

FOR IRAQ

**THE UNITED NATIONS
IN IRAQ IN 2017**



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United Nations Iraq

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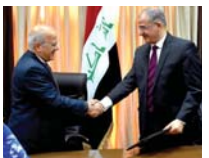
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WITH DEFEAT OF DAESH, RECONCILIATION HOLDS KEY TO SUSTAINABLE PEACE, AND UNAMI STANDS READY TO ASSIST IRAQIS IN THEIR QUEST FOR A STABLE, PROSPEROUS FUTURE

It goes without saying that Iraq's greatest achievement in 2017 was the liberation of its territory from Daesh's so-called "Caliphate" and the restoration of Iraqi sovereignty. The Iraqis led the battle, with support from their neighbours and international Coalition partners. Throughout these challenging times, UNAMI stood by our Iraqi partners, offering support and advice and sending a strong message that rallying to Iraq was vital if the world was to win the fight against terrorism. In briefings to the UN Security Council, UNAMI's message was loud and clear: Iraq can and will win this fight and we must support Iraq to victory. Now, Iraqis can be proud of their historic triumph over terrorism. And UNAMI's commitment to Iraq remains robust as the country recovers from the conflict, rebuilds itself and reclaims its place in the world as a peaceful, democratic nation looking forward to a prosperous future for its people.

Saving civilian lives was and continues to be an overriding priority for UNAMI. While supporting the Iraqi Government and its security forces during the fight against terrorism, we also strongly advocated for the protection of civilians. In line with our mandate for promotion and protection of human rights, UNAMI's monitoring of the conflict, involving over a million people during the liberation of Mosul, has yielded results in refocusing the priorities of the Government and the international community to help those affected. Our engagement at all levels with the Government and the security apparatus, including factions of the Popular Mobilisation Forces, helped ensure that security forces showed the highest standards of professionalism in combat and consequently minimised civilian casualties and established public confidence. Our reporting to the international community, highlighting the plight of the displaced and the crimes of Daesh,

was instrumental in consolidating international support behind Iraq. In addition, UNAMI produced two hard-hitting reports during 2017 on the plight of persons with disabilities and the situation of women under Daesh.

UNAMI also played a key role in 2017 in refocusing attention on conflict-related sexual violence in Iraq, in particular its terrible consequences and the pressing need to support survivors, their families and their communities.

Convinced that only a sustainable political solution can ensure long-term peace and stability, we supported our Iraqi interlocutors in building post-conflict national unity and reconciliation. We have made good progress, working closely with the government's National Reconciliation Commission, on building a national political dialogue through a series of events across the country which brought together local po-

UNAMI played a key role in 2017 in re-focusing attention on conflict-related sexual violence in Iraq, in particular its terrible consequences and the pressing need to support survivors, their families and their communities



litical, business, civil society, religious and tribal figures to discuss their vision for Iraq's future. We will continue injecting energy and expertise into a reconciliation process which we hope will become increasingly widespread as the country shifts towards peace, reconstruction and development.

Meanwhile, UNAMI remains keen to see all political actors engage in constructive dialogue with each other, to avoid further conflict. In particular, we stand ready to support and facilitate interaction between the federal government in Baghdad and the Kurdistan regional government in Erbil, if asked by both sides, and in line with the Constitution. Throughout 2017, we also worked hard to encourage political leaders and other key figures to promote a much broader and more sustained engagement by women at every level in the political life of Iraq.

Looking forward, a key focus in Iraq for much of 2018 will be electoral processes, including national and provincial elections and elections in the Kurdistan Region. UNAMI will continue offering specialist technical advice to the Independent High Electoral Commission, and work closely with political actors on delivering free, fair and transparent elections.

On national reconciliation, stabilisation and development, UNAMI plans to step up its engagement with all segments of Iraqi society, including religious and ethnic minorities, to ensure inclusiveness and diversity in political and socio-economic processes at all levels. At the same time, it is imperative that the people who were displaced by the conflict voluntarily return home in dignity and safety to rebuild their

lives. For our work to succeed, we will need to coordinate and support programmes across UNAMI and the UN Country Team, working to prevent further violence, and to develop and implement reconstruction and reconciliation projects with clear objectives, timeframes and visible results in post-conflict areas.

On human rights, UNAMI's priorities are to address human rights violations that occurred as a result of the conflict with Daesh; monitoring of the conflict's impact upon the civilian population; the promotion and protection of the rights of Iraq's religious, ethnic and other minorities; capacity building of the Government, civil society and other actors to understand and uphold human rights norms; and comprehensive legal reform of Iraqi laws to ensure compliance with international human rights

law standards. UNAMI will also continue monitoring and reporting on the violations committed against children in armed conflict and will support the Government in formulating an action plan to address the use and recruitment of children.

Addressing the needs of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence remains a priority for UNAMI in 2018 - supporting the government and other partners in advancing the implementation of the Joint Communiqué on Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. At the same time, given the vital role of women in building peaceful societies, UNAMI will work to strengthen support to the Iraqi government to ensure effective implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.



The United Nations in Iraq

Fast Facts about the United Nations in Iraq



WHAT IS UNAMI'S MANDATE?

UNAMI's mandate includes

- 1) advising, supporting and assisting the Government and people of Iraq in advancing inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation; developing elections and referenda processes; advancing constitutional provisions and reforms; facilitating regional dialogue; conducting a census and implementing reintegration programmes for former combatants;
- 2) promoting, supporting and facilitating, in coordination with the Government of Iraq, humanitarian assistance, the implementation of the International Compact, improvement of basic service delivery, economic reform and sustainable development; and
- 3) promoting the protection of human rights and judicial and legal reform in order to strengthen the rule of law in Iraq.

MANDATE IMPLEMENTATION

Since its inception in 2003, UNAMI has played a crucial role in providing significant support in the drafting of Iraq's 2005 Constitution, and assisting in nine elections. UNAMI had an instrumental role in the successful and peaceful conduct of Iraq Parliamentary elections, helping keep Iraq on-track towards democratic transition and consolidation. Its role was both a technical support role to the election bodies, as well as a political role in engaging legislative and political actors throughout the electoral processes.

UNAMI is fully engaged with the Government and in close partnership with Iraq's

political leadership in providing advice, assistance and support on furthering national reconciliation, strengthening the rule of law and respect for human rights through security sector and legislative reform, as well as institution-building, the implementation of which are essential to making progress on security and returning Iraq to a path of reconciliation and stability.

UNAMI partners with Iraqi institutions in promoting the values of reconciliation, tolerance and co-existence as part of a process to build an enabling environment for reconciliation. It focuses on ensuring national ownership and buy-in

from components of Iraqi society, including at the political, community, demographic and regional levels. In doing this, UNAMI adopts a multi-sectorial approach, encompassing the media, academic and cultural institutions.

After having successfully helped establish, trained and advised Iraq's first High Electoral Commission, the Mission has assisted the Government of Iraq in establishing an Independent High Commission for Human Rights to promote and protect the rights of all Iraq's people according to international standards.

UNAMI has played a continued support role to the constitutional review process and the implementation of constitutional provisions, as well as on the develop-

ment of processes to resolve disputed internal boundaries.

UNAMI is continuously engaged in advancing Iraq-Kuwait normalization, which resulted in a partial exit of Iraq from its obligations under Chapter VII of the Charter in June 2013, and helped complete the fieldwork of the Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Maintenance Project (IK-BMP), pursuant to Security Council resolution 833 (1993). UNAMI also supports both sides in the search of missing persons and on the delicate issue of missing Kuwaiti property.

UNAMI works with government partners and civil society to coordinate the humanitarian and development efforts of the UN organizations and to support the partnership and technical cooperation between the Government of Iraq and the UN entities operating in the country, while coordinating UN humanitarian efforts and the financial assistance of the donor community.

United Nations, through an extensive field network and in close coordination with authorities at the governorate and district levels, facilitates stabilization efforts, as the Government of Iraq moves to secure and stabilize newly liberated areas.

In a context of acute humanitarian crises, waves of displacement and widespread violence, UNAMI and the UNCT identify modalities for the delivery of humanitarian assistance that would mitigate the major constraint of limited access, and promote the safety of humanitarian staff and their beneficiaries.

How does the UN implement its projects in Iraq?

In 2010, the UN Country Team and the Government agreed on the first United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Iraq, covering the period from 2011 to 2014. Subsequently, in April 2014 the second UNDAF was signed that covers the period from 2015 to 2019. The Framework commits the United Nations to a programme of work in partnership with the Government, civil society organizations, academia, the private sector and the international

donor community.

The UNDAF focuses on two main priorities, which are in line with the National Development Plan and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): strengthening the ability of state institutions to effectively respond to the needs of Iraqis; and social inclusion and equity, especially for vulnerable groups including those displaced by conflict and natural disasters.

Where does the UN work in Iraq?

The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and the UN Country Team (UNCT) work in all the 18 governorates of Iraq and operate at the community, governorate, regional and national levels. National and international staff are deployed throughout the country and work in partnership with their local, provincial, regional and national counterparts.

Which UN organizations work in Iraq?

The UN Country Team has 20 members, including 15 resident and 3 non-resident agencies: FAO, ILO, OCHA, OHCHR, UNICEF, UNCTAD, UN WOMEN, UNDP, ESCWA, UNESCO, UNEP, UNHCR, UN-HABITAT, UNIDO, UNFPA, UNODC, UNOPS, WFP, WHO and IOM. (UN-ESCWA, UNEP and UNCTAD are the non-resident agencies.) In addition, the UNCT includes the World Bank.

What is the difference between UNAMI and the other UN entities operating in Iraq?

The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) is a political mission, which was established in 2003 at the request of the Government of Iraq, by UN Security Council Resolution 1500. The Mission has been on the ground ever since, and its role was greatly expanded in 2007 with the passage of Resolution 1770.

The presence of the UN organizations in Iraq is established on the basis of

bilateral agreements with the Government of Iraq.

How long has the UN been present in Iraq and why?

A number of UN organizations have been operating in Iraq since 1955. Others established their offices in the early 1990s and again after 2003. The UN continues to be present in Iraq to respond to the needs of the Iraqi people and support their efforts to achieve a peaceful and prosperous future.

Does the UN have any alignment with particular groups or factions?

The UN is an impartial body working in Iraq at the request of, and in partnership with, the Government of Iraq. The UN does not favour any political, sectarian or ethnic groups or factions. It upholds the highest standards in fostering equal opportunity among all Iraqi people, respect for human rights and enhanced empowerment to achieve a successful, dignified and sustainable future for the Iraqi nation.

How is UNAMI managed?

UNAMI is headed by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Iraq, who is supported by two deputies, one deputy who oversees political affairs and electoral assistance, and one deputy who oversees UN humanitarian and development efforts and performs the functions of Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Iraq. The Mission is administered by the UN's Department of Political Affairs and supported by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support.

Through its resolution 2299, adopted on 25 July 2016, the Security Council extended the mandate of UNAMI until 31 July 2017.

UNAMI has an authorized strength of 858 posts of which 351 are international and 507 are national staff.

The Mission's budget for 2017: USD 117.4 million.

Letter from Baghdad

Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq for Political Affairs and Electoral Assistance

■ ALICE WALPOLE



As I stepped off the plane in Baghdad in November 2017 to take up my role as Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Iraq for Political Affairs and Electoral Assistance, it brought back memories of my previous assignment in Iraq eight years earlier as the British Consul General in Basra. But now, what changed settings and circumstances!

Iraq in 2009 was a country in the throes of terrible conflict. The Iraq of my return is a different scene: a functioning State with rebuilt institutions, which has defeated the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh), the militant terrorist group which wreaked havoc in the country for several years. A confident Iraq is looking forward, shedding the violent and chaotic image of the past and embarking on a brighter future.

I sensed a new beginning and fresh hope prevailing across the country after many years of despair and conflict. And I have been delighted to be part of this new start, to build on what has been achieved thus far by UNAMI, to learn from the past and look forward to tackling the challenges ahead. I am fortunate in having arrived in Baghdad at a moment of renewed political opportunity for Iraq. As I delved deep into the details my new job, I saw many challenges but I also sensed immense opportunities.

The year 2017 saw Iraq overcome security challenges and political divisions to defeat ISIL on the battlefield and emerge united. UNAMI, along with the wider United Nations family and the international community, rallied to Iraq's support during that fight.

UNAMI has done some good work on the

ground. In 2017, we continued to support an Iraqi-led national reconciliation process - providing advice to and engaging with diverse ethnic, religious and political actors to raise concerns and address some complex political issues and, in many cases, seeking through our good offices to de-escalate volatile situations. We cooperated with the Implementation and Follow-up National Reconciliation Committee (IFNRC) of the Prime Minister's Office on projects to foster an inclusive process for dialogue, coexistence and reconciliation. A key aspect of our support for the national settlement process was encouraging and facilitating senior political stakeholders to define their visions for the future of Iraq.

In my view, the key to success in national reconciliation is to convince Iraqi citizens that they own and steer their reconciliation process. A series of UN-sponsored meetings took place across the country which sought to promote a spirit of unity and collaboration, and gauge the opinion of Iraqis, including youth and women, on the way forward. The recommendations made by these fora have enriched the national reconciliation debate and provided the leaderships with ideas as they press ahead with reconciliation efforts. The Mission will continue to engage widely with women, youth, civil society and other segments of Iraqi society to expand these efforts.

The Mission has established valuable working relationships with key figures in Iraq's political, business, social, tribal and religious communities throughout 2017. My team and I look forward to collaborating further with these contacts in 2018. But I must underline Iraqi ownership of the political and social processes. It is for the Iraqis themselves to lead on their future. We in UNAMI can only facilitate and offer advice, standing by the Iraqis just as we stood with them during the most dif-

difficult times while confronting ISIL.

It is important to highlight that it is not enough to have won the battle against the terrorists but also necessary to win the peace – a sustainable one – and this can be done through re-energising democracy and refreshing national institutions through transparent and credible elections.

In the context of the fight against terrorism, UNAMI's continuous engagement with different stakeholders, including the government-affiliated security forces, contributed to raising additional awareness about the protection of civilians, particularly in conflict areas, and consequently building civilians' trust in the security apparatus operating in these areas. The Mission's effective monitoring, reporting and engagement with local actors on the impact of violence on men, women and children contributed to minimising civilian casualties during the course of this fight.

At the same time, UNAMI's engagement in the protection and promotion of human rights through advice and capacity building programmes helped ensure that the rights of all Iraqis, especially those of minority communities, were safeguarded.

Eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and girls is a fundamental human rights issue and key to United Nations values. Iraq is to be warmly commended as the first country in the Middle East and North Africa region to launch a National Action Plan (NAP) on Security Council resolution 1325 on gender equality. This was a significant milestone, widely welcomed by Iraqi human rights' defenders and members of the international community as a positive step towards embedding a women, peace and security agenda after decades of conflict. However, despite the explicit goal in the NAP of promoting women's political participation, direct female participation in national reconciliation and the political sphere continues to be limited.

I hope to see women assuming higher positions following the next national elections and government formation. I envisage UNAMI working closely with political actors and decision-makers to define and adopt appropriate measures to increase representation of women at all levels of government, including in legislative, executive and judicial bodies.

Iraq draws its strength from a rich history



and diverse heritage. The Iraqis are proud of their past and they know that to safeguard its achievements the rights of minorities must be respected and protected. ISIL targeted all of Iraq's communities, but it particularly singled out the minorities in its atrocities and policy of annihilation. Reassuring minority communities after the conflict is therefore crucial if we are to secure peace and harmony for future generations of Iraqis and protect this enriching diversity.

The United Nations continue to encourage and participate in activities that promote unity; and we seek to raise and address the concerns of the minorities with senior figures across Iraqi society. We are stepping up our engagement to promote interfaith dialogue so that the root causes of violence can be addressed and eradicated. The promotion of dialogue among all communities in Iraq is vital in building a spirit of tolerance and coexistence following the military victory over ISIL.

I am satisfied with our activities and achievements in 2017 – but, of course, I am keen that UNAMI does even more in coming months to help the Iraqis regain their social cohesion, diversity and inclusiveness. They deserve a bright future after many years of conflict. We stand ready to help them.

Looking forward, a stable, inclusive government emerging from the 2018 national elections will be critical in taking Iraq into a better future of peace and prosperity. I see a substantial, valuable role for UNAMI to play in supporting the Iraqi Government and civil society, not least in helping build a national settlement

between political parties and facilitating political reconciliation. We will continue to support good governance structures, in particular, seeking to address political and social issues in disputed areas such as Ninewa and Kirkuk. We will continue to promote a robust Baghdad-Erbil dialogue as the best avenue to resolve outstanding issues between the federal and Kurdistan regional governments and to improve relations in the wake of the unilateral referendum on Kurdistan independence.

We will, in a partnership across the UN family, promote a conducive environment for the peaceful, voluntary return of all internally displaced people.

We will continue to work with the Iraqis so that the country can rid itself of the vestiges of the past, notably in addressing the file on Kuwaiti and third-country nationals missing since the invasion of Kuwait in 1990. In this regard, I am impressed by the current high degree of collaboration between the Iraqi and Kuwaiti governments. While, unfortunately, no tangible results have been achieved on this file for the past thirteen years, reinvigorated collaborative efforts are refocusing work and opening up new lines of enquiry. We will continue our engagement with and facilitation of the Government of Iraq's efforts, drawing on our expertise and resources. I remain hopeful that this multifaceted approach will lead to resolution of this painful issue and, most importantly, bring comfort to the families of those missing.

I believe a bright future awaits Iraq. I am pleased and privileged in my new role to be able to play a small part in helping realise that future.

Interview with

Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq,
Humanitarian Coordinator and Resident Coordinator

LISE GRANDE



Last year saw the defeat of Daesh, but also destruction on a large scale in the fight against terrorism that also resulted in the displacement of huge numbers of people. The UN was at the centre of humanitarian and stabilization efforts and you, as DSRSG/HC/RC, were at the heart of this effort. What were the main accomplishments and challenges for the humanitarian response over the last year?

The humanitarian process in Iraq is one of the most volatile and complex in the world. Since the rise of DAESH in 2014, 5.8 million Iraqis have been displaced.

