

IRAQ

SITUATION REPORT



UNITED NATIONS

2-8 August 2004

UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR IRAQ

OVERVIEW ►

Reacting to intensified fighting in Iraq the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Kofi Annan called this week for a peaceful solution, pledging the UN's help toward this end. Mr. Annan issued a statement on Saturday 8 August, voicing extreme concern at the violence, especially in Najaf. The deterioration in security conditions in other Iraqi cities, including Diala, Erbil, Falluja, Kirkuk, Mosul, and Sulaymaniyah has raised the concern of the humanitarian community for the well-being of civilians and their access to health care, food and water. The impact of protracted clashes may impede reconstruction efforts and hamper the provision of international aid and assistance projects, upon which the health and education sectors rely heavily. Mr. Annan's Special Representative for Iraq, Mr. Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, has now assumed his functions in Amman, Jordan. He will travel to Baghdad later this month.

SECRETARY-GENERAL, KOFI ANNAN ►

National Conference Iraq's upcoming national conference must be as inclusive as possible, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Wednesday [4 August] pledging the Organization's support in reaching this goal. "Every attempt should be made to bring into the tent some of those outside". The Secretary-General said the UN had discussions with various Iraqi officials and encouraged the Government to delay the conference in order to bring in more participants. "We felt it was more important to have a well-organised and inclusive process rather than organising it on time, because you may organise it on time but get it all wrong," he explained.

UN Protection and MNF In a related development Mr. Annan was asked whether the UN has received pledges of troops to protect its personnel in Iraq. The Secretary-General said that while there had been no firm offers, "We have been in negotiations with about half a dozen countries." Mr. Annan noted that also under discussion is a Saudi proposal to deploy an Islamic force to protect UN staff and eventually take over from the multinational force and work with the Iraqis. "But even if that is going to happen, I think it is going to take some time," he added.

UN Assistance Mission for Iraq In his third report to the Security Council on the work of the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), Mr. Annan says that staff security remains the over-riding constraint for all UN activity in the country. In recent months, the acting UN Security Coordinator assessed the risk to UN personnel in Iraq as being in the high to critical category, he says, and the UN Mission and UN agencies will therefore continue to limit their activities inside Iraq to the essential ones. The Secretary-General said that the primary task of his new Special Representative for Iraq, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, will be to assist the Iraqis in implementing the proposed transitional timetable leading to the establishment of a constitutionally elected government by December 31, 2005. To this end, he will work closely with the Iraqi authorities, political entities and civil society. The Security Council has scheduled consultations next Wednesday [11 August] to discuss the UN Mission in Iraq, followed by a meeting on Thursday [12 August] to consider the extension of the UNAMI mandate, which is set to expire on August 14.

UN ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR IRAQ (UNAMI) ►

The recently appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Mr. Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, arrived in Amman, Jordan, this week and assumed his functions. The previous SRSG a.i., Mr. Ross Mountain, will continue to serve UNAMI and the Secretary-General as Deputy Special Representative. In addition to coordination, donor liaison and organisational responsibilities the SRSG a.i. continued to assist in the organisation of a ceremony to commemorate the first anniversary of the bombing of the UN Headquarters in Baghdad on 19 August 2003.

PROGRAMME ►

UN Assets This week the UN has written to the Interim Government of Iraq to request their assistance in ensuring that assets appropriated over the last two weeks by the Kurdistan Regional Government are returned.

International Reconstruction Fund Facility In the last week of July, UN and World Bank members of the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq Coordinating Committee and Secretariat met with the Donor

IRAQ

SITUATION REPORT



UNITED NATIONS

2-8 August 2004

UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR IRAQ

Committee Chair, Ambassador Nakamura, in Washington D.C. to discuss the next Donor Committee meeting in Tokyo - 13-14 October. The theme of the Tokyo meeting is: 'Madrid- One year later'. The theme aims at focusing on what has been achieved in one year and what remains to be done. It is also an opportunity for the Government of Iraq to re-examine its priorities and annual resource requirements. It is therefore anticipated that Iraq will present a paper at the Tokyo meeting, which would outline their economic prospects and a national development strategy linked to a re-examination of the country's needs in light of the current socio-economic and political imperatives.

The Iraqi Strategic Review Board has approved the 28 projects that have been endorsed by the UN Development Group (UNDG) Iraq Trust Fund Steering Committee. The combined value of programmes and projects approved under the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund to-date is US\$ 323.34 million.

