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IN IRAQ IN 2018**

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PIO Director:
Samir F. Ghattas

Editor-in-Chief: Ivan Djordjevic

Editorial Board: Khalid Dahab, Laila Shamji
UN Country Team

Design: Salar Brifkani




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For comments and suggestions, contact
unami-information@un.org

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Introduction by

THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR IRAQ OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL

Ms. Jeannine Hennis-Plasschaert

With government formation underway after the first Council of Representatives' elections to be held since the defeat of ISIL, Iraq is turning over a new leaf, laying the foundation for reconciliation and reconstruction after years of turmoil and violence.

The new government will have to build on this momentum while representing the intricate and colourful mosaic that is Iraqi society, consisting of men, women, girls and boys from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds, living in different parts of the country – geographically and culturally.

An Iraqi-led inclusive reconciliation process is key to overcoming the societal fault lines that contributed to the rise of ISIL and continue to threaten Iraq's stability. The UN has therefore scaled up its outreach to religious, political and tribal leaders, youth and women to promote a collective sense of identity and the idea of a common future.

The Provincial Council elections, scheduled to take place late 2019, will put that vision to the test. As usual, we stand ready to provide the government with technical as-

sistance and expertise to promote free, fair, inclusive, and transparent elections.

Nevertheless, for democracy to truly take root, it is important to recognise that human rights, the rule of law and democracy are interconnected and mutually reinforcing. The UN Family will work with the government and the judicial authorities to promote adherence to international standards of due process and fair trial. In addition, we will bolster government-led strategies to provide increased opportunities to marginalised minority groups, in particular by promoting greater protection of their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Tapping into the full potential of Iraq's society will support the government in meeting the expectations of its citizens, who are calling for tangible improvements in their everyday life. They are requesting basic services: clean water that they can drink without having to fear it will make them ill; a reliable electricity supply, so they do not have to rely on expensive and polluting generators; a functioning garbage disposal system to keep their streets free of litter; and a developed economy

that allows youths to find jobs.

As such, the UN will promote meaningful reforms to strengthen effective governance and to improve the overall standard of living.

In the liberated areas especially, people's needs are vast. Having suffered untold destruction, the critical infrastructure in these regions remains damaged and the delivery of basic services, including electricity, water, healthcare, sanitation and education, is in urgent need of improvement. The UN will therefore support the government's efforts to rehabilitate and reconstruct these areas and to meet the needs of 1.75 million vulnerable Iraqis, including internally displaced persons. Examples of such assistance are the clearance of mines and other explosive remnants of war, the delivery of medical kits, the digitisation of the national public distribution system, and the training of teachers.

Determination and a spirit of cooperation are necessary to move towards a more peaceful, stable and prosperous future for the people of Iraq. I am proud to carry forward the UN's important activities in support of this goal.



Farewell message by

THE FORMER SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR IRAQ OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL Mr. Ján Kubiš

Baghdad, 12 December 2018

Dear Friends, Dear Colleagues,

There is always a time to say welcome and there's always time to say good-bye. And, this is - for me - a time to say good-bye to both us in the UN family, in UNAMI, but in the Country Team; and also to our friends and my friends here in Iraq - the Iraqi people, representatives, politicians, civil society, tribal leaders - all of these people with whom I've been working in the past almost four years in the country. And it was a great honour and a privilege that I was given this opportunity by the Secretary-General to serve here not only the United Nations but, first of all, Iraq and the people of Iraq.

I can look back these almost four years - these were not the easiest years and it was not the easiest period in the life of the country. When I arrived, the country was divided. One-third of the country was controlled by the terrorist, brutal Daesh. People were not sure about a future. Close to six million IDPs and refugees had to leave their homes in different ways. The fighting was going on; people mobilised to protect the country, to save the country. People from all parts of Iraq, but notably from the southern provinces.

The economic crisis was deep. Oil prices hit the economy and hit the people. And the country, whether one would wish to recognise it or not, was a little bit isolated. It had ties with a number of countries but, as regards the region, it was underdeveloped. Many of the States in the region were not

on good terms with the government then. And, if I look now quickly to what is the situation today, it's a completely different story. The country victoriously, and the people with great sacrifices, victoriously defeated the bandits and terrorists of Daesh, although some security risks still remain. But this battle continues. We know that it is not only about the ideology; it's about the return of IDPs, it's about justice and reconciliation; it's about accountability; it's about dignified future; it's about everything that the country must have and the people must receive because they need it, they deserve it.

People, IDPs are coming back. Majority of them return but still there is a big number that needs to be supported. And they need to have places where to go, where to return, homes, cities; so, it is necessary to reconstruct also the cities that were destroyed in this fight. But all the people are equal. They have equal needs, they have equal aspirations; and it is for the government to provide, to act, to reflect this kind of needs that were under the security imperatives to fight Daesh pushed away to the side.

Now is the time to respond to the needs, now is the time to give services, to give jobs, to give good water, to give health, to give dignified future to all the people, all the citizens that should have equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities.

The country is united, and I am very much encouraged to see how political forces are trying to work together, learning lessons.

They need to socialise these lessons of the past and indeed to work together for the benefit of the country, not only in pursuit of their particular interests. I am glad to see a very strong representation of political forces from the Kurdistan Region - they returned back to Baghdad. They are working together with the country for the benefit of the country and for the benefit of the Kurdistan Region and the Kurdish people everywhere. There are many other tasks that are in the future and must be priorities of the government, of political forces, and of the people of the country.

But the future is bright. When I arrived, the country and the situation was a country of conflict, a country of war, a country of disunity. What we have now, is a country of future, a country of opportunities for all the people; a country that has returned back to its rightful place in the region, has established deep contacts with all the regional - not only neighbouring, but other States - and, of course, is back to its rightful place as a strong partner in the international community.

Once again, my gratitude to all of you, my UN colleagues in particular, for helping me, for supporting, but notably to the people of the country; to all the forces. And my special gratitude to His Eminence Sayed Sistani, who gives continuous positive guidance to all those that care about the future of Iraq and the people of Iraq.

Thank you very much

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
- 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

UNAMI is fully engaged with the Government, and in close partnership with Iraq's political leadership is providing advice, assistance and support on a range of issues such as, among others, institution-building, legislative reform including in the security sector.

UNAMI is also working in close coordination with Iraqi institutions, including media, civil society and academia, in promoting the values of national 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, and regional levels.

Since its inception in 2003, UNAMI has played a crucial role in providing support to the drafting of Iraq's 2005 Constitution and assisting in nine elections. UNAMI's electoral assistance to Iraqi institutions is in a fully integrated manner with other electoral projects implemented through UNDP, UNOPS and IOM. Support includes capacity-building of and advisory to the Independent High Electoral Commission on operations, information technology and new voting technologies, election logistics, procedures and training, strategic communications and legal drafting/electoral complaints. UNAMI's Electoral Assistance also provides legislative support to various expert technical committees in the Council of Representatives.

UNAMI undertakes a range of activities aimed at promoting respect for and protection of human rights in Iraq. These include monitoring and reporting, advocacy, advice and assistance to the authorities on implementation of Iraq's human rights obligations, and capacity building of the government and civil society on human rights issues. Activities are aimed at enhancing respect for the human rights of Iraq's people and their full and equal participation in economic, social, cultural and political life, ending violations and ensuring accountability of perpetrators of these human rights violations, providing redress for the victims and empowering Iraqis to claim and maintain respect for and protection of their human rights.

As per its mandate on neighborhood relations UNAMI is continuously engaged in advancing Iraq-Kuwait cooperation, which resulted in a complete exit of Iraq from its obligations under Chapter VII of the Charter in December 2017 and helped complete the fieldwork of the Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Maintenance Project (IKBMP), 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, development and humanitarian partners, UN Agencies and civil society to facilitate and support humanitarian, recovery and development strategy, planning and coordination. UNAMI facilitates UN system efforts to foster coherence and continuity between humanitarian action, peace and the transition to sustainable development.

Through an extensive field network, UNAMI facilitates multi-stakeholder partnerships and forums supporting UN system efforts critical for the execution of the mission's mandate during the post-ISIL transition including return of displaced populations, stabilization of newly liberated areas, gender equality, social cohesion and inclusion, structural reforms and community reconciliation.

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 Na-

tions 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.

During 2016, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) implemented a high impact, pragmatic approach to stabilization that improves citizen-government ties and revitalizes public trust in the Iraqi Government. Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS) quadrupled in size, growing from a small undertaking in a few cities to a large programme operating across numerous locations, including in the hard-hit cities of Ramadi and Fallujah in Anbar Governorate. In September 2016, before the military campaign to retake Mosul started, UNDP began preparing for its liberation, liaising with authorities to identify early priorities and rushing to pre-position US\$43 million in essential equipment to immediately jumpstart basic services, notably health, electricity, and water. Overall, UNDP's FFS has contributed to laying the foundations for the return of over 1.39 million Iraqi men, women, and children since the start of the conflict.

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, UNMAS, 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. In 2007, its role was greatly expanded by 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 and electoral affairs, 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 Field Support.

Through its resolution 2421 (2018), adopted on 14 June 2018, the Security Council extended the mandate of UNAMI until 31 May 2019.

UNAMI has an authorized strength of 852 personnel (331 international, 521 national).

The Mission's budget for 2018: USD 108.6 million.

Interview with

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

■ MS. ALICE WALPOLE ■



How do you see your role as the DSRSG for political and electoral affairs and how did it evolve during 2018?

I start every year with a vision of what my role and focus are going to be but then life intervenes and I find my activities being reshaped by (often unexpected) events! 2018 was very much the year of elections. National parliamentary elections in May, followed by a partial ballot recount, and Kurdistan Regional elections in September. The UN was present throughout the recount process and therefore, for us as a political mission, there was a great deal more focus (and work) on the elections last year than we had anticipated. And, of course, afterwards there was an important role for the UN in encouraging and supporting formation of the new government.

What were you most proud of in 2018? What were, in your opinion, UNAMI's and your main achievements in the political field?

DSRSG Walpole: I was proud of the support that we offered to the electoral process. We played a key role in supporting IHEC in electoral preparations, and I was proud of the efforts of my team in the follow-up to the elections, especially in observing the recount. I believe we also played a useful role in supporting the Kurdistan Regional Government in preparing their elections.

We worked extensively throughout the year with the government, including giving our best advice on building national reconciliation and social cohesion. We offered advice to Prime Minister Abadi's government earlier in 2018 and to Prime Minister Abdul Mahdi's government later in the year. There was a very good and constructive dialogue with both administrations on a range of issues, such as Baghdad-Erbil relations, which saw a significant rapprochement in the first half of the year.

I am proud of the UN response to a re-

quest from the Mayor of Tuz Khurmatu to help bring his Arab, Turkmen and Kurdish communities together. I believe we helped establish a constructive dialogue between the different components.

A particular focus this last year has been our outreach to Iraq's minority communities. For example, I visited Kojo village in the south of Sinjar, where the community asked the UN to help establish a memorial to the terrible Yazidi experience under Da'esh. And they also asked us to help with exhumation of the mass graves there. I am pleased that the first mass grave that my colleagues in UNITAD are helping excavate is that one in Kojo.

After the defeat of Da'esh, one of the main priorities for UNAMI is the process of reconciliation. How do you think this process developed in 2018?

DSRSG Walpole: In first half of 2018, UNAMI supported a series of national and regional workshops on reconciliation,

which helped communities envisage peaceful long-term solutions to their differences. Later in the year, our activities were more focused at the local level, talking to individual communities about their aspirations or witnessing reconciliation and social cohesion on the ground. I have been particularly struck to see communities rebuilding themselves. For example, I was very honoured to participate in the laying of the foundation stone of the new Al-Nuri Mosque in Mosul with the President of the Sunni Endowment.

I mentioned earlier our outreach to various Iraqi communities. I met with Sabeen Mandeans, Shabaks, the Bahai, Kakai, Fayli Kurds and various Christian denominations, including Chaldeans and Syrians, as well as the Yazidis. I visited the Yazidis' splendid Lalish Temple; I participated with the Sabeen Mandeans in their Eid-Al-Bronaya festival; I climbed the path to the imposing Mar Mattai monastery high above the Ninewa Plains. It was an enormous privilege to engage with these communities - I hope we have convinced them that the UN is deeply interested in the challenges they face and ready to support them.

I have also had the opportunity to talk to those who have been displaced by Da'esh or the fight to defeat Da'esh, in IDP camps in Dohuk and Kirkuk. During the elections process, the UN worked hard to ensure that the displaced were enabled to make their voices heard, too, in choosing Iraq's future government. I visited Sinjar where I met with those who have already been repatriated to Sinjar and with the security authorities there who protect them, and learned more about what would enable others also to come back.

One of the things that was really illuminating for me throughout 2018 was travelling around the country and understanding at the local level what the needs of the communities are. Whether that was talking to Kakai watermelon farmers in Daquq, Kirkuk; or hearing from the lively Provincial Council members in Baqubah, Diyala; or paying calls on religious representatives in Najaf, Karbala and Samarra; all their views enriched my understanding of Iraq.

On numerous occasions, including during the election processes, you said publicly that women should be represented at all levels of decision making in Iraq. What do you think about the position of women in Iraq?

DSRSG Walpole: I am deeply disappoint-

ed that the political leadership did not choose to appoint any of Iraq's many talented, experienced women to senior political roles. It was a missed opportunity. By the end of 2018, Iraq's government did not have a single female Minister, despite the many excellent, motivated, effective women parliamentarians.

The government must ensure that qualified women access a range of senior roles – deputy minister roles, chairs of parliamentary committees, ambassadorships, senior academic positions, senior judiciary roles. Women are not playing the part they could in this country, and I don't think Iraq - as it rebuilds - can afford to ignore what they have to offer.

Engagement on the Missing Kuwaiti Persons and Property file, an important mandated task of the Mission, has also continued. How do you see Iraq – Kuwait relations at the moment?

DSRSG Walpole: This is, of course, primarily an Iraqi-Kuwaiti bilateral issue, facilitated by the International Committee of the Red Cross. The UN takes an observer role - although we are determined to add as much value as we can and play our role to the fullest. In 2018, we looked carefully at where UN expertise might best support the search process for the missing Kuwaitis, investigating the possible use of metal detectors and ground-penetrating radar. After studies, we decided that metal detectors were not feasible in this context but ground-penetrating radar might be and we are now considering a project with ground-penetrating radar, which the UN used to good effect in previous searches for mass burial sites.

As regards the return of Kuwaiti property, I am pleased that, after a very long period of inaction, in November 2018 part of Kuwait's national media archives and some precious historical objects were handed back to Kuwait. I hope that will be an augur of further returns in 2019.

Overall, my experience has been that Iraqi-Kuwaiti relations were very constructive on both sides throughout 2018 and I am delighted to see the new Iraqi Foreign Minister putting real energy behind this file. The fact that the Kuwait International Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq was held in February 2018 in Kuwait City was an extremely important indicator of Kuwait's continuing support for Iraq, and we are very grateful to Kuwait for that.

Is there any specific thing that stands

out that you've done or you contributed in 2018?

DSRSG Walpole: Well, obviously, everything that I have contributed or achieved in 2018 is due to the inspired, collaborative, effective efforts of our terrific UNAMI team. Highlights of my year? I have been fortunate to travel extensively around the country, talking to people and hearing about their interests, from Dohuk to Basra, Sinjar to Hilla to Kut to Halabja. I enjoyed all of it, and all of it will stay in my mind, whether engaging in interesting debate with political experts and opinion formers at the Rafidain Centre for Dialogue, or exchanging experiences with women academics at Kirkuk university, or exploring Assyrian pavement in Erbil citadel with its excavation team.

Conversely, what were the lowest points in the past year?

DSRSG Walpole: Obviously, the continuing violence and terrorist attacks are a source of deep disquiet. Security across Iraq has significantly improved throughout 2018 but there is cause for continuing grave concern.

I am disappointed at how long the completion of the process of government formation is taking. The absence of final decisions on key posts is having a negative effect on every aspect of parliamentary business. We're not yet seeing the parliament delivering on its promises to the electorate. And the lack of women in senior political posts; that's fifty per cent of the population automatically excluded from the top decision-taking process. That is very disappointing.

What are the UNAMI political component's priorities in 2019? Do you predict a rough road ahead?

DSRSG Walpole: 2019 will, I judge, be about helping the new government consolidate the gains of the last year and deliver on its promises - building sustainable state institutions that deliver public services; tackling the corruption that is stifling the economy and public life; taking steps to rationalise security structures, including armed groups outside government control.

With regard to the broad agenda of issues that the government is likely to prioritise – such as enhancing Baghdad-Erbil relations, oil revenues, water issues, maritime boundaries, counter-terrorism – the UN will be looking to offer support and expertise where we can.

Interview with

The Deputy Special Representative for Iraq of the United Nations Secretary-General/Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator

■ MS. MARTA RUEDAS ■



How do you see your role as the DSRSG/RC/HC overseeing the UN's humanitarian and development efforts in Iraq?

I think it is a key function in a setting like Iraq, which is a post conflict situation. It still requires a heavy emphasis on humanitarian work, but it also needs a lot of effort to steer the country onto a regular development path.

Here what's important: the humanitarian and the development parts of the Resident Coordinator system need to work with a lot of coordination between each other. It's important to put these two functions very close together, and it requires a lot of work as well.

In which priority areas were most of 2018's humanitarian and development projects implemented?

For the humanitarian community, that focus still remained on the displaced population. It's still an important function. We have approximately 1,9 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) that we need to support. That means that a lot of the UN Country team development work is on reestablishing the infrastructure, the physical infrastructure and the social infrastructure to enable that to happen. The stabilization program is working on the physical rehabilitation and the Country Team is working on the social infrastructure, systems, mechanisms and so on.

In 2018 we have witnessed an ongoing humanitarian crisis with IDPs. What has UNAMI and UNCT done to help Iraqi people in need?

It is what I would call a protracted crisis. It's not an acute crisis anymore, but is a

protracted crisis. What we need to do, first of all, is to decrease the caseload of people in need. We need to get those IDPs either to return back to their places of origin or if not, to have them settle in another location. In either case, they need to be supported as they ease back into an ordinary life as Iraqi citizens. That's the first thing.

While they are IDPs, they require a lot of support in their transition back to ordinary life. That's why UNAMI and the Humanitarian Country Team had to provide health services, education services, camp management, food and other support.

Despite difficulties, D'aesh was defeated, and the UN family continued with deliveries of aid to those affected in the newly liberated areas. Are you satisfied with what has been achieved so far?

One is never satisfied. I think that the

UNCT has done quite a bit, and the international community has been very supportive. We've been able to do what was necessary. But we need to go beyond that now, as I said, to reduce the caseload of people in need.

UNDP and other UN agencies, funds and programmes are heavily involved in the reconstruction efforts of the newly liberated areas. Can you tell us more on that?

I mentioned earlier that the Country Team is involved in providing the physical and social infrastructure or helping the Government to provide the physical and social infrastructure to the level that is needed in the post-conflict situation. UNDP has been very heavily involved in the stabilization projects that provided the physical infrastructure, but also the UNCT, and many other organisations as well. For example, on the health systems and infrastructure, both physical and social, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA are very active. And in a similar fashion, for the educational infrastructure you have UNICEF and UNESCO.

IOM is providing a lot of the employment, camp management, and a lot of systems for that to happen. We are involved across a variety of sectors to try to build up the systems and the infrastructure. We work also on social cohesion, a number of other areas.

On few occasions in 2018, UNAMI and the UN in general launched appeals for funds to assist those affected by developments in Iraq. How would you evaluate donors' response?

I think on the humanitarian side they've been very, very supportive. The international community has provided the highest percentage of funding of all the humanitarian response programs across the world. I think that we have to be very thankful for their support on the humanitarian side.

On the longer-term reconstruction efforts, on stabilization, they have continued to provide support. There's still a funding gap. We still need some additional support. We are continuing to receive contributions, so that is a very positive development. But for other areas of reconstruction, I think we still need some greater response from the international community.

I think that the view abroad is that Iraq is a rich country. Which is true, but Iraq still has huge debts to deal with. So, because Iraq is a rich country there is very little de-

velopment support. But I don't think that the issue of the debts and reconstruction cost is taken into account.

In 2018 we had the Kuwait conference; how much was UN involved?

United Nations were heavily involved in the leadup and organization of the Kuwait conference, and therefore also in the follow-up. But, at the Kuwait conference, a great amount of the commitments that were made there were for the private sector and loans, in which UN is not involved. In terms of grants for development, that's what we are trying to follow up.

2018 was a rich yet challenging year for Iraq and for the UN family in the country. What were you most proud of in 2018?

There are a lot of achievements. I mentioned that we were able to still maintain a very, very high level of humanitarian support. That is of course with the donors' contributions, but the delivery on the ground was followed up on by the Humanitarian Country Team. As well on the stabilization front, we have maintained a very, very high delivery speed and quality. I think we have to be very well satisfied with that implementation.

We were able to also respond to ad hoc needs, such as the flood response. UNESCO had a high-level conference for the rebuilding of Mosul, and this has been followed up by UNESCO and UN HABITAT with some very thorough plans for the rebuilding of the city.

So, a number of very high-profile events also took place. I think in general we have to be satisfied with the rhythm of the delivery and of the quality of delivery that we had done.

What will be UNAMI priorities in the humanitarian and development areas for 2019 and what might be the biggest challenges?

As I've mentioned before, one of the major priorities would be to decrease the caseload of people in need. What does this mean? We hope that a large number of IDPs will return to their places of origin. But some of them will not. And we will need to try to integrate the ones that will not be returning to their places of origin, either where they are now or in other locations. But, to return them to a regular life as Iraqi citizens wherever they want to live.