In 2017, the focus was on the operation in Mosul, which was the largest urban battle since World War II. Remarkably, because of the work of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), it was the largest mass evacuation of civilians from a combat zone in the modern history. This was possible due to the Iraqi Security Forces, before the battle began, adopting a humanitarian concept of operation which put civilian protection at the center of the battle plan itself. The Security Forces detailed the steps that they would take to insure that civilians were safe during the fighting and were evacuated, if necessary, across the front line. As soon as Iraqi civil-

ians crossed the front line, the humanitarian organizations were there. There were trauma stabilization points on the line itself that provided triage and emergency support. More than 26,000 people came through these trauma stabilization points. Their lives were saved because the World Health Organization (WHO) was there running them.

At disarmament points, civilians, as they crossed the lines, had their weapons taken from them by the ISF. Humanitarian organizations were providing front-line support. Very importantly, on the day that people were evacuated they received hu-

manitarian assistance and this was a very remarkable treatment.

In preparing for Mosul, we developed a contingency plan. It is considered the most comprehensive plan ever done by the UN. We also issued a Flash Appeal for Mosul, which was 100 percent funded. Because of this, we were ready when the battle for Mosul began.

For nine months, the humanitarians never stopped constructing. There were nineteen emergency camps and every single day of the Mosul operation we were doing more construction to ensure that all people needing shelter had it. This was key, because it was one of the main ways we were able to ensure that people had assistance from the day that they left their homes. When the Mosul operation was underway, we were supporting 6.4 million Iraqis who were highly vulnerable in camps and locations all throughout the country.

It is important to put the humanitarian operation into perspective. The Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government had provided 80% of all assistance. We did a lot of work but we were the junior partner. We provided 20% of assistance.

2017 saw stabilization efforts expand dramatically. What has made stabilization successful, and what were the main obstacles you encountered in 2017?

The stabilization operation in Iraq is one of the largest that the United Nations has ever undertaken anywhere. Right now, more than 40 cities have been newly liberated, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which operates Funding Facility for Stabilization, is active in 31. Very remarkably, 25 of the more than 40 cities that had been liberated are stable. There are currently 1800 separate projects that are underway across 25 cities. It is a highly successful, very remarkable program. Three months after the end of combat operations more than half of all the people who were displaced are already home. In most conflicts, it takes about 5 years after the conflict ends for people to go home. In the case of Iraq, more than half is already home and the fighting stopped just 3 months ago. That's possible because of stabilization.

What will 2018 bring for stabilization efforts?

The 2018 will be the final year for the Funding Facility for Stabilization and we will be focusing on the areas where violent extremism is likely to emerge. There are number of places where this might hap-



pen and the stabilization teams will be redoubling their efforts in these areas.

Iraq was and remains a world priority when it comes to humanitarian support. The Iraq HRP was the highest funded humanitarian appeal in the world for the third year running. Now that the fight with Daesh is over, there is a risk of donor fatigue or preoccupation with other world crises. How can we maintain a focus on the ongoing humanitarian needs of vulnerable Iraqis?

During 2018, the humanitarian operation will contract significantly. For the last 3 years, this has been a 1 billion dollar operation. We are very grateful to the generosity of donors who have ensured that humanitarian appeals for Iraq were the highest funded in the world. For 3 years, we have mobilized 90 percent of our requests. In 2018, we will literally cut our operations in half. This is because so many people are going home. We are going to be appealing for slightly over 500 million dollars for 2018. That said, the humanitarian operation remains very large. There are 46 major operational hubs and 180 front line partners who are involved with this. Of the 8.7 million people who need assistance, the UN and its humanitarian partners plan to reach 3.4 million.

We are going to be focusing particularly on the people who cannot yet go home, who are still in camps. We are going to be helping the people who cannot return unless they receive assistance to do that. Many people, will of course go home on their own, but there are highly vulnerable families who cannot go back unless we are there to help them. The humanitarians will be focusing on that next year.

With the defeat of Daesh, the Government of Iraq is focused on the monumental task of reconstructing Iraq. Looking into 2018, how will the UN support Iraq in this undertaking and in making progress towards its Sustain-

able Development Goals?

The Government of Iraq has estimated the cost of the reconstruction at 88 billion dollars. They have a 10-year Iraq Recovery and Development Framework. It is very strict, very pragmatic plan. It covers 5 pillars – Governance, Reconciliation and Peacebuilding, Social and Human Development, Infrastructure and Economic Development.

At the Kuwait International Reconstruction Conference for Iraq, 30 billion dollars were mobilized from international resources. That includes guarantees, loans and funding facilities and that will make sure that the first stage of the Recovery and Development Framework is implemented.

The United Nations Country Team is introducing a new instrument. It was launched by the United Nations Secretary-General at the Kuwait Conference and it's called the Recovery and Resilience Program (RRP). It has 9 components. Three of those will be implemented in the areas where violent extremism may emerge. These 3 components include activities on restoring agriculture and water systems, revitalizing communities and preventing violent extremism. The six remaining components are national in scope: Supporting Survivors, Engaging Youth, Expanding Political Participation, Promoting Sustainable Returns, Promoting Community Reconciliation and Decentralizing Basic Services.

This is a very special program. The Recovery and Resilience Program is designed to fast-track the social dimensions of reconstruction. The activities here are designed to ensure that people see tangible improvements in their daily lives at the start of the reconstruction process rather than having to wait for years to benefit. At the Kuwait Conference, we asked for 482 million for this. Already a number of activities have started and they will be accelerated as more funding becomes available.



Office of Political Affairs

Interview with

Director of the Office of Political Affairs, UNAMI

MANOJ MATHEW

“

OPA fortified its partnership with the Iraqi Government and civil society organisations over the course of 2017 through a series of coordination and outreach activities

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What were the biggest achievements of the Office of Political Affairs (OPA) in 2017?

2017 culminated in the liberation operations in Ninewa and subsequent military victories over the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). This defeat of terrorism is one of the biggest achievements for the country in 2017. In this regard, OPA regularly engaged with a range of actors from the government

and the security apparatus, including the different factions of the Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF), and advocated for protection of civilians whilst warning against hate speech and discrimination.

OPA underpinned the good offices activities of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, both in support of Iraq's engagement in the fight against ISIL and also in facilitating dialogue between the federal government in Baghdad and the Kurdistan regional

government in Erbil following the Kurdistan Region's unilateral referendum on independence. Our role was to mitigate tension and promote calm, dialogue and restraint.

During the course of 2017, OPA supported the Mission leadership in facilitating Iraq's National Settlement Initiative. This is an Iraq-owned and -led process. We achieved significant progress in this regard as many stakeholders, starting with the National Alliance, shared with us their visions on national reconciliation. We also worked with the Implementation and Follow-up National Reconciliation Committee (IFNRC) of the Prime Minister's Office to reach out to different segments of Iraqi society to ensure their respective views were incorporated into the political process. In this regard, OPA launched a series of roundtable workshops for diverse communities in Karbala, Basra, Baghdad, Diyala, Anbar, Najaf and Qadisiya; the aim was to focus on areas of common ground to build national reconciliation.

In January 2017, OPA launched a project on Iraq: Youth and Coexistence, in collaboration with the IFNRC and the Iraqi Al-Amal Association. We held seven fora with Iraqi youth from Iraq's eighteen governorates to gauge their views on the shape of post-ISIL Iraq. The culmination of the fora was a national conference in Baghdad, where over 750 young people consolidated and adopted recommendations reflecting their aspirations for substantial political reform and active engagement in political decision-making.

Between March and July, four workshops were held in Wassit, Babil, Baghdad and Basra targeting journalists to mobilise public support for national reconciliation. During the same period, OPA supported eleven photography and art exhibitions for national reconciliation and social peace.

UNAMI works in partnership with the Iraqi government and civil society organizations. From a political perspective, how has this collaboration progressed over the past year?

OPA fortified its partnership with the Iraqi Government and civil society organisations over the course of 2017



OPA also expanded its outreach to a variety of security actors as security sector reform and national stability advanced in the wake of the defeat of ISIL

through a series of coordination and outreach activities undertaken in close collaboration with the IFNRC, in support of inclusive dialogue for national reconciliation. In addition to previously mentioned activities, OPA concluded a series of consultation meetings in May 2017, known as "Iraq-After-Conflict", with academics, students, civil society representatives, women and minority groups to map civil society's expectations of Iraq in the post-ISIL phase. OPA also maintained close coordination with the Minority Department of the IFNRC on inter and intra minority engagement in the political process - and has been planning further similar activities for 2018.

OPA also expanded its outreach to a variety of security actors as security sector reform and national stability advanced in the wake of the defeat of ISIL.

It's worth underlining that the OPA team in Baghdad is augmented by field officers in Erbil, Kirkuk and Basra - plus a nationwide network of Governorate Liaison Officers, who continued to engage and support local actors. They ensure that UNAMI's engagement with interlocutors from the Iraqi government, civil society, academia, business and the media extend to the whole of Iraq.

What are OPA priorities in 2018?

2018 is an election year for Iraq. In 2018, OPA will be advocating for conducive political environment in which

OPA will continue its engagement in support of national reconciliation to ensure that military victories translate into sustainable peace and unity



political parties and individuals can fairly and transparently contest the elections - and in which the electorate are freely able to exercise their vote. OPA will also be advocating for voluntary return of IDPs to their places of origin, and seeking ways of ensuring they are able to participate in the elections. OPA will coordinate its activities with all the components of UN family in these efforts, including with the Gender Advisor to ensure a meaningful participation of women in the electoral and political processes.

When the new government is in place, OPA hopes to work closely with the new administration and Council of Representatives in addressing longstanding national issues such Disputed Internal Boundaries, constitutional reforms, devolution of powers, Justice and Accountability law and protecting and promoting the rights of women and minorities.

OPA will continue its engagement in support of national reconciliation to ensure that military victories translate into sustainable peace and unity.

OPA is planning various special projects in 2018, including an inter-religious dialogue that will address the diverse communities of Iraq, including the minorities. OPA will continue its engagement with minority groups and ensure their engagement in political and reconciliation processes.

Electoral Assistance Office

Electoral assistance to Iraqi electoral institutions critical to making Iraq's developing democracy a success

Principal Electoral Advisor, Head of Integrated Electoral Assistance Team

AAMIR ARAIN



Elections are a vital part of the ongoing Iraqi constitutional and democratic processes. They confer legitimacy on Iraqi institutions. And strong and credible governance institutions take root from the mandate they receive from the people through regular and genuine elections.

So, electoral assistance to Iraq's electoral management bodies is critical to making Iraq's developing democracy a success.

One of the points of focus of the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) is giving priority to providing advice and technical assistance to Iraq's electoral institutions in order to enhance capacity for delivering on elections, consistent with public expectations. At the same time, we coordinate our work, together with the international community, with the aim of promoting a conducive environment for the secure, inclusive, transparent and professional organization of elections.

Through its integrated electoral assistance team, the United Nations provides electoral assistance to Iraq's Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC), with experts providing technical advice to IHEC counterparts in certain thematic areas, as identified jointly by IHEC and UNAMI. UNAMI and UN Women are also engaged with the IHEC Gender

Team with the aim of supporting the adoption by IHEC of gender strategic policies and in launching activities that will further promote women's participation as election staff, voters and candidates.

Governorate council elections were due in 2017, but the Iraqi authorities decided to postpone them indefinitely. Parliamentary elections were planned for 2018. So, with UN support, IHEC initiated and implemented a number of technical preparations during 2017. In line with its mandate, UNAMI provided expert advisory support and shared recommendations based on comparative international experiences through a dedicated team of electoral advisers, working closely with their IHEC counterparts at the management and operational levels. The focus areas of technical assistance included initiatives to promote the inclusive participation

of all Iraqi voters, including the displaced; engagement and dialogue regarding the new technologies that IHEC decided to use for the next elections; public outreach and external relations activities; and the legal and regulatory framework for the elections. In line with the recommendations of an electoral needs assessment mission which visited Iraq in November 2017, UNAMI intensified its support to IHEC in a number of focus areas, including on operations, information technology, public outreach, electoral adjudication and coordination of international support.

The level of expertise available within UNAMI Electoral Office enables us to respond to a wide range of support requirements at short notice. We have been able to tap further specialist expertise through the Electoral Assistance Division based in UN Headquarters.

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The United Nations provides electoral assistance to Iraq's Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC), with experts providing technical advice to IHEC counterparts in certain thematic areas, as identified jointly by IHEC and UNAMI

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Human Rights Office

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The Human Rights Office conducts detention monitoring in facilities throughout the country

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Q&A with

UNAMI Human Rights Office and representation of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Iraq

The Human Rights Office plays a key role in promoting equality and protecting the most vulnerable in Iraq. How was the year 2017 in Iraq in terms of human rights?

The overall human rights situation in Iraq remains fragile. Conflict between the Government of Iraq and pro-Government forces and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as 'Da'esh') continued to impact a broad range of human rights. Thousands were killed and wounded as a result of armed conflict with many women and children made war widows and orphans, respectively, in acts that may constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity and perhaps even genocide. In addition to serious human rights abuses, many Iraqis

continue to endure limited access to essential services and economic opportunities.

What are the human rights priorities in post Da'esh Iraq?

As Iraq has entered a new era beginning with the Prime Minister's declaration on 9 December 2017 of final victory over ISIL, focus must be toward addressing the human rights aspects of the root causes of terrorism, violence and armed conflict. As SRSO for Iraq, Mr Ján Kubiš, reported to the Security Council in New York on 22 November 2017, "Da'esh is down but not yet out, even in Iraq. The military victory is only one component of a complex battle. Only by defeating its "takfiri" ideology, choking off its external support, and addressing the causes that

prompted so many Iraqis to join or tolerate Da'esh can this terrorist organization finally be eliminated.”

Addressing the root causes includes, for example, comprehensive legal and policy reform on the protection of minorities and their full and equal participation in the political sphere, the rights of women and children, the economic and social life of Iraq, comprehensive criminal justice law reform, the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms and the promotion of accountability. Other immediate priorities include: facilitating the expeditious, voluntary and sustainable return of IDPs under conditions of safety and security and the protection of civilians from the effects of armed conflict, terrorism and violence, including through de-mining, stabilization, reconstruction and rehabilitation, and addressing conflict-related and gender-based sexual violence.

How does the Human Rights Office address the root causes of the human rights challenges faced by Iraq?

As it works with all relevant stakeholders, the Human Rights Office employs a multi-dimensional approach to address the root causes of the human rights issues facing Iraq. The approach aims at ensuring concrete, lasting results that assist the Government and Iraqi citizens to build an inclusive and democratic state where respect for human rights and the rule of law are fundamental to all Iraqis, without discrimination.

The Human Rights Office conducts its activities as inclusively as possible. It partners with the Iraqi Government, civil society and other stakeholders when performing its activities, to ensure ownership of the activities by the Iraqis themselves. It empowers “at risk” or marginalized groups such as women, children, people with disabilities, members of ethnic, religious or sexual minorities, displaced persons, and the elderly, by ensuring that they are consulted and participate in identifying the human rights challenges they face, and in proposing and implementing solutions to these challenges.

In addition to monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation throughout Iraq, the Human Rights Office provides support to international human

rights mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council, Special Procedures (including country visits) and Treaty Bodies. The Human Rights Office also provides technical assistance and advice to the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) and to the UN Country Team to ensure that the promotion of the respect and protection of human rights and the rule of law are fundamental to all policies, programs and activities of the United Nations in Iraq.

What are the Human Rights Office's main achievements in 2017?

As the armed conflict, terrorism and acts of violence have continued in Iraq, monitoring and reporting on the impact of such violence and the accompanying recommendations to address human rights issues has been an important achievement of the Office. The Human Rights Office systematically tracks incidents throughout the country and works through a number of channels, including humanitarian, military and government, to raise concerns regarding the protection of civilians and to influence outcomes. The fruits of this work are contained in six public reports published jointly by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNAMI during 2017. The Report on Protection of Civilians in Ninewa covers the entire operation to retake Mosul from ISIL.

The Human Rights Office also conducts detention monitoring in facilities throughout the country. In 2017, it had conducted 20 visits to prison and detention facilities in Baghdad, Kirkuk, Basra and Maysan governorates, providing recommendations to staff of these facilities and conducting advocacy with the Ministry of Justice.

In addition to technical support to the Iraqi Council of Representatives, government officials, civil society, security personnel, the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights (IHCHR), and the Kurdistan Region's Independent Board for Human Rights, the Human Rights Office also drafted a pocketbook for police on human rights obligations in law enforcement, currently under consideration by the Ministry of Interior. The Human Rights Office is also developing a proposal that will spearhead further advocacy on strengthening due process and fair trial guarantees through specific

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The Human Rights Office conducts its activities as inclusively as possible. It partners with the Iraqi Government, civil society and other stakeholders when performing its activities, to ensure ownership of the activities by the Iraqis themselves

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reforms to laws, including the Iraqi Penal Code, the Iraqi Criminal Procedure Law and the Anti-Terrorism Law. In this regard, advocacy meetings with the judiciary, the Minister of Justice and local officials, including governors, provincial council members, Peshmerga, Asayish and police, have been conducted. Specific advocacy against reports of collective punishment was conducted with provincial and national authorities following reports of collective punishment, including forced expulsions, destruction or marking of houses, in Anbar and Salah al-Din governorates.

Embedding human rights within proposed amendments to Iraqi laws and Bills before the Iraqi Council of Representatives have been made to the Enforced Disappearance Bill, the Anti-Torture Bill and the Anti-Terrorism Law No. 13 (2005). Throughout 2017, the Human Rights Office conducted advocacy with the Ministry of Justice, the High Judicial Council and the Iraqi Council of Representatives and Kurdistan Region Government on substantial reform of Iraqi criminal justice laws to strengthen due process and fair trial guarantees.



During visits to screening sites in Ninewa Governorate, the Human Rights Office mainly monitored compliance with human rights obligations facilities which were set up to search families fleeing ISIL controlled areas. Prior to the commencement of Iraqi Security Force operations to retake Mosul from ISIL, the Human Rights Office briefed relevant Government of Iraq officials on the protection of civilians by security forces during the conduct of operations, particularly on the conduct of security screening.

The Human Rights Office continues to advocate for a continuation of the moratorium on the implementation of the death penalty in the Kurdistan Region, despite pressures to resume death penalties in that region. As for Federal Iraq, there is no moratorium on the death penalty, highlighting concerns that executions carried out following convictions under the Anti-Terrorism Law No. 13 (2005), do not meet fundamental due process and fair trial obligations. In November 2017, the Human Rights Office supported a visit of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, who also called highlighted the risks of unfair trials which resulted in miscarriage of justice and arbitrary executions.