Education and Culture (Cluster 1)

Capacity Building The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) hosted an Education Management Information Systems workshop [2-7 August] in Beirut. The workshop was attended by the Iraqi Director-General of Planning from the Ministry of Education (MoE), four senior officials from the Department of Statistics, and two senior officials from the Computer Department. Progress was made in developing the required software for establishing an Education database for the Ministry. Consistent with renewed priorities of the MoE and Ministry of Higher Education, formulation of new projects is under discussion with Ministry focal points.

Education Supplies A meeting between officials from the MoE and the UN Children's Fund, UNICEF, was convened in Amman [6-8 August] to discuss the upcoming delivery and distribution of education materials and agree on a tentative plan. The MoE and UNICEF agreed to establish a national committee to manage and coordinate the overall delivery and distribution of the kits. It was also agreed to create committees in all the Iraqi directorates. Delivery of education supplies to Iraq will commence in August, and will continue until the end of the year.

Preserving Iraq's Heritage UNESCO assisted surveys of historical buildings in Baghdad are continuing in collaboration with experts from State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH). A number of meetings were conducted with the Minister of Culture and some of the director-generals of the ministry directorates. Issues examined included the UN Development Group (UNDG) Trust Fund projects, and recommendations tendered at the last International Coordination Committee for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage (Iraq). Mr. Kamel Shiaa, the UNESCO focal point in the Ministry of Culture will visit Amman next week to establish coordination and implementation mechanisms for projects proposed within UNDG Trust Fund, and with other bilateral donors.

Health (Cluster 2)

Vaccine Workshop Using financial support from the European Commission, the World Health Organisation (WHO) is leading the Health Cluster in supporting the Iraqi Ministry of Health (MoH) in conducting a national workshop on Vaccine Management [3-12 August] in Jordan. During the workshop, participants have had hands-on experience in critical aspects of vaccine management and have been updated with new techniques that will enable them to adjust their national policies. Toward the conclusion of the workshop, an assessment of the vaccination programme will be discussed in detail, and a tool will be devised for assessment of the Iraq programme, with technical support from WHO. In the weeks following the workshop, the participants will conduct training of their colleagues in Iraq on all the major aspects of the workshop in order to share the knowledge and experience gained.

Redressing Iraq's Drugs Shortage A follow-up meeting was held between WHO (Baghdad) and MoH (Kimadia) to monitor the medical supply situation in the country and measures taken to address acute shortages. A Drug Monitoring Technical Committee has been set up and held its first meeting [4 August] to respond to the suggestions made by WHO regarding immediate measures which must be put in place to ensure that drugs and medical supplies delivered to Iraq reach end-user facilities and that their availability and use are monitored. The Drug Monitoring Form suggested by WHO will be piloted in a limited number of Primary Health Care centres and General Hospitals

IRAQ

SITUATION REPORT



UNITED NATIONS

2-8 August 2004

UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR IRAQ

in Baghdad, Basra, Ninewah and Najaf directorates. Contracts for urgent procurement from local private companies and drug manufacturing industries have now been concluded. As well as the direct benefit of the drugs, this will have also a positive impact in boosting the business and employment generation in the local pharmaceutical sector.

Health Rehabilitation Project for Iraq (HRPI) The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Health Rehabilitation project for Iraq is coordinating with the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent Society cardiology team in preparation for their visit to Baghdad in September. They are scheduled to train and upgrade the existing skills of Iraqi cardiologists. Site preparation for the installation of the Catheterization laboratory in the Interventional Cardiology Ward of the Basra Teaching Hospital is in its initial stages. Work is expected to begin next week.

Water and Sanitation (Cluster 3)

Lower South Cluster 3 held an emergency planning meeting for the lower south this week. Representatives from the Government in Baghdad and the four lower south governorates met with representatives from the UN, ECHO, bilateral aid agencies, coalition forces, and the other related actors. An assessment of the situation was conducted and draft action plans for each governorate developed. These plans will be fed into the sector plans being developed by UNICEF for the four governorates and comprehensive draft plans will be submitted to the local councils by mid-August. Upon approval, these plans will form the basis for cooperative efforts for all actors in the lower south.

