

# IRAQ

## SITUATION REPORT



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### OVERVIEW ►

The Special Representative for the Secretary General in Iraq Ashraf Qazi (SRSG) held an intensive series of discussions with major Iraqi political figures and the Baghdad diplomatic community on substantive political issues that would influence the formation of the government. He met with the President, Vice Presidents, Prime Minister Deputy Prime Minister for National Security and, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Planning and Development Cooperation (MoPDC), Migration & Displacement. Among political entities, he met the Association of Muslim Scholars, Iraqi Islamic Party, SCIRI, United Iraqi Alliance, Iraqi Turcoman Front and representatives of Moqtada al-Sadr, as well as political figures such as Adnan Pachachi, Mishal al-Jibouri, Mowafaq al-Rubaie and Dr Ahmed Challabi. In all his meetings with Iraqi interlocutors, the SRSG stressed that the formation of the government was an Iraqi process and that the United Nations was not seeking to influence the selection of candidates or any other aspect of the process that belonged solely to the elected representatives.

The SRSG also hosted the mission of the Chair of the Iraq Operational Group, Mr. Derek Boothby, to the United Nations Assistance Mission to Iraq (UNAMI) Baghdad, Erbil and Basrah during this period.

The constitutional processional support unit will be located in UNAMI under the leadership of the SRSG, and will provide support to the Iraqi Government in the areas of knowledge sharing, institutional support, public outreach and coordination.

### HUMANITARIAN ►

Aid agencies continued to raise concerns about the nearly 14,000 internally displaced families from Fallujah, the majority of which are dispersed across Anbar governorate, while the remainder are located in the Baghdad area. These families represent approximately 84,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), many of whom are children, who left their homes and livelihoods almost four months ago. A significant rise in the number of IDP families was witnessed during this reporting period, which indicates a reverse movement from the city of Fallujah; mainly due to the harsh living conditions and lack of basic services such as shelter, water, electricity, healthcare, and education. UN monitors continued to report an urgent need for food, cooking sets, bedding material, hygiene kits, and medical care in many of the current places of displacement.

The situation in the vicinity of Ramadi was also closely monitored as some families reportedly became displaced as a result of armed conflict along the Euphrates River. In particular, concerns were raised about the impact of military operations and road closures on humanitarian access and the protection of civilians. In other parts of the country, insecurity in the areas of Mosul and Kirkuk also led to internal displacements as families reportedly left these areas amidst growing violence and tensions.

Following the Contingency Planning Review Meeting held at the end of January, a draft of the revised UN inter-agency contingency plan has been circulated. A final working document will be shared with the Interim Iraqi Government and other stakeholders in the coming days to move forward with consultation and implementation.

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### HUMAN RIGHTS ►

Human Rights Office (HRO) within UNAMI together with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) through Sharqiyah and the Arab Institute of Human Rights (Tunis) organized the first part of a training of trainers session for 23 Iraqi NGOs from 12 - 24 February.

On 20 February, the Interim Government of Iraq issued decree no.18 by which it officially authorized the establishment of the “National Centre for Missing Persons” in Iraq, consistent with the recommendations of the Policy Group meeting convened by UNAMI/HRO for the Ministry of Human Rights, with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in mid-January. The decree requires the Ministry of Human Rights to work with UNAMI to follow up on the realization of the project objectives.

### GENDER ►

The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) undertook a mission to New York to discuss challenges and strategies for the advancement of women and girls in Iraq. During the meeting, the UNIFEM Iraq team was given the “UNIFEM Best Team Achievements” reward.

The turnout of women voters formed more than 60% of the total 8 million voters in the January 2005 elections. As a result, 31% of the parliamentary seats will be comprised of women, making the final number 86 women parliamentarians out of 275. Currently, there are six women ministers out of 27 and two women judges out of nine independent members selected by the UN electoral assistance team for Iraq. UNIFEM had a strong impact on all those activities though its short term strategy and elections project.