What about accountability for international crimes committed in Iraq? How is that being addressed?

As previously mentioned, tackling the root causes of human rights violations is critical to helping Iraq move forward. Accountability for international crimes committed in Iraq during several armed conflicts over decades remains largely unaddressed. UNAMI created a Task Force on Justice and Accountability to propose a law (the “proposed Draft Law”) to establish a Specialized Criminal Court for the Most Serious Crimes (the “Specialized Court”) so Iraqi courts can exercise jurisdiction over international crimes such as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes that have occurred in since 2014. The Task Force consists of prominent judges and jurists and international consultants with expertise from the International Criminal Court (ICC), the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the International Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and other international courts. After a review of the Draft Law in Baghdad, including the Human rights Office’s comments, copies were presented to the Iraqi Council of Representatives, civil society, and national and international actors to support its enactment.

The Human Rights Office also provided technical support to the Investigative Team established pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 2379. The independent Investigative Team is mandated to support Iraq’s efforts to hold ISIL account-

able for its actions in Iraq. In preparation, the Human Rights Office continues to compile a Compendium of Mass Graves in Iraq (June 2014–2017) and share it with Iraqi authorities including the Mass Graves Department and other key stakeholders such as the International Commission on Missing Persons and the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights. The Human Rights Office conducted a monitoring visit to a mass grave site that contains/contained remains of the victims of the Camp Speicher massacre of 12 June 2014 and held meetings with the Iraqi officials from the Mass Grave Department of the Martyrs Foundations.

Domestic and gender-based violence remain significant challenges. What is being done to address this aspect of the Human Rights mandate?

During the year, the Human Rights Office provided technical support to Iraqi civil society organisations in a series of governorate-level consultations that reviewed the Iraqi Family Protection Bill (Anti-Domestic Violence Bill) collating the recommendations made. The Human rights Office also reviewed the Bill so that it is in line with international human rights standards, particularly those that pertain to gender-based violence. The Human Rights Office then briefed the Iraqi Council of Representatives and its committees on the recommendations to the Anti-Domestic Violence Bill, and conducted



a briefing session on international law obligations related to domestic violence to a committee of the Council of Representatives responsible for redrafting the Bill. Finally, the Human Rights Office advocated with the Iraqi Council of Representatives to enact the amended Anti-Domestic Violence Bill. Its six-monthly reports for 2017 highlighted incidents of gender-based violence, which it used to continue recommendations for the enactment of an Anti-Domestic Violence Bill.

What role has the Human Rights Office played in the promotion and protection of the rights of minorities?

The Human Rights Office continued to support the drafting of the Law on the Protection of Diversity and the Prevention of Discrimination (the Anti-Discrimination Bill), following civil society calls for the passing of such a law due to continuous conflicts in Iraq that are, amongst other issues, fueled by exclusion and discriminatory treatment against minority groups. Together with UNAMI's Office of Political Affairs, the Human Rights Office supported the Council of Representatives in drafting the Anti-Discrimination Bill which went through its first reading in 2016 and was then referred to the Human Rights Committee of the Council of Representatives for revision.

In April 2017, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights hired a consultant to support the revision of the Anti-Discrimination Bill. The Human Rights Office, together with the consultant, provided technical support to the Human Rights Committee in convening a hearing session in April 2017 that brought together members of the Council of Representatives, representatives of civil society, judges from the Iraq Shura Council who came up with recommendations to improve the Anti-Discrimination Bill. For instance, participants recommended that the Anti-Discrimination Bill specify and define specific mechanisms, and entities responsible for the law's implementation; and that the Anti-Discrimination Bill embrace the concept of 'positive discrimination.' The proposed amendments were considered and a revised Anti-Discrimination Bill was to be proposed to the Council of Representatives.

What role has UNAMI HRO played in the development of Iraq's Human Rights National Action Plan?

UNAMI HRO continued providing technical support to the Ministry of Justice in the drafting and review of Iraq's Human Rights National Action Plan (NAP). The NAP, which is based on recommendations from the 2014 Iraq Universal Periodic Review (UPR) session in the United Nations Human Rights Council, was approved by the Government of Iraq in

2017. UNAMI HRO was given observer status in the inter-ministerial committee responsible for implementing the NAP.

What are the human rights office's priorities in 2018?

OHCHR/UNAMI HRO will continue to focus its activities on seven core thematic areas:

1. Protection of civilians from the effects of armed conflict, terrorism and violence.
2. Comprehensive Criminal Justice law/institutional reform.
3. Transitional Justice mechanisms.
4. Comprehensive legal and policy reform on the protection of women and children from SGBV/CRSV
5. Institutional Capacity Building (Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights, Committees of Council of Representatives, Judiciary, law enforcement officials, ministries, etc).
6. Promotion of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights with a focus of Freedom of Expression and Assembly.
7. Comprehensive legal and policy reform on the protection of minorities and their full and equal participation in the political, economic and social life of Iraq; and the rights of persons with disabilities.

Integrated Coordination Office for Development and Humanitarian Affairs (ICODHA)

Interview with

Head of ICODHA

DAVID JOY



What is ICODHA role in supporting the implementation of the UNAMI mandate?

ICODHA's role is to help establish, nurture and support the partnerships and coordination mechanisms necessary for the successful implementation of UNAMI's mandate. Under the direction of the Deputy SRSG/RC/HC/UNDP Resident Representative, ICODHA teams are present in all 18 Governorates, facilitating dialogue with counterparts, partners, donors and community groups, sharing information, establishing and supporting coordination platforms and reporting on emerging trends and developments. UNAMI depends on partnerships and coordination platforms to succeed; ICODHA makes sure this happens at all levels—national, regional, governorate and in local communities.

How does ICODHA fulfil that role?

ICODHA teams are some of the most active and engaged across the UN system. They coordinate and monitor implementation of the UN's Integrated Strategic Framework and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and ICODHA produces the annual UN report documenting the UN's contributions to Iraq's national priorities.

ICODHA teams help the 20 UN agencies active in Iraq to develop contacts and coordinate with partners in each Gover-

norate and they provide indispensable support to UNAMI sections including the offices most concerned with human rights. ICODHA teams are on the ground throughout the country, even the most remote areas, helping to triangulate and validate allegations of human rights abuses and violations, including against children and women. ICODHA also produces an annual UN Country Results Report that reflect the UN's contributions to Iraq's national priorities.

ICODHA teams are experts in coordination. They provide essential secretariat support to the UN's Gender Task Force; the Returns Task Force; the Strategic Communications Working Group; the Operations Management Team; the UN Women's Committee; the Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting Arrangements (MARA) Working Group; the UN Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group; and the Policy Engagement and Reform Working Group.

ICODHA is the main link between the UN system in Iraq and the mechanisms established by the Government to coordinate multilateral institutions. ICODHA staff work closely with the Government's Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre (JCMC) and the Central Statistical Organization in Baghdad, building capacity, mentoring counterparts and providing direct technical assistance. In support of the UN's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, ICODHA teams are continuing to collaborate with the Ministry of Planning, helping to ensure the SDGs are fully incorporated into Iraq's National Development Plan. ICODHA teams also provide essential secretariat support to the Government's new Development Cooperation Forum, which guides international engagement and mobilizes the resources necessary to progress UNAMI's key objectives and goals.

What is the contribution of ICODHA/RCO field offices?

ICODHA teams have been present in every one of Iraq's 18 Governorates for more than 10 years. They have some of the best, most extensive networks of contacts and partners within the UN system and are trusted interlocutors with all major stakeholders at the ground level. ICODHA teams promote awareness and help to mobilize communities on minority and tribal issues. In support of the Reconciliation Taskforce they promote coexistence initiatives and facilitate dialogue between tribal leaders, religious figures and Government counterparts. In support of the Gender Taskforce and the Human Rights

Office, ICODHA teams raise community awareness on the rights of women, accountability and justice.

What are the ICODHA/RCO key achievements in 2017?

ICODHA biggest achievement has been the elaboration of the two-year Iraq Recovery and Resilience Programme. The activities in the pioneering RRP are being implemented by the UNCT are designed to help ensure people see tangible improvements in their daily lives at the start of the reconstruction process, rather than waiting years to benefit from large-scale infrastructure projects and structural reforms. The RRP includes nine components. Three are being implemented in high priority communities where violent extremism may possibly emerge unless steps are taken to restore community trust, build confidence in the Government and open economic opportunities. Six of the components are national in scope. These components focus on decentralizing basic services, promoting sustainable reforms, providing support to survivors, accelerating community reconciliation and expanding political and social participation. The RRP is envisioned as a nexus framework. RRP projects build on humanitarian and stabilization operations. The RRP is also forward looking helping to lay the foundations in that will allow Iraq to reach the objectives set out in the country's Vision 2030 and the Government's National framework for Reconstruction and Development.

In collaboration with the World Bank and the UN Country Team, ICODHA has supported the elaboration of Iraq's new Poverty Reduction Strategy which includes policies and programmes aimed at reducing poverty by ensuring sustainable income for the poor, improving the health and education status of vulnerable families, ensuring suitable housing is available and promoting social protection. In collaboration with the UNCT, ICODHA has continued to provide technical support to the Government during the elaboration of the new National Development Plan and has worked closely with the World Bank to help revise the Government's ten year Framework for Reconstruction and Development. ICODHA has played a leading role in promoting the Government's multi-dimensional approach to reconstruction encompassing governance, peacebuilding and reconciliation, social and human development, infrastructure, and economic development.

ICODHA facilitates and promotes evi-

dence based policy, programming and reporting. In collaboration with UN Habitat, the office is supporting the Ministry of Planning to establish a database platform that will be used to map and monitor all reconstruction projects in the country. In collaboration with WFP, ICODHA is helping to compile a district-level socio-economic atlas of Iraq. In its role as the secretariat to the UN Inter-Agency Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group, ICODHA has supported the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA); the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey; the Maternal and Neo-Natal Child Health Survey; the Iraq Women Integrated Social Health Survey; the Iraq Household Socio-Economic Survey; the Iraq socio economic status analysis; and the Iraq Poverty and maternal Mapping Survey.

ICODHA has continued to ensure that key coordination mechanisms within the UN system are effective and efficient including the Strategic Communications Group, Operations Management Team and the Gender Taskforce.

What are ICODHA/RCO's Vision and Priorities for 2018?

2018 will be a critical year for the future of Iraq. The three-year crisis in Iraq has been one of the largest and most volatile in the world and addressing the stabilization, reconstruction and development challenges will require enormous efforts from the population and Government of Iraq and continued commitment from the international community.

Post-ISIL Iraq needs the UN system to work in a coherent and coordinated to help deliver peace dividends—this is what ICODHA does best. In 2018, ICODHA teams will do everything possible to ensure a smooth transition from humanitarian and stabilization operations to recovery, resilience and reconciliation. This is an urgent, overriding priority. If the transition fails, violent extremism may emerge again and the incredible military gains made these recent years could be lost.

ICODHA is committed to gender equality and women's empowerment and will be working closely in 2018 with all partners to ensure full implementation of the Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women work plan and strategy. ICODHA also expects to continue to play a leading coordination role with the Government and its partners in the international community to achieve the objectives set out in the country's Vision 2030 and reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

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Through restoring and providing alternative livelihoods, FAO livelihood support projects are supporting government efforts to reduce long-term dependence on emergency food assistance and enable people to recover as quickly as possible

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FAO in Iraq

FAO achievements in 2017

The ongoing conflict continues to disrupt cropping cycles, and contribute to shortages of irrigation water, supply of agricultural inputs, food availability, and income generating activities. In addition, the livestock sector has been significantly affected through loss, theft or death of animals and shortages of feed/ fodder. Millions of food insecure households have been relying heavily on assistance since the beginning of 2014 conflict. Vulnerable households frequently adopt negative and unsustainable coping strategies to meet household food needs (borrowing money, reducing meal size, spending savings, etc.). Among IDPs, about 43 percent of female-headed households are classified as food insecure in some governorates. Significantly higher rates of underemployment are reported in female-headed households compared to male-headed ones and households are increasingly reliant on child labor.

In rural areas, 5.1 percent of residents are food insecure, compared with 1.7 percent in urban areas. Violence continues to force people to abandon farms and agriculture-based livelihoods. Cropping cycles have been disrupted and herders who are unable to feed their livestock are forced to abandon or sell them. Infrastructure such as water supplies for agricultural and domestic use has been damaged or destroyed. Heavy contamination of retaken areas with unexploded ordnance and improvised explosive devices poses immediate and long-term risks for the environment and people, including herders and farmers. The conflict has also affected the Public Distribution System, which is an important social safety net entitling Iraqi citizens to receive rations of flour, rice and cooking oil from the government. More than

70 percent of resident households and one-third of internally displaced persons (IDPs) use food consumption strategies such as meal reduction

Agricultural production has declined by 40 percent, undermining the country's food sufficiency, and hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to migrate to urban areas for jobs and support. Major long-term challenges persist in restoring the agriculture sector's productivity, particularly in areas most affected by the crisis. Conflict in key wheat and barley producing areas in Nineveh, Kirkuk, and Salah Al-Din continue to disrupt recovery efforts. In recently liberated areas, limited access to seeds, inputs and infrastructure continue to pose long-term challenges in restoring production to pre-crisis levels.

FAO interventions throughout 2017 has successfully contributed to reducing poverty and malnutrition; increase access to fresh food in target areas where land is limited; and generate income when surplus production is sold while improving livelihood skills based on low-cost and low-energy technologies that are environmentally friendly. Increasing local food availability and consumption of nutritious food through autonomous production, enhances food security while promoting environmental sustainability through composting and water saving technologies. Micro-gardens, food processing and back yard eggs production technologies are based on low-cost and low-energy technologies that are environmentally friendly and ensure low input sustainability, with these small production units yielding a wide range of vegetables, roots and tubers in small areas.

Vulnerable Iraqi people were provided with productive and compensated work opportunities, while allowing for the rehabilitation/construction of productive assets and rural infrastructure (water catchments, roads, river embankments and secondary canals), as well as infrastructure for the mitigation of crises. In addition, access to food was enhanced in the short-term, this has ensured that the poorest do not descend further into poverty and limits the adoption of negative coping mechanisms, such as the sale of productive livestock assets and entering into large debts.

Further interventions has strengthen farmers' resilience and food security through providing livestock fodder and vaccination services to livestock flocks coming from conflict areas as a result of population displacement by providing feed/dry concentrate to supplement the feeding system to ensure survival of livestock of those vulnerable Internally displaced persons, host community and returnees in hard to reach areas of Ninewa. Overall this has improved the overall production and reduced the risk of spreading diseases, and improved the productivity of individual animals and avoided infections that are transmittable to humans.



“ Healthy, productive livestock means income, food and financial security for farmers and their families. FAO is committed to ensuring livelihoods are protected, to promote people’s self-reliance and dignity, and reduce dependence on food assistance ”

Dr. Fadel El-Zubi
FAO Representative in Iraq

FAO commitment and support to Iraq

FAO and the Government of Iraq have had a significant history of cooperation since the country joined the Organization in 1945. FAO engagement has targeted a wide range of areas, including emergency and rehabilitation, and has proved to be very successful in establishing agricultural research and extension institutes in Iraq. Support has also included the provision of technical expertise and capacity building, as well as essential food and agricultural inputs, especially during difficult years marked by economic sanctions and war. Iraqi officials have considered the assistance provided by FAO proved to be exceptionally successful in the establishment of many institutions in the field of agricultural research, extension, animal health, cereal production, palm trees, water resources departments and others. FAO has also provided technical expertise and capacity building, as well as in the provision of essential inputs, especially during the difficult years of sanctions and war.

FAO has provided all the necessary support to one of the most important sectors in the field of agriculture especially for the development of policies and strategies in order to improve agricultural sector. The support of employment and development of the agricultural sector in Iraq, aimed at increasing agricultural growth and diversification and generate employment opportunities to support the reduction of poverty and food security. FAO also supported the Iraqi Government in providing assistance through reform, restoration and replacement of infrastructure and equipment in order to improve the livelihood of the pop-

ulation in rural areas and maintain water for human consumption and ensure irrigated agriculture and livestock production.

Livestock projects focused on the re-establishment of animal wealth through breeding programs and rehabilitation of central laboratories for controlling the quality and safety of animal feed, and through promotion of animal guidance services in an effort to ensure a sustainable supply of animal fodder. It also focused on re-establishing and strengthening the capacity of veterinary services in Iraq for effective disease control to protect livestock from epidemic and endemic diseases, and reduce health risks and improve veterinary public health and secure supplies of animal feed products.

Fisheries projects conducted by FAO also supported fish production by stimulating fish farming through the application of fish farming techniques, provision of fingerlings and support through research programs. It also strengthened capacity building and the ability to enable remote and rural communities and relevant government bodies with a role in the sustainable development program for inland fisheries development.

Assistance to rural women has always been a key factor to FAO interventions in the country. FAO built on existing programmes to help women and girls become trainers, agricultural extension workers and ensure girls access to agricultural vocational schools, this has included setting up cottage industries in different rural areas as well as the formation of new associations.

FAO plans and interventions

In the short term, FAO is working to recover agriculture livelihoods by rehabilitating and providing farming inputs, and replacing equipment lost or damaged during the conflict and operations against ISIL. Mechanisms need to be put in place to ensure households have the resources to invest in small-scale rural livelihoods, including community credit mechanisms such as Cash for Work and drive investment in livelihoods. Long-term investments in infrastructure and training to sustain a healthy agricultural sector in Iraq are also needed to revitalize agricultural production to stimulate and diversify the economy.

FAO is focusing on resilience-building activities for vulnerable households to promote livelihood recovery, diversified food production and contribute to restoring the functionality of markets. Support will also be provided for the adoption of improved production systems and access to markets for crop, livestock and fisheries sectors. Assistance will also be provided to households to enhance nutrition knowledge and skills while promoting improved agricultural practices. Furthermore, FAO is planning to support animal husbandry and health services through the training of extension services workers and provision of essential vaccines, restocking of animals and improved processing of animal products. This will be achieved in line with awareness-raising and capacity building on natural resource management in all the relevant livelihood sectors as an overall priority.

