



UNICEF IRAQ PROGRAMME UPDATE

1-31 October 2003

For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY



BACKGROUND

Six months after the end of the war in Iraq, the situation in the country is still extremely hazardous. More than two months after the attack on the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, daily bombings and attacks occur against coalition troops and authorities, as well as Iraqi police forces. Aid workers also continue to be a target of these attacks regardless of whether they are international staff or Iraqis. This environment prevents UN international staff currently out of the country from returning to Iraq. All remaining UN internationals will now relocate out of Baghdad, at least during Ramadan.

Attacks are now targeting each and every organization working on reconstruction, as highlighted by the recent attack on the ICRC headquarters. More and more non-governmental organizations are leaving Iraq or scaling down their operations. However, in recent weeks, Iraqis are reporting improvements in the general safety environment for Iraqi civilians, bringing hope that the situation for Iraqis will improve even if the situation remains dangerous for international aid workers.

ISSUES

In this highly volatile context, UNICEF opened a new office, named the Iraq Support Centre in Amman, in early September, to enable the agency to continue to support and manage operations inside Iraq. Operations are continuing and can be maintained from this new Support Centre.

UNICEF has also further developed its cooperation with local counterparts such as the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, Water Authorities, and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. More local private companies have been contracted by UNICEF Iraq to implement rehabilitation work as well as UNICEF's massive water tankering operation, and a strengthened logistic line has been established between Amman and Baghdad. Through this process, UNICEF manages to continue running operations, but the lack of security hinders the implementation of some programmes, and slows down the improvement of the humanitarian situation in the country.

ACTION

Water and Sanitation

Water tankering

Water tankering operations continue in Basrah, Baghdad, Kirkuk and Mosul. Deliveries from Kuwait into Basra governorate, which began during the war, ceased on the 15 October 2003, and have been replaced by local contractors from Basra governorate. This has improved delivery time by reducing time spent at the border, and has also helped contribute to employment generation inside Iraq. When the operation first became 'Local' in mid-October, only 30 tankers a day were operating. By 31 October, 200 tankers were delivering 3.4 million litres of clean water each day, including to areas inhabited by the Marsh Arabs. This is on top of the more the 11 million litres of water being delivered each day in Baghdad, Mosul and Kirkuk using local tankers.

Rehabilitation: Baghdad City

Forty-seven sewage pumping stations have been completely rehabilitated, while rehabilitation works continue for a further 26 sewage pumping stations. Bids are under preparation for additional 75 sewage pumping stations.

To meet the growing demand for potable water, UNICEF is assisting the Mayoralty of Baghdad to install three compact water treatment units (CUs) and to rehabilitate a further 60 CUs to benefit over one million people. In addition, this month, a Water Treatment Plant (WTP), serving approximately 350,000 people was completely secured as it was being continuously looted. This affected its ability to provide clean water to the community.

Centre/South Governorates:

Three WTPs have been completely rehabilitated benefiting approximately 650,000 people, while bids are being processed for 30 additional plants. Another 17 plants are currently being assessed for rehabilitation. Similarly, one CU serving a population of 16,000 has been completely rehabilitated, while 27 additional bids are being processed. Twelve more CUs are under assessment.

One sewage treatment plant (STP), serving 100,000 people is under rehabilitation. Bids are being prepared for five more STPs. Two STPs are being assessed.

A rapid assessment and survey of water supplies in schools across all south/centre governorates began on 5 October. This is being carried out by the Water and Environmental Sanitation (WES) monitors.

Supplies

Transportation of approximately two million litres of fuel for generators to water and sewage facilities in Baghdad City continues. The sector has purchased an additional supply of 2,000 tons of chlorine gas, and is following up on distribution and supply of chlorine gas and Alum Sulphate to both water and sewage authorities in Baghdad. Procurement of essential laboratory equipments for the seven laboratories in Baghdad City is being processed.

Coordination

The sector is holding talks with the WHO Regional Centre for Environmental Health Activities (WHO-CEHA) in Amman in order to develop a solid waste management training strategy for Iraq. Water and sanitation co-ordination meetings have begun in Amman, to co-ordinate activities of NGOs and other International agencies.

Health and Nutrition

Defaulter Immunization Campaign

The national defaulter immunization campaign is on-going. It takes place two days a week, four weeks a month and will immunize about 1.4 million children who have dropped out of routine immunization. This campaign involves 4,000 Health workers with 124 supervisors. In October, the estimated number of children reached under five years old was nearly 250,000. UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Health through the provision of transportation, vaccination incentive, and supervision.

Routine Immunization

UNICEF supports the Ministry of Health through social mobilization campaigns (TV spots, banners, meetings, seminars), vaccine procurement, rehabilitation of the national cold chain system, and vaccine distributions to all south and centre governorates.

Capacity building

During the month of October, UNICEF supported several training sessions for Health workers in different governorates of Iraq:

- Training of paramedical workers on Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI), treatments and prevention.
- Training on Maternal Health Care services in three governorates.
- Enhancement of primary health care services campaign, through on job training of health workers; close supervision and field monitoring for the benefit of 2,200 health workers in 18 governorates, with participation of 340 local supervisors and trainers, and 23 central supervisors.

Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation work in 50 Primary Health Care centers (PHC) is on-going. In addition, reconstruction started this month on 20 delivery rooms.

Supplies

UNICEF also supported transportation and distribution of donated emergency health supplies and essential medicines (56 emergency health kits, 12 emergency obstetric kits), 50,000 IV fluid bags and one million ORS sachets to five governorates for the benefit of 800,000 children and women. On 8 October 2003, UNICEF delivered a 230 KVA generator to Chwesa and 75 KVA generators to Babagurgur prefabricated PHCs. In addition, 18 vehicles were delivered to MOH in the North for the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) and Nutrition Programme.

Targeted Nutrition Programme

3,000 UNISCALES used to measure the weight of children and more than 3,000 measuring tapes and other height measuring instruments are being distributed to the 15 governorates (distribution completed to 6 governorates).

Assessment reports on flour mills and salt iodization factories are being finalized.

Education

During the month of October, UNICEF continued to supply the Ministry of Education and schools with essential learning and teaching materials. The distribution of Education kits, teaching materials, and textbooks to the 18 Directorates of Education is under way. Eighteen UNICEF funded monitors are assisting in the distribution of kits at the directorate level. To date, 59,619 Education kits that will benefit over 8,500 primary schools have been dispatched to the Directorates of Education.

Back to school:

- Five different kinds of kits have been produced in order to satisfy the needs of each grade. Kit A1 and A2 for children (sufficient material for 80 students), kit B for teachers and principals, kit C for schools (chalkboard, dusters...), kit D also for schools (chalks).
- The allocation plan was developed together with the Ministry of Education, according to the needs in each governorate.
- So far, 88% of the kits have been distributed to the Directorates of Education (DOE) in each governorate across the country. 100% of the kits for children (kit A1 and A2) are expected to reach DOEs by the second week in November.

Textbook printing and distribution:

The printing of textbooks is on-going, both inside and outside Iraq.

Inside Iraq, 10.2 million books (133 titles) are currently being printed by close to 40 different printing companies. Deliveries to governorates should be completed by third week of December.

Outside Iraq, printing and deliveries are following the planned schedule. So far, over 11 million books have been delivered directly to Directorates of Education in the governorates throughout the country from printers in Egypt, UAE, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, Iran, Jordan and Kuwait. A further 25 million more textbooks will be delivered before the end of the year.

School Rehabilitation

The number of schools being rehabilitated is increasing rapidly. So far, 119 schools have been completed throughout the country, offering proper facilities to children for the new academic year. Another 94 schools are currently under rehabilitation, 34 are in the bidding process, and 50 more are being assessed at this time.

Child Protection

Social Protection Services for Children

Child Friendly Space Initiative in Al-Bayaa Area;

UNICEF and the Italian NGO INTERSOS in close cooperation with the local community council in Al-Bayaa area are supporting this essential activity.

A monthly average of almost 900 children from ages 6 to 16 follow regular guided activities. In addition, over 600 children participated daily in “free” activities under the guidance of INTERSOS educators. The large proportion of girls demonstrates the success of the community-based approach.

Child's Home;

UNICEF and the NGO Enfants du Monde – Droits de L'homme (EMDH), in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA) continue supporting Child Home, which is a transitional residential centre aiming at re-integrating children into families, and serving as a model for Iraqi orphanages.

Youth House in Al-Magreb Area in Al-Adhamiya District;

UNICEF and the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) are supporting the Al-Magreb area council in conducting different activities for children at Youth House. The centre provides a safe haven for local, displaced and refugee children and youth, aged 5–18 years old and one of its aims is to combat the worst forms of child labour. The centre also hosts activities in a community that needs normal positive engagement of children, teaches conflict resolution skills and provides psychological stabilization for children affected by war trauma . An estimated 300-400 children participate in the different activities each day.

Season Art Therapy School in Al-Saydiyah district;

On 15 October 2003, UNICEF and NCA supported the Iraqi NGO “Season Arts School” to launch the Art Therapy School for children in Al-Saydiyah district. The project aims to: develop the creativity and potential of children; raise awareness on child rights among children and the society; respect the inherent equality of all people, regardless ethnic origin, religion, class, and gender; and through art education and therapy, children will enhance their self-confidence, as well as learn the importance of team-work, thus finding creative ways of coping with stressful and violent situations. The specialized designated team will work with disadvantaged and disabled children to develop their creative and social skills through team-based art education and art therapy projects. "Art troupes" will be created who will continue the programme by performing at schools, and neighborhoods.

Drop-in-Center for street children in Al-Battaween area;

The Italian NGO Terre des Hommes (TDH) has conducted an assessment of the situation of children in Al-Batawwen in Baghdad and found an increasing number of street children in this area since the war. In response to this, and to eliminate the worst forms of child labor and child exploitation, TDH has been working with UNICEF to establish a drop-in centre. The centre, which will officially open in about two weeks, will be unique as it merges both preventive and treatment measures. Educational, leisure and vocational activities will be carried out, while at the same time street children and children at risk will be accommodated and provided with basic services.

