 9)**

### **Media Development**

Within the framework of the UNDP-Iraq media project "Public Affairs Reporting Workshops & News Exchange", a total of 51 journalists were trained in the four workshops that took place in Amman from October to December 2004. Thirty-three Iraqi journalists were identified by Reuters Foundation as potential contributors to the News Exchange. Around 25 Iraqi journalists are widely involved in the fostering of the exchange with their articles and stories.

In addition, the News Exchange's component has had a very positive response for an Iraqi newspaper that will become the first full partner. Reuters Foundations are discussing the exact

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terms but they are proposing to contribute at least five articles per day and to help Reuters promote the News Exchange website ([www.aswataliraq.info](http://www.aswataliraq.info)) to encourage other potential partners to come on board.

### Donor Assistance Database (DAD):

Since the beginning of January 2005, there has been considerable improvement in equipping the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation (MOPDC) with a database to track donor

contributions. UNDP – as Cluster 9 manager - has offered to provide technical and managerial assistance to the Ministry to support the transfer of the database, train MOPDC staff on its use, and organize the collection of data. The MOPDC has confirmed that it would prefer to use a database created for the purpose by a US company, which currently rests in the US Embassy. In discussions with the company and within the US Embassy in Baghdad, steps required to effect this transfer have been identified. An operational meeting between the various actors in the transfer and development of the database will take place in Amman 17-28 February 2005.

### Supreme Audit Board – Iraq

Within the framework of identifying capacity building measures necessary to strengthen the Iraq Supreme Audit Board as well as specific training needs, a meeting was convened by UNDP on 5 January 2005, during which short and longer term interventions were prioritized. An important aspect of the meeting was its regional nature with support offered from neighbouring Arab countries including Jordan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and possibly Tunisia.

Ten priorities linked to professional training and training of trainers were agreed to. Among these were: a training needs assessment to be conducted and the establishment of a Training Centre explored; the Jordan Audit Bureau would submit a proposal on Privatization Audit Training, and possibilities to schedule an ARABOSAI programme would be investigated. For the longer-term interventions (2006-2007), the needs identified in the 2005 Training Needs Assessment would be addressed, fellowships and other exchange programmes with international institutions would be explored, new audit areas (environment, pre-implementation audit, others) would also be looked into as well as possible participation in regional and international training programmes.

A work-plan has been developed to implement the various stages of the capacity-building measures - the first stage of which will be to finalize the proposal with SAB and obtain an authorization letter by the end of January 2005

UNICEF organized a meeting with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, National Mine Action Authority and International NGOs (INTERSOS, TDH, NCA, EMDH, MOVIMONDO and War Child) to review child protection activities implemented in 2004 and plan for 2005 activities. The meeting took place in Amman on the 12th and 13th of January 2005

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

The Cluster 10 Retreat took place at the Dead Sea, Jordan on the 9-10 January 2005. The meeting chaired by UNDP as Cluster 10 manager, was attended by representatives from the Iraqi Ministries of Youth and Sport, Planning, State for Women's Affairs, Labour and Social Affairs, Public Works and representatives of the Council of Ministries. In addition, the NGOs - Al-Amal Iraq and Voice of Independent Women's Organisation, as well as the Embassy of Japan, Japan Bank for International Cooperation, JICA, Institute of Developing Economics, DFID, ESCWA, ILO, IOM, UNAMI, UNDG, UN-Habitat, UNIDO, UNIFEM and UNOPS also participated.



The first day of the meeting was devoted to brainstorming the issues relevant to Cluster 10 programmes and activities. This was initiated through the presentations by the Iraqi ministerial and civil society delegations as well as by the work of three distinct working groups: i) Policy, regulation, advocacy/institution and capacity building; ii) Information and systems/mapping and assessments; and iii) Employment and income generation/support to local development initiatives.

This was followed by an internal review to update the UNDAF Results Matrix by Cluster 10. In the plenary session on the second day, Iraqi ministerial delegations and counterparts reviewed the

Matrix, giving feedback and inputs. The Matrix was further revised as a collective exercise before it was finalized and endorsed. The following action points were agreed upon: i) to establish a follow-up mechanism and a timeframe for the implantation of the Matrix, involving regular meetings to monitor and evaluate implementation progress or ad-hoc issues - the first follow-up meeting would take place within a three month period; ii) to promote broader participation of NGOs; iii) Iraqi counterparts to develop their own programme and project priorities internally; iv) The Iraqi ministerial delegations to investigate the issue of a Project Management Team within each ministry to provide effective support to the operationalization of the UNDAF Matrix, hence programme and project implementation; and v) The UN to assist in inter-ministerial coordination.

### Iraq Employment and Reconstruction Programme (IREP)

As at 15 January 2005, there are currently 168 projects being implemented in the South of Iraq to the value of \$4.5 million and involving over 23,000 workers. To date, the total number of person-days generated under the IREP is 937,356

One example of the type of ongoing community project IREP implements is the BASRAH GREEN campaign, which consists of an extensive sensitization of the key actors within the local authorities, such as the local councils, municipalities, and Departments of Agriculture, Education, Public Works. At the same time, tree planting projects are elaborated with them. IREP's objective is to plant 250,000 trees in Basrah. There are already many projects of this type on-going, or in the planning and preparation stage for example in the rehabilitation of public parks, school and hospital gardens, streets, etc.

### Workforce Development and Veterans' Services (WDVS)

IOM has completed the Workforce Development and Veterans' Services project. The IOM project provided capacity building support to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Iraq by offering technical assistance in the form of training, mentoring, on-the-job training and infrastructure upgrade of the national network of MOLSA Employment Centers. The project started in August 2003 and ended on 31 December, 2004.

### Iraqis Rebuilding Iraq (IRI)

The joint IOM-UNDP programme continues to receive Employment Forms (EF) for experts from the 24 Iraqi Ministries invited to participate in the programme. Over 25 requests have been received, mainly from the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation. Majority of the EFs are requesting for IT/database/statistics expertise. The development of the IRI database and webpage continues.

# IRAQ

## SITUATION REPORT



UNITED NATIONS

1 January – 15 January 2005

UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR IRAQ

### Support to Electoral Process (Cluster 11)

The International News Safety Institute is organizing safety training for Iraqi Journalists and media staff from the different regions in Iraq. The training will include 25 journalists from Basra, 25 journalists from Baghdad, and 25 journalists from the Kurdish Territories. Each two-day course will be customized safety training focusing on the specific working conditions in Iraq, covering the cities and regions of the participants. The training is in two parts, one part covering risk awareness and one part covering basic first aid. The training sessions will take place in Sulaimaniyah on 24-25 January and 26-27 January;. The main local partner for organizing the training is the Kurdistan Union of Journalists. Other partners are Reuters Foundation and Institute for War and Peace reporting as to ensure no overlap with previously undertaken skills training venues.

The training sessions will also be used as means to distribute guidelines for election and media principles specifically targeting Iraq, produced by Article 19 as well as a journalist handbooks in Arabic (Handbook for Journalists by World Press Freedom Committee).

A website is being set up in collaboration with INDEX on Censorship, offering electronic access to both the specifically produced Iraqi media briefing notes and guidelines as well as to updated information related to the elections.

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