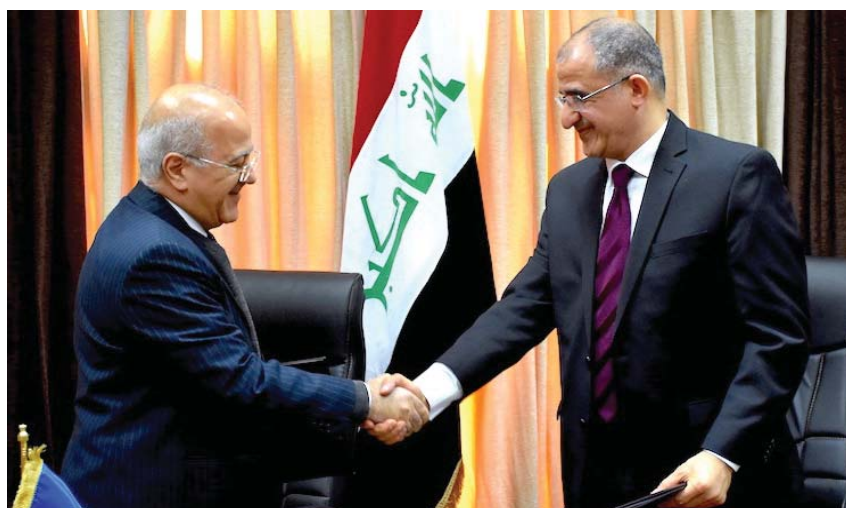


UNDP IN IRAQ

Interview with

UNDP Country Director for Iraq

MOUNIR TABET



In 2017 the attention of most humanitarian UN agencies was focused on supporting the government deal with the humanitarian crisis associated with the Liberation of territories that had been held by ISIL, what was UNDP's main focus in that period?

UNDP's main contribution to the humanitarian effort was primarily focused on helping the government deepen and expand stability in liberated areas through more than 1900 projects in 25 cities that were managed by our stabilization efforts that I believe DSRSG Grande has already mentioned in another space of this newsletter. As such I am not going to reiterate the numbers and figures. Suffice it to say that this significant investment in rehabilitating key infrastructure and facilities aimed primarily at encouraging returns of IDPs to their towns and villages is one the largest investments of any UNDP programs across the world. We see this as an important contribution to stability as a first step in the journey from crisis to sustainable development though recon-



struction, recovery, resilience and sustainable development. While the exact path from crisis to sustainable development differs from one context to another and is yet to wholly defined in Iraq, it is clear that it has to go through the step of return of IDPs to their homes and the stabilization program is making a significant contribution to that first step.

If returns of IDPs is the first step on the crisis to sustainable development continuum, what is the next step? And how is UNDP contributing to that?

As I said the path from crisis to sustainable development is complex and varies depending on the context and the nature of engagement of the various stakeholders. We are contributing to some of the key building blocks such as Reconciliation, Security Sector Reform and we are also contributing to other building blocks that may not be as urgent but are surely important and must be taken into account as the

country emerges from the crisis it has gone through to the democratic, prosperous and equitable future, it aspires to. Allow to expound a little on our contributions in these two key areas:

Ove the past year, UNDP continued its support to Implementation and Follow-up Committee for National Reconciliation (NCR). It assisted the establishment of 12 Local Peace Committees as part of NCR's overall plan to setup more than one hundred such committees in the country. The aim of these committees is to be the local mediators, facilitators and contributors to an environment that expedites returns of IDPs, but also to ensure that other areas that have not suffered from internal displacement but have contributed to the liberation of the country through volunteers and other means – that these areas and communities are also part of the inclusive peace that everyone is aspiring to.

The project also facilitated six round table discussions where minorities

engaged each other and local government officials as well as central government authorities on how they see the inclusive reconciliation process and current impediments to such process while also making concrete recommendations on possible solutions.

In an attempt at supporting women victims and ensuring that their voice is heard in the reconciliation process, the project facilitated the establishment of Women's Centre in Tikrit where specialized assistance is rendered to victims of GBV and other forms of violence. Over 500 women benefited from support by the end of the year. Moreover, we organized a first-ever national conference for "Women in Community Reconciliation" with 159 women leaders from communities across Iraq attending and beginning to assert for themselves a role in the ongoing and upcoming complicated reconciliation process.

At the request of the Governor of Anbar, the project helped to facilitate community-level buy-in and feedback



on a governorate-wide plan to facilitate voluntary and sustainable IDP returns through a series of 8 workshops and conference comprising more than 560 individuals across towns and districts in Anbar.

We see our support to reconciliation as our contribution to the national process that is being facilitated by the SRSG-operating at the community level as a compliment to the national, regional and global efforts led by the SRSG.

In terms of support to the Security Sector reform, we are continuing what we had started in previous years. In 2017, we focused on supporting the government implement the Security Sector Reform Strategy that was developed with UNDP support and formally adopted on 16 July 2017 by the National Security Council (NSC). Our support to the implementation includes helping the government to put in place the implementation structures, establishing the SSR committee, developing M&E methodologies and supporting the coordination process by building a matrix outlining support from various International Partners (IP).

In that same vein we are also continuing our support and providing advice on improving the Criminal Justice System including sharing best practices for Complex Crime Investigation and developing Standard Operating Procedures (SoP) on Criminal Investigations.

Of course, a cornerstone of Security Sector Reform is reinforcing Institutional Oversight and Accountability and we are helping to achieve that goal through strengthening the capacity of the parliamentary Security and Defense Committee (SDC) and helping develop the SDC's by-laws on SDC their oversight. In the same spirit of reinforcing oversight and accountability we are facilitating a greater engagement of Civil Society by providing greater clarity on public perceptions of safety and security in Iraq, through surveys such as the one that covered six provinces whose results are accessible at:

http://www.iq.undp.org/content/iraq/en/home/library/democratic_governance/public-safety-and-security-perception-survey-in-iraq-2017

Where else has UNDP been active?

We believe that institution building, particularly oversight and accountability institutions is critical for longer term stability and sustainability of development. UNDP has been supporting institutions such as the anti-corruption institutions through the reinforcement of anti-corruption prevention mechanisms of the offices of the inspectors general, and have strengthened the investigation bodies to investigate 55 high profile and complex corruption cases (including 5 multinational cases) with the idea of moving these to the next step in prosecution in the judicial and criminal justice system.

In addition to our support to anti-corruption institutions, UNDP also supported the council of representative in its oversight function. More specifically, we supported the parliament achieve the following key results:

Developing 5 Strategic Action Plans for parliamentary committees dealing with Women, Human Rights, Civil Society, Reconciliation and legal issues. This is in addition to the development and adoption of Standards Operating Procedures (SOPs) for 5 parliamentary committees and producing a performance measurement handbook for parliamentarians;

Building awareness and capacities of 193 parliamentarians and officials on issues such as strategic action planning, legislation and oversight mechanisms, financial processes and legislative review;

Promoting greater involvement of Civil Society Organizations in parliamentary affairs and public policy through capacity building on such issues as civic engagement, influencing public policies, participatory governance and leadership, human rights, minorities consultations, role of minority women in reconciliation, communications, negotiations and advocacy skills. This is in addition to supporting the Human Rights Committee of the Council of Representatives to finalize a draft anti-discrimination and diversity protection bill.



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We believe that institution building, particularly oversight and accountability institutions is critical for longer term stability and sustainability of development

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UNDP is also active in a variety of other areas including supporting the government in reducing and managing risks related to natural disasters, particularly in relation to the Mosul Dam, and in helping the government better prepare for and mitigate the impact of climate change including through promoting energy efficiency and using alternative energy sources.

Our work also supports the government implement its economic reform strategy including the implementation of the private sector development strategy that we helped develop a couple of years back. Our main goal in this is to help the government reform its national economy, increase its rev-

enue, minimizes losses to corruption but also promote an inclusive growth approach through mainstreaming the Agenda 2030 and integrating the sustainable development goals at both the national and local level where we have been supporting a number of governorates develop and implement governorate level development plans. In doing so we are promoting the use of modern technology such as E-governance, GIS-based decision-making and we are also reinforcing the idea of higher effectiveness of the public service through well-developed international performance management systems adapted to the Iraqi public service.

And where do you see yourselves going in 2018?

Many of the areas we are now supporting will be on our agenda for 2018, particularly stabilization, reconciliation, security sector reform and economic reform. We also support the upcoming elections and place a greater emphasis on helping the government develop and implement a strategy that further integrates the agenda 2030 and the sustainable development goals in the planning and development processes both at the national and local levels, and will also do our best to promote job creation as it is one of the most important challenges that faces Iraq going forward.



■ UNEP IN IRAQ

In May, UN Environment chief Erik Solheim made a visit to Iraq that highlighted two sides to the country: one of huge environmental progress, and one of environmental devastation. The common thread across these tales was how the environment can be a victim and even a weapon of war, but also how it can be a tool for peace.

In southern Iraq, Solheim toured the Mesopotamian Marshlands, which form an oasis of fresh water and wildlife in the sweltering south. Here, the UN Environment team were treated to the extraordinary hospitality of local tribal leaders and watched a peaceful sunset from small boats as they floated through the marshes; a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to embrace the tranquillity of

Iraq at its safest and most stunning. Just 20 years ago, the marshes had almost entirely dried through both mismanagement and malice. In the early 2000's, much of the area was a dust bowl and the population shrank from half a million in the 1950s to a mere 20,000. But the marshlands have recovered thanks to work by UN Environment and a range of partners, including the national and local government. The population has also

rebounded, and the area was recently declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

There are still major challenges for the marshlands; the nearest big city, Basra, sweltered under unprecedented summer temperatures in 2017, part of a pattern of increasing summer temperatures. Some locals say the region may eventually even become unsuitable for human life, sharply bringing into focus the need to address climate change both globally and to look for adaptation mechanisms at local levels.

The second part of Solheim's mission was a visit to the recently liberated areas; to Qayyarah, where Islamic State fighters had set the nearby oilfields



from the Tigris River have shown high levels of contamination from mercury and lead due to the oil spills and sulphur from the burning. The human health impacts of this for the population relying on the Tigris for their water supply is potentially massive.

In Mosul, debris from the destruction of industrial and domestic buildings is enormous. The goal now is to find a suitable solution for the 11 million tons of debris in the area. UN Environment has presented scenarios to compare dumping the debris and recycling the debris in which the recycling has been shown to cut down costs, speed up job creation and have an improvement on the current state of the environment.

The legacy of conflict pollution was the subject of considerable attention at the 3rd United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA3) held in December 2017, with Iraq tabling a resolution on “pollution mitigation and control in areas affected by armed conflict or terrorism”. UN Environment-supported negotiations culminated in the adoption of the resolution, representing a landmark decision by the UN to acknowledge the environmental and health consequences that conflict pollution can provoke.

Moving forward, UN Environment will provide technical guidance on how

to assess the contaminated sites providing on the ground assistance and support to technical reporting. Fact-finding visits are ongoing to get a better understanding of the scale and nature of the major environmental issues from the liberated areas, with the priority cities, being Qayarah and Mishraq, due to their mining sites and oil wells, as well as Mosul itself. This work will form part of the ongoing environmental rehabilitation efforts under the Recovery and Resilience Programme

Into 2018, UN Environment will also continue its ongoing support to the Ministry of Health and Environment on overarching environmental governance, looking at issues such as the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, addressing Pollution Control, as well as environment in humanitarian action. Transboundary environmental issues are also of significance to Iraq, for example transboundary waters and sand and dust storms.

From Solheim’s mission to Iraq, the lessons were clear: the environment can be a source of conflict, a weapon and a driver of war, or a barrier to peace. The opposite is also true: a healthy environment is a key ingredient of a functioning, prosperous society. UN Environment’s focus is on the latter, whilst supporting Iraq to overcome the former.

ablaze and torched a local sulphur factory, acts of environmental warfare that have poisoned the landscape. Thousands of people were treated for respiratory problems, and even the sheep turned black. While the visit took place months after the fires were extinguished, Solheim noted the his “lungs still burned as I walked around the blackened landscape”.

UN Environment has responded to an Iraqi government request to assess the environmental impact of the Islamic State actions. In August 2017, a rapid assessment mission undertook walkover surveys, group discussions, and interviews with government experts, academics and UN agencies. The contaminated sites were identified by the Mosul environmental hazards assessment map, and from these 23 samples of soil and water were taken and analysed. The samples



■ UN Women Iraq ■

UNWOMEN FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

Participant in the business grant project of the LEAP program. Alia opened a beauty shop in Khanaqin after her family was displaced by ISIS in 2016. (Name changed for privacy)

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP, EMPOWERMENT, ACCESS & PROTECTION IN CRISIS

Women's Leadership, Empowerment, Access & Protection in Crisis (LEAP), UN Women's most prominent program aims to support the livelihoods and resilience of women IDPs and returnees including providing assistance to victims of ISIL, in particular women and girls from minority groups. LEAP was developed by UN Women to respond to the increasing trends of protracted conflicts, which affect women and girls the most.

WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY PROGRAM

The Women Peace and Security (WPS) program supports implementation for the National Action Plan (NAP) on UN SCR 1325. In close collaboration with National, Regional Governments and civil society partners, WPS is aimed at leveraging women's leadership, agency

and voice in national reconciliation, countering radicalization and violent extremism, and supporting peace and social cohesion.

ADDITIONAL UN WOMEN PROJECTS

ENHANCING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE IN FRAGILE CONTEXT IN THE MENA REGION

UN Women has conducted a series of consultations with civil society organizations and women leaders across various governorates, with six completed to date in Kirkuk, Baghdad (2), Erbil, Karbala, and Basra, with UNAMI and government partners, engaging 232 women. The consultations serve to link together key women leaders, discuss priorities regarding women role in political participation and national reconciliation, and

identify strategies for promoting such priorities at higher levels of government. UN Women and UNAMI also provided an opportunity for grassroots women groups and leaders to hold discussions on what progress and impact has been made in implementing SCR 1325 in line with the specific concerns in their local/regional areas. Participants discussed the need to increase women's capacity to participate in political processes, and the need for male champions in politics, local leadership positions, and within families. Women also emphasized the need for justice in response to SGBV and accountability for those who have committed crimes against women. The Baghdad and Erbil consultative meeting in November was part of the Global Open Day on UNSCR 1325 event, co-organized with DPA, and supported by the Implementation and Follow Up National Reconciliation Committee of the Office of Iraq's Prime Minister.

In addition, UN Women in partnership with UNAMI conducted two basic mediation and negotiations trainings in Karbala and in Basra for 57 women leaders including current and former member of the national government, provincial councils and various CSOs. The main objectives of the workshops were to equip the participants with negotiations and mediation skills to enable them to deal with conflict in a creative and positive way, to develop key negotiating skills that bring success in day to day work and to develop logical argumentation. The trainings also served as an opportunity for women to be able to participate in the political and negotiations processes. The results of the pre and post assessments showed that 75% of the participants were satisfied with the content of the training and 95% said that they will use the skills gained from this training and will also transfer the knowledge they received to other people.

Looking forward, UN Women plans to continue holding consultations throughout Iraq, using the momentum built during 2017 to support engagement by high level participants. Similarly, advanced trainings will be held to support women to continue building skills and apply them in their daily engagements and activities promoting women's participation.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Two consultations on Gender Justice were organized by UNWomen under the patronages of the Department for Women Empowerment and the High Council for Women Affairs in Baghdad and Erbil and in partnership with UNDP and UNFPA. The overall objective of the two consultations was to discuss the law and its implementation to enhance gender justice and more equality between men and women. The consultation in Baghdad took place in November 2017 and was attended by high level Governmental stakeholders, Non-Governmental stakeholders, legal aid providers and women activists. The main thematic issues that were discussed is women political participation including parties law and protection and access to justice; including the proposed amendment to the personnel status law and the draft anti domestic law. In Erbil, the consultation took place in December 2017 and was attended by high level Governmental stakeholders, Non-Governmental stakeholders, legal aid providers and women activists. The main issues that were discussed in the meeting was related to the protection and access to justice including the personnel status law.

The participants in the two consultations discussed the status of Gender justice and gender-based violence at the global, regional and country level. Experts and

service providers shared their views and experience and the last session was dedicated to discussing recommendations to inform better gender justice programmes and initiatives that are either ongoing or can be newly developed.

LEGAL CENTER IN DOHUK (UN ACTION PROGRAMME)

UN Women also supported local NGO Tajdid to run a legal aid clinic in Dohuk as part of the UN Action program initiative. Tajdid has supported over 1,100 women, providing legal assistance for civil documentation (national IDs, marriage licenses, birth and death certificates), and access to justice for survivors of GBV. These activities support survivors and women associated with or those that had relationships with ISIL fighters. In doing so, Tajdid has developed a strong working relationship with the Genocide Committee in Dohuk. Tajdid's staff has worked closely with the Committee staff, resulting in the Committee's support of their work and approval to assist survivors registered with the court (including the provision of legal services, PSS, referrals). As a result of this relationship, two additional staff were seconded to sit at the court twice a week to assist survivors and provide case management services.

GENDER EQUALITY PROFILE

UN Women and Oxfam have partnered to produce the national Gender Equality Profile that provides a consolidated, ana-

lytical overview on the situation of equality between women and men in Iraq as well as identify the programming and advocacy opportunities to inform and facilitate the development of gender-responsive policies.

GENDER AND CONFLICT ANALYSIS IN ISIS AFFECTED AREAS OF IRAQ

UN Women and Oxfam have partnered to produce the "Gender and Conflict Analysis in ISIS Affected Areas of Iraq" study. The study seeks to better understand the new forms of marginalization and vulnerabilities of the women and adolescent girls who were affected by the conflict with ISIS, specifically those who are perceived by their community to have ties with ISIS. The piece will include media case studies to support the wider research report and aims to contribute to specific programming and policy recommendations for key stakeholders to move beyond awareness raising and toward action to address the needs of the most vulnerable segments of the population.

ORANGE THE WORLD 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

As part of the 16 days campaign, UNWomen in partnership with DWE launched the 16 days campaign. The theme focused on advocating for passing the family protection law. UN Women Iraq office also partnered with Women's Empowerment Department, Baghdad municipality and other UN agencies to conduct a marathon race in Al-Zwaraa garden under the theme (Say No to violence against women and girls) In the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, UN Women support the High Council of Women's Affairs events for the 16 Day Campaign under the auspices of his H.E Mr. Nechirvan Barzani the Prime Minister of Kurdistan Regional Government. Under the overarching theme, 'Leave No One Behind: End Violence against Women and Girls', representatives from Kurdistan Parliament, Council of Ministers, the Board of Human Rights, diplomatic missions, United Nations agencies and civil society all attended the event honoring women who were subjected to violence and calling for a non-violent Kurdistan. At the event, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs put on display the works created by the women living in the KRG women's shelters.



