

OVERVIEW ▶

Multi National Force-Iraq (MNF-I) and Iraqi forces entered the city of Falluja on 8 November in an effort to rid the city of insurgents. Prior to the incursion, civilians were encouraged to take refuge outside of the city. More than half of the city's population fled the city as a result, and now live as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in several locations surrounding Falluja. Very little is known about the situation inside Falluja, as UN, Red Cross/Crescent Organisations, and Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) partners have been largely unable to access the city.

**At the time of publication, it was confirmed that Margaret Hassan, Care International's head of mission in Iraq, had been killed by her captors. A statement issued by the UN Secretary General's spokesman noted that Mr. Annan, "condemns in the strongest possible terms the targeting of humanitarian aid workers and organizations and reiterates that such acts are indefensible." "The work of Ms. Hassan in Iraq will be remembered by all in Iraq and beyond as an example of human solidarity."*

UN ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE ▶

Cluster 11 continues to support and coordinate activities related to the Iraqi Electoral Operation. The UN Electoral Assistance Division (EAD) is preparing to develop an information package detailing rules, regulations, and procedures for international observers.

Voter registration began as scheduled on 1 November. Reports indicate an encouraging turnout and level of interest by Iraqis. Many were said to have visited the voter registration centres looking for further information and registration materials. 458 registration centres have been opened throughout the country to date. Voter registration pamphlets, posters, and fact sheets continue to be distributed throughout the country as a result of high demand from the local population.

Preparations for certification of political candidates and entities were completed during the reporting period. National Election Officers and Governorate Election Officers were trained on the procedures of the certification process, which also began on 1 November. Public outreach programmes, such as information sessions with political party and civil society representatives, as well as television and print media advertisements were conducted by the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq (IECI).

HUMANITARIAN ▶

As a result of recent incursions on Falluja by the Multi National Force-Iraq and Iraqi forces, thousands of people have been forced to leave the city of Falluja, seeking shelter with host families and various communities in the surrounding area. Over the past few weeks, UNAMI has hosted several Emergency Working Group meetings on Falluja with key implementing UN, Red Cross/Crescent Organisations, and NGO partners to coordinate humanitarian response activities and coordinate with relevant Iraqi governmental authorities. UNAMI continues to compile flash reports providing updated information on the current humanitarian situation and coordinated response mechanisms. All reports are available on www.uniraq.org.

The most recent assessments indicate that 52,000 families (222,000 individuals) have left Falluja seeking shelter in nine locations around the city. As access to IDP locations has been increasingly difficult, information regarding the health, food, water, and sanitation needs of IDPs has been significantly limited. The MoH reports that the General Hospital inside the city is apparently functional and adequately stocked to receive patients. Limited health care coverage exists at the IDP locations around Falluja, where some agencies have managed to distribute medical items, food, and non-food items (NFIs). The Ministry of Trade (MoT), in conjunction with the Ministry of Health (MoH), has reportedly distributed food to communities around Falluja, although it is unclear what proportion of the total IDP population has indeed received their rations. There is no confirmation to date of any general food distributions to cover both the host communities and the IDP populations. Reports indicate that the main water treatment plant inside

Falluja is still turned off. Access to Falluja and the surrounding IDP locations remains a key issue for humanitarian organizations. The UN Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) continues to raise the issue with senior Iraqi Interim Government (IIG) officials. The IIG has stated that no aid is needed, as the city is well supplied and the government has assumed responsibility for the provision of humanitarian assistance. No independent verification of this has been possible.

Since the incursion, UN, Red Cross/Crescent Organisations, and NGO partners have provided various types of assistance to Falluja and the IPD locations. Over the past few weeks various assessments have been completed by implementing partners, leading to the delivery of water, immediate food items, NFIs, and medical supplies to vulnerable populations. UNAMI and its partners continue to coordinate activities with relevant Iraqi governmental authorities including the MoH and the MoT.

PROGRAMME ►

Education and Culture (Cluster 1)

Delivery of School Supplies: Despite deteriorating security conditions in several governorates in Iraq and the closure of borders and airports for several days, The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) delivered 593,813 student kits and 29,160 school bags for children in grades one through four. UNICEF also delivered for grades five through nine, 335,590 student kits and 49,070 chalk kits. These materials were delivered to all 21 Directorates of Education in Iraq.