That requires a great deal of coordination with the local authorities and the local

communities, both in places of origin or in other locations.

But it's a great challenge to work with the less-easy to return IDPs because that requires a lot of physical and social infrastructure work, and a lot of coordination. It requires people to have livelihoods, it requires them to be integrated into the housing and education systems.

But equally, there is a significant number of IDP families who are currently tagged as being ISIL-affiliated. Some of those people, we think, can be removed from that label because they are the children of ISIL members maybe, or the family, but distant, or siblings of ISIL members, but they themselves were not personally involved. It's very complicated to address this issue with national authorities, but it is very important. So that is a big challenge coming up.

Similarly, on the development side, we will need try to work with the Iraqi authorities to develop more effective and efficient mechanisms for the delivery of basic services to the population, such as education, such as health services. Basic social services are difficult to be delivered by the Iraqi Government because the systems and mechanisms are not operating as they should be. We are working with them on that. Employment is a huge challenge that is coming up. There is a large need for jobs, which is not being met by the economy. There is no well-functioning national economy. So we need to get the Iraqi government to recognise that and to develop some policies that will work for the development of the national private sector. These are some of the major challenges coming up.

In 2019, the UNCT will be developing its overall strategic, the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which is set to take effect as of 1 January 2020. That means that we have to develop it and get it approved over the course of 2019. And by getting approved I mean, both by the Government of Iraq and by the UN itself. That is going to be a major operational task.

The Country Team will be developing the UNDAF, but at the same time with UNAMI it will be necessary to develop a new ISF, Integrated Strategic Framework, that would cover the overall strategic development priorities of all the UN, including UNAMI, Country Team, and Humanitarian CT together. That's going to be a part of the operational strategic development for 2019.



Office of Political Affairs

Interview with

Director of the UNAMI Office of Political Affairs

MR. MANOJ MATHEW

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OPA under the direction of UNAMI leadership will continue to support the implementation of the Government's programme by focusing on strengthening the foundations of the unified federal state

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What are the biggest achievements of OPA in 2018?

2018 was a year of political transition in Iraq. On 12 May, the country held its fourth parliamentary elections under the 2005 Constitution – and its first elections since the defeat of ISIL. In the immediate aftermath of the military campaign, the Government of Iraq had to organise, under difficult circumstances, a nationwide, credible and inclusive electoral process, one that would underpin the establishment of a representative Government.

In support of the Government's efforts, UNAMI Office of Political Affairs (OPA) engaged, throughout the electoral process, with political parties, leaders and candidates with the aim of securing their commitment to upholding a transparent, free and fair democratic process and to furthering the sense of national unity that had emerged from the military victory. Furthermore, OPA was instrumental in advocating for, and facilitating the development of an “Electoral Charter of Honour” that outlined principles and best practices for ethical campaigning to ensure the integrity of

the electoral process, promote national interests, avoid sectarian overtones and reject hate speech and gender-based electoral violence. The majority of political parties, in both Baghdad and Erbil signed up to this agreement. This platform helped in building trust among political parties and as a result, and unlike previous elections, many political alliances were formed based on shared policies and visions rather than sectarian affiliations, and electoral campaigns placed a greater emphasis on a unified, cross-sectarian identity, which assuaged rather than exacerbated sectarian divides.

OPA has also focused its efforts on supporting the Government, local authorities and key political stakeholders in deflating tensions in Kirkuk. Following protracted in-fighting between the three main population components in Kirkuk over the administration of the Governorate, OPA was able to foster an agreement between the political parties through which they endorsed the Provincial Council Election Law. Building on this success, OPA has been invited to provide its good offices to assist in exploring means to reach consensus on a wide range of other contentious issues. In Kirkuk and rest of the country, OPA maintains regular interaction with decision makers in the governorates through our Governorate Liaison Offices.

UNAMI works in partnership with the Iraqi Government and civil society organizations. How has this collaboration progressed over the past year?

In 2018, OPA expanded its efforts in reaching-out to religious, political and tribal leaders, youth and women to promote a collective sense of identity and unity and to support the Government in translating the military victory into sustainable political stability. OPA has consistently advocated for an Iraqi-led, inclusive national and societal reconciliation process as the best answer to ISIL crimes; this is the only way forward if Iraqis are to establish strong, functional institutions that promote sustainable peace and development within a unitary state. To this effect, OPA has engaged with key stakeholders and acted as a trusted go-between

and facilitator to bring diverse views closer within the context of promoting community reconciliation and political stability. For instance, OPA has engaged senior religious leaders on countering extremism whilst convening a series of forums aimed at facilitating dialogue with, and between, minority communities through intra- and inter-community dialogue. OPA has also advocated for, and assisted, minorities in actively participating in local and federal government and has given them additional exposure through media conferences and round-table forums.

With regards to its partnership with the Government, OPA devised an initiative aimed at narrowing political differences among the political parties and assisting the Government in developing a governmental programme that aims to overcome sectarian divides. The initiative detailed ways to facilitate the work of political leaders and stakeholders in designing a four-year government programme identifying key policies and priorities with a view to building a prosperous and sustainable future. As a first step, OPA supported UNAMI leadership in convening bilateral meetings with representatives of political blocs to take stock of their vision, priorities and intended programmatic activities in an effort to build consensus and buy-in for the full duration of the programme.

What are OPA priorities in 2019?

After the formation of the new Government, priorities will shift from politics to the implementation of the four-year governmental programme which aims to strengthen Iraq's democratic system, to improve its security structures, to tackle corruption and strengthen the rule of law, and to improve the delivery of basic services, including the implementation of water and electricity projects.

At the request of the Government, OPA under the direction of UNAMI leadership will continue to support the implementation of the Government's programme by focusing on strengthening the foundations of the unified federal state. OPA will notably assist the Government in generating political commitment and continuous support from the political blocs at the techni-

cal level, as well as working towards a more effective balance and coordination between the legislative and executive powers. The newly elected Council of Representatives offers a real opportunity to move beyond partisan interests by developing a political culture of dialogue and national interest-based compromise. OPA will therefore work in close cooperation with the Council and different parliamentary committees on the implementation of constitutional provisions as well as assisting the Council with the legislative process in accordance with international standards.

Building upon the formation of cross-sectarian coalitions, key partners agree on the need for renewed commitment to addressing the root causes of conflicts and working towards ensuring sustainable political stability in the country. In line with UNAMI's mandate, OPA will support the mission leadership in engagement with Iraqi political leaders to address outstanding issues such as constitutional provisions, Baghdad-Erbil relations, disputed territories, enactment of legislation and democratic representation. OPA will ensure that all community representatives, including women and youth leaders, minorities and religious leaders gain a space for a meaningful role in the decision making process, and will work to enhance their participation in the implementation of the Government's programme – a positive contribution to the future of Iraq.

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OPA has also focused its efforts on supporting the Government, local authorities and key political stakeholders in deflating tensions in Kirkuk

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Electoral Assistance Office

“UN electoral assistance activities in Iraq: Supporting Iraqi efforts to build strong, credible and sustainable electoral institutions”

Interview with

Principal Electoral Adviser and Head of Integrated Electoral Assistance Team

DR. AAMIR A. ARAIN



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In 2018, there were a number of significant challenges that the IHEC faced in organizing the elections

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What has been the greatest achievement of the UNAMI Electoral Assistance Office in 2018?

It was a busy election year throughout 2018 in Iraq. There were two major electoral events: the federal-level Council of Representatives elections held on 12 May and the regional-level Kurdistan parliamentary elections on 30 September. These elections demonstrated the operational and technical capacities of

Iraq's electoral institutions, built over the years and with UN support, in organizing elections. At the same time, it also exposed persistent challenges that will need to be addressed if Iraq is to sustain progress in building strong and capable electoral institutions and processes critical to the success of its developing democracy.

Through focused UNAMI technical assistance and policy advice, the Indepen-

dent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) was able to improve the pre-election, election day and post-election stages of the electoral preparations. UNAMI electoral advisers supported their IHEC counterparts in reviewing and refining electoral processes and systems which led the Commission to adopt streamlined requirements and mechanisms for Internally Displaced Persons' (IDP) voting. UNAMI worked together with OCHA, UNHCR and IOM in encouraging IHEC to adopt policies and guidelines to facilitate voting by IDPs in camps.

Following UNAMI advisories the Commission gave priority and worked towards building stakeholders' confidence and acceptance of new technologies which were then adopted for the 2018 election. UNAMI convinced the Commission to conduct several election day simulations with the assistance of the Mission; these simulations helped instil stakeholder trust in the new technologies.

UNAMI, in coordination with the UN Integrated Gender and Elections Task Force, worked with the IHEC Gender Team on measures to further enhance gender responsive staff recruitment and training policies and in generating gender disaggregated information on electoral participation.

On election day, UNAMI, in coordination with UN agencies, deployed teams in strategic locations to follow up and generate updated election day information for the UN. The strategic deployment of UN teams on election day enabled UNAMI to immediately raise emerging issues with the Commission leading to timely resolution by the Commission and relevant Iraqi authorities of problems identified. Similarly, during the 2018 vote recount process, UNAMI, complemented by UNDP experts, provided advisory support to the Board of Judges and maintained physical presence in recount locations. The UN assistance during the recount helped build confidence and facilitated the timely completion of the politically sensitive recount.

Upon the request of the Kurdistan Region Independent High Electoral Commission (KIHEC), UNAMI provided support to the KIHEC in areas that were

deemed crucial in organizing the Kurdistan Region's 30 September parliamentary elections. It was the first occasion that KIHEC, as the regional electoral management body, was organising such an election. UN provided technical assistance for improved KIHEC capacities in the areas of training, field coordination, result transmission and tabulation of election results. High level policy and management advice was also provided to the KIHEC Board of Commissioners leading to the adoption of policies and regulations that promote voter secrecy and access, civil society participation, and stakeholder consultation particularly on sensitive processes such as the results tabulation software.

UNAMI also deployed teams to follow up election day developments in the region's major cities of Erbil, Dahuk, Sulaymaniyah and Halabjah. They reported on e-day developments and served as the mission's eyes and ears on the ground throughout election day. SRSK Kubis and DSRSG Walpole visited a number of polling locations and spoke to the media encouraging greater electoral participation.

Following the elections, KIHEC requested and UNAMI advised KIHEC on the conduct of the post election review workshop, including the development of the concept, methodology, and agenda. UNAMI advised KIHEC to also consult and solicit the perspectives of electoral stakeholders, including political parties, civil society organization, women advocates regarding the conduct of the elections. UNAMI electoral advisers maintained presence and took part in the actual workshops in the various governorates. This support to KIHEC will continue in 2019 and 2020 as indicated and agreed by the UNAMI mission leadership in consultations with UNHQ.

What in your perspective were the greatest challenges faced during the elections?

In 2018, there were a number of significant challenges that the IHEC faced in organizing the elections. For one, the significant number of displaced people in the aftermath of the recent Daesh conflict which required the Commission to undertake a number of measures, including the opening of more than 3000

polling stations for various categories of IDP voting. However, more than the opening of additional IDP polling locations, the count and recount processes exposed challenges in terms of procedures and staff capacities for IDP voting leading to the quarantine and exclusion of a huge number of IDP polling stations. Inclusive enfranchisement of IDP voters, and similarly of out of country voters, involve not just their being able to cast the ballot, but also for the ballots to be properly counted and included in the election results.

Perhaps the most pronounced challenge was the introduction of the technologies for vote counting, transmission and tabulation of results. Greater transparency and stronger independent testing of the software could have addressed negative perceptions about the technology. The IHEC has already expressed its intention to use the technologies for the forthcoming provincial elections. If the issues and allegations that occurred in the last elections are to be avoided, there is a need to seriously undertake measures that will build stakeholder confidence in the technologies. These have been highlighted in the advisories that UNAMI has shared with IHEC on promoting integrity, transparency and stakeholder acceptance vis a vis the technology and the election management system as a whole. Along this line, there is now an ongoing discussion between UNAMI Electoral and IHEC on starting the process early for undertaking an independent testing and audit of the software, vote counting equipment, and election results transmission system prior to the next provincial council elections.

During the campaign period, the disadvantaged position of women as candidates, voters and election staff have again been highlighted. Moreso with a number of cases involving negative information against women candidates. There is also the issue, raised by women advocates, regarding the way the quota system is being used in Iraq. Considering such, UNAMI, in coordination with the Women Advisory Group and the IHEC Gender Team are working on specific activities that will highlight the importance of meaningful women participation as election staff, candidates,



and voters. There are also proposals for adopting legal and regulatory measures aimed at mitigating instances of election related gender violence.

Looking back, another challenge is low voter participation, with turnout figures placed at mid forties, comparatively lower than in previous elections. This may have as much to do with negative perceptions concerning governance and delivery of services as also the low credibility of electoral institutions and processes.

For the 30 September Kurdistan regional parliamentary elections, while voting day went smoothly, there were also a number of challenges that surfaced in the run up to voting and in the subsequent processing of electoral disputes and tabulation of results. Of note, KIHEC has already undertaken a post election review to look deeper into these challenges and to identify ways of addressing them. Obviously, it would require support and, as such, they have already made a request for UN electoral assistance as well as manifesting their intention to reinvigorate the partnership with IHEC at the national level.

Looking forward, what is on the electoral agenda for 2019 and 2020?

As we all know, elections for the provincial councils were supposed to take place in 2017. It was postponed with the initial idea that it could be held simultaneous with the Council of Representatives elections. That did not happen, and IHEC has now submitted a recommendation for the provincial elections

to take place on 16 November 2019. This election date is yet to be confirmed by the Council of Representatives and the Council of Ministers. This will thus be the focus of the IHEC in the next months, in coordination with the Council of Representatives so as to finalize the revisions to the electoral law, as well as the Council of Ministers in allocating the corresponding resources and in coordinating the preparation with various governmental institutions. UNAMI will continue to provide expertise support in certain technical areas as well as high level policy and management advice to the Commission.

At the immediate, it is also important for IHEC, with support from UNAMI and other international partners, to draw lessons from the 2018 process, by way of a post election review, in order to map out ways forward in terms of the outstanding issues and challenges. KIHEC has already undertaken this post election review and is thus gearing up to implement some of the action points identified, together with requested international support.

Along this line, UNAMI and UNDP are working together, in coordination with IHEC, towards refining and updating the Electoral Support Project so it can be presented to donors for consideration and funding support. IHEC has also opened up to the idea of exploring co-financing. The project will enable the tapping of expertise and implementation of activities aimed at further strengthening current capacities as well as initiating activities in support of pos-

sible electoral legal and voter registry reform efforts.

Electoral legal reform is something that has already been previously initiated, considering the many proposals that were already submitted during the previous and current Council of Representatives for reviewing and amending the existing IHEC law, electoral laws, political parties laws, and other relevant legislation and related regulations. In discussions with the Council of Representatives and the IHEC, UNAMI made clear on its availability and readiness to advise and support these institutions concerning these reform efforts.

The KIHEC passed a major test as it organised, for the first time, the regional level parliamentary elections held on 30 September 2018. Although KIHEC, with UNAMI assistance, improved its technical and logistical capacities during the preparation and voting, as highlighted during the post-election review workshops, there is a need to improve KIHEC capacities to process election day complaints and a timely announcement of the election results. In 2019 and 2020, UNAMI technical assistance will be aimed at improving these elements. UNAMI support will also assist in further improving the KIHEC voter registry systems. KIHEC has already made an explicit request for UN technical support, with the aim of further enhancing its capacities for the next elections.

As such, in 2020, UNAMI will continue to work closely with IHEC and KIHEC to further develop coordination mechanisms



and to support institutional capacity building efforts. UNAMI will also provide targeted technical support in certain defined areas, based on KIHEC request, with the aim of enhancing KIHEC capacities to organise regional level elections. The support to IHEC and KIHEC will lead to improved election processes in Iraq.

What about the UN's role in this process?

The United Nations provides electoral assistance to the Commission through its Integrated Electoral Assistance Team throughout the process. The UNAMI Principal Electoral Adviser continues to provide strategic advice on election management and policy to the Board of Commissioners and senior IHEC officials. He participates in Board of Commissioners meetings and conducts regular discussions with senior IHEC officials regarding policy and management issues affecting IHEC and its electoral preparations. At the same time, UNAMI electoral experts provide 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 its own gender strategic policies and in launching activities that will further promote women's participation as election staff, voters, and candidates.

Internally, UNAMI EAO is comparatively a very lean electoral team with a huge mandate to fulfill. It is quite fortunate that the level of expertise within the team is high, which enables us to re-

spond to various support requirements at short notice. We have also been able to tap expertise support through the Electoral Assistance Division based in UN Headquarters, UNDP's country and regional office support, as well as a number of support capacities available in the mission.

Why are the next provincial elections so important for Iraq?

The next provincial council elections will again provide an opportunity for Iraqis to elect their local representatives who will have the responsibility to deliver on public demands for greater and timely delivery of basic services. Obviously, electing individuals is just one step among many that are needed to fully address governance and service delivery issues at the provincial and local level.

Likewise, the stabilization and development efforts in areas affected by the recent conflicts will also necessitate that the governance and service delivery institutions receive fresh electoral mandate to ensure that they represent the wishes and interests of the population they govern.

Lastly, how would you like to see the IHEC develop in the next few years?

Both the international community and the United Nations would like to see an IHEC that is professionally managing elections in Iraq. It is important that IHEC attains a level of credibility as an institution that has sufficient capability to conduct its affairs free from political

pressures and in an accountable and transparent manner. In coordination with USAID, UNAMI is working with IHEC on undertaking a strategic planning process, in order to define the strategic goals and directions of the institution and to address priorities, including voter registry reform, the further upgrade of the results management system, and measures to further strengthen inclusive and participatory electoral processes.

A lot will also depend on how ongoing electoral legal and institutional reform efforts will be taken forward. For one, there is a need to enhance the IHEC Board of Commissioners selection process that will mitigate concerns regarding political interference and negative perceptions against the independence of certain commissioners. IHEC will also need to address issues of inclusiveness, the selection of adequate number of women and component representatives as members of the Board of Commissioners, Director Generals, section heads and IHEC staff.

Training, capacity building and retention of qualified and trained staff will also play a big role in IHEC's institutional sustainability. UN has played a substantial support role in previous elections, but as IHEC's experience continues to grow, such support is ultimately to reduce, as national ownership takes more prominence. We are thus also consciously working on an exit strategy for electoral assistance, to be ready when the time comes for the national institution to stand on its own.



■ Human Rights Office

Q&A with UNAMI Human Rights Office

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UNAMI Human Rights Office welcomes the steps taken by the Government during 2018 to meet its international and domestic human rights obligations, Iraq continued to face some complex human rights issues in 2018

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What was your assessment of the human rights situation in Iraq during 2018?

During 2018 UNAMI Human Rights Office continued to support the Government of Iraq's efforts to uphold human rights for all Iraqi citizens, including the most vulnerable and marginalised members of society.

In 2018, Human Rights Office welcomed steps taken the Government of Iraq to promote the protection of human rights. The government continued to implement its human rights national action plan aimed at addressing the recommendations made in the last Universal Periodic Review (UPR) conducted in 2015, and is currently drafting its country report in preparation for the next review of Iraq under the UPR mechanism which will take place in November 2019.

In 2018 the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination also conducted a review of Iraq, and the government is now

actively working in consultation with civil society organizations and representatives of minority community to implement the Committee's recommendations

UNAMI Human Rights Office welcomes the steps taken by the Government during 2018 to meet its international and domestic human rights obligations, Iraq continued to face some complex human rights issues in 2018.

Civilians continued to suffer the effects of armed conflict and acts of terrorism in Iraq throughout 2018, with the leading identifiable perpetrator of civilian casualties still being ISIL. Nonetheless since the end of 2017, when the Prime Minister declared military victory over ISIL, civilian casualties documented by UNAMI Human Rights Office significantly decreased – although it should be noted that the ability of the Human Rights Office to effectively verify civilian casualties in certain areas remains limited by security and other access constraints. Between 1 January and



31 December 2018, Human Rights Office documented 2391 civilian casualties (902 killed and 1489 injured), an overall decrease of 54 per cent compared to 2017.

During 2018 the focus of the HRO shifted from documenting atrocities carried out by ISIL to working with the Iraqi authorities, communities, human rights organizations and civil society on the promotion and protection of human rights, as part of broader mission efforts to promote community reconciliation and social cohesion.

Looking forward, UNAMI's human rights work on administration of justice, accountability, women's rights, minorities and child protection aims to prevent violent extremism, serve as early warning and contribute to sustaining peace.

How is the Human Rights Office supporting government and broader UN efforts to provide accountability for crimes carried out by ISIL?

Ensuring full accountability of perpetrators of ISIL atrocities is a key element in redressing the enormous harm to Iraqi society inflicted by ISIL.

In this context, the UNAMI Human Rights Office continued to support the government and the judicial authorities to

uphold international standards of due process and fair trial, including by monitoring the judicial hearings of alleged ISIL defendants.

Closely linked to HROs efforts to promote accountability, including for crimes committed by ISIL, is the technical and advisory support provided by UNAMI to UNITAD, the United Nations Investigative Team whose mandate is aimed at supporting national efforts to hold ISIL accountable for acts that may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide.

What was done in 2018 to address sexual and gender-based violence?

Supporting the Government to prevent and ensure accountability for the victims of gender-based violence remains a priority. UNAMI Human Rights Office continues to coordinate efforts in support of the Government's efforts to enact a law to prohibit and prevent domestic violence in line with international human rights standards.