### PROGRAMME ►

#### EDUCATION AND CULTURE (Cluster 1)

Education Kits: UNICEF engaged in a supply planning exercise that brought together officials from the Ministry of Education (MoE), UNICEF Iraq and the UNICEF Supply Division in Copenhagen to determine the type, quantity and specifications of education materials needed for Iraqi school children during the scholastic year 2005/2006. This exercise, which took place in Amman 25 - 27 February, will help expedite the procurement of essential supplies needed for students. The meeting decided on the procurement of three types of education kits for grades 1–6 primary level students. The first kits are intended for 3.5 million students (grades 1–4) while the second kits are intended for 1.4 million students (grades 5-6). The kits contain notebooks, pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, crayons, drawing books, rulers, etc. UNICEF will also procure and deliver 1 million school bags intended for the new grade one intakes. These will complement the six million bags distributed last year.

School Rehabilitation: UNICEF is continuing comprehensive rehabilitation for 84 schools benefiting approximately 47,000 boys and 38,450 girls. The work is comprised of the rehabilitation of school buildings, improvement of play yards and repair of water and sanitation facilities. The schools are in the Diyala, Salah al-Din, Tameem, Rasafa 1 (Baghdad), Missan, Qadisiya, Muthanna, Anbar and Babylon governorates.

Education Management Information System (EMIS): Two MoE officials arrived at UNESCO Iraq Office in Amman together with two EMIS developers from UNESCO Regional Office in

Beirut to finalize the EMIS and solve all pending problems before installing the system in Baghdad. The EMIS project has been designed to collect and analyze educational data and to develop educational indicators for monitoring progress. The project's prime focus is on data quality and coverage, data verification, assessment/analysis/action process, as well as impact in the classroom, school, community, cluster and local administrative unit levels.

**Culture:** The Training Course, "Cultural Heritage Conservation, Comprehensive Preservation and Management in Iraq", was organized by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in cooperation with UNESCO, the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, and the Embassies of Germany and France in Baghdad, started on 15 February and will continue until 23 March. The trainees included 10 technical experts in conservation, preservation and management of archeological sites and five conservation architects. This workshop is part of a Japan/JICA plan to implement technical cooperation programmes for Iraqis in Jordan for the coming three years.

UNESCO Iraq Office agreed with the Director of the National Museum in Baghdad on 22/02/05 to start the rehabilitation of the Child Museum in Baghdad.

### HEALTH (Cluster 2)

**Emergency Preparedness, Assessment and Response:** In coordination with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and the Ministry of Health (MoH), UNICEF provided support in the form of 300 emergency health kits at a total value of \$86,000 and sufficient for 300,000 people over a period of 3 months, were delivered to the UNICEF warehouse in Baghdad. Emergency medicines consisting of Flamazine and IV fluids (at a total value of \$190,000) were delivered to the Ministry of Health warehouse. Pediatric scales (at a total value of \$70,000 - part of the larger shipment) were also delivered to the Ministry of Health warehouse.

UNICEF carried out an assessment of the National Cold Store, following the fire incident that damaged the vaccine stock. A contract was issued for the emergency installation of five cold rooms and UNICEF is following up with MoH on urgently needed vaccines to replace the damaged stock. In addition, UNICEF health monitors from the North followed up on the outbreak of diarrhea (around 300 cases) in the Halabja town of Sulaymaniyah.

WHO delivered the first shipment of supplies of the "National Drug Quality Control Laboratory Programme" into Baghdad. The shipment includes international reference standards, which are needed to carry out quality control testing of most of the drugs imported or locally produced in Iraq.

In Mosul, WHO is supplying all the hospitals in the governorate with around 200 oxygen cylinders per day.

As part of the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund National Drug Control Laboratory Programme, WHO completed 45% of the physical rehabilitation of the National Drug Quality Control Laboratory, in Baghdad.