School Rehabilitation: Bids for the rehabilitation of 60 schools by UNICEF, using ECHO funds, have been opened and are being verified and evaluated. Rehabilitation of these schools located in the Governorates of Al-Anbar, Al-Muthanna, Babil, Salah Al-Din, Qadissiya, and Diyala will start in early December. Rehabilitation works of 16 schools are also ongoing.

Rehabilitation of the Educational Institute for Training and Development was completed by UNICEF in partnership with an international NGO partner.

Support to Ministry of Education: UNICEF distributed 44 desktop computers to the Ministry of Education (MoE) as part of the capacity building programme.

Health (Cluster 2)

Emergency Health Support: UNICEF, in coordination with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and the MoH, is providing emergency health support to children and their families in conflict areas. Support was provided in the form of 23 emergency kits and 200 First Aid Kits to Fallujah and Ramadi (before the onset of the attack). 100 first aid kits and 20 emergency kits were also shipped with the IRCS convoy to villages and IDP camps near Fallujah (this was the first medical aid convoy to reach the conflict area after the attack). In addition, 50 copies of the Communicable Disease Red Book were delivered to the Preventive Health Department /MoH by UNICEF.

Cold Chain Spare Parts Delivery: 34 different spare parts for the Cold Chain, the system used for keeping and distributing vaccines in good condition, were delivered to the MoH to support the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) cold chain maintenance efforts in 10 governorates in the south and centre of Iraq.

Meetings and Follow-up: UNICEF held a meeting with EPI/MoH staff to review activities achieved in 2004 and discuss plans for 2005.

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Delivery of Emergency Health Supplies: A follow-up meeting was held with the Kimadia manager regarding the 4th-7th shipments of urgently needed medicines and distribution plans. A meeting was also held between UNICEF and the Kimadia warehouse manager and store keeper to follow up on delivered/distributed UNICEF supplies.

Monitoring of Health and Nutrition Programmes: UNICEF monitors visited two maternity hospitals, two PHC centres, and one salt producing factory in Al-Karkh district of Baghdad. The Directorate of Health (DoH) is expected to follow up on the implementation of health and nutrition programmes.

Promotion of Exclusive Breastfeeding: UNICEF completed the production of 17 TV and radio spots promoting breastfeeding, timely introduction of home-made complementary foods, breastfeeding for at least two years, and feeding during and after common illnesses.

UNICEF also supported an 18-hour training course on breastfeeding for mothers. 30 staff members from Al-Resafa health facilities were trained on the basic skills of counselling mothers in breastfeeding. An additional two courses are scheduled to be held in Al-Karkh DoH within the next two weeks. UNICEF support was provided in the form of stationery, training materials, and training manuals.

Two breastfeeding seminars, supported by UNICEF, were completed in the MoH and Al-Karkh DoH to promote exclusive breastfeeding. Participants included staff, health workers, and women's groups.

Reviving the Targeted Nutrition Programme: 21 training courses on the Targeted Nutrition programme (TNP) for health workers and volunteers were completed during the reporting period. UNICEF support was provided in the form of stationery, training materials, and training modules.

Health Rehabilitation Programme for Iraq (HRPI): The transportation of equipment for the Interventional Cardiology Centre in Al Talimi Hospital in Basrah, from Kuwait has been delayed due to the current instability of security in Basrah.

Immunisation Workshop: Three World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Advisors facilitated a MoH/WHO/UNICEF Expanded Programme of Immunisation Workshop, which was held from the 31 October – 4 November 2004. 32 participants attended the meeting, representing MoH staff, experts from medical universities, and independent national consultants. Support to this workshop was funded through the European Commission.

Capacity Building of MoH Staff: WHO is supporting the participation of a MoH delegate at a meeting on 'International Regulations for Health', which was held in Geneva from the 1-12 November 2004.