UN HABITAT in Iraq

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. UN-Habitat has been active in Iraq since 1996 under the Oil for Food Programme. After 2003, UN-Habitat was largely engaged in early recovery efforts, particularly supporting internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees through the provision of shelter and reconstruction solutions.

UN-Habitat follows a multi-dimensional and coherent approach in tackling diverse urban issues, and contributing to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in Iraq. These range from emergency response such as providing safe and basic shelter for IDPs, to projects that aim to build and develop the capacities of local and national governments in planning and managing urbanization, to more theoretical endeavors including research and analysis on the dynamics of urbanization and the impacts of the armed conflict.



UN-HABITAT'S ACTIVITIES

CRISIS RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

SUPPORT TO IDPS THROUGH THE PROVISION OF DURABLE SHELTER SITES

In governorates that received a large number of IDPs at the onset of the crisis and then during the fierce battle between ISIL and the Iraqi Security Forces, UN-Habitat established purposely planned IDP shelter sites equipped with standalone prefabricated residential units. These self-contained units are unanimously considered dignified, durable and socially acceptable shelter solutions, suitable for the purposes of rapid installation and protection from the harsh weather conditions

that are typical of Iraq. Additionally, due to the protracted nature of the displacement crisis in Iraq, the adopted prefab unit has proved the most economically feasible and long-lasting solution for the medium- and long-term sheltering. The design of the residential units, along with the infrastructure and utilities that support them, have provided environmentally sustainable solutions to the protracted crisis in Iraq, preventing the emergence of urban slums.

Building upon its specialization in urban planning and development, UN-Habitat provides comparative advantage in providing technical expertise for the plan-

ning and management of the shelter sites to function as an urban community – for instance, delivering not only residential units, but also essential public facilities such as primary and secondary schools, health clinics and women's centers. These public facilities are designed and operated in collaboration with other specialized UN agencies and NGOs. This unique approach to planning and establishing durable shelter sites has enabled the establishment of socially and environmentally sustainable settlements that provide comprehensive support to IDPs and host community members.

In 2017, UN-Habitat constructed three IDP shelter sites in Anbar and Erbil Governorates, accommodating more than 6,000 vulnerable IDPs. All of these sites are equipped with prefabricated residential units serviced by basic infrastructure (i.e. water and sanitation systems, electricity



and internal roads) as well as public facilities. In doing so, UN-Habitat has been bridging the gap between rapid responses and more sustainable solutions.

COMMUNITY-BASED REHABILITATION OF HEAVILY DAMAGED HOUSES

To support recovery and stabilization of areas liberated from ISIL, UN-Habitat has established a new community-based housing self-rehabilitation approach. Under this approach, UN-Habitat ensures that community members are capacitated and employed to undertake the rehabilitation of war-damaged houses, thereby creating job opportunities and supporting their livelihoods, as well as encouraging them to engage in the rebuilding of their community. The houses to be rehabilitated are selected based on the combination of two main criteria: (a) the degree of physical damage, identified through field assessment conducted by UN-Habitat's engineers, based on the categorization endorsed by the Shelter Cluster in Iraq; and (b) the vulnerability of the beneficiaries, identified through community consultation meetings and vulnerability assessment criteria endorsed by the Protection Cluster and the local authorities. UN-Habitat engineers are engaged on site throughout the project, conducting the field assessments and selecting the contractors, supervising the rehabilitation activities and running the final inspection before the hand-over of the rehabilitated houses. Their constant presence ensures the high quality of the work conducted. Throughout the process, the community members were provided by necessary construction and rehabilitation skills through tailored capacity building sessions. This approach will thereby empower the community members both

socially and economically, increase community ownership, and encourage targeted communities to solve their problems independently, which is the key to peaceful recovery and resilience. In 2017, UN-Habitat rehabilitated more than 1,500 heavily damaged houses in Sinjar, Ramadi, and Fallujah.

SUPPORT TO HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

Another unique aspect of UN-Habitat's housing rehabilitation activities is its emphasis on addressing Housing, Land and Property (HLP) rights of the returnees. Many displaced people, forced to flee their homes in a haste, typically have lost the necessary documentation to prove their identity and/or residency. Upon their return, many find their properties damaged or occupied by others, in which case they often need official documentations to prove their ownership. Such challenges are even made more complex by the combination of older and newer case-loads of IDPs within the country and the multiple causes of property loss, such as expropriation, sectarian violence, a legacy of discrimination against minorities, military operations, intimidations, and economic hardship. As a leading actor on HLP rights, co-chairing the Sub-Cluster on Housing, Land and Property Rights in Iraq, UN-Habitat ensures that HLP rights of the returnees are addressed through means such as provision of legal support, verification and recognition of occupancy rights, advocacy, and capacity development support.

In 2017, Occupancy Certificates were distributed to Yazidi returnees to the rehabilitated houses in Sinjar, recognizing the housing occupancy rights for the Yazidis for the first time in modern history. UN-Habitat also conducted comprehensive

assessment and mapping on HLP in Mosul and surrounding areas, provided legal assistance, recorded and documented HLP violations, and disseminated information and advocate on HLP, targeting displaced persons/returnees as well as local authorities in Mosul and surrounding areas.

MOSUL DATA PORTAL: EVIDENCE-BASED FOR RECOVERY AND STABILIZATION PLANNING AND MONITORING

UN-Habitat monitored urban changes during and after military campaign to liberate Mosul in 2017, to assist humanitarian, development, and government actors with their activities in Mosul. One of the key products, the multi-sectoral damage assessments, gives a comprehensive overview of totally destroyed or severely damaged buildings in Mosul and represents the density of damage in Mosul's neighbourhoods. Thematic analysis and updates are also provided for key sectors such as health, education, electricity, environmental hazards, and water and sanitation. These products are disseminated publicly through UN-Habitat's Mosul Data Portal (<http://unhabitatiraq.net/mosul-portal/>). The Mosul Data Portal also provides a live GeoPortal, which allows audiences to overlay various layers of analysis to assess urban complexities and plan area-based responses.

EMERGENCY SHELTER AND WASH SUPPORT

In 2017, UN-Habitat distributed emergency shelter kits, sealing off kits, mattresses and blankets in Mosul, benefitting more than 40,000 vulnerable returnees. UN-Habitat also supported vulnerable IDPs in Chamakur, Hadj Ali, Hamam al Alil and Jeddah 1-6 camps providing emergency water, sanitation and hygiene support.



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The national and governorate/level strategic planning work conducted by UN-Habitat has offered evidence-based opportunities for the much sought after economic diversification opportunities in Iraq

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UN-HABITAT'S ACTIVITIES PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

REHABILITATION AND REGULARIZATION OF INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

UN-Habitat supports the Government of Iraq in their efforts to enable IDPs and vulnerable people residing in informal settlements to have increased access to affordable housing with security of tenure, and basic services through the implementation of National Strategy for Informal Settlements. In 2017, after a series of fruitful technical and legal meeting with the main parties including the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Planning, and the Ministry of Construction, Housing, Municipalities and Public Works, the law on Addressing Residential Encroachments has been drafted and submitted to the Iraqi Parliament for voting. In addition, the law on Informal Settlements Development Fund

has been drafted and submitted to Al Shoura Council, which is the highest legal council in the country, for legal review and discussions before being sent to the Council of Ministers for endorsement.

PROVIDING POLICY AND URBAN PLANNING ASSISTANCE AT THE NATIONAL AND GOVERNORATE LEVEL

The national and governorate/level strategic planning work conducted by UN-Habitat has offered evidence-based opportunities for the much sought after economic diversification opportunities in Iraq, particularly after the collapse of oil revenues. The analysis of district-level demographic data sets has confirmed the irreversible population flow from rural to urban areas dictated by reduced income opportunities and the impact of



environmental degradation and climate change, as well as better socio-economic prospects and services that Iraqi cities can offer. These otherwise common “push and pull factors” are compounded by the fact that more than 5 million Iraqi citizens have been displaced since 2014 by violence and insecurity – a third of which may never return home. The overlay of these factors has significantly modified conventional demographic trends and, as advocated by UN-Habitat, requires a radical planning shift from the current conventional master plans to more dynamic, flexible and inter-sectoral strategic planning approaches that integrate governance structures, socio-economic inclusion, spatial development, and environmental sustainability – all aspects that lie at the core of the New Urban Agenda. The spatial maps and deprivation indices that have resulted from this work and the analysis of the available statistical data have been showcased at the International Conference on National Urban Policy that was held in cooperation with OECD in Paris in mid-2017 and have been included in Gol’s new National Development Plan 2018-2022.

UN-Habitat Iraq also implemented a number of pilot projects on urban planning and design, including (a) Planned Urban Expansion initiative that has highlighted how current unsustainable land policies have led to urban sprawl and un-serviced land subdivisions; (b) an Urban Recovery and Development Plan for Ramadi City, looking into opportunities to ‘build back better’ urban areas devastated during the military offensive against ISIL; and (c) the Rehabilitation and Development Plan

for the Historic Quarters of Basra, where the lack of an appropriate legal and institutional framework has emboldened residents to demolish their typical timber latticed heritage houses. These three pilot projects have provided local authorities with the means to practice and apply concepts of compact and socially inclusive cities. In 2017 UN-Habitat also set up of a Master’s degree programme in “Planning for Sustainable Cities” in the Faculty of Physical Planning at the prestigious Kufa University. This graduate course will offer a unique opportunity to influence future urban planning practitioners and decision-makers in Iraq with concepts that are context specific and very much in line with the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

PROMOTING EFFECTIVE LOCAL-LEVEL REVENUE GENERATION AND IMPROVED BUDGET EXECUTION

UN-Habitat has been working closely with focal points from four pilot municipalities of the Governorates of Basra, Al Muthanna, Maysan and Qadissiya to assess their capacity to raise municipal revenues, and manage expenditures and execute for the improvement of key services in specific urban related sectors, with the aim to strengthen the capacities of staff at the provincial level in this regard. UN-Habitat has also supported the piloting of Land Inventories in the two governorates of Najaf and Maysan. This initiative will not only allow for the creation of GIS database that will improve future land allocation and asset management, but also

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In 2017, UN-Habitat constructed three IDP shelter sites in Anbar and Erbil Governorates, accommodating more than 6,000 vulnerable IDPs

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enhance municipal finance and budget execution, where municipal staff of four pilot cities have been assessing the systemic inefficiencies of their current revenue generation efforts and land asset management. The in-depth analysis of revenues and expenditures in the pilot municipalities has identified a number of challenges, but also opportunities to introduce and promote innovative actions to leverage land value (public and private) in order to finance the efficient provision of infrastructure and services, the setup of performance indicators, as well as the introduction of geo-coded databases and cashless payments of fees.

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In 2017 UN-Habitat also set up of a Master’s degree programme in “Planning for Sustainable Cities” in the Faculty of Physical Planning at the prestigious Kufa University

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■ UNHCR IN IRAQ

UNHCR leads the Protection, Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), and Shelter/Non-Food Items (also known as core relief items or CRIs) clusters, as part of the cluster coordination mechanism for IDP response. Over 5.8 million IDPs were displaced following the outbreak of the conflict that began in 2014. Although the Government of Iraq declared Mosul retaken in mid-July 2017 and the liberation of all Iraqi lands from the control of extremists in December 2017, 2.4 million Iraqis remain internally displaced. The majority of the more than 3.3 million persons who have returned to areas of origin face severely constrained access to basic services, continuing security risks, extensive destruction of property and critical infrastructure, and a lack of livelihood opportunities or financial resources. For many, this has led to secondary or repeated displacement. In addition, nearly one million Iraqis remain displaced as result of earlier bouts of conflict and violence between 2006 and 2007.

UNHCR has placed emphasis on “protection by presence,” expanding protection activities in areas of displacement and returns, monitoring movements and profiles of those returning and advocating with authorities to ensure that returns occur voluntary, in safety and in dignity returns and that IDPs are given the freedom to make an informed decision. UNHCR

has been providing legal assistance to address missing civil documents. This remains a priority as many individuals have lost their identity documentation, directly restricting freedom of movement, particularly for those residing in camp settings, where without documentation IDPs are not able to leave the confines of the camps. Those who lack identity documents are at

risk of arrest or detention, and may not be able to access to food rations or protection for housing, land and property rights, compensation claims and other benefits, entitlements and public services, including access to education and healthcare. UNHCR has further been engaged in protection advocacy at every level, specialized protection support measures through



identification and referral of vulnerable persons, representation, psycho-social counselling, health services and financial support for survivors of sexual gender based violence (SGBV) and violence, including capacity building of partners and government officials on SGBV and Child Protection.

As the CCCM Cluster lead, UNHCR works with local authorities and humanitarian actors to provide coordinated services to IDPs. In camps, this translates to ensuring adequate shelter, delivery of food and water, presence of education and health facilities in camps, and capacity building for camp management actors and service providers. The CCCM Cluster supports efforts to identify suitable sites for camps and ensure that services are readily available upon arrival of IDPs. Mobile teams from partners provide CCCM services to camps and out-of-camp settlements throughout Iraq.

UNHCR has developed a robust multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) programme covering all provinces of Iraq

to assist vulnerable IDPs and returnees identified through protection monitoring to effectively and rapidly meet their emergency basic needs, such as food, water, rent, education, amongst others, while furthering their ability to make personal decisions to meet their protection concerns with dignity. This cash assistance complements government social protection networks and has the additional benefit of supporting local markets and boosting the local economy.

UNHCR is assisting returnee communities with community-focused Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) bringing people together to foster peaceful co-existence and social cohesion, such as garbage collection and repair of community buildings (e.g., schools or health clinics), shops and/or market places, as well as agricultural projects (e.g., water pumps, greenhouses). A component of QIPs will include Conflict Resolution and Resilience Building Initiatives (C2RB), which builds capacity in affected communities

on conflict-resolution to mitigate. Cash assistance to extremely vulnerable returnees for shelter rehabilitation, distribution of core relief items (CRIs) and installing refugee housing units (RHUs) as a temporary solution in selected return areas are also part of ongoing interventions to facilitate re-integration of returnees.

Through the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), UNHCR leads the humanitarian response for Syrian refugees in coordination with authorities. UNHCR also collaborates with authorities in the Central government and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) to assist non-Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers, and on statelessness prevention and response. Iraq hosts 247,057 Syrian refugees as of 31 December 2017; 97% of the Syrian refugees are in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). There are a further 43,672 refugees registered with UNHCR in Iraq – mainly Turks, Iranians, Palestinians, and Sudanese. Due to regional developments, numbers of other refugee caseloads, primarily Turkish, are increasing despite very limited opportunities for seeking asylum, state recognition for their registration and protection in Iraq. Protection space for continuing and old caseloads of Palestinian and Iranian refugees has been shrinking with little sight of durable solutions. 38% of the Syrian refugees live in 9 camps in the KR-I, with the remaining 62% living in urban, peri-urban and rural areas. UNHCR provides refugees with registration, protection monitoring and advocacy, legal aid, psychosocial support, child protection, and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) services. Resettlement to third countries is pursued for a small number of refugees with acute vulnerabilities.

Based on the experience from previous winters – particular in the north of the country where weather conditions can be particularly harsh – UNHCR has identified that refugees and IDPs in Iraq require specialized support to survive the bitter conditions. UNHCR provided CRIs and cash assistance to reduce stress on health services, limiting the effect the winter conditions had on the health and wellbeing of the refugees and IDPs. Furthermore, the assistance allowed beneficiaries to focus their limited resources on addressing other needs.



UNICEF IN IRAQ

“ Even if I could speak to them, I would have no words. They killed our brothers, fathers and uncles. There aren't enough words—there aren't any words—to make them understand what they took from us,

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18 year old Areej

Areej and what remained of her family fled Hawija in summer 2017, just in advance of the military operations to retake the area. She and other girls who attend sessions at a UNICEF child friendly space in Laylan Camp in Kirkuk were uncomfortable speaking about their experiences at first. Gradually they opened, and one repeated theme of their stories was immense loss—not only of family members, homes, friends and things, but more alarmingly, of hope.

Houda, echoed this sentiment a few months later. “I've lost two sons to conflict: one under Saddam Hussein and one to this violence. It feels like whatever happens in Iraq, I have to sacrifice a child for it.”

2017 was a hard year for hope for many children and their families.

However, over the course of the year, UNICEF saw many reasons for

optimism.

Children are back in classrooms across the country. We have helped rehabilitated over 500 schools last year, ensuring that over half a million children have a place to get an education.

Schools are in demand. Parents want their children to restart their education, recognizing that being

out of school limits futures. Teachers want their positions back in the classrooms. Children see it as a critical way for them to ensure that they will be able to take care of themselves and their families, as well as help them contribute to rebuilding their country.

Speaking from Hamam al-Alil transit center where she had just arrived with her family in the heat of the summer, 14 year old Hanan said, "This is how we will help Iraq. We will go to school and get an education, then we'll pass on our knowledge. We'll be able to help people."

In addition to focusing on education, there were more reasons for optimism—UNICEF could see positive impacts of its activities. Children were reunited with their families. They were immunized against potentially fatal diseases. People in under-served areas could access clean water. Children from Basra to Zakho, Mosul to Suimaniyah were back in school.

But throughout 2017, the story was not about us, but the Iraqis we met through our activities. This spirit of resilience has been reverberating across the country, quiet but steady.

Looking ahead to 2018, UNICEF is committed to facilitating the transition from emergency to development and capacity building, while continuing to support humanitarian needs for the most vulnerable children and their families.

Over 4 million children remain in need of assistance. UNICEF's priorities for the coming year include:

1. Education: Half of schools in Iraq still need rehabilitation. As violence subsides and basic services are being resorted, it is critical to make education one of the main pillars in plans to rebuild Iraq. Education is key for children's future and Iraq's future overall. We will be working under the region-wide "No Lost Generation" strategy, which aims to create an environment in which Syrian and Iraqi students can heal, learn and have the opportunity to reach their full potential.
2. Child Protection: One in four children in Iraq are estimated to be living in poverty. That is 3.7 million children who are deprived of basic living standards. Children living in poverty have



higher chances of dropping out of school and face a higher risk of early marriage and child labor. Significant efforts will need to be made to protect children who have participated in conflict, or who are perceived to be affiliated with armed actors.