**Development:** WHO supported the participation of a team from the MoH, in the Regional Meeting on Women, Girls and HIV/AIDS in the Middle East and North Africa, from 21- 23 February in Amman. The main objectives of the meeting were to enhance awareness and



understanding of the situation of women and girls relative to HIV/AIDS, and the factors determining risk and vulnerability in the region.

10 representatives from the MoH and the Central Organization of Statistical & Information Technology were trained on statistical data analysis using the statistical package “STATA”. The training course was held in Amman from 20–24 February. The system will enable the participants to use “STATA” in effectively managing and restructuring data sets and to conduct simple analysis of health surveys and epidemiological studies.

WHO trained 16 laboratory technicians from both the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works (MoMPW), in a ten day workshop held in Amman on ‘Simplified Procedures for Water Examination’.

WHO, in partnership with the Jordan Food and Drug Administration, concluded its first national food safety training course following a field visit to Aqaba – the first in a series of four workshops to be undertaken over the coming month. The workshop participants were comprised of 21 Food Inspectors – 19 from the MoH, Health Audit Department and two from the Karbala and Anbar Departments of Health, Health Audit Department.

25 participants from the MoH, Ministry of Human Rights and Ministry of Higher Education of Iraq have completed a workshop on “Health and Human Rights”, conducted by WHO in collaboration with other partners. The workshop aimed to build the capacity of health, human rights and education professionals in Iraq on health and human rights.

**Programme Monitoring:** UNICEF monitors completed the assessment of the vaccine stock situation in the three northern governorates, and followed up on the redistribution of excess stock and budget submissions to support the immunization outreach programme /mobile services.

Based on a request from MoH, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Medical Health Services is currently investigating options to continue to provide support to the MoH medical evacuation unit/programme through its medical staff in Baghdad and Amman.

### WATER AND SANITATION (Cluster 3)

**Water Tankering:** UNICEF support for water tankering for Baghdad city continued, providing 16 million liters of water to approximately 180,000 beneficiaries during the reporting period. In addition, hospitals in Baghdad were provided with drinking water through 2 mobile compact units.

UNICEF also supplied 3 million liters of water to approximately 35,000 IDPs around Fallujah as the need for water tankering continued.

**Activities in Southern Iraq:** UNICEF issued bids for the rehabilitation of 4 compact units in Al-Hurya and Al-Adala in Missan governorates. A needs assessment exercise covering water treatment facilities in Missan governorate was initiated. The civil works related to the installation of Reverse Osmosis (RO) units in Al-Talimi Hospital in Basrah have been awarded to a private contractor. RO is the technology used to turn salt water into potable water.

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Installation of Compact Units: Civil works for the installation of 7 compact units (in different locations) have been completed. The supplier of the units will now send an engineering team to finalize the installation and commissioning of the units and to provide a short training on operation and maintenance.

Water Quality: UNICEF is conducting a series of 9 training courses in collaboration with the Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA) in Amman. During the reporting period, two courses were held: “Simplified Procedures for Water Examination” and “Isolation & Diagnosis of Vibrio Cholera & Salmonella Typhoid”.

Rehabilitation of Water and Sanitation Facilities: UNICEF is supporting the rehabilitation of sewage pumping stations, sewer lines, compact units, water treatment plants and boosting stations. A total of 60 rehabilitation works are underway in Baghdad, Salah al Din, Kerbala, Babylon, Diyala, Najaf, Thi-Qar, Anbar, Ninewa and Tameem Governorates. The average completion rate is 76% with 4% progress rate achieved over the reporting period.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING (Cluster 4)**

GIS Training Needs Assessment Workshop (Cluster 4 crosscutting with cluster 9): UN-HABITAT organized a one day workshop in Baghdad on 14 February 2005 to assess the different ministries needs in GIS for Housing and Urban Development. The meeting was attended by representatives from various ministries (MoMPW, Ministry of Construction and Housing, MoPDC, Ministry of Justice /Land Registration Department, Amanat Baghdad). The workshop recommended starting a one year training plan in Baghdad with the support of Technical Education Organization implementing monthly training course on GIS Basics, GIS for Land Administration, GIS for Urban Planning and Infrastructure management.