Results Based Management Training Workshop: WHO supported a training workshop on "Results Based Management-Logical Approach to Managing Programmes" for the MoH and WHO, held from the 1-4 November 2004. The objectives of the workshop were to introduce the logical approach and its application for programme development and Results-Based Management and provide training on the preparation and the use of a results framework in MoH-WHO joint collaborative areas.

Twenty three participants from the MoH attended the workshop, including Directors of the departments of Inspection, Finance, and Operations. The MoH participants were joined by fourteen staff from WHO to learn about the logical approach of implementing health programmes in Iraq.

Medical Supply Shipment: A shipment of I.V. canulas, procured by WHO in response to a MoH request for emergency needs, was sent from Amman to Baghdad on 7 November 2004.

Countrywide Assessment of PHC Centres: WHO is providing logistical and technical support to the MoH in a countrywide assessment of all PHC centers using assessment tools developed in partnership between WHO and MoH.

Spraying Campaigns: Malaria and Leishmaniasis spraying campaigns, supported by WHO, have been completed throughout Iraq, whilst fogging and rodent control activities are ongoing.

Integrated Management of Childhood Illness: WHO is working to support the MoH in the area of Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) through the adaptation of the facilitators guide for the training course, creation of case management wall charts, and the design of the Arabic version of IMCI training modules for paramedics working at primary health care centres.

Water and Sanitation (Cluster 3)

Delivery of Emergency Water and Sanitation Supplies: Due to intensified military operations in the city of Fallujah, activities aiming to boost preparedness levels to absorb the increasing needs for water and sanitation services have been coordinated by UNICEF as follows:

An emergency water and sanitation response team composed of a team leader, an engineer, and three monitors was established. The team was divided into two sub-teams; the first aimed to conduct an assessment of the situation of IDPs in the Amiriyat sub-district of Fallujah, while the second team aimed to coordinate the delivery of emergency water and sanitation supplies through the IRCS.

UNICEF is trying to arrange for the transfer of emergency supplies from the Basra warehouse to Falluja. These supplies are composed of 75,000 x 10 litre collapsible water tanks, 200 x 20 litre jerry cans, and more than 2.5M chlorine tablets (each chlorinates 5 litres of water). It is not yet clear whether this transport would still be possible under current circumstances.

Some supplies have already been transported from the UNICEF warehouse in Baghdad and are ready for dispatch through the IRCS. These supplies are composed of 600 x 10 litre collapsible water tanks, 50,000 pieces of washing and toilet soap, and more than 170,000 chlorine tablets.

UNICEF has already facilitated the transfer of the Anbar Water Authority's monthly share of purification chemicals from the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works to the Anbar warehouse. The share is composed of 20 chlorine cylinders of 1 ton capacity, 10 tons of chlorine powder, and 50 tons of Alum Sulphate.

Emergency Water Tankering: A plan has been developed in coordination with an engineer from the Falluja Water Department to initiate the water tankering operation as soon as conditions permit in Falluja city for the affected population. In addition, a plan has been discussed to distribute 500,000 litres of diesel for generators of water projects.

Arrangements were made with local NGOs to facilitate the water tankering operation. These NGOs will be responsible for delivering Polyvinyl Chloride water tanks to certain landmarks in primary healthcare centres (PHCs), schools, and mosques that could act as water distribution points.

Infrastructure and Housing (Cluster 4)

Rehabilitation of Taji, Mosul, and AL-Mussaib Power Station: Technical proposals of Taji Power Station, Mosul Power Station, Al-Mussaib Power Station were submitted by an international contractor and the examination of the proposals continued by the UN Development Programme (UNDP). Technical examination is aimed at reviewing the scope of works and implementation schedule and modalities of the

rehabilitation works in order to meet the current technical requirement of sites and the needs of Ministry of Electricity under the budget ceiling.

Progress in emergency assistance: Delivery of various spare parts and consumables for emergency maintenance of the electricity network continued: 109 transformers, six changeover switches, and 44 generators delivered to neighbouring countries, which will be transferred to inside of Iraq.

Agriculture, Water Resources, and Environment (Cluster 5)

Irrigation and Water Resources: The preparation of feasibility studies and tendering documents for contracting civil works for the connection of the Ramadi Drain to the main outfall drain is underway. The objective is to improve the drainage in the irrigated fields of 6,000 farming families in the Ramadi area. It will also prevent highly saline water from flowing into the Euphrates River and causing pollution. The Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) have identified a list of equipment to be purchased for the future maintenance of the drain.