3. WASH: Water, sanitation and hygiene activities will continue in and out of camps. We are working to support infrastructure development in Mosul, Kirkuk and beyond, so that residents have a sustainable source of clean water. For as long as displaced people are still living in camps, UNICEF will continue to ensure adequate supplies of clean water are accessible. We will also continue to work with partners to raise awareness about the critical need for good hygiene practices.
4. Health and Nutrition: One of the standout successes of 2017—which UNICEF plans to continue in 2017—is the vaccination program. Working with government partners, UNICEF vaccinated children across the country against polio and measles. We built new vaccine warehouses to

maintain a solid cold-chain, and in cooperation with the Iraqi government, trained and equipped vaccinators for camp and non-camp settings. One of the most heartening moments last year was getting vaccinators going door to door in Mosul, to start to address the significant health gap created by the lack of regular immunizations during the three years the city was inaccessible.

5. Emergency: UNICEF will remain ready to address acute needs of children and their families in the event of a natural disaster or violent conflict.
6. The children of today are the future teachers, doctors, farmers, scientists and technicians of Iraq. It is not enough for their minds to be educated or their bodies fed. For Iraq to truly rebuild, the spirit of resilience and hope we have seen in 2017 must be fostered and given support to become the foundation of a stronger Iraq.
7. For every child, a future with opportunities.



UNMAS IN IRAQ

Overview

UNMAS supports global mine action efforts to clear the path from conflict to sustainable peace and development. UNMAS leads, coordinates and implements mine action policy and operational responses to enable humanitarian efforts and peace operations, and to support affected states to address the threat from explosive hazards. Active in Iraq since 2015, UNMAS supports the Government of Iraq (GoI) and United Nations stabilization efforts, as well as humanitarian activities enabling the safe, dignified and voluntary return of displaced people to areas previously occupied by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Foreword by UNMAS Senior Programme Manager

PEHR LODHAMMAR

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The Iraqi children, women and men who are eagerly waiting to return home are our motivation. We know that they need UNMAS support to be able to return to their homes. We keep them in mind in every effort we make, whether in mobilizing resources, providing training to the ministry of interior, issuing contracts and grants, providing risk education in IDP camps or finding and removing IEDs. The explosive hazard management activities have enabled the reconstruction and access to key infrastructure such as the Fallujah New Bridge, which is used by thousands of commercial and private vehicles every day. Another example is the Al Qaysoor Water treatment plant, which was cleared by UNMAS implementing partners and now is providing safe water to 300,000 people in Mosul

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EXPLOSIVE HAZARD MANAGEMENT: HUMANITARIAN, STABILIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES ARE ENABLED

UNMAS has been providing survey and clearance response in areas liberated from ISIL, in direct support of the GoI stabilization and return plans. In 2017, UNMAS continued to coordinate the overall explosive hazards response on behalf of the UN system in Al-Anbar, Salah al-Din and Ninewa governorates, and recently deployed to Kirkuk to assess contamination levels in Hawija. In Mosul and the surrounding area, UNMAS has continued to play an active role in the multi-partner emergency response initiated in 2016, providing technical advice during UN inter-agency assessment missions including high-threat security risk assessment missions into Mosul city. In November 2017, UNMAS was granted access to the Old City in Mosul to survey and clear explosive hazards, complementing the ongoing efforts of the Iraqi Security Forces. Without the support from UNMAS, the United Nations and humanitarian actors would not be able to gain entry to suspected hazardous areas for critical stabilization and humanitarian interventions in support of civilian returns. UNMAS works closely with UNDP to ensure that the explosive hazard threat is being addressed in areas prioritized by the Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS).

CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT: GOVERNMENT HAS THE CAPACITY TO MANAGE, REGULATE AND COORDINATE AN EXPLOSIVE HAZARD MANAGEMENT RESPONSE IN LIBERATED AREAS

There are two national authorities in Iraq with which UNMAS works closely: the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA) within the Ministry of Health and Environment and the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA) that reports to the Prime Minister's office of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). The capacity enhancement of the mine action authorities to manage, regulate, and coordinate the response to explosive hazards in liberated areas in addition to training provided to the Ministry of Interior (MoI) will enable the GoI to effectively respond to current and future

challenges associated with the presence of explosive hazards. In support of the MoI, UNMAS provided First Responder, Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Improvised Explosive Device Disposal (IEDD) training to local police who are responding to explosive threats. The First Responder training helps police to identify, mark and report suspected explosive hazards. UNMAS also supported, assisted and provided technical advice to the DMA and other government entities on a range of explosive hazard management activities. Throughout 2017, UNMAS provided technical advice and support to the committee established by the Ministry of Health and Environment, led by DMA, to finalize the National Strategic and Executive plan for Mine Action 2017-2021 in addition to supporting the GoI to receive a 10-year extension request on their obligations to locate and destroy all anti-personnel landmines. The strategy, which was published in December 2017, is essential to guide the mine action sector regarding future activities in Iraq and to support the GoI to adhere to the Mine Ban Treaty obligations. UNMAS also delivered three Risk Education (RE) management courses in order to further develop the capacity of the authorities to manage future programming.

UNMAS ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017

About 37 million square meters were surveyed and cleared, resulting in rendering safe 44,376 explosive hazards, including 748 IEDs.

In support of high priority stabilization and humanitarian interventions, UNMAS teams conducted survey and assessments in 622 priority sites in Al-Anbar, Salah al-Din and Ninewa governorates, removing life-threatening explosive hazards from prioritized areas.

To support the Government to respond to explosive hazards, UNMAS trained over 300 Government personnel at various levels.

In addition UNMAS trained 124 UN personnel in IED search and awareness.

5,905 Risk Education (RE) sessions were delivered primarily in and around IDP camps, schools and other high priority areas in Al-Anbar, Salah ah-Din and Ninewa governorates.

RE was provided to over 414,587 benefi-

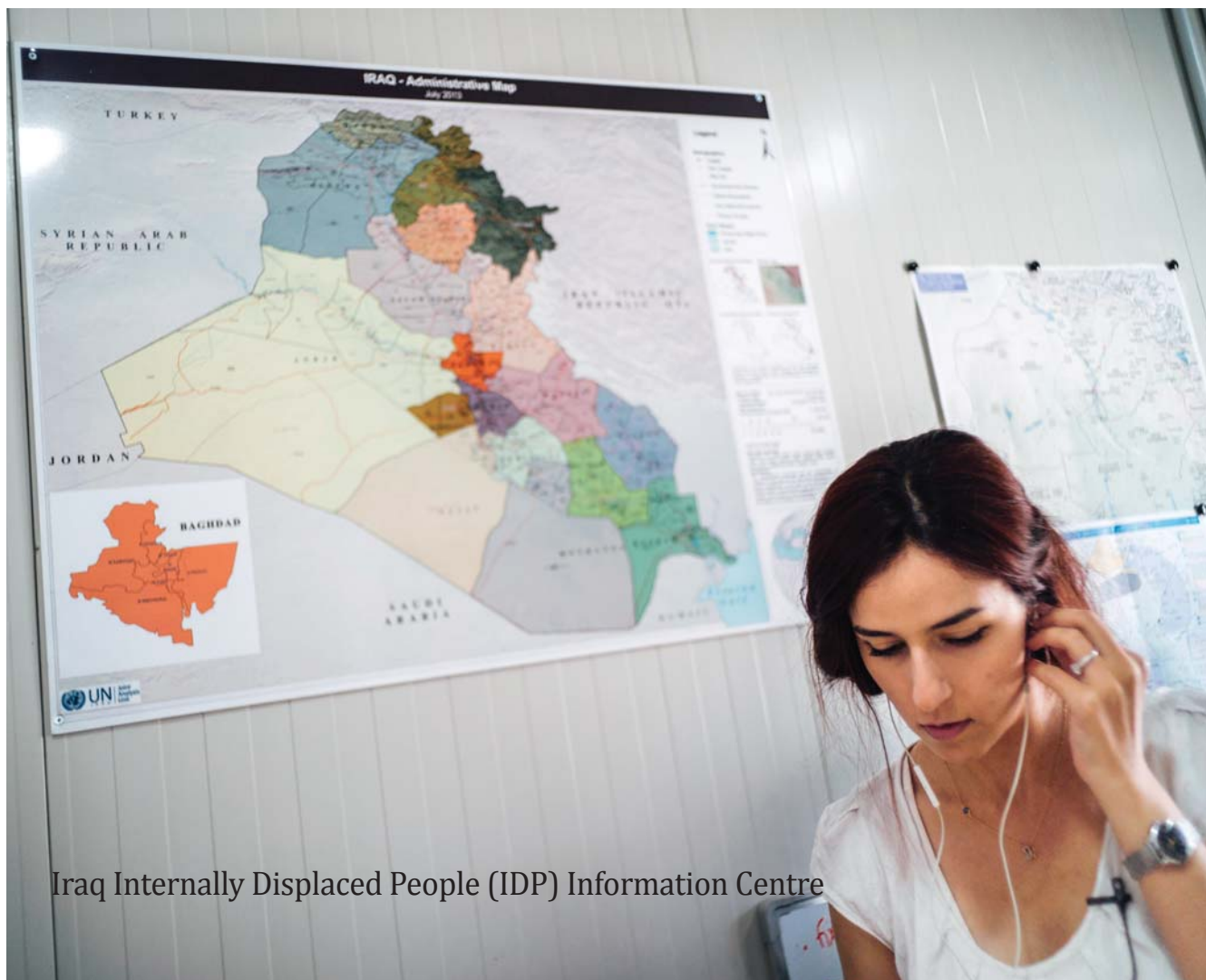


ciaries assisting high-risk populations on how to behave safely in areas with suspected explosive hazards. In addition, social media RE video campaigns reached almost 3,000,000 views.

UNMAS delivered training sessions for a total of 683 humanitarian staff from UNAMI, UN agencies and NGOs in Iraq and provided RE to 495 UNDP cash-for-work employees in support of stabilization initiatives.

RISK EDUCATION: IDPS CONFIDENTLY RETURN HOME

As the established coordinator of mine action within the United Nations system, and co-lead of the Mine Action sub-cluster in Iraq, UNMAS has played a key role of liaison between the national authorities, the Protection Cluster and implementing partners. The authorities are responsible for accrediting entities to deliver RE in Iraq and UNMAS has been playing a significant support role to the authorities in the coordination of the delivery of RE in liberated areas. Throughout 2017, UNMAS delivered risk education directly, as well as through partners, to at-risk populations including IDPs, returnees and host communities. UNMAS also delivered training sessions for humanitarian staff from the UN and NGOs in Iraq to provide them with the knowledge to recognize and behave safely in the presence of explosive hazard when carrying out humanitarian activities in high-risk environments. RE materials vary depending on the audience, and time of year. During Ramadan, messaging was placed on water bottles and packages of dates to hand out to people on the move. UNMAS, in coordination with IKMAA, prepared a set of safety messages for Erbil International Airport targeting those who came from abroad during summer months to visit family. Additionally, IOM, HI and UNMAS jointly developed two video clips to be used on screens within the camps, where available. The videos can be found here and here.



Iraq Internally Displaced People (IDP) Information Centre

UNOPS in IRAQ

In 2017, UNOPS worked towards four main outcomes: Strengthening Human Rights, Promoting an enabling environment for national reconciliation, strengthening accountability to affected populations in Iraq through two-way communication with humanitarian actors, and improved safety and security for vulnerable IDPs, refugees, and host communities.

Through the key project of UNOPS, the Iraq Internally Displaced People (IDP) Information Centre, critical information has been provided in response to 76,000 calls, communicating indirectly with 380,000 indirect beneficiaries, which has helped link them with humani-

tarian assistance, on behalf of the Humanitarian Country Team. This project has been funded by the Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund, European Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Office of the UN

Iraq Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, the World Health Organisation (WHO), and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), and is set to continue throughout 2018, serving IDPs and increasing numbers of returnees.

Two projects were successfully concluded: First, in cooperation with UNAMI HRO, UNOPS contributed to promotion and protection of human rights in Iraq by supporting the enhanced capacity of the Independent High Commission for Human Rights, and human rights-related Committees of the Iraqi Council of Representatives on behalf of



the European Union.

Second, in cooperation with UNAMI OPA and UNAMI HRO, UNOPS supported the promotion of an enabling environment for national reconciliation through fostering a shared vision among Iraqi stakeholders for Iraq's post-ISIL future and mobilizing support of religious leaders, civil society and Iraqi media leaders for national reconciliation efforts with emphasis on the National Settlement Initiative. This project was made possible through the support of the Governments of Germany and the Netherlands.

Finally, UNOPS enhanced the capacity of community police centres to ensure safety and security of the Police Directorate, which serves approximately 1.1 million IDPs, refugees, and the host community with support of the Government of Japan. 2018 will see the conclusion of the project with an expected total of 28 community police centres rehabilitated, equipped and furnished, 28 vehicles provided and multiple trainings of new and existing police officers on impact, effectiveness, and gender sensitivity having been held. A further project for the procurement and installation of solar street

lights in most critical was concluded in 2017, also on behalf of the Government of Japan.



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UNFPA IN IRAQ

1. EMERGENCY RESPONSE

MOSUL RESPONSE

When ISIL took over Mosul in mid-2014, most maternity wards and hospitals were closed, while the ones that remained open were not easily accessible, putting the lives of approximately 60,000 pregnant women at a big risk. When military operations were launched in October 2016 to retake the area, UNFPA was one of the first Agencies to intervene. UNFPA started supporting Al Zahraa delivery room in East Mosul during December 2016. In January 2017, UNFPA began revitalizing a wing to be used for complicated deliveries at the Khansaa hospital, allowing the first C-section to take place in East Mosul by the end of January 2017. In 2017, UNFPA supported 16 primary health care clinics; seven in East

and nine in West Mosul, and three maternity hospitals; two in East and one in West Mosul, in addition to six mobile reproductive health clinics and teams which were deployed in the city.

These facilities exclude those serving the IDPs from Mosul in and out of camps, where separate facilities were supported to accommodate their reproductive health needs. Women and girls inside camps aren't always able to access facilities out of camps for various reasons. Overall, more than 55 Reproductive Health facilities were established and supported within the course of the 9 months between October 2016 and July 2017, in and around Mosul.

HAWIJA RESPONSE

To respond to the urgent needs of the pregnant women and girls in the liber-

ated towns of Hawija in October 2017, UNFPA through its partner Iraq Health Access Organisation (IHAO) supported the deployment of a mobile delivery room and two mobile RH clinics, along with a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) response mobile team. Five mobile integrated GBV response and Reproductive Health (RH) teams were also deployed to the screening sites receiving IDPs from Hawija.

WEST ANBAR RESPONSE

After the completion of the military operation to retake West Anbar, UNFPA and its partners were the first to assist pregnant women and girls as part of the rapid response to emergencies. UNFPA supported its partner, the United Iraqi Medical Society (UIMS), to deploy two mobile delivery units in Qaim and Ana areas where no health facilities were functional due to lack of supplies, equipment, and medical



personnel. Traumatized young girls and women, suffering from different forms of gender-based violence for the last 3 years under the ISIL ruling were also provided treatment and psychological care. UNFPA facilitated the establishment of a Women Community Center and outreach teams in Ana and Qaim and supported the provision of psychosocial support counseling where needed.

TELAFAR RESPONSE

Military operations to retake Telafar from the ISIL began in the morning of 20 August. To respond to the displacements from Telafar in camp and non-camp settings, UNFPA supported RH mobile delivery units and GBV mobile teams, in addition to the support provided to the Telafar General Hospital maternity ward.

EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

In response to the 7.3 magnitude earthquake that struck Iraqi-Iranian border on 12 November 2017, UNFPA deployed one gynecology mobile clinic in Shahid Azadi Mama Alaa primary health clinic (PHC), the only functioning health facility in Darbandixan in Sulaymaniyah for a period of

four weeks to assist the PHC's maternity ward which was turned into a makeshift hospital. The UNFPA team also distributed medicines and reproductive health kits to the Darbandixan PHC, as well as Halabja Maternity Hospital and Sulaymaniyah Maternity Hospital. The Fund, through its implementing partner CDO, distributed 206 dignity kits on Bamo district and Halabja, in addition to the provision of much-needed psychosocial support to traumatized women in Darbandixan.

2. RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM (RRM)

In 2017, UNFPA reached up to 1.5 million individuals in Anbar, Ninewa, Salahudin, Kirkuk, Dohuk, Erbil and Sulimaniyah through the distribution of life-saving assistance through the Rapid Response Mechanism. This Mechanism is a collaboration between UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP that insures the delivery of potable water, food, sanitary kits and dignity kits within 72 hours of an emergency. The dignity kits provided by UNFPA include blankets, hair cover, menstrual items, flashlights, and sewing kits among other items. RRM assists most of the displaced families at mul-

iple times and at various locations.

3. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PROGRAMME:

UNFPA increased availability of GBV services to IDP and refugee women and girls. In 2017, UNFPA established 16 women centers hence increasing the number of centres under UNFPA support to 138. In turn, these centers together with active mobile GBV teams across Iraq provided a range of GBV services to over 600,000 beneficiaries. UNFPA also made significant contribution towards improving the quality of GBV services in Iraq. During the reporting period, capacity of 5,726 different GBV actors was improved, including government actors and partners. UNFPA also supported the government to finalize and approve the Clinical Management of Rape protocol, and conduct advocacy campaigns to prevent and eradicate harmful practices such as child marriage. UNFPA as a GBV sub-Cluster lead also improved coordination among GBV actors including facilitation of the GBV Sub-cluster Standard Operating Procedures. Additionally, 15 data gathering organizations



were supported to generate routine GBV data while monthly GBVIMS reports and infographs were compiled to inform programming and advocacy.

4. REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH PROGRAMME:

UNFPA strengthened capacity of government and partners to meet the emergency reproductive health needs of women and girls, especially those affected by fighting against ISIS in Iraq. To this end, UNFPA increased coverage of RH services from 79 health facilities in 2016 to 157 health facilities by close of 2017. These facilities included 16 hospitals that were supported to provide BEmONC services and 11 facilities that were supported to offer CEmONC services. These facilities were supported with health workers, emergency RH kits as well as medical and non-medical equipment. To ensure access to most vulnerable women on frontlines and those stuck behind military checkpoints, UNFPA supported the running of nine mobile delivery units and six mobile gynaecological units. By close of the year, UNFPA-supported facilities were able to provide a range of reproductive health

services to 911,061 women including 110,213 that were provided ANC and PNC, 480,549 that were treated for sexually transmitted infections (STIs)/reproductive tract infections (RTIs); 334,000 that were provided Family Planning (FP) services; 87,583 that were assisted for normal deliveries and 44,056 that were delivered by C-Sections. Also, 85,363 women were reached with reproductive health information through awareness campaigns. Within limitations of acute humanitarian service delivery, UNFPA was also able to build skills of 291 health workers on MISP and other RH services.

5. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

This year, UNFPA developed a youth-focused vision, in line with the Government of Iraq's plan for development and youth. The vision focuses on youth's right and pushes them to invest in their country. New branches of the Peers Educator's Network (Y-Peer) have been opened in Anbar, Dewanyia, Duhok, Erbil, Mosul, Salahuddin, and Wasit to reach out and empower more young people to make responsible decisions. In cooperation with the Ministry of Youth

and Sports and young activists, UNFPA Iraq launched a peace building on transformational leadership aiming at nourishing healthy behaviors among youth in conflict area. The project has so far training 30 individuals on peace building.

6. PRIORITIES FOR 2018

In 2018, UNFPA plans to sustain the current reproductive health services that were established to meet the needs of internally displaced persons. Where feasible UNFPA will establish additional services to meet reproductive health needs of the most vulnerable populations returning to their communities, those that remain displaced and those that have limited access to reproductive health services. UNFPA will also pay special attention to building resilience of the national health system through development of relevant reproductive health policies, tools, guidelines and protocols in collaboration with the Government, NGOs and other partners as well as skills development of health workers and health managers.

UNFPA will continue to support gov-

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UNFPA will continue to support government and civil society organizations to prevent, mitigate and respond to sexual and gender-based violence in Iraq

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UNFPA plans to sustain the current reproductive health services that were established to meet the needs of internally displaced persons

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ernment and civil society organizations to prevent, mitigate and respond to sexual and gender-based violence in Iraq. To this end, UNFPA will continue to support the existing women safe spaces where they will be required and provide leadership of the Gender-Based Violence Sub-Cluster; the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS); the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network and the Real Time Accountability Partnership (RTAP). The year will also provide an opportunity to increase awareness and advocacy for gender equality, women

empowerment, and eradication of harmful practices against women while working with government to strengthen the legislative and institutional frameworks to sustain these efforts.

UNFPA will continue to support the youth through the youth-led networks and organizations to consolidate young people's participation and engagement in socio-economic initiatives in their communities. Special attention will be made towards building their life skills and civic engagement skills and promoting peace building. Selected health facilities will be supported to

provide youth-friendly health services.

UNFPA will support national and regional statistics offices to conduct large-scale population-based surveys notably the second Iraqi-Women Integrated Social and Health survey (IWISH II) and preliminary activities for the 2020 population and housing census. UNFPA will also support national efforts to conduct in-depth analysis and dissemination of population data and capacity development of planners on integration of population variables in development frameworks.



WFP IN IRAQ

INTRODUCTION

In 2017, Iraq saw the continuation of a challenging and complex humanitarian situation, marked by the military offensive that began in October 2016 to retake areas still under control of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). In meeting this challenge, WFP responded to the needs of more than 2 million people affected by conflict by providing emergency food assistance to those fleeing ISIL-held areas, followed by monthly food rations and cash-based transfers to displaced Iraqis living in camps.

With the military operations largely over towards the end of the year, WFP began to support Iraqis in the arduous task of reuniting their families and rebuilding their livelihoods. WFP rolled out income-generating activities for displaced Iraqis, returnees and local communities that contribute to the restoration of the agriculture sector, including the rehabilitation of water and irrigation systems that were neglected or damaged during the conflict.

WFP also provided broader humanitarian support as the lead agency for the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications clusters and as co-lead for the Food Security Cluster (FSC) together with the Food

and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

In 2017, the WFP-led clusters supported the humanitarian community operating in Iraq by providing logistical expertise, consolidating and sharing information, facilitating common services for humanitarian cargo, addressing the existing Information and Communications Technology (ICT) gaps, and providing shared communications services. The FSC focused on the coordination of response mechanisms for food and livelihood assistance to food insecure people along displacement routes, in camps and in out-of-camp locations. The work of the clusters enabled the hu-

manitarian response by ensuring much-needed assistance reached families in a timely and coordinated manner.

As the Syrian regional crisis entered its seventh year, refugees continued to face vulnerability to food insecurity. The length of displacement, lack of formal livelihood opportunities, and rising costs have exhausted sources of self-reliance for refugees, forcing households to deplete their savings and assets to pay for basic needs such as food and shelter. In this context, WFP supported 56,000 vulnerable Syrian refugees every month in Iraq through cash-based transfers to ensure access to life-saving and nutritious food.

Additionally, WFP began a tailored vocational training project to 100 vulnerable Syrian refugees in Iraq with the purpose of strengthening self-reliance and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities. The project won the 2017 MIT Enterprise Forum Pan Arab "Innovative for Refugees" award as a tech-driven cutting-edge solution that addresses the most acute challenges faced by refugees.



RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM / IMMEDIATE RESPONSE RATIONS

A critical success factor in providing timely and vital assistance was the front-line Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) - an inter-agency collaboration between WFP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Assistance was provided to a moving population within 72 hours of displacement, including to those fleeing conflict, located in hard-to-reach areas, caught at checkpoints or stranded between military front lines, and at screening sites throughout the Mosul offensive. Each family would get a box with water, hygiene kit, a female dignity kit, canned food, dried fruits, and biscuits to keep a family of six going for a week until they reached a camp. Families of six or more received two kits, while 'light' kits com-

posed of food and water only were distributed to displaced people in transit sites. This was followed by monthly food rations upon arrival at a camp. Over the course of one year, more than one million people were provided with food Immediate Response Rations.

FAMILY FOOD RATIONS

WFP assisted internally displaced Iraqis with monthly distributions of Family Food Rations (FFRs). FFRs consisted of basic food essentials and were nutritionally designed to provide a family of five with 80 percent of their daily caloric intake requirements for one month, at around 1,800 kcal per person per day. They included basic food items such as wheat flour, rice, beans, bulgur and oil. The ration's composition was designed to meet the cultural preferences of Iraqi families and was regularly reviewed to reflect beneficiary feedback. Throughout 2017, WFP distributed FFRs to more than 1.5 million vulnerable displaced Iraqis.

CASH-BASED TRANSFERS

More than USD 31 million was distributed to vulnerable Iraqis in 2017, giving them the freedom of choosing what their preferred food and also supporting the local food economy. In collaboration with UN Agencies and INGOs, WFP played an active role in the Cash Working Group, supporting the establishment of the overall Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) strategy in Iraq, and was a key member in the Targeting and Vulnerability as well as the Market Assessment Task Forces.

An example of action undertaken by WFP Iraq to increase the effectiveness, efficiency and economy of the programme in Iraq was the transition from in-kind to cash-based transfer assistance in 30 displacement camps in July, 2017. The adoption of Mobile Money Transfer (MMT), as a delivery mechanism for cash for which the Country Office managed to negotiate very



competitive rates with retailers, allowed WFP to be more cost effective, while giving beneficiaries greater choice for their preferred time and locations to receive their assistance ("cash-out").

TECH FOR FOOD: CONNECTING REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES TO THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

An estimated 4.8 million Syrians are currently displaced due to the conflict in Syria. The majority of refugees are hosted in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt – with 88% living outside the region's refugee camps.

WFP is working on new, sustainable approaches to help food insecure refugees and vulnerable host communities affected by the crisis, including women and youth.

As part of this initiative, WFP is focusing on giving refugees and vulnerable communities a chance to improve their skillset in 2017 through digital skills and work employment in the online market.

Together with the private sector, WFP is connecting Syrian refugees in Iraq to internet-based opportunities via the Tech for Food Programme, where they have a chance to earn an income through digital work which can be done anywhere. This helps them to be less dependent on food assistance to cover their needs.

More than 500 participants took part in the training, with women accounting for close to 60% within the age group of 16-35 years. This innovative project will foster relevant skills sharpening the economic profile of host countries as well as preparing the ground for people to return to and help rebuild Syria post-crisis.

REHABILITATION OF WATER AND IRRIGATION NETWORKS - FROM SAVING LIVES TO CHANGING LIVES

Nearly one-third of Iraqis reside in rural areas and are primarily dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods. The country has sustained losses in agriculture, livestock and fisheries production, impacting on rural income, employment, availability and quality of food items. Displacement, looting and the destruction of agricultural infrastructure in many areas has caused substantial damage. Much of the agricultural infrastructures such as canals and watering systems, storage facilities, greenhouses, requires urgent repair.



WFP is moving beyond direct food assistance to develop new strategies for income generation activities that re-establish livelihoods and strengthen social protection systems to support vulnerable food insecure people, with particular focus on areas of return. The creation of temporary jobs through cash for work, cash for assets, and cash for training schemes supports the mainstreaming of Decent Work, promoting the recovery of the local economy. These initiatives will facilitate overall economic growth across all communities irrespective of displacement, contributing to the country's stabilisation.

WFP Iraq focuses supports livelihoods and resilience by engaging with local communities in the repairing and cleaning of canals and water irrigation networks that had been damaged or neglected because of the conflict. The programme provides temporary relief to the affected populations through cash for work and cash for assets activities. The ultimate goal is to restore the agriculture sector, supporting local smallholders resume their agriculture production as a key pillar to food security.

In 2017, following the request from the Directorate of Water Resources in Fallujah (Anbar Governorate) to WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to rehabilitate 56 km of damaged water systems in the Garma and Saqlawia sub-districts, WFP and its partners completed the rehabilitation of 36 km of dysfunctional irrigation canals and tributaries. The project assisted 153 of the most vulnerable returnees and local community households through temporary income through cash for assets modality. Furthermore, close to 5,000 people living along the canals will also directly or indirectly benefit from the effects generated by the rehabilitation of the water system, which contributes to resumption of agriculture production, livestock watering and to the revival of surrounding drylands. Further rehabilitation of 147 Km of canals is planned for the second quarter of 2018 in Anbar Governorate.

The programme is implemented with the support of and in partnership with Federal and Decentralised Government technical services.

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WFP Iraq focuses supports livelihoods and resilience by engaging with local communities in the repairing and cleaning of canals and water irrigation networks that had been damaged or neglected because of the conflict

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WHO response in Iraq, January-December 2017

■ WHO IN IRAQ

KEY FIGURES:

1. WHO and health cluster partners reached 6.3 million people with different types of health interventions
2. The Trauma Response referral pathway established by WHO and partners in October 2016 served thousands of injured and by December 2017, more than 24,000 patients were referred to the four field hospitals established by WHO. Meanwhile, over 12,000 patients were managed at Trauma Stabilization Points (TSPs), near frontline areas.
3. 46 health cluster partners
4. For 2017, WHO provided over 3 million people with medicines and medical necessities worth of more than US\$10 million.
5. More than 5.5 million children under 5 years were vaccinated against polio and measles.

WHO

HEALTH RESPONSE & KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017

1. WCO Iraq team led by Mr Altaf Sadruddin Musani received in 2017 the Health Emergency Team Reward for the Organization's successful intervention in Mosul in 2016/17 through running a referral chain for trauma cases from the front-lines. WHO worked with all partners involved in the response in order to ensure best care possible for the conflict affected population. This was consistent with WHO's obligations as provider of last resort within the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. The award was significantly recognized by the Iraqi health authorities, donors, and international partners for the success it achieved in responding to the growing needs of vulnerable people and the overwhelming load of trauma and injuries.

2. In 2017, Iraq remained an L3 emergency with waves of IDPs requiring support throughout the country. WHO has played an indispensable role to support the government to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies with public health consequences. WHO acted with urgency and predictability and availed health services to hundreds of thousands of girls, boys, women and men affected by the public health consequences of the emergency. Some of the key achievements include: more than 35 primary health care centers, about 65 mobile medical clinics, 96 ambulances, and 84 caravans were distributed and operationalized. In addition, medical supplies and kits worth of more than US\$ 10 million were provided to health partners to enable the treatment of over 4 million people. Primary health care and referral services were also provided to more than 5 million people who benefited from the consultations that were recorded through WHO supported health facilities and mobile medical clinics. Moreover, during the Mosul, Telafar, Hawija and Anbar military operations, five field hospitals were established and supported to provide trauma related health services to more than 24,000 injured and more than 12,000 trauma patients whose injury conditions were stabilized and referred at the five trauma stabilization points (TSPs).

3. In 2017 WHO continued its support to



the Early Warning and Alert Response Network (EWARN) System, and current EWARN network now stands at (238) active reporting sentinel sites all over Iraq. The sites include (121 PHCCs, 108 MMCs, and 9 hospitals) in recent emergency operational areas in Ninewa, Salah Addin, Kirkuk and Anbar. EWARN refresher and new site trainings were conducted, reaching 228 participants from NGOs/INGOs and DOHs. Furthermore, WHO applied the early and timely detection of cholera outbreak in IDP camps through EWARN and conducted supervisory visits to Basrah, Sulaimaniya, Duhok, Missan, Thi qar, Najaf and Karbala to fulfill different objectives related to EWARN, Cholera preparedness, and cholera response.

4. In terms of national capacity building, WHO has provided trainings on the International Humanitarian law (IHL), trauma management, chemical weapons preparedness and management, epidemic prevention and investigation control, a series of trainings on EWARN reporting, and many other training courses and workshops on different other areas. (More than 100 trainees on Chemical Weapons (CW), Over 5 partners (NGOs) on IHL, about 228 on EWARN)

5. To be able to respond to the Iraqi emergency operations rapid needs, WHO has as well improved the warehousing capacity in Baghdad and Erbil through renting new warehouses with a storage capacity of approximately 3000 pallets.

6. Healthcare services in crisis affected areas were promoted and strengthened by facilitating transition and recovery services

7. For Polio, the following has been achieved in 2017:

- More than 5.5 million of children under 5 years were vaccinated. More than 14,329,986 doses of bOPV vaccine, in addition to MR and IPV containing vaccines were provided to target children during two NIDs rounds Jan. and Mar. 2017, two SNIDs in Oct, Nov 2017 and two targeted activities to newly liberated/HRA (Ninewa and Anbar)
- Sustained the AFP surveillance system that met the globally set target.
- Maintained support to the National Polio Lab technically and logistically
- Technical support for the EPI program in capacity building of MOH staff and supportive supervision.

8. Health Cluster achievement in 2017:

- In 2017, the Health Cluster led by WHO harnessed the power of partnerships for more effective humanitarian health action in Iraq. WHO and the Health Cluster worked through 46 partners to address the health needs of 6.2 million people. A strong information management unit through WHO was set up which guaranteed the capacity to provide timely information products that impact the strategic and programmatic planning and decision-making. More than 500 infographics and maps illustrating the health impacts and achievements were produced and shared with all partners (International and national NGOs, UN agencies, national authorities and donors) through data timely reporting and sharing by the cluster members.



■ UNODC IN IRAQ

2017 was another year of success for the fruitful partnership between UNODC/TPB and the Iraqi government. During this year, UNODC/TPB held around 20 technical assistance activities for enhancing the capacity of Iraqi law enforcement and criminal justice officers on diverse matters covering:

- 1) promoting ratification and implementation of universal counter terrorism instruments and relevant UN Security Council resolutions,
- 2) Legislative Assistance;
- 3) performing efficient investigation and prosecution of terrorism cases, and
- 4) Strengthening International Cooperation in Criminal Matters Related to Terrorism.

Concerning awareness raising on the ratification of universal legal instruments against terrorism (including the 19 legal instruments) and the relevant UNSCRES, 11 special sessions during the delivered workshops/trainings took place in

2016/17. In addition, bilateral talks/meetings of UNODC's Executive Director and TPB Chief with senior representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and continuous consultations by the UNODC programme officers were continuously

taking place to ensure maximum efficiency and effectiveness of the delivered activities. It is important to note that Iraq has ratified 8 legal instruments since its partnership with UNODC/TPB.

Whereas for the legislative assistance, several technical workshops were delivered for that purpose by TPB/UNODC or international experts, in addition to the consultations with the Ministry of Justice/Parliament were continuously taking place, which resulted in drafting the counter terrorism draft law in Iraq and participated in developing a national strategy to counter terrorism including chemicals of dual-use.

UNODC/TPB has also provided many capacity building trainings and workshops on topics including:

- a. Introducing Iraqis criminal justice officials to national mechanisms, policies, practices, and experiences on counter-



ing terrorism in Japanese criminal justice system in view of possible refinements of Iraqi policies and legislation.

b. Criminal justice response to prevent and suppress kidnapping for ransom.

c. Structural reform of the Iraqi Financial Investigation Unit.

d. Prevention and suppression of the illicit trafficking of cultural properties to fund terrorism.

e. Prevention and suppression of the forced recruitment and use of children and women by terrorist organizations.

f. Addressing terrorist-related threats to critical oil infrastructure.

g. Investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorism-related offences.

h. Strengthening the National Capacities of Iraq in addressing the Threat of Chemical Materials of Dual-use for Terrorism Purposes.

i. Special investigation Techniques including the use of Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) and new criminal analysis tool.

Furthermore, regional and international cooperation is a main focus of technical assistance activities and always promoted during workshops through encouraging exchange of good practices and experiences, in addition to exchange of information and knowledge among participants in the different discussed subjects.

Following the liberation of Iraq during the same year, seven priority needs were

identified by Iraqi senior officials and UNODC/TPB. In fact, ISIL's defeat, Iraqi security forces need to be on the top of their game, and support is highly needed to help them as they move through this transitional phase to consolidate gains against terrorists. The recent defeat of ISIL in Mosul does not mean the end of ISIL but it is the beginning of a new phase, one that could be just as, if not more, frightening. The needs, which were in line with the sixteen priorities identified by UN Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), came as an urgent response to the emerging challenges facing the Iraqi

government post liberation. They were based on extensive meetings between UNODC/TPB and Iraqi senior officials, and on the final outcomes of the previous activities implemented in the year 2017. The seven (7) urgent Technical Assistance categories that will be delivered in the year 2018 included:

1. Supporting the Iraqi criminal justice system, including FIUs, and law enforcement to respond to the emerging terrorism challenges after the liberation. This also includes working with Prisons.