In 2018 the government also launched its implementation plan for the Joint Communiqué on "Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence". The plan was developed by the government in consultation with, civil society and rel-

evant UN Agencies and aims to enhance the protection of women, girls, men and boys, from sexual violence and to ensure the provision of care and services for survivors.

What is being done to promote and protect the rights of minorities?

The Human Rights Office supports mission efforts to build social cohesion through advocacy for human rights protection for religious and ethnic minorities: non-discrimination; constructive public expression and dialogue; documentation of common narratives.

In line with our continuing efforts to support the Government fulfill their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), UNAMI Human Rights Office facilitated roundtables between Government and representatives of minorities communities to enable a structured forum for advocacy on the implementation the recommendations of the CERD Committee which were issued following the Committee's periodic review of Iraq in November 2018.

What were the UNAMI Human Rights Office's main achievements in 2018-2019?

As part of targeted advocacy and aware-

ness raising campaigns on human rights issues concerning the rights of minorities, in late 2018/early 2019, UNAMI Human Rights Office produced six films on minorities and human rights as part of the Iraq 3x3 International Film Festival and are currently screening the films countrywide. The project supports human rights defenders and local film makers, including women and youth, to give voice and expression to human rights issues impacting religious and ethnic minorities. The films identify challenges to the exercise or enjoyment of rights and propose solutions, with a particular focus on minorities.

Themes explored include the suppression by ISIL of the right to culture, discrimination against minorities, impact of armed conflict on the enjoyment of human rights, obstacles faced by women and children IDPs with perceived affiliations to ISIL, domestic violence, child marriage, access to education, and restrictions on the exercise of rights of women and girls. In addition to the festival on 3-5 March and a large public event jointly organized with the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights (IHCHR), the films were screened country-wide to diverse audiences as part of an advocacy strategy on promotion and protection of the rights of minorities and human rights in Iraq and to encourage dialogue and provoke action by the government, communities, and individuals to strengthen the protection of human rights in Iraqi society.

By April 2019, UNAMI Human Rights Office had screened the films in 10 governorates, reaching more than 4000 community leaders, government officials, students, human rights defenders and others.

On 1 November 2018, the UNAMI Human Rights Office and OHCHR published a report on mass graves in territories formerly held by ISIL and the implications for accountability for atrocity crimes. The report included specific recommendations that the Iraqi authorities establish a public, centralized registry of missing persons, and establish a federal Office of Missing Persons, headed by a senior official, tasked with determining the status of all missing persons in Iraq.

Throughout 2018, the UNAMI Human Rights Office monitored and verified incidents of violence against women, par-



ticularly so-called “honour” killings and other forms of violence such as forced marriage. Using documented incidents of violence against women, the Human Rights Office advocated with relevant parliamentary committees to prepare and enact a version of the Anti-Domestic Violence Bill. Similarly, in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, the Human Rights Office provided legal advice on proposed amendments to strengthen the 2011 “Act for Combating Domestic Violence in the Kurdistan Region” and is starting a project to visit women’s shelters throughout the Kurdistan Region on a regular basis.

The UNAMI Human Rights Office monitored demonstrations occurring in Basra Governorate from July to November 2018, and advocated for the provision and improvement of basic services such as clean water, electricity, employment opportunities, and an end to corruption, as a result of which 21 civilians died. The UNAMI Human Rights Office also engaged with the regional office of the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights (IHCHR) on monitoring and reporting on rights of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, as well as the right to be free from

arbitrary arrest and detention.

In the Kurdistan Region, the UNAMI Human Rights Office provided training courses throughout 2018 for civil society organizations, media workers, and government officials on freedom of expression and the media and the right to peaceful assembly and association. These courses have also examined the crucial role of responsible journalism in promoting reconciliation and respect for human rights in a post-ISIL Iraq. During 2018, the UNAMI Human Rights Office developed recommendations to amend the re-activated Kurdistan Region Anti-Terrorism Law No. 3 of 2006 in order to bring it in line with Iraq’s international human rights obligations.

UNAMI Human Rights Office worked closely with a network of national civil society organizations advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities, providing technical support to help the network prepare a shadow report to the UN Committee on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The CRPD Committee conducted hearings on Iraq in September 2018 and in November 2018 published a ‘List of Issues’ seeking



additional information on Iraq's report submitted to the Committee.

UNAMI Human Rights Office continued to promote the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities by collaborating with civil society actors on the preparation for the first meeting of the Task Force on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The objective of this Task Force is to ensure conformity of the national legislations on rights of persons with disabilities with the international human rights standards as stipulated in the CRPD.

UNAMI Human Rights Office engaged with Iraq's independent national and regional human rights institutions, namely the IHCHR and the Kurdistan Region Independent Board of Human Rights (IBHR), to strengthen their capacity to monitor, investigate, document, intervene and report on human rights violations and abuses in accordance with Paris Principles. Additionally, the UNAMI Human Rights Office worked throughout Iraq to protect the space for civil society in order to work freely and independently. For example, in Kirkuk, Salah al-Din and Diyala governorates, the UNAMI Human Rights Office undertook a programme of activi-

ties in late 2018 related to access to information on human rights for civil society actors so that they can participate in public decision-making processes.

UNAMI Human Rights Office continued to provide technical assistance and advice to the Government of Iraq to fulfil its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). In 2019, following up on the concluding observations of the Committee on the CERD, issued in January 2019, UNAMI Human Rights Office convened a roundtable discussion in Baghdad on 11 March 2019. Representatives from the National Reconciliation Commission in the Prime Minister's Office and the Human Rights Directorate in the Ministry of Justice as well as the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights and minority communities participated. Participants developed recommendations to implement the concluding observations and agreed to establish a working group on the rights of minorities to further discuss the recommendations and to prioritize the enactment of a law criminalizing racial discrimination, preserve and promote minorities' languages, and remove discriminatory civil documentation. As a follow up, UNAMI Human Rights Office has started a preparation for the first Minority Working Group on the implementation of the concluding observations of the Committee on CERD.

During 2018 and early 2019 UNAMI Human Rights Office continued its efforts to support Government and civil society engagement with UN human rights mechanisms including the Universal Periodic Review and Treaty Body mechanisms. In this regard UNAMI Human Rights Office conducted training sessions and consultation meetings with Government representatives, civil society, national human rights institutions, and academia in the governorates in multiple locations throughout Iraq, including Baghdad, Ninewa, Erbil, Basra and Kirkuk, in order to raise awareness on the UPR process and to support civil society organizations in their preparation of "shadow reports" in advance of the next UPR session. The Human Rights Office will continue to work with government and civil society organizations through 2019 in order to ensure that all stakeholders work together to identify strengths and gaps in the human rights protection system and identify

solutions on how to overcome remaining challenges.

What are the UNAMI Human Rights Office priorities for 2019?

The improved security situation arising from the removal of ISIL from its strongholds in Iraq, now provides the Human Rights Office with the opportunity to provide a more structured and focused support to the Government's efforts to promote and protect human rights.

In 2019 the work of the Human Rights Office will be guided by five main priority goals:

- combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law, in particular in relation to addressing due process issues counter-terrorism-related cases;
- promoting the protection children, particularly those impacted by conflict;
- enhancing equality and countering discrimination, in particular in relation to women, ethnic and religious minority groups;
- ensuring accountability for conflict-related sexual violence;
- widening democratic space, with a focus on the rights to freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly; and
- early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity.

In 2019, Human Rights Office will support the Government to prioritise the enactment of a law criminalizing domestic violence, will increase its engagement with the Iraqi authorities on the prevention of torture, with a particular focus on the treatment of juvenile detainees, and will strengthen its work in cooperation with international and local partners, meet the protection needs of the families of alleged ISIL members currently in IDP camps, many of whom are survivors of crimes of sexual violence.

Under UNSCR 2421 (2018), the Office is also mandated to provide technical support to the Special Adviser and Head of the Investigative Team, established pursuant to UNSCR 2379 (2017), to support domestic efforts to hold ISIL accountable for what may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide.

Development Coordination Office (DCO)

In 2018 DCO restructured to better support Iraq with a stronger focus on recovery and development



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One of the most significant planned result of the ODSRSG/RC/HC – DCO for 2018 “Progress towards strengthened sustainable development and humanitarian assistance” was fully achieved

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Pursuant to the revised mandate of UNAMI contained in Security Council resolution 2421 (2018) and the 2017 independent external assessment, the Development Coordination Office (DCO) formerly known as the Integrated Coordination Office for Development and Humanitarian Affairs (ICODHA) went under restructuring in 2018 to better support Iraq with a stronger focus on recovery and development. DCO is responsible for supporting the Deputy Special Representative/Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator in carrying out the role and functions of the Resident Coordinator and the integration of those functions with UNAMI mandated tasks. That integration takes place in the context of the UNAMI mandate priorities in the UNSC Resolution 2421 (2018), 2 (c (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)), pertaining to the functions of the DSRSG/HC/RC.

One of the most significant planned result of the ODSRSG/RC/HC – DCO for 2018 “Progress towards strengthened sustainable development and humanitarian assistance” was fully achieved, as evidenced by more than 110 high-level meetings with Iraqi stakeholders held to discuss stabilization, reconstruction and development, owing to the stabilization of areas affected by conflict through the implementation of more than 1163 projects in the 31 liberated town and districts in Iraq, including the key areas of Anbar, Ninewa, Salah-al-Din, Diyala and Kirkuk governorates. In addition, combined development, stabilization and humanitarian efforts contributed significantly to the return of 1.4 million people during 2018, bringing the total number of returns to 4.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) to over 1,400 areas of origin across 35 districts



and seven governorates of Iraq since the end of hostilities with ISIL. This return of IDPs is a significant step toward durable solutions in the aftermath of the conflict.

In 2018, the ODSRSG/RC/HC – DCO also supported preparation of a two-year Recovery and Resilience Programme (RRP) launched by UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, at the Kuwait International Conference for Reconstruction of Iraq in February 2018. The RRP is a nexus framework that illustrates a shift from humanitarian and stabilization efforts to a focus on recovery, reconstruction and development. It aims at fast-tracking the social dimensions of reconstruction with activities designed to help people see tangible improvements in their daily lives early in the reconstruction process, rather than waiting for large-scale infrastructure projects and structural reforms. The launching of the RRP, and the continuing coordination efforts

with national and international partners, have contributed to increased coherence and more consolidated efforts aiming to improve Iraq's capacity to provide effective social and basic services for its people and to continue active donor coordination ensuring alignment of international support in assistance programmes that are aligned with the government priorities to the benefit of the Iraqi people.

The Office also supported the United Nations system's intension to align its next development assistance framework (UNDAF 2020–2024) with the priorities of the new Government, as reflected in the Government Reconstruction and Development Framework (2018–2027), in the new National Development Plan (2018–2022), and in the Poverty Reduction Strategy (2018–2022). The pursuit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Develop-

ment Goals will remain integral to these efforts. In this connection, the office supported the undertaking of a Common Country Assessment (CCA), in addition to a series of workshops focusing on UNDAF / CCA and Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

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The Development Coordination Office (DCO) formerly known as the Integrated Coordination Office for Development and Humanitarian Affairs (ICODHA) went under restructuring in 2018 to better support Iraq with a stronger focus on recovery and development

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■ United Nations Investigative Team for the Promotion of Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL

Establishment

The United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL was established pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 2379 (2017).

UNITAD is an independent, impartial investigative team, mandated to support national governments in their efforts to hold ISIL members accountable for their crimes.

Based in Baghdad, Iraq, UNITAD was established as a unanimous response by the international community to a request for assistance from the Government of the Republic of Iraq.



MANDATE AND MISSION

Karim A. A. Khan QC was appointed as an Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, serving as UNITAD's Special Adviser and Head of the Investigative Team.

Special Adviser Khan is a barrister and Queen's Counsel with more than 25 years of professional experience as an international criminal law and human rights lawyer.

The Special Adviser is mandated to lead UNITAD in support of domestic efforts to hold Da'esh/ISIL accountable by collecting, preserving, and storing evidence in Iraq of acts that may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide committed by the terrorist group Da'esh/ISIL in Iraq.

In addition, the Special Adviser is mandated to promote accountability throughout the world for acts that may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide committed by Da'esh/ISIL.

UNITAD also works with survivors and families of victims, in a manner consistent with relevant national laws, to ensure their interests in achieving accountability for Da'esh/ISIL are fully recognised.

ARRIVAL IN IRAQ

The Special Adviser and team first visited Iraq in August 2018, during which early phase UNITAD was situated in UN headquarters in New York. UNITAD formally deployed to Baghdad, Iraq two months later, on 29th October 2018, in premises inside the International Zone.

ENGAGING WITH THE PEOPLE OF IRAQ AT ALL LEVELS

Leveraging the benefit of location, UNITAD initiated its activities in Iraq through formal engagement with a wide cross section of the country's diverse communities, seeking to deliver on its mandate with transparency and visibility. An important aspect of achieving accountability for the victims and survivors of Da'esh/ISIL crimes is to ensure their voices are heard in the process, and to respect their wishes to see recognition for the breadth of criminality enacted upon them and their loved ones.

In the second half of 2018 and early

2019, the Special Adviser and team were honoured to be received by political leadership from the Government of Iraq, inclusive of the Triple Presidency (President, Prime Minister, Secretary-General of the Council of Ministers), as well as the Chief Justice, the Minister of Justice, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, all of whom expressed their support for the mandate and investigative operations of the team.

UNITAD also met with key regional government representatives, such as the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior of the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

The team were welcomed by leaders from many religious and ethnic communities in different locations around Iraq, including Shi'a, Sunni, Christian, Yazidi, Kaka'i, Shabak, and Turkmen.

The investigative team conducted a number of field visits around Iraq in the Autumn of 2018 to perform initial assessments of the reported crimes committed by Da'esh/ISIL. These included villages in the Sinjar region of Nineveh Province, Tikrit Air Academy (also known as Camp Speicher) and its surrounds, and the city of Mosul.

In taking the time to engage in outreach across the spectrum of communities in Iraq, UNITAD has been able to emphasise that there can be no hierarchy of victimhood when it comes to investigating and delivering accountability for victims and survivors of Da'esh/ISIL.

EARLY ACHIEVEMENTS

Between commencement of activity in August 2018 and the end of the year, UNITAD:

- Deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, on 29th October 2018
- Engaged and built strong relations with national authorities, victims groups, and religious bodies
- Established its legal and operational framework
- Commenced work on a mass graves analysis programme
- Conducted assessments and improvement recommendations for the facilities and work processes of the Iraqi authorities relevant to exhumation and forensic analysis operations, in preparation for

initial investigation work

- Conducted training for the Iraqi authorities directly involved in pilot exhumation activities
- Submitted its first report on its activities to the United Nations Security Council.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2019

Looking ahead to 2019, the Special Adviser has identified the following priorities:

1. Collection and analysis of existing documentary and digital evidence, including through comprehensive mapping of open-source material;
2. Establishment of full operational capacity of Field-Investigation Units, with the capacity to collect the testimonial and forensic material necessary to fill evidentiary gaps identified;
3. Completion of the initial mass graves analysis programme, establishing operational practices and procedures in line with international standards, and building further trust with affected communities.
4. Feed into and support domestic efforts within national courts to prosecute Da'esh/ISIL members in trials conducted in accordance with international standards.

With the support of the international and national communities, partners in national governments around the world, and United Nations colleagues, UNITAD will continue to undertake its important mandate with resolve and dedication.





■ FAO in Iraq

Iraq is an oil-rich upper middle-income country with a population of 36.4 million of which about a third reside in rural areas. After the public service and trade sectors, the agricultural sector represents a small, but vital component of the economy and accounts for 8.6 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). Agriculture is the third largest provider of employment in the country, and the largest source of employment for the rural population. The unemployment rate in Iraq is estimated at 11 percent nationally (i.e. seven per cent of males and 13 percent of females). Food insecurity is higher in rural areas (5.1 per cent) compared with 1.7 per cent in urban areas. In 2012, rural poverty rates were already 31 percent, and they have seen significant increases for large parts of the country affected by the crisis' flow of displaced people.

MAIN CHALLENGES

Many farmers have lost their assets due to conflict and theft or because their houses were destroyed (most farmers stored their inputs in or adjacent to their house). Moreover, diseases and pests are spreading more easily and rapidly due to a lack of pesticides among farmers. The majority of livestock shelters have also been damaged or destroyed during the fighting, often after the displacement and in absence of the farmers. After being displaced for a prolonged period of time, many farmers

who returned to their communities have found their animals missing and shelters ruined.

Of the 8.3 million people in need of humanitarian assistance across Iraq, 2 million people are estimated to be food insecure; with the majority (77 percent) women, children and elderly, including female-headed households. A majority of the returnees has been observed to be already food insecure or at elevated risk of becoming food insecure as the negative impact of the conflict prevails – following the loss

of their food reserves and various productive assets/resources through looting and/or damage during their displacement. In retaken areas, people continue to rely upon humanitarian assistance, but markets have once again emerged as the main source of food. Many markets in accessible areas have resumed operation and prices have fallen and stabilized in some. Still, the population has limited purchasing power and surveys show that negative coping mechanisms persist, including the sale of productive assets and purchasing food on credit.



WORLD FOOD DAY- 2018

The Ministry of Agriculture in Iraq, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) joined together under the patronage of H.E. Minister of Agriculture in Baghdad. The theme for the event was “Our Actions are our Future: A #ZeroHunger World by 2030 is possible”.

“Today, FAO celebrates World Food Day to send a clear message to the world about hunger”, said Fadel El-Zubi, FAO Representative in Iraq. “It is the worst kind of malnutrition mankind can face, but SDG 2, Zero Hunger, does not entail the battle against hunger only, but also deals with all forms of malnutrition as well as sustainable agricultural development”. “We call on the international community to work together in order to benefit from capacities and available mechanisms, as it is still possible to achieve zero hunger if efforts are unified through all countries, continents, sectors and cities during the few remaining years to 2030,” he added.

RRP-RESTORING AGRICULTURE AND WATER SYSTEMS

The Restoring Agriculture and Water Systems component of the RRP is aligned with the Ministry of Agriculture’s 2015-2025 strategy, the Iraq Water and Land Resources 2014 strategy and National Strategy and Plan of Action for Protecting the Environment in Iraq 2012-2017. Under FAO leadership, the UN will provide the necessary support to improve the agricultural sector through restoring agricultural systems, increasing agricultural growth and diversification and generating employment opportunities for the reduction of poverty and improved food security overall. The UN will also support the Iraqi Government in providing assistance through the restoration and replacement of infrastructure and equipment in rural areas and rehabilitation of water networks for human and livestock consumption and agriculture irrigation systems for grain, vegetable and fruit production.

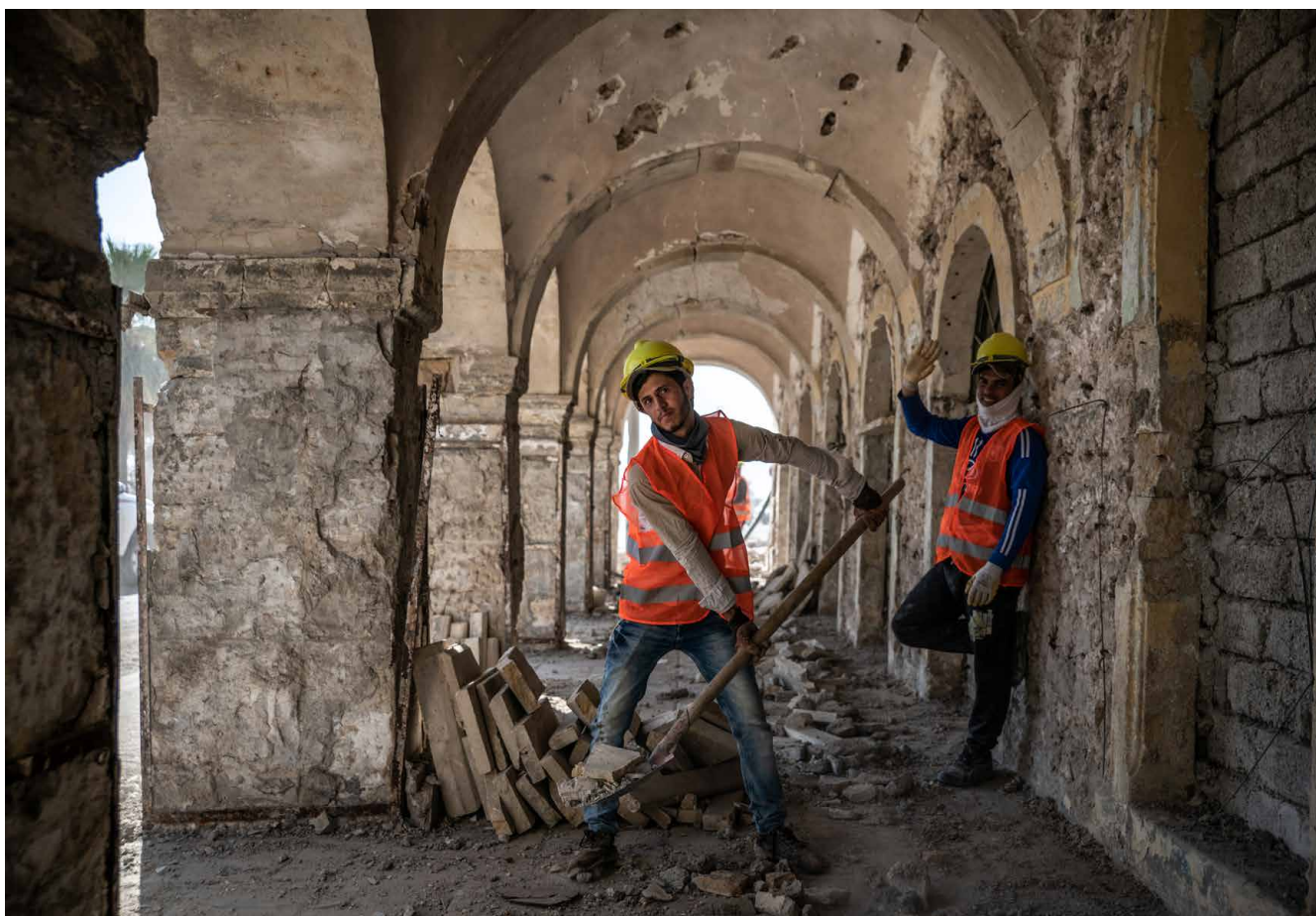
WATER ISSUE

The decline in the quantity and quality of water resources put serious constraints on the rate of population growth, expansion of agricultural activities and practices, as well as on the other domestic uses of potable water. As the downstream riparian country, Iraq strategic interest in water resources is vulnerable to the upstream practices. Furthermore, and since January 2014, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has emerged as a major threat to the security of the Tigris-Euphrates water basin. Its control of key territory along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, posed a serious and real threat to the water supplies of centre and southern Iraq. Rivers, canals, dams, sewage and desalination plants have been targeted by ISIL destruction causing extreme water shortages, and given its strategic importance, the water shortage is causing major threats to living conditions and livelihoods.