Plant Production: FAO has distributed 750 metric tons of Diammonium Phosphate fertilizer and 940 metric tons of wheat seed to 4,300 farming families in the four southern Iraq Governorates of Basrah, Missan, Thi-Qar and Al-Muthanna. These families will receive a further 500 metric tons of FAO procured Urea fertilizer in December/January.

Seed Production: Four selected farmers and four selected technicians participated in a six-week intensive training course in Quality Wheat Seed Production organized by FAO at the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) in Syria. The training included exposure to the latest seed breeding and selection techniques.

Livestock Production: FAO has received a request from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) for the imports of inputs and livestock valued at approximately US\$ 3.5 million. A list of 28 trainees from Baghdad and all of the governorates of Iraq has been approved by the MoA for the first training session scheduled to take place in Amman at the beginning of December. This will enhance the capacity of the Iraqi veterinary services to control trans-boundary animal diseases.

Pilot Project for the Rehabilitation of the Dairy Sector in Iraq: UNIDO's Dairy Pilot Plant Rehabilitation workshop, planned for November 17, was postponed by the Ministry of Industry in light of the recent escalated security situation in Baghdad. The new date is still to be arranged. 25 participants from government ministries, municipalities, donor representatives, and NGOs are planned to attend.

Cottage Industry Assessment: An assessment for the Cottage Industry project should commence in December with the appointment of the Chief Technical Advisor last week in Amman. The assessment will lay the groundwork for a possible project inception workshop to be attended by the project stakeholders.

Date Palm Sector Rehabilitation Programme: FAO and UNIDO worked closely on preparation of the "*Date Palm Sector Rehabilitation Programme*". A project development workshop with the Iraqi counterparts has been planned and is expected to take place in the near future.

Workshop on Environmental Site Assessments: UNEP will host a two-day workshop on environmental site assessments in Amman, with the assistance of the Iraqi Ministry of Environment. The planning workshop will host 15 Iraqi participants.

Integrating Environmental Concerns into UN Trust Fund Programmes: UNEP presented to the UN Country Team a draft environmental review form, which will be a tool for assessing the environmental impact of all projects. This form will be integrated into the project approval process, ensuring awareness and consideration of environmental concerns.



Mine Action (Cluster 7)

Mine Risk Education (MRE): UNICEF supported Emergency MRE in Baghdad through a public information campaign and support to NGOs. UNICEF and UNDP continue to provide technical support and guidance to the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) and assisted in the development of MRE core curriculum and other MRE-related materials.

MRE Workshop: UNICEF organized a workshop on MRE Needs Assessments and Strategic Planning in October in Amman. Key stakeholder participants from the NMAA, Ministry of Youth, IRCS, MoH, ICRC, Mine Action Group, Handicap International, Save the Children USA, Iraq Health and Social Care Organisation, Geneva Centre for Humanitarian Demining, WHO, and UNDP. The workshop resulted in the development of a strategic framework for MRE and a preparing a draft needs assessment.

Clearance Operation in the South: A project proposal for continuation and expansion of the existing contract between the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and an international NGO for clearance operations in the south of Iraq has been approved by the Steering Committee on 11 November. The continuation of this activity is indispensable for the security and safety of the population. The selection process of a new local mine action NGO is in progress.

Coordination Meeting with the U.S.: A meeting was held between the UN mine action cluster, the U.S. Department of State, and an American demining company on 6 November. The purpose of the meeting was to share information and to strengthen coordination on a number of issues related to the mine action programme in Iraq, such as capacity building programmes, provision of international technical advisors to NMAA, the current financial status and a future funding plan.

Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons - IDPs (Cluster 8)

MoDM Preparation for the National Conference: A phased approach proposed by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with regard to the organisation of a National Conference on IDP's has been accepted by the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM). The phased approach will include various consultative workshops and events with the MoDM, prior to the conference. The approach will identify key issues related to the displacement problem in Iraq and analyze existing and planned MoDM policies.