2. Continuous capacity building on the prevention of chemical materials of dual-use, and IEDS attacks with extending the technical assistance to cover Biological, Radiological and Nuclear material of dual-use.

3. Enhanced preparedness and capabilities to prevent terrorist attacks on critical Infrastructure.

4. Supporting Iraq in addressing the challenge of "the children of Caliphate" in liberated areas.

5. Supporting Iraq on building safer communities in the liberated areas.

6. Securing land borders through to border crossing point and key hub cities along smuggling routes to prevent terrorism.

7. Supporting Iraq's INTERPOL Office, particularly with the I-24/7 Global Communication system.





UN OCHA IN IRAQ

OCHA Iraq coordinates effective and principled humanitarian action, advocates for the rights of people in need, promotes preparedness and prevention, and facilitates sustainable solutions. In 2017, Iraq's complex operating environment created consistently high demand for OCHA's five core functions of humanitarian coordination, humanitarian financing, humanitarian policy, advocacy, and information management.



In 2017, OCHA's operations in Iraq involved the Government of Iraq, The Kurdish Regional Government, ten governorates, eleven ministries, two government coordination centres, 25 security forces, multiple militia, multiple religious' endowments, 150 NGO partners, 13 UN agencies and more than 60 member-states (active through the anti-ISIL coalition). In 2017, 1.7 million civilians were newly displaced, primarily as a result of intensive military operations as territories were recaptured from ISIL. Approximately 1 million civilians were displaced over the course of the battle for Mosul alone (October 2016-July 2017).

Given the scale of the military operations to retake Mosul from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), OCHA established the Mosul Humanitarian Operations Centre (HOC), to facilitate a coordinated response on the Mosul emer-



gency that focuses response activities in areas of greatest humanitarian need in the most effective and efficient manner. The HOC supported operational planning and inter-cluster coordination of the humanitarian response for the Mosul emergency. The HOC brought together key actors, strengthening coordination between humanitarian clusters, emergency response managers, Civil – Military coordination, UN Mine Action Service and the NGO community, so that these resources were easily accessible to all humanitarian responders.

The multiplicity of armed groups that fought ISIL, each with their own command structures and varying geographical presence, and an international coalition, resulted in an operating environment with shifting and uncertain territorial control by loosely allied armed actors, some of which did not always have a clear chain of command and control. Establishing and maintaining relations with those who had influence over humanitarian access to people in



need was both challenging and uncertain. Access was further impacted by movement restrictions and bureaucratic impediments and, starting in late 2017, repercussions from the independence referendum held in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Checkpoints, harassment

and sometimes extortion delay or block humanitarian staff and aid deliveries. OCHA negotiated solutions to these restrictions on behalf of the humanitarian community and coordinated joint approaches to these issues across the humanitarian community.



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Iraq provided support for more than one million vulnerable Iraqis in 2017

IOM in IRAQ



Message from

IOM Iraq Chief of Mission

GERARD WAITE

IOM's commitment to uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants is personified in our programs in Iraq: address humanitarian needs, support reintegration and durable solutions for returning migrants and IDPs, revitalize communities, and support to the Government of Iraq with the management of migration.

In 2017, as the emergency situation persisted in Iraq, more than 3.3 million Iraqis were displaced by mid-year, their numbers swollen due to hundreds of thousands of newly displaced from Mosul. In its effort to meet the needs of Iraq's most vulnerable displaced persons, returnees and host communities, IOM continued to expand its operation-



al scope and capacity. and deliver humanitarian assistance in close coordination with the Iraqi government, donors and the UN HCT.

IOM Iraq is fully integrated into the UN humanitarian cluster system. IOM assumes national co-ordination for the Shelter/Non-Food Items (NFI) and the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) clusters; takes an active part in the Health, Logistics, Emergency Livelihoods and Social Cohesion clusters and Protection cluster; and is the chair of the UN Returns Working Group.




















While continuing to implement humanitarian programmes in 2017, IOM also focused on the reconstruction and rehabilitation of conflict affected communities, and the provision of support through livelihood and social cohesion programmes. These programs, including the rehabilitation of homes and community infrastructure to deliver social services (clean water, health care etc.) assist in the creation of conditions required for displaced Iraqi families to return and reintegrate to their areas of origin.

As a member of the United Nations Country Team for Iraq, IOM worked closely with the UNCT and Iraqi authorities in support of the Iraqi National Development Strategy, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the development of the UN Recovery and Resilience Programme (RRP) (2018-19).

In 2017 IOM Iraq staff numbers expanded from 1,200 to more than 1,500. With the main office in Baghdad, regional support offices in Erbil and Basra, and 27 sub-offices in key locations across 18 governorates, IOM has a large operational footprint in Iraq.

IOM IRAQ 2017 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

MAIN BENEFICIARY AND ASSISTANCE FIGURES

-  50,000 families received non-food items.
-  38,000 families received fuel for cooking or heating.
-  35,000 families received shelter assistance including tents, sealing-off kits, shelter kits, critical shelter or camps upgrades.
-  23 camps and 186 informal and emergency displacement sites covered by CCCM activities, benefiting more than 25,000 individuals.
-  600,000 health consultations provided.
-  116,000 psychosocial services provided.
-  9,000 individuals benefitted from social cohesion programmes.
-  10,000 Iraqis and Syrians transported to safety, shelter or school.
-  1,500,000 Communication with Communities (CwC) print material (leaflets, posters and brochures) disseminated.
-  3,500 beneficiaries directly assisted by livelihoods programming (both Iraqis and Syrians).
-  200,000 beneficiaries benefitted from rehabilitation or construction of infrastructure
-  10 Community Policing Forums (CPFs) established
-  1,000 Police Officers, 450 community members and 90 members of Civil Society Organizations (CSO) trained or attended workshops on community policing.
-  5,400 Iraqis received assistance to return home and reintegrate from abroad.
-  4,800 Iraqis and Syrians received movement assistance to resettle in other countries.
-  29,500 Iraqis and Syrians (10,000 families) provided with support for family reunification in Germany.
-  18 vulnerable migrants and 17 victims of human trafficking received protection assistance.
-  2,150 beneficiaries supported through internal and external referrals to address protection concerns.
-  90 border officials and other security actors working in Iraq's international and regional airports trained on international best practices in border management.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

NON-FOOD ITEMS

Through the distribution of NFIs designed for seasonal assistance, IOM aims to protect vulnerable families from climatic conditions, including for IDPs both in camps and in protracted displacement. During 2017, IOM reached over 37,000 families with full NFIs kits, 11,000 families with mobile NFIs kits, and 20,000 families with seasonal items across Iraq. Full NFI kits include a kitchen set, hygiene kit, tarpaulin, rechargeable light, jerry can, mattresses, blankets, pillows, towels, sewing kit and cooker and seasonal items. Summer kits include a fan, cool box and plastic mat; winter kits include a carpet, heater and warm blankets. As part of winterization efforts, IOM distributed fuel to more than 38,000 families, providing warmth to more than 228,000 IDPs.



SHELTER

Beginning in late 2016, in cooperation with the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD), in response to Mosul displacement, IOM led the establishment of two emergency sites in Al-Qayara and Haj Ali, Ninewa governorate. These sites, which are also under IOM management, have the capacity to shelter over 100,000 individuals, and as of December 2017, continued to house over 60,000 individuals.

In 2017, in addition to shelter provision at IOM's two emergency sites in Qayara, IOM shelter interventions assisted more than 2,400 families, both returnees and displaced families living outside of camps, through the rehabilitation and repair of damaged houses and unfinished/abandoned buildings in seven governorates. In addition, sealing-off kits and emergency shelter kits were provided for more than 100,000 displaced individuals.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

To promote safe, dignified and liveable conditions for families in formal and informal settlements, it is essential to have effective management and to build the CCCM capacity of local authorities. IOM's CCCM programme includes Mobile Response Teams, Camp Management Support, Camp Management Capacity Building and Direct Camp Management. In 2017 IOM carried out CCCM interventions in 23 camps and in 186 informal and emergency sites, benefitting more than 25,000 individuals.

HEALTH

National health systems have been disrupted and infrastructure destroyed; major public health services are overstretched due to the crisis. In response to requests from the Ministry of Health (MoH) and in close coordination with the Health Cluster, IOM supported the Iraqi National Health System, to assist IDPs and host community members with immediate health needs. In 2017, over 600,000 primary health care consultations were provided through 17 Mobile Medical Teams, 2 Mobile Medical Clinics and 9 Static Clinics. Four government Primary Health Care Centres were supported, and 21 additional health facilities were supported through the provision of medical equipment, medical staff, medicines, furniture and caravans. In addition, in partnership with the Government of Japan, more than 9,000 individuals received ophthalmology services and more than 800 displaced and vulnerable children received prescription glasses.

In 2017, in response to a direct request of the Department of Health (DoH) in Ninewa, IOM Iraq upgraded a field hospital in Hamam Al-Alil, near Mosul. Following the upgrade nearly 10,000 beneficiaries received outpatient services, minor surgeries, and orthopaedic/vascular consultations; and over 600 beneficiaries re-

ceived major surgery.

In partnership with the National Tuberculosis Programme (NTP), IOM conducted TB screening to over 8,500 IDPs and host community members in four governorates in 2017.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES

The need for psychosocial support in Iraq continues, as many Iraqis in conflict affected areas have experienced extreme events and witnessed various forms of violence. In 2017, IOM reached over 42,000 beneficiaries with more than 116,000 direct psychosocial services in IDP camps and informal settlements in seven governorates. Psychosocial activities include recreational activities, arts and crafts, individual counselling, group discussions, awareness, sports, livelihood, social gatherings, religious events, referrals and specialized consultations.

DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM)

The DTM, IOM's information management system, tracks and monitors population displacement and returns on behalf of the UN Country Team in Iraq. IOM disseminates an array of information products that facilitate understanding of the evolving needs of the affected population across the country.

In 2017 a total of 12 DTM reports and 48 datasets (on IDPs and returnees) were produced. For the period January 2014 to 31 December 2017, the DTM identified 2,615,988 internally displaced individuals (435,998 families) and 3,220,362 returnees. DTM Emergency Tracking provided early reports on rapid population movements —including from Mosul operations and from Anbar; a total of 302 Emergency Tracking updates were produced in 2017.

COMMUNICATION WITH COMMUNITIES

Through Communication with Communities initiatives, IOM promotes two-way communication and disseminates knowledge to inform and sensitize displaced and vulnerable communities on a range of topics including health awareness, camp safety, and irregular migration. The programme released 24 videos and 10 radio public service announcements, and disseminated over 1,500,000 CwC print materials (leaflets, posters, brochures).

SYRIA CRISIS RESPONSE

In its effort to respond to the continued needs of vulnerable Syrian refugees, services included transportation assistance for students (400 from camps to school or to university in Dohuk); resettlement services to third countries (1,300 beneficiaries); health awareness raising sessions (800 services); livelihoods services (over 700 beneficiaries) and common services, through Community Technology Access Centres (27,000 services). In order to reinforce the socio-economic infrastructure in communities where Syrian refugees are located, IOM rehabilitated and/or supported 20 schools with equipment and learning materials.

TRANSITION AND EARLY RECOVERY PROGRAMME



SOCIAL COHESION

In 2017, IOM reached over 7,500 beneficiaries with 9,000 social cohesion services, including social improvement initiatives, sustained community activities, peace-building, capacity building, large group events and structured discussions. The social cohesion team established five community centres in four governorates. Moreover, IOM engaged several local non-governmental partners to implement social cohesion activities across six governorates; activities reached approximately 1,200 community members.

LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE

IOM's Transition and Recovery programmes empowers local communities to take an active role in attaining self-sufficiency with a focus on livelihood assistance, including livelihood training, business support, and business enhancement packages. IOM has also carried out innovative initiatives aimed at revitalizing small-scale industries or encouraging new sectors. In 2017, IOM worked in 15 governorates and reached over 2,400 households across the country (approximately 14,400 individuals) with livelihood assistance.



REHABILITATION OF COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

In 2017, 50 Community Assistance Projects improved the living conditions of more than 181,000 Iraqis through the rehabilitation or construction of light infrastructure in 15 governorates. IOM also fast-tracked immediate assistance in retaken areas, especially in Ninewa and Anbar governorates. This included restarting micro and small enterprises by ensuring access to critical social services. In 2017, IOM implemented 12 quick impact projects to restore essential social services in communities of return, including rehabilitation of schools, water treatment networks, electricity networks, health care centres; and provided more than 400 households (approximately 2,400 individuals) with livelihood support.

COMMUNITY POLICING

IOM supports Community Policing (CP) in Iraq to contribute to peace and security at community level. As part of the approach, IOM has assisted communities and local police forces to establish Community Policing Forums (CPF). CPFs are open and inclusive platforms where security issues affecting the community can be discussed. Problems are resolved by identifying the relevant entity to refer cases and issues, including law enforcement agents (police and judiciary), civil society organizations, governmental bodies or the communities themselves.

In 2017, ten new Community Policing Forums (CPF) were established, bringing the total number of active CPFs in Iraq to 66. IOM trained over 1,000 Police Officers, 450 community members and 90 members of Civil Society Organizations (CSO) on Community Policing. CSOs have been involved in the implementation of six Housing and Land Properties (HLP) assistance centres in return areas, which were established by IOM. Furthermore, eight CP Offices have been built/rehabilitated and equipped to make police stations more accessible and community friendly.

MOVEMENT AND ASSISTED MIGRATION

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

In coordination with the Iraqi government, IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration programme supports Iraqis who have chosen to return home from abroad to re-establish themselves in their communities. IOM offers comprehensive assistance, including post-arrival assistance, cash grants and in-kind assistance for small businesses. In 2017, over 5,400 Iraqis who chose to return home were assisted.

The Resettlement and Movement Management Programme provides movement assistance to those entitled to resettlement or refugee status in other countries, in collaboration with the resettlement country, Iraqi authorities, and UNHCR. In 2017, resettlement services were provided to over 4,800 individuals.

The Family Assistance Programme, which is implemented in partnership with the German Consulate General in Erbil, provided over 29,500 individuals (10,000 families) with support for family reunification.

Protection assistance In 2017 a total of 18 vulnerable migrants and 17 victims of human trafficking received protection assistance, of these trafficking victims, six were supported to voluntarily repatriate to their country of origin. Moreover, IOM supported 2,150 individuals through internal and external referrals to address protection concerns

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT (IBM)

IOM has contributed to strengthening the border management capacities of the Ministry of Interior (MoI), particularly at Baghdad International Airport (BIAP). Strengthening the technological capacity of the border management staff on international best practices in modern border management facilitates regular migration and reduces irregular migration.

In 2017, IOM conducted trainings for over 90 border officials and other security actors working in Iraq's International and Regional airports. In addition, over 260 pieces of technical equipment (including IT equipment, document examination equipment) were donated to Government of Iraq agencies to improve border management capacities and control of cross border migration flows.



ILO IN IRAQ

Founded in 1919, the ILO is the first specialized agency of the UN with a unique tripartite structure where government and social partners of 186 member states of the United Nations can freely debate and elaborate standards and policies.

The mission of the ILO is to promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen social dialogue. ILO gives an equal voice to workers, employers, and government to ensure that their views are closely reflected in labour standards and in shaping policies and programmes. Tripartism and social dialogue are central to the planning and implementation of a coherent and integrated ILO programme of assistance to constituents in member states.

Iraq has been an ILO Member State since 1932. ILO continues to provide since then to provide its constituents in Iraq (government, employers' and workers' organizations).

The ILO has a central role in Iraq alongside UN agencies working inside, by combining short-term improvement of local livelihoods with longer-term capacity – and institution building and promotion of social dialogue to strengthen social cohesion. The ILO has an established strategy

for Iraq focusing on provision of technical advisory services, assistance and support, and capacity building on reviews of the laws (labour law and social security law), social protection, enterprise development, combatting child labour, in addition to International Labour Standards and Social Dialogue.

ILO carried out during August 2017, a rapid needs assessment for the Central Statistics related to labour and child labour statistics, in particular in relation to imple-

mentation of a new Labour Force Survey. An assessment on LI & OSH in May 2017, and organized five capacity building activities on actuarial valuation of the social security systems for merging the public and private sector social security schemes, data collection, and review of the social insurance law (SIL). A series of workshops were organized by the ILO to review the SIL with full participation of the Iraqi constituents and other stakeholder. The law will be submitted next month (March 2018) to the Parliament for adoption.

ILO continues to provide support to develop a new trade union law, aiming at bringing the country in line with Convention 87, which was approved by the Parliament on the 20th of November 2017, and Convention 98.

The ILO organized during the course of 2017, a number of tripartite workshops on the implementation of national labour policies, and on implementation of the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention (C187). Labour inspection assessment was conducted, and technical advice was provided on the recommendations of the assessment, action plan, and on updating the national Occupational Safety and Health profile, focusing on the implementation of C187, in collaboration with the National OSH Centre.

Fellowships were provided on International Labour Standards reporting, and on Governance of Labour: Strategies for sustainable Progress Global workshop, in Turin and Geneva, and on child labour issues. The ILO will continue to provide technical assistance on the questionnaire development, sampling design, manual development, statistical editing, and international classification adaptation.



ILO BIENNIUM STRATEGY (2018-2019)

The ILO's strategy for 2018-2019 development cooperation in crisis prevention and response, and its ability to respond in crisis-affected countries, will in view of the fragility of the situation in Iraq, the high-unemployment rate, and the lack of socio-economic opportunities, focus on programmes aiming at promoting employment in this situation, through the ILO Jobs for Peace and Resilience Programme. This program will combine projects for employment creation to reduce the unemployment rate, enhancing employability through skills and entrepreneurship promotion, as well as widely promoting Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work in fragile and post-conflict setting, social security, social protection, international labour standards, labour inspection and OSH, and strengthening its social partners. ILO will continue to provide its technical assistance and capacity building activities towards the creation, adoption, and implementation of integrated policies, strategies as well as programmes to promote decent work, including potential interventions on ILS and child labour. Efforts will be made to improve decent work for young men and women, reduce unemployment and labour market participation among adult women and youth, foster labour market analysis, and disseminate information on Iraq's labour force in coordination with the Central Statistical Offices of each of the Federal and KRG governments.





الأمم المتحدة - العراق
United Nations Iraq