Private Sector Participation in Solid Waste Management Regional workshop (19 February 2005 – 3 March 2005): UN-HABITAT facilitated the participation of six Iraqi professionals from the Municipality of Najaf and Mousol to participate in a regional training workshop organized in Cairo. The mentioned course is an attempt to address the environmental concerns generated from lack of effective management of solid waste. Since private sector participation in this field is considered as one of the solutions, cases of successes and failures are discussed to unravel major restraining forces to effective solid waste management by private sector.

Within UNDP training programmes, two teams of Ministry of Electricity engineers arrived in Amman for training on project planning, GIS software and data collection. Two training programmes will last for three months while the third is for ten days. This project will provide MoE with sufficient tools to assist them in formulating a long-term master plan for the electricity distribution sector and detailed data on the existing networks.

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

A delegation of the Ministry of Environment, led by the Minister and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) met to discuss the minister’s plans to include an environment article in the new constitution, as well as drafting a new environmental framework law and/or protection act.

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**Marshlands Project:** The UNEP Marshlands project organized a technical training course on applications of remote sensing and GIS for Marshlands Assessment and Monitoring from 6-10 February in Amman. The participants, from the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), local academia and other institutions, were trained on the principles and applications of remote sensing in wetland assessment and monitoring.

A technical meeting on Data Collection and Analysis was organized for the UNEP Marshland project in Amman on 21-22 February, to analyze on-going water quality monitoring in the Marshland area and to discuss cooperation/coordination for the planned water quality monitoring in the marshland area to be supported by UNEP. Participants included representatives from the Ministry of Environment, MoWR, MoMPW, Marsh Arab Forum, Iraq Foundation and UN agencies. An agreement was reached by the participating institutions to share currently available water quality data by uploading the information onto the Marshland Information Network.

A technical meeting on Pilot Project Implementation for the UNEP Marshland Project was organized in Amman on 23 and 24 February, where priority sites and their characteristics were presented by the above three ministries and the Marsh Arab Forum to UNEP. The pilot project will implement environmentally sound technologies (ESTs) for the provision of drinking water, sanitation, and marshland management in the marshland communities. The consensus was reached on 5 to 6 sites that are considered suitable from technical and social perspectives for pilot implementation in Thi-Qar, Basrah, and Missan governorates.

**Increasing Agriculture Production:** FAO delivered 7,750 MT of fertilizers worth \$2.6 million to various locations in Iraq. Distribution is being organized so that up to 30,000 hectares of agricultural cultivated land will receive fertilizers.

**Rehabilitating Essential Infrastructure of Irrigated Agriculture:** FAO and MoWR finalized the Bill of Quantities and Technical Drawings for the rehabilitation of drainage network in Fallujah area, to prevent the contaminated water from flowing into the Euphrates River. The cost of the works is estimated at \$2.7 million. Direct beneficiaries are 300,000 persons and area of 16,500 hectares.

The MoWR has prioritized 12 pumping stations for rehabilitation by FAO, in the governorates of Tameem, Baghdad, Anbar, Babylon, Karbala, Missan, Muthanna, and Thi-Qar and cover a command area of 150,000 hectares. FAO has so far tendered for the rehabilitation of five pump stations out of the 12 prioritized.

FAO is undertaking the procurement of scientific books and journals for the library of MoWR. The library of MoWR had an excellent reputation with a wide stock of books and historical documents but all were burned and looted. More than 400 books ranging from water resources engineering to hydro-politics as well as international scientific journals titles are listed to strengthen the function of the library of MoWR as the information hub for water-planning sector.

### **FOOD SECURITY (Cluster 6)**

**Support to Vulnerable Groups:** The second convoy of trucks carrying High Energy Biscuits for school feeding activities under World Food Programmes' (WFP) emergency operation arrived in Mosul. Additional trucks are waiting at the border pending its re-opening.