FAO will support the Iraqi Government in providing assistance through the restoration and replacement of infrastructure and equipment in rural areas and rehabilitation of water networks for human and livestock consumption and agriculture irrigation systems for grain, vegetable and fruit production. This will include (i) rehabilitating damaged irrigation infrastructure such as canals, dams, diversion gates and bridges and replacing looted mechanisms such as water pumps, generators, sprinkler/dripper systems and other vital parts of the irrigation networks in retaken areas in addition to initiating water resources and use management, including trans-boundary water sharing negotiations.

FAO’s assistance in boosting agricultural production will especially focus on the main irrigation areas along the river systems, supporting an efficient use of available water, and increasing water harvesting structures as an integral part of restarting viable agricultural practices that will help Iraq move toward greater self-sufficiency in food security.





■ UNDP IN IRAQ

2018 was the first year on the recovery trajectory followed the military defeat of ISIL announced officially in December 2017. UNDP through its interventions continued to support the Iraqi government to rapidly respond to the stabilization and resilience needs in the liberated areas and IDP/refugee host communities. Simultaneously, UNDP continued to support public trust rebuilding and enhance the management of national assets through assisting the government to undertake institutional reforms and addressing long term development challenges pertaining to inclusive growth, good governance, environment within the SDG and agenda 2030 framework. UNDP will continue to adjust its strategic direction and programming for full alignment with the national priorities as the country is transitioning from Crisis to recovery and sustainable development.

UNDP continued to support the return of IDPs across the five governorates liberated from ISIL, and to support IDPs, Syrian refugees and host communities. By the end 2018, UNDP completed 1,672 infrastructure rehabilitation and emergency livelihoods projects in the liberated areas since mid-2015. As a result, 502,000 young people have better access to education, 780,000 have better access to healthcare, 1.2 million have access to improved water supply and 1.6 million have better access to electricity supplies. Some 26,000 Iraqis also benefited from support to emergency livelihoods and over 100,000 people have improved housing.

Projects completed by the end of 2018 spanned across a range of critical sectors including education (601), electricity (123), health (235), municipality (257), roads and bridges (17), sewage (90) and water (104). In 2018 alone, more than 12,000 housing units were rehabilitated in Ramadi and Fallujah. Additionally, a project to rehabilitate 15,000 housing units in West Mosul was initiated. 4,858 women-headed households received cash grants, enabling them to meet the most basic needs of their families.

In the KRI, 24 community infrastructure units were rehabilitated, improving ac-

cess to basic services for an estimated 1 million people, and to address the critical need for local economic revitalization, and 1,216 cash-for-work opportunities were created. 487 people also received business support services, 195 returnees benefited from job creation and 222 received employment relevant trainings.

As a key component of UNDP's resilience building efforts in Iraq, social cohesion activities in Iraq, resulted in the formulation of the first ever national curriculum for a "Diploma Programme for Peace and Conflict Studies" and the first-ever Ara-



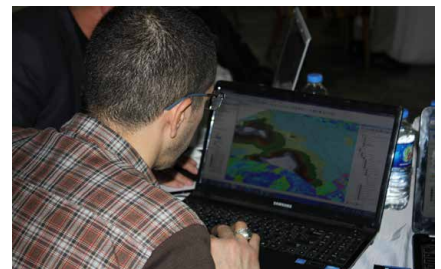
bic Language Peace Lexicon – both with the support of government and civil society. UNDP also supported the establishment of 25 local Peace committees LPC acting as peacebuilding champions in the local communities and facilitate intra-community dialogues as well as community-government dialogues. Together with Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA) four Women Peace groups were established in liberated areas. and 200 women social workers that have been trained on support provision to victims of gender-based violence (GBV). A national peacebuilding awareness digital campaign, reached out to over 12000 social media followers plus million followers of the National TV channels Iraqia, was collectively designed and launched by 500 youth grouped by UNDP.

Institutionally, UNDP carried out wide range of institutional changes activities aimed at enhancing the overall government performance in delivering public services. In this context, a Government-Wide Institutional Performance Management System was piloted in the in three Public Sector Institutions; Ministry



of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Electricity, and Ministry of Trade and hoped to scale up gradually to cover all government entities.

For the better business environment, UNDP provides the nationwide Fiducial Monitoring to the government socio-economic infrastructure projects funded by Japanese ODA Loan, and the direct technical assistance to the Ministry of the Electricity, KR-I for the completion of the USD 147Mil value infrastructure project funded by JICA to improve the power supply. At the policy level, UNDP continued to the implementation of the Private Sector Development Strategy (2014 – 2030) to enhance the private sector role in the economy and extends to localized Private Sector Development Strategy for Karbala Governorate.



At the local level, UNDP supported the establishment of a GIS Unitembedded in the governorate organizational structure. In addition, an “Integrated GIS-Assisted Decision Support System” for Sectoral Planning, Utilities Management and Land Use Planning was developed by the GIS team in Kerbala.

To further deepen the partnership with the Iraqi Parliament an MoU was signed



in 2018 aimed at capacitating CoR to better perform its legislative, oversight and representational functions. Immediately aftermath, UNDP launched capacity building programmes targeting all Parliamentarians to equip them with the substantial knowledge on building Peace, Justice, institutional, legislative and oversight processes, human rights, gender equality, SDGs and media relations. Equally important, investment made to enhance the oversight function and to embed human rights, gender equality and SDGs in the legislative making process. development,

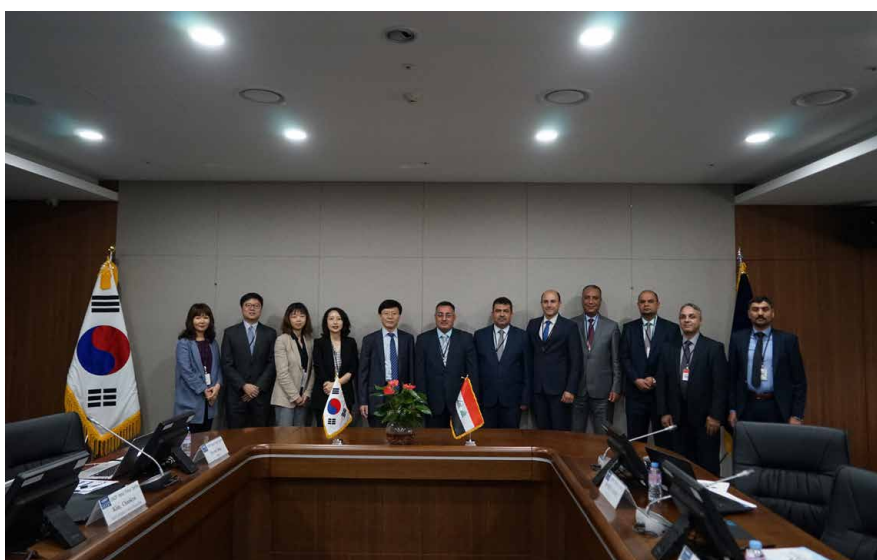
As part of its renewed efforts to combat corruption in public sector, the Government of Iraq, with technical support from UNDP initiated the national consultation to develop the Anti-Corruption Strategy 2020-2024 in accordance with

the international standards, in addition to the National Corruption Index which is an innovative Korean inspired policy tool that aims to catalyze self-developed anti-corruption initiatives to root out corruption practices in the public sector through institutionalizing self-learning, self-reporting, systematic, and annual mechanism to ensure anti-corruption.

UNDP provided advice and technical assistance to initiate the implementation of Gol Security Sector Reform Programme through a progressive partnership with Office of the National Security as well as overall coordination of support to government's SSR efforts by International Partners. Specific support to Criminal Justice & Law Enforcement involved advice and assistance to the Ministry of Interior, Police Affairs Agency and, the Higher Justice Council to develop and

implement a Local Police Service Road Map and unified Standard Operating Procedures for Criminal Investigations, delivery of 13 specialized police training and mentoring courses and, support to 09 CSOs in liberated and other areas to improve community safety. Specific support to Democratic Oversight and Accountability resulted the Parliamentary Security and Defense Committee by-laws developed and passed in February 2018. UNDP also continued its work with the Directorate of Combating Violence Against Women (DCVAW) in KR-I, to up skill 211 of its staff in SGBV and CRSV survivor support and a total of 943 IDPs benefited from the services.

In mid-2018, the flagship EU-funded Local Area Development Programme (LADP II) concluded after nearly three and a half years of dedicated efforts towards strengthening good governance in Iraq. The programme contributed to enhancing the delivery of public services and capacity for budget execution through improved sector-wide planning for local socio-economic development and implementation processes across Iraq. A total of 40 plans, strategies, methodologies and planning guidance documents were developed, and 7 innovative community participation mechanisms were piloted. Notably, the Strategic Urban Recovery and Development of Ramadi was included as one of the 8 priorities to be implemented under Iraq's National Development Plan 2018-2022, whereas the Governorate Urban Strategies were annexed. At the community level, thousands, including youth and





women, benefited from community empowerment and capacity building activities.

In 2018, UNDP continued to work with the Iraqi authorities and has made significant inroads toward building capacities and influencing policies and strategies to address disaster, environmental and climate risks. In doing so, Iraqi officials and experts have been mobilized and developed national strategy for critical infrastructure protection, and prepared Iraq's strategy for regional transboundary water cooperation as well as local flood preparedness plans to safeguard the lives and livelihoods of the vulnerable communities along the Tigris floodplain. Funded by the GEF (Global Environment Facility), policy advisory support rendered towards addressing technical, legal and fiscal barriers to cat-

alyze investments for renewable energy development in Iraq. This is complemented by Iraq's readiness for climate financing through establishment of a National Designated Authority (NDA) in 2018 under the grant assistance from the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

On gender mainstreaming UNDP has taken advanced steps to integrate the gender perspective in the development journey of Iraq through its thematic initiatives and events. One of the most important studies was conducted on women Survivor of Gender Based Violence (SGBV) stories as one of the realistic resources showing that the social protection and transitional justice policies were needed to be enhanced. Also UNDP Supported the establishment of Women for Safe and Green Iraq (WFSGI) Platform to ensure a safe future from

natural disasters and environmental challenges for all people and to be the portal that connects the gender group with the world.

To support the localization and implementation of the SDGs, UNDP supported the government to develop 2030 Agenda implementation roadmap in addition to support mainstreaming the SDGs in the national plans including the of national Development Plan (NDP 2018 – 2022) . The alignment has shown that 71% of the SDG targets (excluding the Means of Implementation targets) have corresponding targets in the National Development Plan (2018-22). Similarly, 71% of SDG targets have corresponding national targets in the KRI Vision 2020. This alignment came at a particular junction as the country will be presenting its first Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) at the High- Level Political Forum in 2019.



To create an enabling environment for youth led business, UNDP scaled up its ambitious and innovative programme to enhance the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Iraq since 2015 focusing on building the capacity of youth nationwide and linking them to different stakeholders of the ecosystem (governmental and non-governmental institutions). In 2018, under the Youth Leadership Programme (YLP) (Innovation for SDGs) , UNDP Iraq managed to mobilize three youth organizations and the Private Banks League (PBL) to outreach and provide training for over 360 youth (40% Female) depending mainly on the in-kind support provided by private sector.



AN IMPORTANT PART OF UN ENVIRONMENT'S INTERVENTION IN IRAQ IN 2018 FOCUSED ON HELPING THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT AND PARTNERS IN ADDRESSING THE EXTENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION WROUGHT BY THE ISIL CONFLICT.

■ UNEP IN IRAQ

Background

Northern and western Iraq experienced widespread destruction of civil and industrial infrastructure from systematic and extensive sabotage and looting by ISIL, as well as from airstrikes and military operations to recapture these areas. The volume of rubble generated by the conflict in Mosul is estimated at 11 million tonnes – equivalent to three times the Great Pyramid of Giza or four times the Eiffel Tower.

ISIL's scorched earth tactics targeting particularly the oil industry was a hallmark of its terror campaign. Burning for 9 months, the 18 oil wells set alight by ISIL in Qayarrah created such thick black smoke it blanketed out the sun for months in what locals refer to as the 'Daesh winter'. Oil was flowing like rivers on city streets and the inside of people's homes covered in toxic black soot.

River barrages and regulators – particularly on the upper Euphrates in western Iraq – were also weaponized to drown areas, impede government troop movement, or cut off water supplies and wreak havoc on the livelihoods of farmers and the Mesopotamian marshlands downstream.

Based on fact-finding missions to conflict-affected areas and consultations with partners, UN Environment's efforts were aimed at supporting Iraq in addressing two priority areas: 1) the assessment and clean-up of oil contaminated sites, and 2) debris management and recycling.

OIL CONTAMINATED SITES

UN Environment conducted a series of training workshops to strengthen the capacity of experts from the Environment and Oil Ministries to conduct contaminated site assessments. A package comprised of portable hydrocarbon analysers, sampling tools and personnel protective equipment was handed over to the Environment Ministry to support a mapping campaign of oil-contaminated sites. In addition, an institutional capacity needs assessment of the Environment Ministry's ability to oversee environmental performance of the oil and gas sector was conducted.

With technical guidance from UN Environment, a field campaign to map oil-contaminated sites was conducted by a joint team of experts from the Environment and Oil Ministries in



the provinces formerly occupied by ISIL including Ninewa, Salah El-Din, Kirkuk and Diyala. Around 20 heavily-polluted sites were identified. The survey findings are being reviewed with a view to conducting detailed analysis of priority sites and developing clean-up plans. This work was carried out under UN Environment's partnership with Norway's Oil for Development Programme to strengthen national government capacities for environmental management in the oil and gas sector.

DEBRIS MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING

A debris assessment study of Mosul city was prepared, including operational debris management scenarios to aid decision-making. The assessment was carried out in collaboration with Mosul Municipality, UN-Habitat and Disaster Waste Management – an organisation specialised in debris management. A consultation workshop was subsequently organized in Mosul University which provided a forum for a wide range of stakeholders to come together for the first time

to discuss debris management challenges and opportunities. The workshop concluded with a decision by Mosul Municipality to set-up a debris management committee to develop a city-wide debris recovery plan.

A regional debris management workshop was also organized in Al-Anbar University in collaboration with Anbar Governorate and the Environment Ministry involving the municipalities of five heavily damaged cities in western Iraq. Following the workshop, local authorities in Ramadi identified potential sites for piloting a debris recycling centre.

In a pioneering initiative, debris recycling initiatives are being set-up in Mosul by UNDP's Stabilization Programme and the International Organization for Migration with technical advice from UN Environment. In addition, technical guidelines were developed for environmental management of debris recycling centres with the Environment Ministry and Mosul Municipality. In view of growing interest to scale-up rubble recycling in other destroyed cities from the ISIL

conflict, UN Environment is building on the Mosul experience to support local authorities in Anbar and Kirkuk governorates identify cost-effective options for managing their debris challenges.

PROMOTING TRANSBOUNDARY COLLABORATION ON THE MESOPOTAMIAN MARSHLANDS

An Advisory Mission of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands involving representatives from Iran and Iraq to the shared Mesopotamian marshes took place in December 2017 to explore cooperation opportunities for their conservation and sustainable management. In collaboration with the Ramsar Secretariat, UN Environment helped facilitate the transboundary mission which included site visits and workshops in both Iran and Iraq. As a first step in advancing cross-border cooperation, a joint mid-winter waterfowl census was conducted in the shared Hawizeh-Azim marshes by experts from both countries in early 2018. UN Environment also conducted satellite-based monitoring of large-scale fire outbreaks in the Hawizeh marshes bordering the Islamic Republic of Iran between June and August 2018 prompting the Government of Iraq to request water releases from upstream riparian countries to help suppress the fires.

ASSISTING IRAQ RESPOND TO A MASS FISH KILL EVENT

In the wake of a massive fish kill event in the Euphrates River in Babel Governorate – 70 km south of Baghdad – in October/November 2018 resulting in the death of millions of farmed carp, the Ministry of Health and Environment requested urgent assistance from UN Environment to identify the cause of their demise. Comprehensive laboratory analysis of fish, sediment, water and fish feed for both microbiological and chemical parameters in internationally accredited Swiss laboratories was rapidly organized by UN Environment. The test results helped identify the root cause of the mass fish mortality.

UN Women Iraq

MADENA

From a refugee to a source of inspiration to others

UN WOMEN-RUN MADAD PROGRAMMES EMPOWER REFUGEE WOMEN, HELP THEM COUNTER CHALLENGES

When Madena Musa was preparing for her graduation from college in northeastern Syria in 2013, all she was dreaming of was to get a good job and to help her family get along.

Madena's dreams were shattered by the deterioration of the security situation in her region that was exacerbated by what she described as the bombardment of her region by Syrian air force warplanes weeks after her graduation from the Faculty of History at the University of Damascus.



She and her family had to escape their town of Gamshily in north-western Syria in search of security, and thus walked across the border into Iraq. Her dreams of a better future turned into nightmares of searching for security and basic daily needs at Baserma refugee camp in northwestern Iraq, exactly as was the case with many other helpless refugees.

Luckily for Madena, she managed to land a job with the Women Empowerment Organisation in Erbil which later on became a partner with UN Women in the EU-supported Madad programme, "Strengthening the Resilience of Syrian Women and Girls and Host Communities in Iraq, Jordan and Turkey."

Since its establishment in 2014, Madad Fund has mobilized almost €1.5 billion, including contributions from 22 EU Member States and Turkey, to support more than 2 million Syrian refugees and local communities in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, the Western Balkans, and Armenia. The EU Madad Fund helps both Syrian refugees and local communities get better access to education, job opportunities, healthcare, water and protection services. The EU Madad Fund also contributes to a stronger and cohesive society, with a particular focus on children, youth and women.

Madena is one of the many people who have benefited from Madad's programmes and services that include livelihood opportunity and economic empowerment as well as legal and psychosocial support.

Her involvement with Madad not only gave Madena hope of improving the dire situation that she was facing, but also gave her the chance to start helping other refugee women, children and families. Her success in turning the challenge that she was facing into an opportunity was also a source of inspiration for others.

"I am not the type of a person who gives up easily. When I see my moth-

er and rest of my family suffering, I want to help them through any possible means," a confident Madena said in her office at WEO in Erbil, in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, which like many other areas, is hosting a large number of Iraqi and Syrian refugees escaping bloodshed and violence in their areas.

Iraq currently hosts close to 250,000 Syrian refugees living in the country.

Like many refugees, particularly women, getting a job was one of the first, but toughest, challenges that were facing her.

"I even did not have a college certificate because things happened so fast after my graduation. I used my college student ID to be able to get the job," she said, adding that she was thus able to overcome a major obstacle. She was selected to get a job in the camp along with 20 other people, 10 women and 10 men, starting to train and then working as a social researcher, then becoming a women empowerment lecturer with UNICEF.

Then she started working with UN Women on projects that include empowerment and fighting gender-based violence, training other trainers in the Basirma and Kawergosk refugee camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

With help from UN Women-run Madad Fund, WEO was able to run several projects that included giving women sewing courses in the two refugee camps and offering lectures and other activities to advocate against under-age and early marriages as well as gender-based violence.

WEO, along with three other organisations, is a partner with UN Women in a project on "Strengthening the Resilience of Syrian Women, IDPs and Host Community in Iraq," aiming to ensure women, girls and their communities are resilient to conflict, displacement and other crises. The project is implemented in three locations in Erbil governorate

and targets Syrian refugee women and girls, along with the host communities in Baserma, Kawrgost and Erbil city, where Madena works.

According to Madena, the sewing and dress-making training that was made possible through Madad Fund enabled refugee women to get jobs to improve the lives of their families, prompting some refugee men to come to ask for more such courses for their female relatives, particularly that many of the refugee men are unable to get jobs to support their families.

Madena herself is taking care of her sick mother, sister and brother, who has a wife and five children.

Being able to get training and jobs helps many refugee women to counter many challenges they face in their refuge and helps to improve their status in their families and community as a whole.

Expressing hope to see an end to the current crisis, Madena said the skills that refugee women are acquiring thanks to the support of UN Women and Madad Fund will be of great help to them once they are back to their homes in Syria.