Another drop-in centre that opened in partnership with Enfants du Monde in the Karada district in June, the first of its kind in Iraq, has unfortunately been temporarily closed due to poor security in the area. The drop-in centre was caring for between 40-60 children per day. UNICEF and EMDH are looking at ways to resume this important activity as quickly as possible.

Projects under Development

Street Children and Family Care Reintegration;

A UNICEF and EMDH partnership project aiming at supporting street children to get back to normal life and live within a family environment has started. The project “Street Children and family Care Reintegration” aims at: providing emotional and physical assistance to street children; providing them

with opportunities to return to school or to receive vocational training through different vocational workshops; and advocating for and developing effective programmes that would assist in ultimately reintegrating street children into their families/related families or to support them to live in a family-like environment.

Capacity Building

The second round of the training programme “Training of Trainers on Child Protection” has been completed in Baghdad. This training has been conducted by UNICEF, in partnership with International Consortium of Solidarity (ICS), and in close cooperation with MOLSA. The main objective is to improve Iraqi social workers skills and expertise in dealing with children in need of special protection. Three experts were brought in from Italy to build the capacity of 115 social workers.

Physical Rehabilitation of childcare institutions and MOLSA Premises;

UNICEF has accomplished 95% of the rehabilitation work on the MOLSA headquarters. The assessments of the rehabilitation needs in 20 childcare institutions in Iraq have also been finalized.

IMPACT

Despite the volatile environment and the new operating mode, UNICEF manages to run most of its programme to further improve the condition of children and women in Iraq. The Back-to-School campaign is successfully being implemented, and most children and schools are receiving the necessary materials for the 2003-2004 academic year. By the time all supplies are delivered, UNICEF will have provided over 3.6 million school children with learning materials.

School rehabilitations are on-going, and children in 120 schools in different parts of the country can now attend lessons in fully renovated schools, with proper water and sanitation facilities, clean classes with windowpanes, doors, electricity and sanitary schoolyards.

Rehabilitation of water treatment plants, sewage treatment plants and water networks is continuing, offering better access to water and improving both the hygiene and health of children.

Almost a quarter of a million defaulters were reached in October, getting health partners closer to the target of vaccinating 1.4 million children left out of immunization.

Child protection centres are being developed in Baghdad, as models for the rest of the country. More projects are now being developed for other governorates. These centres bring support to children, mostly to the disadvantaged and disabled ones, and they help raise awareness on children rights and condition in Iraq.

IRAQ			
Pledges and Contributions to the Crisis Appea - Status on 30 October 2003			
<u>GOVERNMENTS</u>	PLEGDED	RECEIVED	TOTAL
United States	-	37,000,000	37,000,000
United Kingdom	-	22,170,993	22,170,993
Japan	-	15,285,822	15,285,822
Canada	6,617,647*	6,085,910	12,703,557
ECHO	-	9,654,944	9,654,944
Australia	-	9,167,753	9,167,753
Norway	-	3,711,460	3,711,460
Netherlands	-	3,000,000	3,000,000
France	-	2,152,860	2,152,860
Italy	-	1,655,167	1,655,167
Belgium	-	1,179,328	1,179,328
Ireland	-	1,087,060	1,087,060
Spain	-	1,076,430	1,076,430
Denmark	-	1,014,510	1,014,510
Korea, Rep	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
Finland	-	753,501	753,501
Sweden	-	600,250	600,250
Luxembourg	-	460,828	460,828
AGFUND	300,000	-	300,000
Greece	-	200,000	200,000
Portugal	-	109,769	109,769
Turkey	-	100,000	100,000
Slovenia	-	72,143	72,143
Andorra	32,931	-	32,931
Lithuania	-	31,791	31,791
Sub-Total GOVTS	6,950,578	117,570,519	124,521,097

<u>NATCOMS</u>	PLEDGED	RECEIVED	TOTAL
German NC	-	8,136,981	8,136,981
Japan NC	-	8,000,000	8,000,000
US Fund	-	2,646,641	2,646,641
UK NC	-	2,234,177	2,234,177
Italian NC	-	2,219,290	2,219,290
French NC	-	1,600,418	1,600,418
Australian NC	-	1,139,678	1,139,678
Spanish NC	-	907,436	907,436
Canadian NC	-	905,981	905,981
Danish NC	-	590,840	590,840
Netherlands NC	-	534,394	534,394
Irish NC	-	500,000	500,000
Hong Kong NC	-	448,603	448,603
Belgian NC	-	388,097	388,097
Swiss NC	-	370,370	370,370
Finnish NC	-	325,055	325,055
Korean NC	-	300,000	300,000
Swedish NC	-	284,375	284,375
Norwegian NC	-	229,909	229,909
Portuguese NC	-	215,286	215,286
Slovenian NC	-	158,337	158,337
Austrian NC	-	137,143	137,143
New Zealand NC	-	41,714	41,714
Sub-total NATCOMs	-	32,314,725	32,314,725
UN System	-	96,600	96,600
Others	-	662,091	662,091
TOTAL FLASH	6,950,578	150,643,935	157,594,513

*Total pledged from the Canadian Government is CAN\$40 million over 3 years

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