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A database meeting was held in Baghdad for the Government of Iraq to discuss and finalize the database for the Emergency Operations. MoH and MoE monitoring forms for school feeding and vulnerable group feeding were reviewed and will be ready for implementation shortly.

### **MINE ACTION (Cluster 7)**

Explosive Remnants of War: A seminar on the role of Mine Action in the reconstruction of Iraq was held in Amman on 16 February 2005. Its aim was to highlight the impact of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) on the reconstruction of Iraq. The seminar outlined the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) strategy to address the problem, and highlighted shortfalls in funding. Participants included the Minister of Planning and Development Cooperation, Minister of Environment, the Director General of the NMAA, different donor representatives, UN agencies, and a representative of the US Department of State.

Basrah Mine Clearance: The UNDP contracted project of a local mine clearance NGO in Basrah, which comprises of a national management structure and 10 multipurpose ERW clearance teams, continues. An area of 136,650 square meters of land was cleared of 88 items of explosives ordnance during the reporting period. Seventeen farmers use the land for grazing purposes and the cultivation of tomatoes. The estimated annual tomato yield of the cleared land is 32,000kgs. It also provides employment for nine farm workers.

The UN support for the development of 15 local clearance teams continued in the Basrah area. A total of 117,200 m<sup>2</sup> of land in the areas of Safwan, Rumaylah North and Az Zubayr were cleared of 3,472 items of explosive ordnance weighing 5,157 kgs. The cleared sites impact directly on some 144 people dependent on the land for grazing purposes and indirectly on some 760 people regularly traveling through the area.

### **REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS) (Cluster 8)**

Coordination: During the reporting period a delegation headed by the Director General for Planning and Programme, from the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) Headquarters in Baghdad, visited Erbil governorate where meetings were held with the Ministry of Humanitarian Aid and Cooperation (MoHAC) as well as with UNOPS and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) teams. The delegation also visited Qushtapa District where they met with the Mayor and toured UNHCR/UNOPS IDP return and reintegration project sites in Sorbash Kakallah and Gerdazaban villages.

The MoDM delegation also visited Sulaymaniyah governorate where they met with the Mayor, the District Planning Committee, the Technical Advisor and the UNOPS staff. The delegation also toured the UNHCR projects including the vocational training workshops and shelter construction sites for returning IDPs and refugees. The visit to the two northern governorates by MoDM was of significant importance in enhancing coordination on refugee and IDP matters between the central and KRG authorities.

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**Capacity Building:** IOM approved a grant for a videoconferencing capacity to MoDM. This grant will enable MoDM to better communicate with Cluster 8 members as well as other concerned actors. Final approval from the Ministry is awaited prior to installation.

**Refugee Protection/Assistance:** A delegation from MoDM recently conducted several visits to Al-Tash refugee camp where 3,600 Iranian refugees are hosted. The overall security situation in the area is volatile, hampering regular assistance to the camp residents. Some 130 refugees recently left the camp and are currently stranded at the border seeking admission to Jordan. By mid-February, UNHCR Jordan was able to deliver food and non-food assistance to this group. UNHCR NGO implementing partner and MoDM conducted a joint distribution of relief items to the camp residents. By the end of the reporting period, MoDM was preparing to travel to the border to meet with the stranded refugees and explore possible solutions to their problem.

The security situation of Palestinian and Syrian refugees in the Haifa Street area in Baghdad remained precarious during the reporting period. UNHCR continued its demarches with the MoDM and other concerned authorities to ensure that refugees' safety and physical integrity is respected when military operations are carried out in this part of Baghdad. UNHCR also urged for fair and due process for those detained by the various security entities.