The first consultative workshop will be held early December in Amman and will host senior staff from the MoDM and possibly representatives of line ministries of the government that constitute the Inter-Ministerial Group working to find durable solutions for the displaced in Iraq. It is expected that the workshop will produce conclusions and recommendations which will qualify the process of preparing the National Conference and drafting a national strategy on displacement in Iraq.

IDP Strategy: In light of the current crisis in Falluja and other hotspots, the IDP working group has been focussing on revising the IDP strategy in view of the ongoing displacement crisis.

Analysis of Statelessness and Iraqi Law: UNHCR has held internal meetings focussing on statelessness and nationality issues in relation to Iraq. UNHCR is closely analysing previous Iraqi laws and the history of statelessness to have a better understanding of the problems and to provide further analysis. Estimates of stateless people connected to Iraq have varied between 200,000- 2,000,000 people. UNHCR will continue to work closely with the government in providing technical advice on the issue.

Facilitated repatriation movement: Over the reporting period UNHCR has facilitated the return of approximately 828 Iraqi persons, in four convoy movements, to their original areas of return in the north and the south of Iraq. As a result of poor weather conditions and heavy rains, the facilitated movements to

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the north will be suspended beginning 26 November. In the south however, repatriations have been extended to nine governorates. Since August 2003, a total of 18,360 individual returns have been facilitated.

Cooperation with the MoDM: Over the reporting period a total of 205 Palestinian refugee families, evicted from their homes after the fall of the former regime, have received rental allowance subsidies. UNHCR previously signed an agreement with the MoDM to provide assistance for the Palestinians in need and in 2003 registered a total of 23,000 Palestinians in Baghdad. It is estimated that more than 40,000 are still remaining in Iraq; some of them in need of assistance.

MoDM Capacity Building: In view of the ongoing capacity building programme for the ministry, UNHCR has agreed for the ministry to start the procurement of communication, data processing, and other equipment.

Non-Iraqi Refugees: The Iranian Kurdish refugees in Al Tash camp near Ramadi (approximately 4,200 people remaining) have fortunately not been affected by the fighting in Fallujah. Despite an increase in difficulty of accessing the camp due to security reasons, UNHCR's partner inside Iraq reported that assistance is still being provided (health, water, education, sanitation, and community services).

Syrian Refugees: Over the past weeks material assistance has been provided to the 80 most vulnerable Syrian refugee families in Baghdad. In addition, transportation allowances were paid and school kits were distributed to 130 refugee students, while medical assistance has been given to the most vulnerable. A database on the refugees has been established and is updated regularly.

Needs Assessments of IDPs: A tripartite sub-agreement between UNHCR, MoDM, and an UNHCR implementing partner is in the process of being signed. This agreement will identify the needs of approximately 3,400 IDP families (20,748 persons) secondarily displaced in Salah al-Din and Al Daur (from Salah al-Din, Ninewa, and Baghdad).

Emergency Kits due to Falluja Crisis: To meet the immediate needs of displaced populations stemming from events in Fallujah IOM partners, in coordination with the MoDM, delivered a total of four Emergency Medical Health Kits to Garma, Saklawiyah, Habaniyah, and Amiriyah. Each Emergency Medical Health Kit provides the general medical needs for a population of 10,000 persons for a duration of three months.

Intermediate Food Items and NFI Distribution:

Habaniyah and Amiriyah- To meet the immediate need of displaced populations stemming from events in Fallujah IOM partners, in coordination with the MoDM, distributed to 850 families (approx. 5,100 individuals) in Habaniyah and Amiriyah; 1,550 mattresses, 3,390 blankets, 1,700 buckets, 850 hygiene kits, 600 jerry cans, 850 cooking stoves, 3,408 units of powder milk, 2,544 cans of beans, 848 units of date syrup, 6,795 cans of cheese, 11,050 litres of vegetable oil, 2,088 cans of chick peas, and 850 units of tomato paste.