Infrastructure and Housing (Cluster 4)

Rehabilitation of Taji and Mosul Power Stations Five days of negotiation took place at the end of July, beginning August, between the Ministry of Electricity (MoEI), UN Development Programme (UNDP) and an international contractor with regard to the rehabilitation of Mosul and Taji power stations. Negotiations were aimed at reviewing and verifying the contractor's proposals against the current technical requirements of both sites, prepared by Ministry of Energy (MoEI) in order to reach a final agreement on the scope of rehabilitation works within the budget allocated. All parties involved in the negotiations were aware that the revised, extended scope of rehabilitation works, would easily exceed the budget. It was agreed that the final verification and necessary adjustment would be carried out by the UNDP Iraq upon receipt of comprehensive reply from the contractors. The second stage of negotiations will be organised in early September 2004, within a view to finalisation mid-month.

Basra Water Assistance Cluster 4 participated in the Water and Environment workshop organised by Cluster 3 in Kuwait [2-3 August 2004]. The participants were briefed by UNDP on previous emergency interventions by Cluster 4 in providing back-up generators for essential humanitarian services in the south and for other ongoing projects such as the rehabilitation works on Units 1 & 4 of the Hartha power plant in Basra. Workshop participants were also informed that 57 additional generators are currently being procured and will be delivered and installed to service essential humanitarian facilities in the south. The proposed locations for installation are now being technically assessed for prioritisation. Water and medical facilities will score highly on the priority list. Three of the 57 generators will be installed in the Um Qasr port compound to provide electricity for the port equipment and water pumping facility. It was agreed to organise a similar workshop for electricity activities in southern Iraq. The proposed timing will be mid-September 2004.

Progress in the Hydrographic Survey of Iraqi Waterways UNDP advise that the hydrological survey of the Iraqi channels and waterways is progressing well. To date, some 40 percent of the total area to be surveyed has been completed. Funding to enable the survey to be extended to Az Zubayr is now being sought.

Mine Action (Cluster 7)

Landmine Impact Survey (LIS) A presentation was given in UNDP by Mr. John Brown, Senior Technical Advisor for the Landmine Impact Survey in Iraq. Mr Brown is UNDP contracted through the Vietnam Veteran Association.

IRAQ

SITUATION REPORT



UNITED NATIONS

2-8 August 2004

The presentation highlighted the necessity of having a LIS for Iraq, the implementation methodology and the lessons learnt from the previous LIS undertaken in northern Iraq. Special emphasis was given to the importance of local ownership of data. Once compiled, this data is handed over district-by-district to the local authorities who accept ownership for it. For security reasons, current survey activities have centred on the north, but it is hoped that surveying might start in the south in the latter part of the year.

Cluster Coordination During the reporting week, several meetings took place to enhance cluster coordination and support to Mine-action implementation. A meeting was held with Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and with International Mine Initiative (IMI). Among the discussion items were the current situation of the mine action organizations working inside Iraq, possibilities of funding mine action projects, the creation of local NGOs/firms for implementing activities and the future direction of the Mine Action Programme. UN-supported clearance activities continue in Basra. Some 490,941 m² land was cleared visually, where a total of 30,781 items weighing 7,188 kg were recovered for demolition. A total of 20,635 items weighing 5,974 kg were destroyed.

Refugees and International Displaced Persons - IDPs (Cluster 8)

Iraq Ministerial Consultations Consultations continued between Cluster 8 and the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM). The UN Refugee agency, UNHCR and IOM met with the Minister and her senior delegation in Amman to further plan capacity building support including establishing a MoDM presence in key locations outside Iraq, where the majority of Iraqi expatriates and refugees reside.

Property Claims Commission The newly appointed chairperson of the Iraq Property Claims Commission (IPCC) and regional commission managers attended a three day workshop facilitated by UNHCR and IOM in Jordan. The objective of the workshop was to discuss various areas of capacity building support required to enable the IPCC to undertake its functions. Regular follow-up meetings are conducted by teleconference on weekly basis to provide technical legal advice. The Minister of MoDM and the Chairman of the IPCC met to discuss cooperation on housing and property issues to enable people to return to their homes without creating additional displacement.

Protection Workshop A three day protection workshop was held by UNHCR for key staff of MoDM. The workshop, one in a series planned, focused on refugee protection. Cluster 8 is currently in process of organising an IDP workshop that will focus on the *Guiding Principles* in the context of Iraq. The workshop is intended to set a foundation for the national conference on displacement being supported by Cluster 8 and chaired by the Minister.

231 Iraqis Return Two convoys between 28 July and 5 August facilitated the repatriation of 231 Iraqi refugees from Iran through Haj Omaran cross-border point. Five more convoys are planned in August. Most of the returnees are heading for Erbil and Suleymania governorates. Regular coordination between the relevant authorities of these governorates, UNHCR in Iran and Iraq and the implementing partner, the International Rescue Committee, is taking place. Local authorities have undertaken to provide land and financial assistance to the new returnees. Due to the tense security situation in southern Iraq, UNHCR has suspended an organised repatriation convoy. The situation will be reviewed on 22 August, when decisions on whether, and when, the convoy can proceed.