**Return/Reintegration of IDPs and Refugees:** In its partnership with UNHCR, UNOPS conducted a rapid assessment on IDPs in collective towns of the three northern governorates, in cooperation with Joint Humanitarian Information Center (JHIC) North. The initial report shows that the total IDP population in the targeted area has reduced to 98,755 persons: Erbil-53,851, Duhok-28,517, Sulaymaniyah-16,387. Data verification and in-depth analysis are in process.

Progress continues on the UNDG ITF-funded Reintegration Project for IDPs and Refugees in the 3 northern governorates. International procurement process slowed down due to increased security measures in Iraq and closure of borders during the reporting period. Trucks with construction materials could not enter Iraq and were held in Turkey. In addition, due to the upcoming "dry" season when construction activities are expected to increase throughout the region, prices of materials rose on the local market. This had an impact on the local procurement process. However, despite these problems, the fair weather conditions allowed the construction process to move forward using materials already in hand and stored in the warehouses.

**IDP Assistance:** Population movement from Ramadi into the surrounding villages was reported by monitors throughout the last two weeks. An increase in the number of IDPs surrounding Fallujah and in Baghdad was noted, as some of the people who returned to Fallujah left again for public buildings in the surrounding areas. The current estimated figure is over 15,000 families (90,000 persons). Needs for food and non-food items (NFIs) continue to be high in all locations. IOM approved a comprehensive proposal for water, sanitation and health activities supporting IDP communities in Muthanna governorate. Such packages are encouraged and are planned to be replicated in the surrounding governorates when possible. Another proposal supporting the rehabilitation of one health center catering for IDPs and the host community in Ninewa has been approved.

IOM approved a project for the distribution of food items for over 400 IDP families in Diyala who have not been able to transfer their PDS ration cards for the past six months. The matter has



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been brought to WFP's attention for support with MoT to expedite the process of ration card transfer.

Iraqi Property Claims Commission (IPCC): IOM and UNHCR are supporting the IPCC in establishing a functional website that provides basic information to prospective IPCC claimants and allows them to download all IPCC forms and the requisite directions for their completion. An Arabic version of the proposed website content has been presented to the IPCC for review.

### **GOVERNANCE AND CIVIL SOCIETY (Cluster 9)**

Capacity Building in Migration Management Programme (CBMMP) - Phase II: Internal (with other capacity building projects) and external (with Iraqi Government Ministries, other stakeholders) consultations continue on designing and implementing CBMMP phase II (Feb-Aug 2005) activities in order to provide the uniformity of programme implementation policy and strategy with other ongoing and planned capacity building activities in Iraq, and to avoid duplications and overlapping. The main programme interventions will start once the new elected Government of Iraq is in place.

Report by MoDM on IOM Migration and Development Workshop: CBMMP has received a summary report from MoDM regarding the participation of its Representative to the IOM Workshop. Recommendations include; development of a national strategy for migration and development, review of related legislations, and updating communication with diasporas.

Civil Society Forums: UNOPS held a four day workshop on project management for 19 Iraqi NGO managerial staff in Amman.

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

UNDP - Iraqis Rebuilding Iraq: Jointly implemented by UNDP and IOM in coordination with the MoPDC, the Iraqis Rebuilding Iraq (IRI) project aims to recruit and place qualified Iraqi expatriates for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the country. On 28 February, a one-day Steering Committee Meeting was held for the project. The participants included the Iraqi delegation from the MoPDC, comprised of the Deputy Minister, Director General of Regional Planning Department, a researcher and staff of the Baghdad Support Cell, UNDP and IOM. The meeting provided an opportunity to report on the progress to date, and the way forward and demonstrate/exchange opinions on the website and database. To date the IRI Baghdad Support Cell has collected 55 employers' forms from various ministries for short, medium and long term assignments.

### **ELECTORAL SUPPORT (Cluster 11)**

Within the framework of the electoral support project "Support for Fair, Safe & Professional Media Election Coverage", UNESCO Iraq Office in cooperation with INDEX on Censorship - one of the NGO partners to UNESCO - agreed on the work plan to start the next workshop taking place in Amman from 5-10 March 2005.

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