Nieamiyah- To meet the immediate need of displaced populations stemming from events in Fallujah IOM partners, in coordination with the MoDM, distributed to 200 families (approx. 1,200 individuals) in Nieamiyah; 600 mattresses, 800 blankets, 400 buckets, 200 hygiene kits, 400 jerry cans, 200 cooking stoves, 1,000 cans of canned chicken, 800 units of powder milk, 600 cans of beans, 200 units of date syrup, 1,600 cans of vegetables, 400 litres of vegetable oil, 600 cans of chick peas, and 200 units of tomato paste.

Winterisation Grant: IOM has recently signed a grant agreement with a partner organization to provide the winterisation needs for vulnerable populations in Diyala, Basrah, Babel, Najaf, Kerbala, and Missan Governorates. Total costs of the grants are roughly around US \$585,000.

Monitoring of IDPs: IOM IDP programme monitoring activities in Basrah and Kerbala governorates have been extended until the end of December.

Capacity Building for Migration Management (CBMM): As part of the preparations for the upcoming inter-ministerial Migration Management Workshop, to be held in December with Iraqi officials, the CBMM programme has hosted two high level officials from the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA). Their visit aimed to discuss the preparations for the workshop and the optimal approaches that could maximize the workshop's outcomes. The CBMM programme manager has agreed with the guests that further consultations are needed in the coming days with concerned Iraqi ministries in the field of migration management.

To increase the effectiveness of participation in the December workshop, a special questionnaire regarding policies and practices of the invited ministries on the issues related to migration has been designed and forwarded to Iraqi ministries. Results of this survey will be compiled in a booklet and made available to external consultants prior to the beginning of the workshop.

Translation of IPCC Statute, Instructions, and Public Information Materials: The IPCC forwarded IOM a retranslation of Regulation 12, the IPCC Statute and Instructions. IOM will work with the IPCC to devise a translation acceptable to all, while continuing to provide its advice to the IPCC on interpreting and clarifying provisions of the IPCC Statute and Instructions, as they are being applied in practice.

IOM received and translated draft public information materials prepared by the IPCC. IOM sent its comments on the text and the overall strategy of the public information campaign to the IPCC.

IPCC Response Form: IOM prepared and sent the IPCC a shorter draft response form for the IPCC to consider using to collect responses from respondents.

IPCC Mediation Paper: IOM prepared and sent a draft mediation paper to the IPCC and to the Baghdad-based U.S. government consultants to consider as a way forward on establishing a mediation mechanism.

Governance and Civil Society (Cluster 9)

Psycho-Social Support: UNICEF, working with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) and international and national NGOs operating in Iraq, supported psycho-social interventions, such as awareness campaigns on psychosocial health needs for personnel working in PHCs, kindergartens, and schools. These programmes have reached approximately 23,000 children in many of the governorates severely affected by deteriorating security conditions.

Prevention and Re-Integration: Three drop-in centres have been created, through the support of UNICEF, to help protect at-risk children from exploitation and abuse, and promote re-integration into family, school, and society. The establishment of a Unit for Assistance of Children within families at the MoLSA helps to re-integrate orphaned children into families. Pilot projects have shown success in re-unification processes.

Child-Friendly Spaces: Child Friendly Spaces, Youth Clubs, and Art Therapy Schools assisting 10,000 children have been established by UNICEF. Several will soon be handed over to local Iraqi NGOs who have been working with and learning from international NGOs.

Cooperation and Capacity Building: UNICEF supported training for social workers in child rights-based approaches. In cooperation with the international NGOs, UNICEF is supporting the MoLSA to conduct a training course of social workers and trainers in the Governorate of Dahuk. The training will be held from November 2004 to May 2005, covering 160 social workers from the Ministry.

Juveniles in Conflict with the Law: A plan of action was developed between UNICEF and the Ministry of Justice in September 2004 for juveniles in conflict with the law. Participants drafted the outline of an overall strategy aiming at setting up an Iraqi juvenile justice system in line with international standards. The plan of action and a needs assessment was developed in collaboration with other key partners including MoLSA, Ministry of Human Rights, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Women Affairs, Iraq Bar Association, and Iraq Teachers Association.