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Madena is one of the many people who have benefited from Madad's programmes and services that include livelihood opportunity and economic empowerment as well as legal and psychosocial support

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KEY ACTIVITIES

UN-Habitat has been active in Iraq since 1996 for more than 20 years. After 2003, UN-Habitat was largely engaged in early recovery efforts, particularly those supporting internally displaced persons (IDPs) through the provision of shelter and reconstruction solutions. Since then, the portfolio of UN-Habitat Iraq has expanded beyond emergency responses to include both humanitarian and recovery programmes, such as providing IDPs and returnees with shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure, and promoting urban recovery of areas affected by conflict, and developmental programmes that provide technical and capacity development support to the national and local government counterparts through activities such as development of the National Urban Strategy and the National Housing Policy, upgrading informal settlements, and support to decentralization. UN-Habitat is also chairing Housing, Land and Property Rights Sub-Cluster in Iraq under the Protection Cluster.

ACHIEVEMENTS

COMMUNITY-BASED HOUSING REHABILITATION UNDER UN-HABITAT'S URBAN RECOVERY PROGRAMME

As soon as the areas retaken from ISIL were declared safe, UN-Habitat has been promoting urban recovery and supporting returnees through community-based rehabilitation of war-damaged houses. 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. This approach empowers 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. Since 2016, UN-Habitat has rehabilitated more than 2,500 war-damaged houses in key liberated cities, including Mosul, Ramadi, Fallujah, Sinjar, and towns in Ninewa Plains.

ADDRESSING HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS OF THE MINORITIES

UN-Habitat ensures that housing, land and property 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 Sinjar, Ninewa Governorate, UN-Habitat supports housing, land and property rights of vulnerable Yazidi returnees. UN-Habitat has mapped property claims of Yazidi returnees and verified occupancy rights through community-based consultations and in collaboration with the local authorities. To date, more than 1,000 Occupancy Certificates were issued and distributed to Yazidi returnees recognizing the housing occupancy rights for the Yazidis for the first time in modern history. UN-Habitat's initiative on housing, land and property rights in Sinjar has been strongly supported and fully endorsed by the Ministry of Justice, which resulted in official agreement with the Ministry to collaborate further on HLP issues and to replace the occupancy certificate by property ownership document.

TACKLING HOUSING NEEDS THROUGH NATIONAL-LEVEL STRATEGIES, POLICIES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

In line with the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat works with the national and local government counterparts to promote adequate services, housing and decent job opportunities in Iraq through three key tools: (a) National and Governorate Urban Strategy, (b) National Housing Policy, and (c) the Law on Informal Settlements.

(a) National and Governorate Urban Strategy

UN-Habitat supported the Ministry of Planning as well as nine governorates of Basra, Maysan, Muthanna, Qadissiya, Kerbala, Najaf, Thi-Qar, Wassit and Babil to draft their Urban Strategies. Indicators on poverty, quality of life, and socio-economic development potential have been developed and the analytical work is ongoing.

(b) National Housing Policy

Lack of decent housing has been serious problem in Iraq for years, as estimated housing shortage was approximately 2 million units in 2010. The conflict with ISIL exacerbated the housing shortage and hampered the ability of the Government to take effective and coordinated actions to resolve the issue. In January 2017, UN-Habitat organized a high-level meeting to discuss the findings of its assessment on the existing Housing Policy (2010-2016) and prospects for the new National Housing Policy.

(c) Law on Informal Settlements

UN-Habitat has been supporting the Government of Iraq since 2011 to develop legal, financial and institutional framework to address challenges faced by IDPs in informal settlements. The Law on Informal Settlements has been developed and is now ready to be voted for at the parliament. UN-Habitat is implementing pilot informal settlements upgrading projects in Mosul, Ramadi and Basra.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2017-2018

ESTABLISHMENT OF LOW-COST CORE HOUSING UNITS SITE

As of the end of 2017, the number of people returning to their area of origin has surpassed the number of people displaced in Iraq, for the first time since the beginning of the crisis in June 2014. To accommodate vulnerable returnees and tenants whose houses are severely destroyed or totally destroyed, in 2018 UN-Habitat established three shelter sites equipped with low-cost core housing units and basic infrastructure in Anbar Governorate. These low-cost core housing units can be incrementally expanded if required, providing affordable and durable shelter solutions to returnees and thereby facilitating their reintegration to and rebuilding of lives in the areas they return to.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE INITIAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF MOSUL

To support 'building back better' Mosul, Iraq's second largest city and was the de facto capital of ISIL in Iraq, UN-Habitat, in collaboration with UNESCO and key government counterparts, developed the Initial Planning Framework for Reconstruction of Mosul. The Framework aims to facilitate the transition of Mosul from an emergency response and stabilization phase to reconstruction. It is the first step of coordinated strategic urban planning in post-conflict Mosul, providing a baseline for the development of a future longer-term plan.

IMPACT STORY

Ahmed Salih is one of the beneficiaries of UN-Habitat's project implemented in Ramadi, Anbar Governorate "Promoting Urban Recovery in Newly Liberated Areas in Iraq" generously funded by the Government of Japan. Ahmed Salih, a 28-year old breadwinner for a family of eight that fled the city because of ISIL's occupation. When the city of Ramadi was liberated from ISIL in 2016, Ahmed and his family were eager to return to Ramadi, but found their house damaged as a result of the military operations. Without a decent place to live, the family had to return to the IDP camp in Ameriyat Fallujah. UN-Habitat's urban recovery programme and its community-based committee helped Ahmed to engage in discussion and planning for recovery of Tameem neighborhood. Ahmed himself was hired to rehabilitate his house, not only helping his family to regain comfort and safety but also to earn a living. Ahmed also participated in technical trainings conducted by UN-Habitat and its local NGO partner Al-Karam enabling him to maintain and rehabilitate his house in the future. Back in Ramadi with his family, Ahmed is now hoping to help vulnerable women who lost husbands and fathers with housing rehabilitation. Including Ahmed's family, a total of 723 families (3,419 individuals) benefited from this intervention, making possible a safe, voluntary and dignified return to their homes.





■ UNHCR IN IRAQ

Overall situation

In line with the evolving situation on the ground, in 2018 UNHCR's humanitarian assistance in Iraq started to gradually transition from an emergency context to a longer-term development approach. With the end of major military operations to liberate areas under the control of extremist groups, Iraq entered a transition phase more conducive for population returns and humanitarian access. UNHCR continued leading the Protection, Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), and Shelter and Non-Food-Items clusters in charge of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees response, as well as the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) to assist Syrian refugees. As conditions on the ground remain challenging, UNHCR will continue ensuring that the needs of IDPs and refugees in Iraq are adequately addressed in 2019.

Over a year after the Government of Iraq (GoI) declared victory in reclaiming territory from extremists, some 1.8 million Iraqis remain internally displaced and many of the 4.1 million returnees keep facing constrained access to basic services and security while contending with destroyed properties

and lack of livelihood opportunities. Protection risks for IDPs and returnees remain acute, with many families suffering from unlawful and disproportionate restrictions on access to safety and freedom of movement, confiscation of documents, forced encampment, abduction and illegal detention,

forced and premature returns, and increased risk of sexual gender-based violence. In some instances, people are barred from returning to their areas of origin by security actors, tribal leaders, or their communities over alleged affiliation with extremists, which preclude many from securing permission to



return, resulting in family separation or violations of other human rights standards.

On the refugee side, seven years after the start of the conflict in Syria, Iraq continued to register the arrival of new Syrian refugees on a regular basis. Over the course of 2018, an average of 1,844 new registrations were carried out by UNHCR each month. As of January 2019, 252,451 Syrian refugees were registered with UNHCR, 99 per cent of whom live in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). There are currently nine refugee camps across KR-I hosting 37 per cent of the Syrian refugee population, with the remaining 63 per cent living in urban, peri-urban, and rural areas. In addition, Iraq hosts some 44,349 refugees from other nationalities, mainly Turks, Iranian, Palestinian, and Sudanese. The protracted presence of refugees together with the large number of displaced Iraqis and returnees has stretched existing public services and cut into limited resources, placing further strain on the capacity of authorities and host communities to absorb and respond to the needs of those displaced.

SUPPORTING VULNERABLE DISPLACED FAMILIES IN REGAINING A LIFE OF SAFETY AND DIGNITY

In 2018, UNHCR and partners engaged in extensive protection monitoring to identify needs, trends, and vulnerable individuals for direct assistance. UNHCR protection monitoring revealed that a large portion of the IDP population still lacks some form of individual documentation, such as the Public Distribution System (PDS) card, passport, birth certificate, civil ID, and others. Those who lack identity documents are at risk of arrest or detention, and may not be able to access food rations or protection for housing, land, property rights, and other entitlements such as access to education and health-care. Systematic identification of IDPs in need of legal services remains acute. In 2019, UNHCR will continue supporting the efforts of the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) to conduct registration for IDPs and returnees, including through mobile teams, and to maintain reliable data on their situation. UNHCR places emphasis on “protection by presence”, expanding protection activities in areas of displacement and returns, monitoring movements and pro-

files of those returning and advocating with authorities to ensure that returns occur voluntarily, in safety, and in dignity.

For asylum-seekers and refugees crossing into Iraq, UNHCR has continued providing border monitoring support and advocacy for access to territory, protection from refoulement, freedom of movement within the country, and provision of residency for those registered. At the federal level, UNHCR continues advocating for the adoption and implementation of the draft Iraqi Refugee Law to ensure that all refugees and asylum-seekers in Iraq can access international protection. Following extensive discussions at the central level, in 2019 the Permanent Committee of the Ministry of Interior in Baghdad (PC-MoI) will begin to register all asylum seekers and refugees throughout Iraq, including in the KR-I, issuing PC-MOI ID cards with a validity of three years. These ID cards serve as an official recognition of status which legalizes a refugee’s residency and movement throughout the country.



ENSURING ADEQUATE COORDINATION AMONG HUMANITARIAN ACTORS IN IDP AND REFUGEE CAMPS

Effective camp coordination and management remained crucial in 2018, and will continue to be a key aspect of UNHCR interventions in 2019. As CCCM Cluster lead, UNHCR works with local authorities and humanitarian actors to provide coordinated services in camps, including ensuring the provision of 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. In refugee camps, UNHCR continued improving shelters with enhanced infrastructure such as concrete bases, individual kitchens, latrines and showers. Over 88 per cent of the plots in refugee camps in Iraq have been upgraded with solid house-like structures. UNHCR has been engaging the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) on efforts to consolidate and ultimately incorporate Syrian refugee camps as neighbourhoods of nearby towns. This would allow refugees to enjoy greater access, alongside the local population, to basic services, job markets, and education, while reducing dependency on humanitarian assistance and improving social cohesion among the refugee and host communities.

EMPOWERING DISPLACED FAMILIES TO ADDRESS THEIR OWN NEEDS IN THE WAY THEY DEEM BEST

Multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) has steadily grown in importance and has become an integral part of the humanitarian response to displaced populations in Iraq. In areas where markets are functioning and accessible to beneficiaries, unconditional cash provides an efficient way to meet the needs of the most vulnerable displaced population. In 2018, UNHCR provided multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) through mobile money transfer mechanisms which support vulnerable families to meet critical basic needs and makes them less likely to resort to harmful coping strategies. In 2019, UNHCR will continue providing emergency one-off cash assistance to vulnerable households, while extremely vulnerable families who have been assessed against socio-economic vulnerability criteria will receive multi-month MPCA. For persons in need who are unable to access MPCA, UNHCR will distribute standard core relief item kits containing mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets and hygiene kits, as an initial step to ensure a basic level of relief and dignity.

PREVENTING SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND ADDRESSING CHILD PROTECTION RISKS

Prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and child protection are major areas of concern for UNHCR. Threats towards women and children remain widespread and are some of the most under-reported human rights violations in Iraq. Significant numbers of returnees, refugees, and IDPs have suffered one or more types of SGBV. Assessments conducted in IDP camps, non-camp settings and areas of return revealed significant protection risks for children, particularly child labour, which remains prevalent across the country, with a further risk of children recruited into armed forces and groups. Single women, female headed households and people with other specific needs face particular risks as well, including SGBV.

To prevent and address SGBV and violence against children, in 2018 UNHCR worked with partners to provide inclusive services for refugees and IDPs throughout the country, with a survivor-centred and age, gender, and diversity (AGD) approach. In 2019, UNHCR and partners will continue providing direct case management assistance and delivering specialized services such as psycho-social counselling and health services, particularly for survivors of SGBV. UNHCR will continue to actively engage in training and capacity building efforts of government, social workers, partners, and UNHCR staff on SGBV and child protection issues. In particular, UNHCR has been assisting the KRG's Directorate of Combating Violence Against Women (DCVAW) to ensure SGBV survivors are supported by trained case workers. In 2018, UNHCR rolled out the Engaging Men and Boys in Accountable Practices (EMAP) initiative to prevent SGBV and promote behavioural change, which will continue in 2019.

ASSISTING THE COUNTRY IN ITS RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS

In 2018 UNHCR conducted a large number of interventions to promote social cohesion and support families and communities heavily impacted by conflict, this included Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), shelter rehabilitation, and the instalment of temporary housing units. Most QIPs were centred in the rehabilitation of key community buildings such as schools and health clinics, and in the promotion of agricultural projects. The installation of refugee housing units (RHUs) will continue in 2019 as a temporary solution in selected return areas to facilitate re-integration of returnees, along with long-term shelter rehabilitation projects and repair of key infrastructures through QIPs and Community Support Projects (CSP) which have a bigger and longer-term impact.

ENGAGING AUTHORITIES IN THE TRANSITION FROM HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO DEVELOPMENT PLANS

As part of its transitional approach, UNHCR is engaging Iraqi authorities, as well as humanitarian and development actors, including the World Bank, UNDP, ILO, UNFPA, UNWOMEN, UNHABITAT, and GIZ, in the transition from humanitarian response for IDPs to development plans. The aim is to reduce protection risks and vulnerabilities of displaced populations while promoting their reintegration and self-reliance, fostering peaceful coexistence and creating gain for development actors from humanitarian interventions. UNHCR, together with the World Bank and WFP, is supporting the Ministry of Planning in establishing the Social Protection Forum and has been working with members of the Cash Working Group, UN agencies and the World Bank in providing capacity building to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to support gradual absorption of needs-based assistance into



the Iraqi social welfare system. UNHCR interventions are in line with the priorities of the Government of Iraq's Reconstruction Development Framework (2018-2027) and the National Development Plan (2018-2022), as well as the Kurdistan Region of Iraq's 2020 Vision for the Future.

From a refugee perspective, UNHCR developed a Comprehensive Sustainable Solutions Strategy aimed at enhancing the protection framework and strengthening solutions for refugees by building community resilience and self-reliance capacities through systematic engagement with the government and development actors. The

overall objective of the strategy is for refugees in Iraq to achieve a durable legal status which ensures the protection of their civil, cultural, and economic rights. It strives to ensure that refugees maintain their equal access to social rights and that they are progressively included in the provision of social-protection support through developed national systems and services. This is particularly important in a context where most refugees are not in a position to return to their countries of origin and where resettlement opportunities remain extremely limited and available only for a small number of acutely vulnerable refugees.





UNICEF IN IRAQ

Comprehensive UNICEF supported survey conducted in 2018 finds that inequality is the defining feature of children's lives in Iraq

In 2018 UNICEF in partnership with the government on Iraq released the Multiple Index Cluster Survey (MICS). The MICS is the most comprehensive study to date, and it looks at how children are doing in terms of health, education, violence, sanitation, and more. The last MICS in Iraq was conducted in 2011. The follow up survey in 2014 could not take place due to conflict and mass displacement across the country—making the finding of this MICS even more important to understanding the status of children in the country.

The survey found that conflict and inequality remain defining feature of childhood in Iraq.

While almost all children (92%) are enrolled in primary school, just over half of children from poorer backgrounds complete their primary education. The gap widens in upper secondary school, where less than a quarter of poor children graduate, compared to three quarters of children from wealthier

backgrounds.

Outside of camps, Iraq's public services remain overstretched, with water and sanitation networks damaged by war or neglect and overburdened health systems struggling to serve displaced children and families.

"Children in Iraq face a bleak and uncertain future as opportunities for education and

youth employment are greatly diminished. The results of the MICS should help inform government policy in areas where greater investments are needed, particularly in education," said Peter Hawkins, UNICEF Representative in Iraq.

Education needs in Iraq are vast: half of all public schools in the country require rehabilitation and one in three schools run multiple shifts, squeezing children's learning time. The MICS survey shows that the five governorates with the lowest school enrollment and attendance rates are concentrated south of the country, which remain its poorest, and in Anbar and Ninawa – the two governorates that have borne the brunt of the violence of the last few years.

"As Iraq moves past the violence of the last few years and forges a new path for itself, it must prioritize the wellbeing of all children," added Hawkins. "Children are the future of this country, and a growing gap between the haves and the have nots sows discord and is detrimental for children and for Iraq. With the right commitment and the right policies in place, the Government of Iraq can make a difference."



Interview with

The outgoing UNICEF Representative to Iraq

MR. PETER HAWKINS

You've been Representative UNICEF in Iraq for over three years. Can you tell us about UNICEF's work over that time period?

I arrived in Iraq in 2015 at a time when one third of the country was occupied by an armed group. Millions of people across the country were displaced and the humanitarian situation was dire. The violence got worse in 2016/7 with the military operation to retake key cities from the so-called Islamic State—families were fleeing their homes in the middle of the night with nothing more than the clothes on their back. The level of human suffering and trauma for children was unimaginable and unlike anything I had witness before.

UNICEF was operating close to the

front line delivering safe drinking water and supporting children who had become separated from their parents in the chaos of the conflict. I am very proud of the staff, particularly our national colleagues, who worked around the clock to deliver lifesaving support and quickly set up water and sanitation infrastructure in the multiple camps hosting displaced people.

In the camps we also established temporary learning spaces and child friendly spaces so that children could resume their learning and receive psychosocial support to help them recover from the traumas that they had seen.

Some of these children may never forget the nightmares they have lived

through, but the psychosocial support that UNICEF and partners continue to provide equip vulnerable children with tools to help them cope and move forward with their lives.

What are you most of proud of in terms of UNICEF's achievements in Iraq?

There are a lot of positives; our front-line emergency response saved countless lives in a large and complex humanitarian emergency. In Mosul, UNICEF helped the basic rehabilitation of one-third of the 638 schools that have reopened. More than half a million girls and boys have returned to school there. It's hard to describe the joy on the faces of the children and the parents when schools reopened after three years of closure.

Although the number of people displaced remains high at 1.8 million, it is a significant decrease from previous years. This shows an improvement in security and more people are choosing to return to their homes. UNICEF has supported to government to establish basic services, such as water and primary health care in areas that have been affected by conflict to continue supporting vulnerable children and their families they re-build their lives.

Through extraordinary times we have delivered results for children and this would not be possible without our dedicated staff.

What are UNICEF's priorities in 2019.

In the last couple of years, a lot has been done to build the evidence base to support our programmes and inform government policy. We now have a better understanding of the situation for women and children in Iraq. The evidence shows that additional investments are needed in education, alleviating child poverty and reducing gender-based violence. We will continue to focus on these areas while also calling upon the Government of Iraq to allocate a greater share of its national budget in making investments for the future of its children and young people.



Revive the Spirit of Mosul

UNESCO IN IRAQ



UNESCO is pleased to introduce Paolo Fontani as the new Director and Representative to Iraq. Paolo brings to the post a rich experience working with UNESCO, including roles as Director of the UNESCO Office in Afghanistan and Director of the Liaison Office in Brussels and Representative to the European Institutions. Paolo intends to build on UNESCO's longstanding cooperation with Iraq in order to successfully manage, in the coming years, one of UNESCO's most ambitious country programmes in terms of its global portfolio, supported by significant new funding commitments from the donor community.

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UNESCO finds itself uniquely placed to support Iraq's transition from conflict, through stabilization to development

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UNESCO finds itself uniquely placed to support Iraq's transition from conflict, through stabilization to development. This is particularly the case with respect to the areas liberated from ISIL/ Da'esh. For this reason, the Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, announced the flagship initiative "Revive the Spirit of Mosul", focusing on the human dimension of reconstruction, as underlined at the 2018 International Conference on the Reconstruction of Iraq in Kuwait City.

As one of the world's oldest cities, Mosul is the living symbol of Iraq's plu-

ralistic identity. It is Iraq's second city, rich in history, heritage and culture. Its name in Arabic means "the connector", and for good reason. For millennia, this strategic crossing on the Tigris has linked north to south, east to west. Here in antiquity Jews met Assyrians, and Romans met Persians at Nineveh, on the east bank of the river. Later, Christians met Muslims, Turks met Arabs in the Old City to the west. Mosul has witnessed many conflicts in its long life, from intellectual battles to military engagements, as well as long periods of peace and harmony. It has had



proud eras of political independence, economic prosperity, and intellectual leadership, as well as lows of occupation and repression.

A crossroad of culture in the Middle East, linking the Sumerian cities to Babylon, the walls of Nineveh to the Silk Road, Mosul has been a melting pot of people and ideas. Between 2014 and 2017, this story of peace – the true spirit of Mosul – has been overshadowed by another story of hatred and violence. The occupation of Mosul by Da'esh left the City destroyed. The archaeological site of Nimrud, the Museum of Mosul, the Nabi Yunnis Shrine, the Al Hadba Minaret, and many other sites and landmarks lie in ruins. The entire education sector from pre-primary to higher education was devastated while students and teachers are struggling with the physical as well as the psychological sequels of the war.