Programme Evaluation UNHCR engaged a private firm to evaluate activities implemented in Qushtapa sub-district, benefiting 400 families in 26 villages with return and reintegration assistance. This exercise will be concluded by mid-September. Similar evaluation of projects undertaken in Dohuk Governorate will be undertaken soon.

Governance and Civil Society (Cluster 9)

Child Protection UNICEF's psychosocial programme for 12,000 children in Najaf has now halted. The programme has been temporarily suspended due to heavy fighting in the area. Three new Drop-in Centres for street children were inaugurated on 1 August, in Nassiryia, Basra and in Kahdimyah District of Baghdad. UNICEF also held a successful three-day meeting in Amman, Jordan, with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) chaired

IRAQ

SITUATION REPORT



UNITED NATIONS
2-8 August 2004

UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR IRAQ

by Minister. In this meeting a plan of action was developed for implementation for the remainder of 2004. UNICEF is currently preparing a meeting on juvenile justice slated for 16-18 August in Jordan with expected participation of the Ministries of Justice, Labour and Social Affairs, and Interior.

UNDP/FAFO-Institute for Applied International Studies/CSO Living Conditions Survey Six representatives from the Central Statistical Office have been invited to participate in a training seminar in Oslo, Norway, 8-13 August, for a familiarisation session in the use of the data set compiled by the FAFO Survey. Technical discussions will take place with regard to the data strengths and weaknesses. Following data validation, a tabulation report will be published in late September. UNDP and the International Labour Organisation will also participate in discussions.

Media Development The project document for media development in Iraq, an initiative funded by the Government of Spain and to be executed by the Reuters Foundation, has now been finalised and awaiting formal approval. The priority target group would be senior and experienced Iraqi journalists, capable of handling the complexities of public affairs reporting. Each course would start with refreshing sessions and practical writing exercises. The project includes provisions for funding agencies or relevant non-governmental organisations (NGOs), where appropriate, to supply expert speakers to address course participants and provide them with background information on parliamentary democracy, electoral systems and more specifically on the Iraqi electoral process. These courses will also promote the role of socially responsible media and initiatives strengthening civil society, human rights and democracy. Additionally, as a separate component of this project, about 20 young inexperienced Iraqi journalists will be offered a four to six week induction course to develop basic skill and understanding of the media at the American University in Cairo. In a related development, UNESCO is preparing a series of activities in cooperation with the Minister of Human Rights to provide capacity building assistance to the Ministry. Specifically, UNESCO will assist with capacity building for journalists and development of the media sector generally. Projects pertaining to this support will be submitted to the UNDG Trust Fund in August.

Poverty Reduction and Human Development (Cluster 10)

Iraq Reconstruction Employment and Programme (IREP) There are currently seven IREP projects being implemented by international NGOs countrywide, covering activities as broad as garbage collection and tree plantings, training for young women, sewage system rehabilitation and river bank cleaning. For example, one specific project in Falluja consists of the cleaning of streets and public areas, as well as the creation of recreational areas in urban centers. This project foresees the employment of a total of 255 people for 48 days, and will generate 12,240 working days. In total, these International NGO projects (valued at US\$ 1.3 million) have, to date, generated almost 190,000 working days. With additional tender process ongoing, at least seven new projects implemented through INGO partners are expected. With the signing of the IIT contracts for north and centre, the number of sub-projects is also expected to steadily rise. IREP projects in the south are moving ahead without significant obstacles. There were a total number of 31 IREP projects on-going during the week, involving 3,519 workers and a total of 188,195 work-days generated. Since the start of the IREP programme in the south, a total of 81 projects have been created to the value of almost US\$ 2 million. Some 10,000 workers have been employed and over 450,000 workdays generated. In the north and centre, a gradual start-up of IREP has commenced. A series of meetings have been held with various departments within UNDP Iraq office aimed at further standardising the IREP monitoring of ongoing projects, as well as to agree on standard procedures for implementing partners.

Workforce Development and Veteran's Services (WDVS) Nine IOM experts working with the Iraqi Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) traveled to Amman, Jordan, for a strategic planning and evaluation meeting. Technical assistance and mentoring of MoLSA staff is ongoing and has continued throughout the reporting period.

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