Follow Up Meeting of Tokyo Conference: A follow up meeting between UNDP and a delegation from the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation (MoPDC), headed by Deputy Minister Dr. Rassoul Faik, was held on 2 November in Amman together with Cluster 10 to discuss the issues and actions raised at the Tokyo Conference in October. One of the key topics of discussion was the way to strengthen the National Development Strategy (NDS) presented at the conference. The MoPDC has appointed a director general to oversee this task. It was agreed that UNDP, as well as the UN as a whole, could contribute to strengthen the NDS on social, human development, and governance areas by introducing a more comprehensive programme approach and taking the post election programming and implementation into consideration.

Another topic discussed at the meeting was the possibility of conducting parallel polls during the coming election in order to assess the public opinion on social, public interest, economic, and other issues. The coming election should provide an opportunity to conduct such a survey. In addition, the results could be reflected into future policy decisions after the election.

Meeting to Discuss the Constitution with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: A meeting was held on 3 November between UNDP and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, head of the legal division of the Ministry and former chairperson of the Constitution Committee. It was agreed to hold a brainstorming meeting with some of his officials and UN staff to discuss the methodologies, scope of the activities, and necessary interventions.

Media Development: The first of four workshops for Iraqi journalists was held in late October. Thirteen journalists were trained during a week long workshop in Amman. The training was aimed at enhancing their reporting skills, specifically in the area of public affairs, and to strengthen the network among journalists. Three more training sessions are scheduled and approximately 60 more Iraqi journalists will be trained by the end of the programme.

The web-based News Exchange's component was also initiated, which will enable Iraqi journalists to share stories and information, and create a professional network. Operating mainly in Arabic, the website is designed to act as a repository of training material, useful links, and key information about Iraq.

Poverty Reduction and Human Development (Cluster 10)

Workforce Development and Veterans' Services (WDVS): IOM's implementing partner in Baghdad continues to provide daily technical support and mentoring to the Labour Pillar key staff, through their international and national consultants. During the reporting period, special support was provided to the MoLSA IT department for the implementation of the upgraded jobseekers employers matching database in all MoLSA Employment Centers in Iraq.

Daily supervision and mentoring provided by IOM implementing partners in Baghdad is continuing for Financial Unit staff, especially regarding the use of computers and the electronic booking and cash box registration systems. Job training and coaching will also continue for the statistics unit of the Labour Pillar.

Donation of New Equipment to MoLSA Employment Centres: On 4 October MoLSA's warehouse in Baghdad was ruined by fire. As a result, US\$350,000 worth of computers and other office equipment donated by IOM to MoLSA were lost at the warehouse. Consequently, and in order to continue supporting

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the infrastructure of MoLSA's employment centres IOM made an additional US\$65,000 donation. IOM delivered the equipment directly to the Employment Centers of Basrah, Karbala, Diwaniyah, Amarah and Sulaymaniyah. Total IOM equipment donations to the employment centres for the past 17 months amount to US\$885,000

Iraqis Rebuilding Iraq (IRI): The joint IOM and UNDP programme, in coordination with the Iraqi Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation (MoPDC), is continuing preparatory actions to assist the IIG in recruiting and placing qualified nationals for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the country. An international consultant, based in Baghdad, has started to establish the Baghdad Support Cell in coordination with the MoPDC.

Consultation with the MoPDC: Consultations continued between UNDP and the MoPDC concerning ongoing and future projects/programmes. The implementation modalities and planning for the "Iraqis Rebuilding Iraq" project and capacity building programme, "Support to the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation", were discussed at a meeting with the Deputy Minister on 2 November.

Extensive discussions also took place between UNDP and MoPDC concerning the proposal for preparing the Iraq National Human Development Report (NHDR), which is planned to be produced in the year 2005. Issues regarding the theme of the report, the implementation modalities, and the use of international expertise were discussed. UNDP and MoPDC agreed to further study a framework of the report before initiating preparatory activities in December 2004.

Living Condition Survey: FAFO, a Norwegian partner NGO in this survey, submitted a final Tabulation Report. This constitutes one of three products expected to issue from the Living Conditions Survey. The other two products are an Analysis Report and a Socio-economic Atlas. FAFO also submitted the chapter on Employment of the Analysis Report. All survey products will be submitted by 20 November 2004, after which the reports will be printed and preparatory activities for the launch of the survey will commence.

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