With the full support of the Government of Iraq and of the UN Secretary-General, UNESCO will coordinate international efforts in two main areas: the restoration and rehabilitation of cultural heritage and the revival of educational and cultural institutions. In doing so, it will promote the spirit of peaceful coexistence and the values of an inclusive society. The initiative aims at participating in Iraq's social and economic renaissance, contributing to sustainable development and reconciliation between communities through the safeguard and enhancement of cultural heritage and rebuilding the education sector in close cooperation with

the Government and people of Iraq.

The initiative is proving to be a rallying call for the international community. To date UNESCO have secured close to \$100M to support a range of new projects across its education and culture programmes.

The United Arab Emirates are providing \$50.4M for the restoration and critical reconstruction of Al-Nouri Mosque, its Al-Hadba Minaret, and the Tahera and Clock churches as a tool to foster social cohesion and community reconciliation. The Mosque complex was purposely destroyed by Da'esh using explosive during the battle to liberate the city. With initial clearance of explosive hazards from the site, work is now underway to re-establish the Old City of Mosul's most iconic landmark.

With the \$22.8M support from the European Union, UNESCO will contribute further to the restoration and critical reconstruction of Mosul's historic urban landscape rehabilitating and restoring a range of historic building that can act as a stimulus for rekindled economic, social and cultural activity. Through the reconstruction work, the project will develop the skills of Moslawis and provide job opportunities for more than 2,500 residents and returnees. The EU is also supporting UNESCO and the Government of Iraq to restore and rehabilitate Basra Old City.

For education, besides from its ongoing project supporting the reform of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training system (European Union),

UNESCO has -developed projects that respond to education in the context of conflict for example providing access to education for out of school children.

Funded by Educate a Child (Qatar) and the European Union, UNESCO has, over the last two years, supported the enrollment of 57,371 out of school children as well as the access after school or summer remedial classes of 9,543 students to help them meet academic requirements. Furthermore, UNESCO has provided psychosocial support activities or individual case management to 9,134 students to help them develop improved coping skills and greater resilience. It has distributed 17,024 learning kits containing school materials and school uniforms to vulnerable students; and has provided 2,770 sets of textbooks, 2,935 classroom kits and 121 recreation kits to schools and pupils most in need.

Supported by the Government of the Netherlands and the Government of Japan, UNESCO is developing capacity and pedagogical tools to help learners build resilience to prevent violent extremism and strengthen their commitments to non-violence and peace. In doing so, UNESCO is developing the more immediate capacity of teachers in more than 500 schools located in Mosul to foster among learners a range of supporting cognitive, socio-emotional and behavioural skills - such as critical thinking, understanding of complexity, moral courage and responsible online behaviour.



UNMAS IN IRAQ

Extensive conflict in Iraq to retake cities from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) or Da'esh displaced more than 5.8 million people between 2014 and 2017 and resulted in significant explosive hazard contamination following associated military campaigns, in addition to improvised explosive devices (IEDs) deliberately left behind by ISIL. 3.9 million people have since returned home and the Government of Iraq, supported by the UN, is working to facilitate the safe, orderly and dignified return of the remaining 1.8 million people.

The explosive hazard problem is complex, extensive, and exceeds the capacity of the existing resources to address it. The Government of Iraq (GoI), the UN, and other national and international stakeholders have prioritized the clearance of explosive hazards as the essential 'first step' before any rehabilitation or reconstruction work can be carried out on key infrastructure or residential buildings. Rehabilitation and reconstruction activities are critical to re-establish basic

services and get people home safely to affected areas

Active in Iraq since 2015, UNMAS supports the GoI and UN stabilization ef-

orts, as well as humanitarian activities enabling the safe, orderly and dignified return of displaced people to areas previously occupied by ISIL.

EXPLOSIVE HAZARD MANAGEMENT:

Humanitarian, stabilization and development initiatives are enabled

A blended approach, combining national and international commercial companies and NGOs, enables survey and clearance response in areas liberated from ISIL in direct support of the Government of Iraq and UN humanitarian and stabilization plans. When requested through the UN system, UNMAS deploys assessment teams, followed by specialized teams including: survey, high-risk search, battle area clearance, mechanical assets, and/or debris management.

CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT:

Government has the capacity to manage, regulate and coordinate an explosive hazard management response in liberated areas

UNMAS supports a nationally led and implemented response. Building on existing capacities, UNMAS' focus is to provide training and technical advice to the Government of Iraq in various ministries: mine action authorities, Ministry of Interior (police and civil defence), and government operations coordination centres to support the management, regulation and coordination of response to explosive hazards. The "National Strategy and Executive Plan for Mine Action 2017-2021" was launched in December 2017 with support from UNMAS.

RISK EDUCATION:

IDPs confidently return home

Coordinated with the UN Protection Cluster and the national authorities, risk education is provided to affected populations and humanitarian workers. Efforts are specifically targeting communities living in, or returning to, liberated areas known or suspected to be contaminated with IEDs and explosive hazards. UNMAS has provided national authorities with management training to improve coordination and management of risk education in Iraq.

UNMAS ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

- UNMAS in Iraq conducted 350 surveys of explosive hazards in Al-Anbar, Salah al-Din and Ninewa Governorates in support of high priority stabilization and humanitarian interventions.
- Removed 14,500 explosive hazards including 1,500 IEDs and 1,000 suicide belts in liberated areas.
- Conducted 1,200 clearance tasks enabling UNDP and the GoI to move forward with the rehabilitation of critical infrastructures such as hospitals, schools, bridges etc. and humanitarian actors to move forward with urgent life-saving interventions.
- Coordinated and completed 18 joint assessment missions enabling the UN and humanitarian partners to deliver humanitarian aid as soon as liberated areas became accessible.
- 420 police officers, including 29 female police officers, trained in First Response to identify, mark and report explosive hazards and 23 UNGU trained to safely respond to IED and explosive hazard threats.
- 6,000 UNDP cash-for-work employees, 1,000 Governmental staff and 1,400 UN and NGO staff trained to recognize and behave safely in the presence of explosive hazards while working in high-risk environments such as Mosul.
- 422,300 people received risk education and risk awareness training in schools, internally displaced person (IDP)



2018 IN VIDEOS

- One year of clearance in Mosul
<https://youtu.be/ENzDG3c-N2s>
- Clearing the way and giving the people of Fallujah their bridge back
<https://youtu.be/vI7Dy1GcnEQ>
- Women play an essential role in mine action. Shahad explains her role as a Community Liaison Officer
<https://youtu.be/TSPR5bBT3K8>
- Risk education saves lives – Noor's show at Radio One FM, TV clips and virtual reality goggles
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-TwYMHvyJLI>
- The right to Peace 'Playing Cello in Mosul'
<https://youtu.be/SLSkZaUGspA>
- The people of Iraq, like anywhere else, deserve a 'Safe Home'
<https://youtu.be/MymKRcCSkFE>
- Female police officers trained as explosive hazards first responders
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2171794803087413>
- 60 seconds in Iraq – an overview of 2018
<https://youtu.be/H8oaDwC9Ux8>

UNMAS IRAQ SENIOR PROGRAMME MANAGER, MR. PEHR LODHAMMAR



Under the leadership and mentoring of Pehr Lodhammar, UNMAS in Iraq has more than quadrupled in size and has achieved huge impact in the liberated areas of Iraq. In October 2018, Pehr won the United Nations Secretary-General Award for the 'Mentoring' category.

To watch the UNMAS Iraq video describing efforts to raise awareness and reduce the threat posed by explosive hazards in Iraq go to <https://youtu.be/YdaKcBLa98I>



UNFPA IN IRAQ

UNFPA in Iraq... Serving Women and Youth across the Country

During times of conflict, reproductive health needs are disregarded leading to major consequences on women: Pregnant women risk life-threatening complications with scarce access to reproductive health services. Women and young people also become more prone to sexual violence, exploitation and diseases while the hygiene needs are often neglected.

Although Iraq has been announced as moving to the recovery phase, women and girls still suffer from the consequences of conflict and are in dire need of emergency maternal health services, psychological support and protection against gender-based violence.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH INTERVENTIONS:

Nadia was only 16 when she grabbed her toddler and fled her house in Hawijah, Iraq, while five months pregnant. ISIS had taken over their town two years earlier and, on this fateful night, persistent bombing drove Nadia and many other families out from their houses in the middle of the night.

Growing up, Nadia had pictured a very different future for herself. She had a single, simple dream: to become a school teacher. But the fighting forced her out of school. One year after ISIS's arrival, she was married off to an older man.

"I was forced. I was just a child, only 15 years old. I didn't want to be married," Nadia said as anger flashed briefly across her young face.

Eight months into the marriage, her husband was taken by ISIL and she never heard of him again. She was already pregnant when he disappeared. Soon after, she was married off again, this time as a second wife. A few months after the delivery of her first child, Nadia became pregnant again and decided to flee with her husband for safety to Debaga camp for internally displaced people.

Halfway through to Debaga, they stopped, too scared to move forward and unable to turn around. They set up an impromptu encampment in the middle of nowhere where they stayed for a few months.

"There was no food and no water, and our children got sick," she said.

Nadia was getting closer to her due date.

So, her family decided to make a final push for Debaga despite the challenges and risks and finally made it to the camp.

Upon arriving in Debaga, Nadia went to the UNFPA reproductive health clinic for treatment and consultations; antenatal care. The clinic was one of the 157 reproductive health facilities supported by UNFPA that provide reproductive health consultations, gynaecological, antenatal and postnatal services, as well as family planning to pregnant women across Iraq.

Shortly after, Nadia delivered her second child: a daughter she named Sewar.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE INTERVENTIONS:

Nadia would also visit the space for women and girls in the camp where she learnt sewing and had a chance to socialize with other mothers. The centre, one of 138 centres for women supported by UNFPA, provides sensitive and confidential case management for survivors, including providing psychosocial support, follow-up and referrals to further care, such as health services.

The centre, allows women like Nadia, to have access to classes and skills-building activities and community education about issues including women's rights. The centres not only receive internally displaced women and girls but also refugees who fled Syria looking for a haven.

"The centre and social workers reminded me that I was not alone, that I may suffer in silence, but I am far from alone. They restored some of the faith I had lost in myself and made me feel that I should not be judged by my ability to procreate," said Rawa of her first visit to the centre. "They made me feel as if I had a place in the world."

At the age of 30, kindergarten teacher Rawa met a man, fell in love, decided to get married and start a family. Things did not go as planned for her and her husband: a year into their marriage and after a series of doctors' visits and tests, the once-happy family discovered that Rawa was unable to conceive.

"When people find out about my infertility, their facial expressions change; the smile on their face is immediately replaced by an awkward silence that screams: "Something is wrong with you," she explains.

Years passed and the situation kept worsening for the family-of-two. Rawa eventually discovered that her husband had begun having an affair, and his attitude toward her had shifted considerably. He had taken to calling her "less of a woman," relegating her to the role of a housekeeper and preventing her from leaving the house. Her sadness and despair were immeasurable to the extent that the idea of committing suicide haunted her day and night.

In 2011, eight years into the marriage, the war broke out in Syria and the family was forced to leave Damascus. In 2013, they sought refuge in the Kurdistan Regional of Iraq, more specifically in the Gawelan camp.

The burden of displacement took its toll on Rawa as it exacerbated her sense of loneliness and rejection and led her into a complete state of depression. One day, she saw a leaflet in front of her tent about the UNFPA-supported women's centre at the camp. The leaflet presented the services offered to women, especially those

in need of psychosocial support. Despite her lack of hope, she decided to take a chance.

The social workers sheltered her and provided her with advice and knowledge on infertility. They also encouraged her to attend the recreational activities and life-skills sessions offered, which she happily took in the hope of ending her isolation.

"The centre and social workers not only held my hand when I needed it, but they also reached out to my husband and convinced him to attend the focus group discussions for men and young boys on gender-based violence and women's rights," explains Rawa.

"I have learned to live with the idea that I am unable to have children, so now I fill my time with arts and crafts instead of feeling sorry for my situation. My husband has also improved considerably. His disrespectful statements have stopped and he is slowly embracing the situation with a more compassionate and understanding attitude," added Rawa, smiling.

YOUTH INTERVENTIONS:

Next to the women centre in Gawelan was a Youth centre, one of five youth centres supported by UNFPA in Iraq in 2018, where young boys and girls are given the opportunity to hold sports activities and attend other communal activities, workshops and trainings that strengthen their resilience and builds their confidence.

"Sport promotes cooperation and creativity, brings out positive energy in people, breaks deadlocks and develops innate talents and skills. The activities that I participate in at the youth centre have helped me make new friends and be more confident in who I am," says Fatima, 27, from Dhi Qar Governorate, southern Iraq.

UNFPA and its partners use sport; football, volleyball, basketball, table tennis, and chess tournaments, as an entry point to promote peace-building and development in the camps and among communities. While sport can enable peacebuilding in a group, it also allows the youth and the community members to interact in a healthy and friendly environment, and to contribute to their

mental wellbeing despite the difficult circumstances that they have endured.

"Participating in the sports activities creates a peaceful environment for us young people, as it teaches the values of teamwork, fairness, discipline, respect for the opponent and the rules of the game, which can be translated into our everyday lives", explains Hussam Mohammad, 28, from Ninewa Governorate, northern Iraq.

In 2019, UNFPA will continue to honour up to its commitment to raise awareness and take actions towards ending violence against women and all harmful practices, to empower young people and provide them with the life skills and peace-building techniques to reach their full potential, and to offer the best maternal health care women deserve.

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, delivers a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled



UNOPS in IRAQ

As an operational arm of the United Nations, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) provides support to the Government of Iraq and a wide range of partners to implement humanitarian and development interventions in the country. UNOPS brings expertise in project management, procurement and infrastructure, and has been mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to be a central resource for the United Nations system in procurement, contracts management, civil works and physical infrastructure development, including the related capacity development activities. In 2018, UNOPS provided assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and operational support to UN agencies. UNOPS also supported the Government of Iraq through humanitarian and development projects in infrastructure, procurement and project management.

From both Baghdad and Erbil, our teams supported the Government's efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE NEWLY LIBERATED AREAS THROUGH RENEWABLE ENERGY AND EMERGENCY WASTE DISPOSAL

UNOPS implemented "Improving Living Conditions in the Newly Liberated Areas through Renewable Energy and Emergency Waste Disposal" project, funded by the Government of Japan. The project works to improve the living conditions of the returnees in newly liberated areas of Anbar, Ninewa and Diyala through the provision of innovative renewable off-grid/hybrid energy solutions, as well as mu-

nicipal solid waste disposal services. This is in line with new trends towards renewable energy and modern waste disposal system. The concept of solid waste disposal has critical dimensions particularly those related to the health and environmental impacts on local communities. Finding solutions to these issues have important global implications and directly contribute to achieving the SDGs.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLES INFORMATION CENTRE

In 2018, the Iraq Internally Displaced People Information Centre (IIC), continued to provide critical information to its beneficiaries on behalf of the Humanitarian Country Team, responding to 101,014 calls. The project is being funded by the Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund, provided by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), European Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), the World Food



Programme (WFP), the World Health Organisation (WHO), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It is set to continue through 2019, serving IDPs and the increasing numbers of returnees and refugees. The project seeks to build a better humanitarian response by facilitating the exchange of information between affected populations and humanitarian actors, collecting and circulating information about the urgent needs and priorities of affected populations, and closing the loop on complaints and feedback.

IMPROVING THE IMPACT AND EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMUNITY POLICE IN THE NEWLY LIBERATED AREAS IN IRAQ

Over the past year, UNOPS worked to ensure that the Community Police in the newly liberated areas are better equipped to promote peace and stability. The project contributed to stability in Iraq by supporting community police institutions in newly liberated areas of Iraq, specifically in Ninewa, Anbar, Diyala, Salah al Din, and Kirkuk. This included the construction of 28 pre-fabricated caravans, rehabilitation of community police centres, procurement of necessary equipment and vehicles. The project also partnered with

the UNAMI Office for Human Rights to provide training to improve the impact and effectiveness of new and existing police officers with improved sensitivity on human rights and gender, in particular.

PROCUREMENT OF MOBILE CLINICS AND AMBULANCE VEHICLES

UNOPS is supporting the Ministry of Health & Environment (MoHE) to procure mobile clinics and ambulance vehicles, to mitigate the suffering of the afflicted regions by the crisis. The project is part of the comprehensive assistance package provided to the Government of Iraq by the World Bank. Within the project, UNOPS has procured 14 specialised mobile clinics and 39 ambulance vehicles to cover Diyala and Salah el Din governorates. Each mobile clinic consists of a trailer that houses treatment facilities, medical equipment, and medicines. This will contribute to provide the necessary health care and emergency services to Iraqis. The health services provided will cover at minimum gynecology, dental radiology, out-patient clinic and emergency services, basic laboratory tests, as well as pharmacy units.

UNOPS IN IRAQ

Through the Iraq Internally Displaced People Information Centre, UNOPS has connected thousands of displaced persons with critical information that has helped link them with humanitarian assistance.

UNOPS has been working to improve the living conditions of Iraqis in newly liberated areas through the provision of innovative renewable off-grid/hybrid energy solutions, as well as municipal solid waste disposal service, in line with new trends towards renewable energy and modern waste disposal system.

To mitigate the suffering of the afflicted regions by the crisis, and to provide the necessary health care and emergency services, UNOPS has procured 14 specialised mobile clinics and 39 ambulance vehicles. This will provide access to health services including gynecology, dental radiology, out-patient clinic and emergency services, basic laboratory tests, as well as pharmacy units.

IMPROVING THE OPERATIONAL CAPACITY OF DEMINING AUTHORITIES IN IRAQ

Funded by the Government of Japan, UNOPS implemented "Improving the Operational Capacity of Demining Authorities in Iraq" project. Under this project, UNOPS procured specialized personal protection equipment, detectors, vehicles, GPS, radios, binoculars, plotters, specialized equipment for tactical exercises and ICT equipment for the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA) of the Ministry of Health and Environment, the Ministry of Interior (MOI) of the Government of Iraq and the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency (IKMAA). Staff in the 3 entities also received hands-on training on how to use these equipment. In addition, UNOPS collaborated with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in the implementation of this project, to provide capacity development training to these 3 entities.



WFP IN IRAQ

As the situation and needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees remained precarious following the return process that began in early 2018, WFP's priorities in the country continued to be emergency assistance to IDPs and refugees, and recovery and reconstruction activities for returnees. WFP Iraq transitioned to a Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) from 01 January 2018 until 31 December 2019.

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WFP also developed strategic partnerships with the Ministry of Trade, providing technical expertise and support to digitise the Public Distribution System (PDS)

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Throughout 2018 under the TICSP, WFP expanded its engagement with the Government of Iraq. Together with the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), WFP supported the Iraqi government in undertaking a National Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition in Iraq towards Zero Hunger, under the leadership of the Secretary General of the Iraq Council of Ministers. The review aimed at formulating a set of policies, institutional changes and investments to achieve Strategic Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger, informing Iraq's decision-makers and contributing to food and nutrition security policy and strategic plans.

A further study was undertaken focusing on linking humanitarian assistance and the social protection system, recognising

that the increased stability in Iraq should result in a transition: from delivery by international humanitarian actors to government-led social protection programmes. The study developed a landscape analysis and a vision for a shock-responsive, flexible safety net programme, examining how to link humanitarian activities with the government's social protection floor. WFP also developed strategic partnerships with the Ministry of Trade, providing technical expertise and support to digitise the Public Distribution System (PDS). Moving away from the paper system will bring increased efficiency and transparency to the management of PDS operations, while saving time and providing better services to citizens, including secure digital identity verification. The initiative aims to prioritise citizens in need of the most assistance.

KEY 2018 ACTIVITIES

General Food Assistance to IDPs

Despite conflict subsiding in many parts of country, Iraqis continue to face protracted displacement due to the lack of security, jobs and services in their areas of origin. Monthly distributions of Family Food Rations (FFR) and Cash-Based Transfers - the latter through Mobile Money Transfers and e-vouchers - helped support 596,434 IDPs over the year.

Newly and secondary displaced families received an Immediate Response Ration (IRR) which included ready-to-eat rations of dates, biscuits, beans, canned chicken and chickpeas - enough to last families three days while waiting to access monthly food distributions. The IRRs covered the food component of the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) package of assistance, a multi-sector initiative in cooperation with UNICEF and UNFPA.

WFP and its partners provided the monthly FFR via a food basket: 30kg of wheat, 15kg rice, 10kg lentils, 4.55kg vegetable oil, 5kg sugar and 0.75kg salt - enough to supplement a family diet with 1,800 kilocalories per day for an average family size of five. Those receiving cash-based transfers received the 20,000 IQD cash equivalent to the food basket, calculated at the market price at the time.

General Food Assistance to Refugees

WFP used Unconditional Resource Transfers (URT) to meet the basic food and nutrition needs of Syrian refugees. These were delivered mostly through e-vouchers, at a value of IQD 22,000 per month. The vast majority received electronic vouchers through SCOPE, WFP's beneficiary and transfer management platform. The remainder received unrestricted cash transfers. In 2018, WFP reached up to 58,946 Syrian refugees with this monthly assistance.

In 2018, WFP and UNHCR conducted a comprehensive Joint Vulnerability Assessment (JVA) in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I), in collaboration with the Kurdistan Region Statistical Office. The JVA investigated the status of Syrian refugees, both in and outside camps. Following its publication, WFP started a six-month targeting and verification exercise, with the aim of identifying the most vulnerable households - so they could continue to receive the food assistance they required.



School Feeding

From March to May 2018, WFP partnered with the Ministry of Education (MoE) to provide emergency school meals, to 88,881 school children returning to 145 primary schools and 4 kindergartens in West Mosul.

WFP provided healthy snacks of bread, cheese, milk and fresh seasonal fruit to primary school children in Grades 1 to 6, 4 to 5 days a week. The food was sourced from local suppliers and bakeries and packed locally - helping to revitalise the war-torn economy and created almost 400 jobs in small businesses and packaging centres (40% of which were female).

School feeding contributed to retention

and attention rates over the academic year, for students in the 145 primary schools and 4 kindergartens in the West Mosul district. This was the final part of the city that was retaken by Iraqi government forces and in the greatest need of support. The retention rate was 94.1%, improving by 0.6% on the previous school year. Attendance increased by 3.8%. Such improvement can be attributed to the students receiving school meals, as they indicated in the survey.

Considering this initial school meals programme as a pilot, WFP is planning to scale up the initiative in 2019, to target over 1,000 schools in 15 governorates across the country, with a focus on poverty-stricken and conflict-affected locations.





Tech for Food

The Country Office developed the Tech for Food project in Iraq together with the Munich-based WFP Innovation Accelerator. Through training in IT, digital skillsets, basic English language and coaching, targeted vulnerable youths from Syrian refugee camps, Iraqi IDPs and affected communities were empowered with knowledge and skills to boost their livelihoods and access the digital marketplace.

By the end of 2018, 1,674 participants had successfully graduated from the training. 17% of the trainees had already found employment, of whom 66% were women. 2.4% of the trainees found internships.

All participants reported that they acquired valuable 'soft' skills - such as confidence - through the programme. During the training, participants were provided with monthly stipends towards their household's immediate food requirements. After completing the programme, students were able to perform internationally competitive tasks such as data entry, data cleaning, image annotation and photo editing, opening up their chances of employment through online jobs.

In January 2018, 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. Through this project, WFP developed partnerships with the University of Sulaymaniyah, the University of Mosul and Google - which donated 300 Chromebooks.

Food for Assets: Resilience

WFP scaled up resilience-building interventions through Food for Assets (FFA) schemes, to stabilise household consumption in times of need, and rehabilitate nutrition-sensitive, productive assets at the community level. Such resilience work aims to catalyse agricultural production and foster sustainable livelihoods to families in their areas of origin.

Following a request in 2017 for assistance from the Directorate of Water Resources in Anbar, to rehabilitate damaged canals and irrigation systems - and thereby restore large portions of agricultural land - WFP engaged key stakeholders to identify further possibilities for resilience and livelihoods interventions. Working with the government, UN agencies, NGOs, Food Security Cluster and Emergency Livelihoods Cluster, WFP comprehensively mapped opportunities for food assistance through cash transfers for asset

creation and rehabilitation, highlighting the need for training and increased resilience.

In close coordination with the Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Agriculture, WFP worked with 9 partners across 70 villages in 18 districts in 2018, to achieve:

- 33,174 people benefiting from FFA projects at a total cost of US \$9.3 million - equating to \$186 per beneficiary.
- Rehabilitation and cleaning of 629 km of concrete and soil irrigation canals.
- Rehabilitation and cleaning of 12 water pumping stations (11 stations in Al Anbar and 1 station in Ninewa).
- 60 irrigations systems being rehabilitated and extended.
- Rehabilitation of 125 hectares of olive groves (17,000 olive trees)
- 90 kitchen gardens (20 sq. feet) being established and functional.
- Rehabilitation of 266 greenhouses - and 151 new greenhouses.
- Rehabilitation and construction of 103 livestock shelters.
- Training of 1,137 participants in agricultural practices and nutrition.

The projects restored parts of the agriculture, water and forestry sectors. USD 1.86 million was injected into local economies, adding to economic growth across all communities - returnees and displaced alike. WFP's resilience activities supported dignified, voluntary returns, rehabilitated dwindling livelihoods and ultimately contributed to the country's stabilisation.



COORDINATION FOR HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT IN IRAQ

In 2018, WFP worked to provide effective coordination for humanitarian support through the Cluster services: the Logistics Cluster (LC), the Emergency & Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) and the Food Security Cluster (FSC).

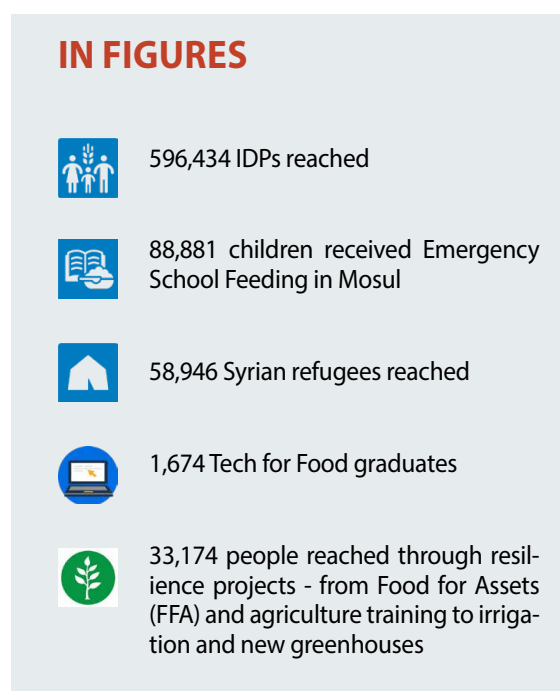
The LC supported broader humanitarian and recovery efforts in the country through leadership in logistics coordination, common service provision, and facilitation of customs clearance of humanitarian commodities coming into the country. The LC also provided humanitarian partners with information management, data collection and assessments, filling critical gaps and ensuring accountability.

In 2018, the ETC provided crucial communications services to the humanitarian community in several sites across Iraq, including the scale-up supporting humanitarian operations in Mosul. Internet connectivity supported data require-

ments for the humanitarian community. Services for communities provided the ability to communicate, even access education opportunities. The ETC provided communications in 18 camps for IDPs. Several capacity building activities took place on radio communication support and procedures.

The FSC focused on the coordination of response mechanisms for food and livelihoods assistance, for food insecure people along displacement routes both in camps and out-of-camp locations.

The cluster implemented a series of training sessions to share knowledge and experiences on Country Based Pooled Funds (CBPF), the Humanitarian Programme Cycle, food security vulnerability assessment and monitoring, advocacy, information management and contingency planning. Through establishing a Strategic Review Team and the identification of strategic and technical criteria, the FSC rolled out a process for the review



of CBPF proposals. The FSC facilitated training sessions and workshops with UNFPA for Gender Based Violence mainstreaming and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse for cluster partners, and also gave trainings on nutrition to FSC partners.





WHO IN IRAQ

INTRODUCTION:

WHO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that is concerned with international public health. It was established on 7 April 1948 and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

For better health for everyone and everywhere, WHO continues working with 194 Member States, across six regions, and from more than 150 offices to build a better and healthier future for people all over the world.

WHO staff are united in a shared commitment to achieve better health for everyone. Together we strive to combat diseases – communicable diseases like influenza and HIV, and non-communicable diseases like cancer and heart disease.

WHO supports mothers and children survive and thrive so they can look forward to a healthy old age. It also ensures the safety of the air people breathe, the food they eat, the water they drink – and the medicines and vaccines they need.

In Iraq, in 2018, WHO main-

tained its support to the Ministry of Health on both levels of Federal and Regional. It also continued its emergency response activities in areas where secondary and tertiary health care services are still in demand. A wide range of supplies including medicines and medical equipment have been distributed to supported health facilities like field hospitals, primary health care centers, and mobile clinics to help them sustain their service delivery to the vulnerable population of IDPs, returnees, and burdened hosting communities.

2018 also witnessed providing special support to rehabilitation

centers for people with disabilities, victims of the conflict in governorates like Mosul and Anbar.

WHO SUPPORT TO THE PROVISION OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES:

WHO continued to support the provision of primary health care services in IDP camps and areas of returnees in crisis-affected governorates of Ninewa, Anbar, Salah Aldin, Kirkuk, and Diyala.

A provision of 37 primary health care clinics in IDP camps and areas of returnees in addition to 47 mobile medical clinics continue to provide first-line health care services in governorates of Ninewa,

Anbar, Kirkuk, Dohuk, Salah Aldin, Suleimaniya, and Erbil.

As of December 2018, the total number of primary health consultations provided in the mobile medical clinics stands at 891,141 while a total number of consultations provided by the primary health care clinics stands at 1,338,263 including 87,632 reproductive health consultations and 15,883 mental health consultations.

In addition to the figures above, 321.629 laboratory tests were performed, 178.676 vaccine doses administered, and 31.595 cases referred to medical and surgical intervention or radiology and laboratory investigations.

WHO 2018 ESTABLISHED PROJECTS:

In 2018, WHO established a number of vital health projects in under-recovery areas as part of its contribution to the recovery and resilience phase after the liberation of Mosul. These projects include:

1. Establishing the emergency unit in Ana General Hospital and the delivery room in Heet PHCC in Al-Anbar Governorate. By the end of 2018, the newly established units provided specialized health services to 3.617 patients including 1.258 emergency cases; 4.288 reproductive health consultations; 107 normal vaginal deliveries; and 1.108 laboratory tests.
2. Establishing four medical waste management centers in Ninawa, Salahaddin, and Anbar where a total of 47.694 Kg of medical waste products were disposed.
3. Maintaining support to the three field hospitals it established in Mosul in 2016/17. The hospitals delivered a total of 35.520 outpatient consultations, admitted 20.345 patients, conducted 9.358 major and minor surgical operations, performed 2.382 normal vaginal and 1.237 cesarean section deliveries, in addition to a total of

25.547 laboratory tests and 11.080 radiological investigation services.

4. Supporting the provision of 10 caravans for the partially damaged PHCCs in Zab, Abassi, Shawok, Zraria and Hamzaly in Kirkuk Governorate.

5. Supporting the rehabilitation of the outpatient department at Hawija General Hospital and establishing a prefabricated ward to replace the destroyed pediatric ward.

6. Supporting Salah Aldin General Hospital with the establishment of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

7. Expanding the bed capacity of Salah Aldin General Hospital by donating 10 caravans.

8. Supporting Shirqat hospital with 13 tons of medications and supplies to respond to the urgent health needs resulting from floods that hit the district in Dec 2018.

WHO CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTH IN IRAQ IN 2018 ALSO INCLUDED:

- Water quality monitoring in governorates of Ninawa, Salahaddin, Kirkuk, Dohuk, Sulaymaniyah, and Erbil. A total of 28,515 water samples were collected and tested.
- Provision of medicines and medical supplies which included 31,000 medical equipment distributed to 34 health facilities in Ninawa, Anbar, Salahaddin, Kirkuk, Dohuk and Erbil. It also included medicines and medical kits worth of US\$8.387.762 million comprising more than 2.360 types of different emergency kits sufficient for a population of 1.413.700 people and over 59.209.029 medicine doses enough to treat approximately 1,712,292 patients.
- Monitoring and Evaluation with more than 79 M&E missions were conducted by the emergency team throughout 2018.
- WHO support to referral and ambulatory services furnished con-



flict-affected governorates with an additional number of 45 ambulances distributed as follows:

- 21 ambulances to Al-Anbar
- 5 ambulances to Salahaddin
- 8 ambulances to Kirkuk
- 4 ambulances to Ninawa
- 2 ambulances to Dohuk
- 2 ambulances to Erbil
- 3 ambulances to Sulaymaniyah
- WHO support to rehabilitation centers for people with physical disabilities. More than 302 patients with amputations received prosthetic limbs in governorates of Ninawa and Al-Anbar.
- WHO contributed to the capacity building of national professionals working in directorates of health of conflict-affected governorates. More than 275 staff from Ninawa DoH were trained on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MNHPS), EWARN, chemical agents incidents preparedness and response, triage making, and blood bank management.

OTHER AREAS OF SUPPORT:

1. Polio Eradication initiative in 2018 included the following activities:

- In support for the Ministry of Health in Iraq and in close coordination with UNICEF and partners, WHO provided technical and financial support for the conduction of three Polio campaigns in 2018; two Sub-national cam-



paigns (March and April) and one Nationwide campaign in December for children under the age of 5 years. The total number of children reached was 1.6 million, 1.5 million and 5.59 million children respectively.

- WHO conducted emergency campaigns in the newly liberated areas using multi- antigens for the highest protection possible. Three consecutive rounds were conducted in eight districts (Qaem, Rawa, and Ana of Anbar, Hawija 1&2 of Kirkuk, Talaafar, Baaj, Sinjar and Hatra of Ninewa) where more than 100,000 children under the age of 5 were vaccinated against at least 6 killer diseases of childhood
- WHO supported the measles surveillance and outbreak investigation, which erupted in Iraq in 2018 and assisted the Minister of Health in developing the response plan. Apart from the technical support, WHO managed to get funds for the emergency campaign response from HRP through OCHA.
- WHO maintained the quality of AFP Surveillance system, which met the globally set targets through support to both the technical and financial aspects.
- WHO maintains technical staff in key governorates with special attention to high-risk areas like Ninawa, Anbar, Kirkuk, Salahuddin, and others.
- WHO provided the technical and financial support to the WHO-accredited Polio laboratory in Iraq.
- Maintained the close collaboration with the MOH and EPI program for capacity building and national and supportive supervision and monitoring activities.

2. EWARN:

The Early Warning and Alert Response Network (EWARN) in Iraq managed by WHO regularly conducts communicable diseases surveillance, detection, verification and response initiatives in collaboration with the MoH, DoHs, and Partners.

In 2018, the EWARN network was extended to cover 241 reporting sites. It received notifications from 189 sentinel sites (mobile medical teams (MMTs), Mobile Medical Clinics (MMCs), Primary Health care Centers (PHCs), and hospitals from ten governorates hosting IDPs.

The EWARN reported 5,532,121 incidences of diseases/consultations and 250 notifiable events over the past 12 months from January 2018. The network enabled detecting 196 alerts and seven outbreaks that have been investigated and responded to within 72 hours.

An epidemic of measles was detected and responded to with a nationwide vaccination campaign, in addition to three sporadic confirmed cases of cholera, which were timely detected and promptly managed to prevent any outbreaks.

During 2018, moreover, WHO strengthened the capacity of MoH and partners to respond to the major outbreaks through building the capacity of 461 health staffs on data collection, reporting, detection of alerts and outbreaks, and case management, with Infectious hazard management (laboratory sampling, transport, and testing), assessment and preparation for emergencies in Iraq.

3. Mental Health and Gender-Based Violence

The humanitarian crisis in Iraq, especially in Ninawa- Mosul, has impacted the health system in general and the mental health area in particular. WHO response in this respect included a number of actions like:

- application of the intervention guide of the mental health gap action program (mhGAP) to facilitate mhGAP-related delivery of evidence-based interventions in non-specialized health settings.
- Conducting two 5-day training courses in Duhok on mhGAP Intervention Guide, version 2.0, to facilitate the mental health service delivery in the most affected areas of the conflict. The first was in October 21-25, 2018 in Duhok for a group of 25 general practitioners from Ninawa and Duhok governorates working with WHO-supported partners in IDP camps. The second training course was conducted in December 16-20, 2018 to a group of 22 family medicine doctors and general practitioners working in family medicine centers in Ninawa and Duhok. The training covered priority mental health conditions.
- A one-day national workshop on strengthening the health sector response to GBV in Iraq was conducted in Baghdad. The workshop looked at ways for boosting multi-sectoral coordination in order to ensure comprehensive survivor-centered care. More than 20 health care managers from several governorates participated in this workshop.
- A 3-day training to health care providers on responding to gen-



der-based violence. The training aimed at building basic skills of health providers to deal with GBV survivors, according to a survivor-centered, human-rights based approach. More than 27 health care providers from Suleymania, Dohuk, Erbil, Ninevah, Salah Al-Din, and Mosul participated in this workshop

- WHO is planning to continue with the mhGAP-IG courses and refreshing trainings in addition to strengthening the capacity of health providers in responding to survivors of the gender-based violence. The support will be maintained to train mental health care professionals and non-professional health care providers on low-intensity psychological interventions such as problem management plus (PM+); support INGO/NGOs to providing MHPSS services at the community level; and support health care workers well-being.

4. WHO support to the Syrian refugees

In November 2018, WHO conducted a thorough assessment for all camp clinics and a number of secondary healthcare facilities delivering health care services for the Syrian refugees in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) to explore the needs and plan for the required support. Main findings of the assessment were:

- A significant shortage of medications, medical consumables, and lab materials.
- Lack of medical equipment in the lab and ER in the facilities serving the SRs
- Urgent need for maintenance of

camp clinics in Dohuk

- A significant increase in population was noticed in the majority of the camps
- Quality of care is questionable in some camps

In response to the findings, WHO processed an urgent supply of medicines and medical supplies to health facilities in the nine Syrian refugee camps in KR-I, namely Darashakran, Kawergosk, Qushtapa, Basirma, Domiz I, Domiz II, Akree, Arbat, and Gawilan. The supplies provided were sufficient for more than 400,000 patients for a duration of 6 months.

As a way forward, WHO has considered a set of measures for supporting three secondary healthcare facilities with available referral services, which are Raparin Pediatric Hospital in Erbil, Heevi Pediatric Hospital in Dohuk, and the Emergency Room (ER) in Shar Hospital in Suleimaniya. The measures also included signing a letter of agreement (LOA) with AISPO NGO for the maintenance of SR camps in Dohuk in addition to supporting all SR camps with a provision of medical equipment, monitoring of medication consumption, and a bundle of EWARN and surveillance training for health staff working in the camps.

Moreover, a contingency plan was drafted in 2018 in coordination with other humanitarian partners to respond to a potential influx of new 50,000 refugees from north Syria to Iraq as a result of the escalation of conflict there.

5. Cluster Coordination:

During 2018, the Iraq Health Cluster consisted of 40 partners (24 International non-governmental organizations (INGOs), 12 local NGOs and 4 United Nations (UN) agencies). The Cluster supported four working groups: Reproductive Health, Nutrition, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) and Humanitarian Physical Rehabilitation.

Under the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2018, the Health Cluster requested US\$ 67.4 million and was 99% funded by the end of the year. Cluster partners were able to provide

Primary Health Care (PHC) services including reproductive health, vaccination, nutritional services and prevention of communicable diseases to three million affected people while sustaining a steady supply of essential medicines, emergency kits, and supplies.

The Reproductive Health Working Group was able to ensure services to 1,096,979 women in reproductive age with more than 133 health facilities providing RH services supported by 26 partners.

The Nutrition Working Group supported the screening of 142,873 children (6-59 months of age) for growth monitoring and malnutrition, identified and managed 1,180 Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 5,254 Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) cases at camp level. It also provided Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counseling and promotion to more than 20,000 mothers.

More than 2000,000 mental health and psychosocial promotion sessions were conducted with almost 13,800 advanced psychosocial sessions provided by partners under the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Working Group. Meanwhile, more than 250,000 individuals were referred to higher-level care.

During 2018, the Humanitarian Physical Rehabilitation Working Group members provided almost 24,000 consultations, supplied almost 2,800 assistive devices to individuals, and trained more than 80 service providers.

Furthermore, WHO as the lead agency and member of the health cluster supported four mobile medical units to provide health care services in remote areas serving IDPs, Syrian refugees, and host communities. The Organization also supported DOH Erbil to conduct two rounds (spring and autumn) of vector control activities to control and prevent zoonotic diseases especially Leishmaniasis, enhanced water monitoring to prevent water-borne disease, and provided health technologies (lifesaving medications, IHEK, consumables, and medical equipment).



■ UNODC IN IRAQ

Under its regional programme “Strengthening the Legal Regime Against Terrorism”, UNODC delivered in 2018 technical assistance to Iraq on countering terrorism activities, taking into consideration the phase after the liberation of Mosul. In this regard, UNODC assistance targeted ISIL accountability and potential threat by focusing on the following identified needs: targeting critical infrastructure; countering the threat of the dual use of chemical material; investigation and adjudication of terrorism cases; preventing the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes; countering financing of terrorism; countering Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF); and supporting victims of terrorist acts. Furthermore, UNODC supported the improvement of international cooperation in criminal matters.

To assist Iraq in implementing relevant international instruments, such as the UN Security Council Resolution 2341 (2017), and to respond to the growing terrorist threats towards critical infrastructure, UNODC supported the Iraqi National Security Advisory in the development of a national strategy for the physical protection of critical infrastructure. In the same time, UNODC continued to support the Iraqi authorities with regards to the dual use of chemical materials and in the development of a national strategy to regulate the dealing in chemicals of dual use, including the use, selling, transfer, and

export of chemicals.

UNODC continued to effectively support Iraq to strengthen its cooperation in criminal matters with the newly established UNITAD, and with its neighboring countries by establishing mechanisms to help facilitate requests for mutual legal assistance and extradition, which play an essential role in the prosecution of terrorist cases that transcend national borders. In this context, UNODC organized several technical assistance activities and provided a training on open source internet investigations and criminal intelligence

analysis for Iraqi officials. Moreover, in the framework of cooperation with academic institutions, UNODC trained Iraqi lawyers on the admissibility of digital evidence.

With regard to countering the financing of terrorism, UNODC continued to support the capabilities of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and its cooperation with the FIUs in the region, mainly Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon.

UNODC intensified its work to strengthen the capacities of law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners to prevent the use of the Internet for terrorist pur-



poses by delivering a series of specialized trainings in Iraq. The trainings focused on open source investigation methods, the use of digital evidence, and countering online recruitments for terrorist purposes. UNODC strengthened also the capacities of the Iraqi law enforcement officers to better respond to the emerging FTF threat. UNODC also continued to provide support to victims of terrorist acts from liberated areas by providing them with le-

gal and psychological support especially during the investigation procedures.

Built on the success of UNODC's assistance and partnership with Iraq in 2018, the Office will continue focusing its assistance in 2019 on preventing ISIL potential threat and accountability as well as on preventing the return of Al-Qaida to Iraq. In the same time, UNODC may extend its activities to include border control, cybercrime and crime prevention related issues.





UN OCHA IN IRAQ

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Iraq coordinates effective and principled humanitarian action, advocates for the rights of people in need, promotes preparedness and prevention, and facilitates sustainable solutions. The humanitarian context in Iraq underwent a substantial evolution in 2018, as operations pivoted from delivery of emergency response during armed conflict to addressing the needs of millions of IDPs, returnees and vulnerable Iraqis in host communities living in areas heavily impacted by the armed conflict against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Of the 6 million people displaced at the height of the conflict, 4.2 million have returned home to more than 1,400 areas of origin across 35 districts and seven Governorates of Iraq. Throughout 2018, OCHA worked to emphasize protection in the humanitarian response in Iraq, engaging counterparts in the government, UN agencies and NGOs on prioritizing those who may be most vulnerable to protection concerns, including families with perceived affiliations to extremist groups.

OCHA supported 170 partners to reach 3 million out of 3.4 million targeted people (87 per cent) with humanitarian assistance, including 1.3 million children and 1.4 million women and girls. Humanitarian actors implemented programmes across 107 of Iraq's 109 districts, although the majority of the response focused on serving IDPs living in camps. The 2018 Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) was 92.5 per cent funded by year's end, making it the best-funded response globally, and reflecting strong donor confidence in both projected outcomes and results. Nevertheless, challenges remain, including protracted political deadlock and a slow appointment process in key government ministers and the delayed implementa-

tion of recovery and resilience activities. With dozens of staff based around the country, OCHA maintains an agile and strategic footprint in Iraq, with its main office in Baghdad, regional office in Erbil, and field sub-offices in Erbil, Dahuk, Ninewa, and Kirkuk, as well as a dynamic presence in Anbar, Salah al-Din, and Sulaymaniyah.

During 2018, OCHA maintained its sustained advocacy with government, military and coordination counterparts in both federal Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq in order to prevent the forced eviction and early returns of IDPs, and supported the Government with the development and operationalization of the Governorate Returns Committees (GRCs) in Anbar, Kirkuk, Diyala and Salah al-



Din to facilitate well-informed, voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable returns. In addition, OCHA worked to sensitize humanitarian partners for the consolidation of some of Iraq's 125 IDP camps and the transfer of beneficiaries to camps with better service provision—including medical services, schools and improved security arrangements—to ensure that minimum standards are maintained.

In the post-ISIL context, addressing the protection concerns of Iraq's IDPs is a primary focus for humanitarians, and working towards durable solutions for this population will be at the forefront of humanitarian planning in 2019. The vast majority of the humanitarian response to date has been focused on those IDPs who reside in registered camps (approximately 20 per cent of the almost 2 million people who remain displaced). It is estimated that aid reaches only 10 per cent of the remaining 1.5 million who live outside of camps. Expanding access to this population is a priority for humanitarians.

The protection needs of the IDP population are diverse, and Iraq's post-conflict environment adds a layer of complexity

to addressing these needs. There are challenges with obtaining national identification documents and appropriate civil documentation to register deaths, marriages and births, and to secure housing, land and property rights. IDPs cite the lack of employment/livelihood opportunities among their top concerns, along with irregular access to food, health, shelter and education. For IDPs outside of camps, all of these uncertainties are multiplied. Moreover, the psychological trauma of protracted displacement—more than half of IDPs in Iraq have been displaced for three or more years—cannot be discounted. Some displaced Iraqis resort to extreme measures including suicide or attempted suicide in response to the mental anguish they feel.

IDPs with perceived affiliations to extremist groups have been identified as the most vulnerable beneficiaries that humanitarians serve. Armed security actors use the suspected presence of those with alleged affiliations as a pretext to enter and search IDP camps, sometimes arbitrarily arresting IDPs and family members, thus violating the civilian and humanitarian character of camps, and contributing

to an environment of fear and uncertainty for IDPs. Women and children whose fathers, husbands, sons, brothers or even more distant family members are accused of being members ISIL-affiliated can face grave consequences, and are often subject to discriminatory practices in the provision of and access to humanitarian assistance. Within camps, they can be isolated and segregated, subjected to movement restrictions, denied access to humanitarian aid, and victimized by sexual violence and exploitation. For women and children with perceived affiliations who live outside of camps, these negative impacts are compounded dramatically. Distinguishing between legitimate security concerns and promoting the return and/or reintegration of these women and children is important to prevent future radicalization. Meeting their needs is among the core of protection concerns in Iraq, along with survivors of GBV including sexual exploitation and abuse, children at risk, persons with disabilities or chronic conditions, older persons, individuals subject to forced and premature return, and people facing obstacles to achievement of durable solutions.



IOM in IRAQ



IOM Iraq Chief of Mission

MR. GERARD WAITE

With the fight against ISIL officially declared over at the end of 2017, the Government of Iraq focused its efforts in 2018 on grappling with the severe effects of the conflict that devastated large parts of west and northwest of Iraq and hindered the socio-economic development in other parts of the country.

Many Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) returned in 2018 to their communities of origin; however, at the end of the year more than 1.8 million Iraqis were still living in displacement and humanitarian needs of IDPs, returnees and host communities remain high in Iraq. In response, IOM Iraq continued to provide humanitarian assistance to families in protracted displacement, both in camps and out of camps, while increasing its focus on rehabilitating areas of return to support the sustainable reintegration of returnees.

In addition, in 2018 IOM intensified its ef-

forts to strengthen the capacity of governmental authorities and other national actors in emergency preparedness, community stabilization approaches and migration management, to support the Government of Iraq in addressing the main migration and displacement challenges.

As an active member of the UN Humanitarian Country Team (UNHCT) and the UN Country Team (UNCT), IOM is supporting inter-agency collaboration and coordination between the UN and the Government of Iraq. A good example is the Returns Working Group (RWG) –

an operational and multi-stakeholder platform on returns that IOM has been chairing since 2016 with Danish Refugee Council (DRC) as co-chair. Many UN agencies, INGOs, the Government and donor agencies participate in the RWG, which provides a platform to share and discuss critical information, data analysis and policies on the return of IDPs.

IOM looks forward to working in the UN Country Team in 2019, as we collectively support the Government of Iraq in addressing the migration and displacement priorities in Iraq.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Key achievements in 2018 in numbers

- 26,000 IDP families received full non-food item kits including mattresses, cookers, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, lights and seasonal items.
- 80,000 IDP families received winter and/or summer seasonal kits including kerosene heater, fans, cooler boxes, blankets, jerrycans, bedsheets and carpet.
- More than 1,200 IDPs and 280 Syrian refugees received transportation assistance from checkpoints to camps in Kirkuk and to schools, respectively.
- Over 1,000 units/buildings were repaired for more than 5,000 returnee families in Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al-Din.
- 4,285 sealing-off kits were distributed in Anbar, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al-Din to enhance critical shelter of over 3,400 returnee and 600 displaced families.
- 64 camps and 99 informal sites received camp coordination and camp management (CCM) interventions, benefitting around 165,000 individuals.
- More than 360,000 primary health-care consultations provided through 14 mobile medical teams, 2 mobile medical clinics, and 8 static clinics.
- More than 11,000 individuals were referred to secondary health facilities and almost 4,000 of them were provided with transportation assistance.
- Four Primary Health Care (PHC) centres were supported through incentives to medical staff and running costs.
- Around 17,000 individuals in 13 governorates were screened for Tuberculosis (TB).
- More than 83,000 individuals were reached with health awareness activities in 13 governorates.
- 22 health facilities were supported to expand their capacity, including through incentives for medical staff and donation of medical equipment, medication, furniture and caravans.
- 7 vulnerable migrants and 75 victims of human trafficking received protection assistance.
- 1,370,000 Communication with Communities (CwC) print material (leaflets, posters and brochures) were disseminated to raise awareness mainly on safety, health, and protection.
- More than 27,000 new beneficiaries were reached and provided with 123,000 MHPSS services in IDP camps, informal settlements and urban settings.
- 66 community infrastructure projects were implemented in 15 governorates, benefitting an estimated 230,000 community members.
- Three Community Resource Centres (CRCs) were inaugurated in Mosul and Falluja to support the return and recovery of thousands of returnees.
- 5,670 Iraqi returnees from abroad were provided with reintegration assistance.
- 3,258 individuals received resettlement assistance.
- 28 new Community Policing Forums (CPFs) were established, bringing the total number of active CPFs established by IOM, to 74.

Non-Food Items

During 2018, thousands of vulnerable families were protected from harsh winter and summer conditions thanks to NFI kits in 11 governorates (Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Diyala, Erbil, Karbala, Kirkuk, Mis-san, Ninawa, Salah al-Din, Sulaymaniyah). Beneficiaries included internally displaced persons (IDPs) in camps as well as those in protracted displacement out of camps. Around 26,000 families received a full NFI, and basic kits (including mattresses, cookers, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, lights and seasonal items), while over 80,000 families received winter and/or summer seasonal kits.

Shelter

IOM is one of the largest shelter providers for displaced persons in Iraq. In 2018, IOM upgraded and installed site infrastructure in Basateen Camp, Shirqat, Salah al-Din, increasing the camp capacity to 1,000 tents. In formal camps, IOM focused on building infrastructure, roads and storm drainage system. For out of camp IDPs, IOM rehabilitated 201 damaged houses of 3,780 returnee families in Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Ninawa and Salah al-Din. More than 800 units were repaired for 1,870 IDP families residing in critical shelter arrangements in Anbar, Najaf, Karbala, and Ninewa. Moreover, IOM provided construction material and sealing-off kits to 4,285 families (displaced and returnees) to upgrade their shelters.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

IOM strengthened camp management operations in six governorates (Anbar, Baghdad, Ninewa, Kirkuk, Erbil, and Salah Al-Din). In addition, IOM is in charge of managing two camps in Mosul District: Haj Ali and Qayyarah Airstrip. In 2018, IOM carried out CCCM interventions in 64 camps and 99 informal sites across Iraq, benefitting around 165,000 individuals. IOM also strengthened the capacity of camp management actors to enhance the performance of CCCM Cluster partners.

Health

IOM supports Iraq's national health system, which has been disrupted or overstretched due to the conflict and lack of resources, by addressing primary health care needs of IDPs, returnees, and host community members. In 2018, over 360,000 primary health-care consultations were conducted through 14 mobile medical teams, 2 mobile medical clinics, and 8 static clinics. Four government-run Primary Health Care centres were supported through incentives to medical staff and running costs.

To expand the capacity of the available service providers, 22 health facilities were supported through a variety of means, including medical staff incentives and donation of medical equipment, medication, furniture and caravans.

In addition, more than 11,000 individuals were referred to secondary health facilities. The patients all received IOM's transportation assistance, including 3,800 for emergency cases. Around 84,000 individuals were reached with health awareness activities in 13 governorates, and in partnership with the National Tuberculosis Programme, IOM provided TB screening to almost 17,000 individuals in 2018.

Additional IOM health assistance included ophthalmology services to more than 6,600 individuals and prescription glasses to 2,200 of them, most of them children.



Protection

In 2018, IOM provided protection assistance to seven vulnerable foreign migrants and 75 victims of human trafficking – 28 of who were supported with voluntary repatriation to their country of origin. IOM's Protection Unit supported 419 individuals with protection concerns identified by emergency field staff through internal or external referrals. Some cases were referred to external partners for legal, gender-based violence (GBV), child protection, and education services.

IOM also conducted training and awareness-raising sessions on the principles of protection for 430 frontline field staff across all emergency programmes and all 18 governorates.

Communication with Communities (CwC)

Through Communication with Communities initiatives, IOM promotes a participatory interactive communication method and disseminates information to crisis-affected populations on a wide range of topics, including health promotion, camp safety, shelter kit set-up and irregular migration.

In 2018, more than 1,370,000 awareness raising products were distributed among the displaced and returnee populations to provide information health (hygiene, scabies, diarrhoea, cholera, TB, influenza, food safety, leishmaniosis, measles, lice prevention, snakebite and scorpion sting treatments), and protection (IDP call centre number, kerosene heaters, fire extinguisher, fire safety, mine risk education, know before you go, anti-fraud, back to school, child labour, and GBV).

COMMUNITY STABILIZATION

In 2018, IOM reached more than 27,000 new beneficiaries and provided over 123,000 mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services in IDP camps, informal settlements and urban settings in nine governorates. IOM also operated in 24 community centres, seven of them newly established in 2018: Sari Blind in Erbil, Qaraqosh, East Mosul, west Mosul and Tel Afar in Ninewa, Sharya in Dohuk, and Al-Haidariya in Najaf. Services were also provided through mobile teams in locations with a lower number of IDPs.

IOM's Community Stabilization activities include specialized mental health services, individual and group counselling, structured group discussions, awareness sessions, sports and recreational activities, livelihood, social gatherings and religious events, referrals, emotional support, social improvement initiatives, sustained community activities, peacebuilding, and educational initiatives among others. During 2018, IOM focused on capacity building on MHPSS and social cohesion, targeting IOM staff, NGOs, CSOs, community focal points, volunteers and government officials to ensure quality of services and sustainability.

RETURN AND RECOVERY

In co-ordination with the government and local authorities, the Return and Recovery Programme supports returning IDPs and host communities in areas of return by using a holistic community approach that includes the provision of support for community infrastructure, economic recovery and livelihood assistance, as well as capacity strengthening of civil society in effectively engaging communities and stakeholders.



In 2018, the various Return and Recovery Programme activities had a meaningful impact on improving the conditions for sustainable economic and social inclusion of vulnerable individuals and communities in 15 governorates of Iraq, focusing on areas with severe living conditions and high number of returnees.

In 2018, IOM provided more than 2,000 beneficiaries with employment opportunities through job placements, on-the-job trainings, vocational trainings, farmer trainings, business start-up or business expansion packages, and cash for work. IOM also implemented 66 projects focused on rehabilitation of public infrastructure, benefiting an estimated 231,000 community members.

In Dohuk, IOM supported local authorities and the community by establishing a carpet factory in Khanke that includes a childcare centre, a community/conference room and a café. The facility now employs 30 internally displaced Yazidi women as well as women from the host community, who were provided with a specialized vocational training in spinning and weaving.

Led by the Government of Iraq's

Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre (JCMC), a Steering Committee of six humanitarian partners (ACTED, DRC, IOM, NRC, TDH Lausanne and UNHCR), have rolled out Community Resource Centres (CRCs) in at-risk communities of return to support returning IDPs and host communities with humanitarian and recovery activities. In 2018, IOM opened three CRCs in east and west Mosul in Ninewa, and Faluja in Anbar. Since their opening in June of 2018, the CRCs have served more than 5,000 beneficiaries with services targeted at developing personal, professional and psychological skills of returnees, to ease their return as well as facilitate their integration.

IOM's Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) aims at benefiting Syrian refugees in camps and outside of camps and host communities. In 2018, IOM supported 286 Syrian students to access formal education by providing them with transportation assistance. In addition, IOM supported refugees to become economically active and integrate into their host communities through livelihood activities such as vocational trainings for 274 individuals, and business support packages for 72 individuals.

MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

Movement and Assisted Migration

In coordination with the Iraqi government, IOM Iraq supports Iraqis who have voluntarily returned home from abroad to reintegrate in their communities of origin. IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme offers a variety of assistance, including reception assistance, counselling, reintegration plan, cash assistance, in-kind assistance, job placements, vocational training, education and housing allowance. In 2018, IOM assisted a total of 5,670 returnees from abroad.

IOM's Resettlement Programme provides movement assistance to vulnerable Iraqis and refugees who are entitled to resettlement to other countries, in close collaboration with different resettlement countries, Iraqi authorities and UNHCR. In 2018, more than 3,250 beneficiaries received resettlement services.

In addition, the Family Assistance Programme (FAP) centre in Erbil, which IOM manages in close partnership with the German Government, provided more than 55,000 individuals (21,604 families) with visa support for family reunification in Germany.

Community Policing

IOM supports Community Policing in Iraq to contribute to peace and security in at-risk communities. As part of this approach, IOM has assisted communities and local police forces to establish Community Policing Forums (CPFs), which are open and inclusive platforms where security issues affecting communities are 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. The CP model is key to rebuilding trust between the population and law enforcement, which is particularly vital in Iraq's current post-conflict context.

In 2018, 28 new CPFs were established, bringing the total number of active CPFs established by IOM in Iraq to 74. In 2018, IOM also trained 1,442 police officers, 289 community members, and 37 members of Civil Society Organizations on community policing and counter-trafficking.

Immigration and Border Management (IBM)

IOM contributes to strengthening the border management capacities of the Ministry of Interior, particularly at Rabia Border Point in Ninewa Governorate at the border with Syria. In 2018, IOM supported essential rehabilitation of offices, fences, gates, equipment sites and water systems at the Rabia Border Point.

By strengthening the operational capacity of the border management staff according to international standards, IOM facilitates regular migration and reduces irregular migration.



UNIDO IN IRAQ

As the United Nations' Specialized Agency mandated to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has continued its long-standing and active engagement in Iraq throughout 2018. UNIDO's interventions focused on technical cooperation projects in the Organization's following thematic areas: Creating Shared Prosperity, Advancing Economic Competitiveness and Safeguarding the Environment. UNIDO's activities in the country underlined the Organization's commitment to the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals and UN OCHA's Humanitarian Response Plan for Iraq.

“ With hopes of peace returning to more areas of the country, humanitarian needs will transition towards socio-economic development needs and sustainable livelihoods ”

In line with the thematic area of Creating Shared Prosperity, UNIDO promoted socio-economic development by supporting the establishment and expansion of SMEs and created job and income opportunities across all social groups. UNIDO also actively supported governmental institutions in providing Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to sustainably strengthen the resilience of refugees, IDPs and host communities.

In early 2018, UNIDO completed two livelihood projects for Iraqi internally displaced persons, Syrian refugees and host communities in the Kurdistan Region of

Iraq, providing agro-processing and entrepreneurship training as well as support in establishing or scaling up agribusiness and market promotion. Funded by the Governments of Austria and Japan, these projects utilized a value-chain approach to contribute to enhancing food security and the economic resilience of vulnerable communities in a view to promote social stabilization. UNIDO worked closely with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in these projects, which provided training equipment, helped establish a production center and refurbished workshops.

More than 800 beneficiaries, about 37% of which women, were trained as part of these projects. Following research on the impact of these two interventions showed that, in comparison to non-participants, a higher proportion of project participants were employed, paid monthly (rather than daily) and considered their economic situation to be better than before the projects.

Building on these achievements, UNIDO

deployed a Japanese-funded follow-up project in April 2018, this time focusing on youth employability among Iraqi internally persons, Syrian refugees and host communities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The project introduces entrepreneurship training, technical skills training and business support and works with NGOs, youth groups and Career Development Centers to train unemployed graduates so as to support the establishment of youth-led enterprises.

In partnership with the Ministry of Education, the project fosters immediate access to income-generating opportunities and strengthens resilience by training more than 1500 secondary school students in entrepreneurship and providing vocational training to at least 400 youth. The project supports the creation of more than 150 youth-led enterprises.

In the northern region of Iraq, UNIDO supported communities affected by the conflict through direct assistance in Tikrit, Dohuk and Kirkuk in restoring micro and small-scale enterprises and by supporting income-generating activities via vocational and technical skills trainings.

More than 880 people received vocational skills training encompassing agro-processing techniques, truck mechanics, heavy vehicles driving, catering, metal works or forklift operation. UNIDO particularly focused on building the capacity of governmental institutions by providing Training of Trainer programs to 24 selected Government staff in charge of TVET. This emphasizes the long-term approach of UNIDO in Iraq, which developed fruitful partnerships with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Planning in the past years.

UNIDO also actively supported Advancing Economic Competitiveness through four interlinked projects, spanning a time period of 2007 until 2017, which made profound contributions to private sector development, investment promotion and industrial parks development in Iraq. UNIDO established permanent local business support capacities which materialized in the creation of four Enterprise Development Centers (EDCs) in Baghdad, Erbil, Thi Qar and Basra.

A total of 1616 SMEs received business



development support, 217 SMEs expanded or diversified their operations, 107 new SMEs were created, more than 2078 jobs were created, and a total investment volume of more than 92 million USD was generated. Despite the formal termination of UNIDO's direct support in June 2017, the EDCs continue to operate sustainably from their own human and financial resources. In 2018, the EDCs actively participated in various international technology, furniture, textile and food processing fairs, signed sales agreements with companies from Sweden, Italy and India, and trained 101 entrepreneurs (almost half of which women) on various business-related themes. Based on these achievements, UNIDO will launch the "Investment Promotion for Iraq-Phase II" Project during the first half of 2019. The Project will provide further support to EDCs combined with support to industrial parks development for improving the country's business environment for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) flows.

With hopes of peace returning to more areas of the country, humanitarian needs will transition towards socio-economic development needs and sustainable livelihoods. Concretely, 2019 will mark the start of assistance in the newly liberated areas in Northern Iraq, specifically the Nineveh Plains and the city of Mosul.

UNIDO will combine efforts to re-establish micro- and small enterprises and income-generating activities for returnees with assistance to strengthen vocational training centres and national institutions in the public safety and civil emergency response sectors as part of the country's reconstruction and recovery efforts in the newly liberated territories.

Complementing its Technical Cooperation mainstream of activities in Iraq, UNIDO also participates in the collective vision and response of the UN system, contributing to the elaboration of the next cycle of the national UNDAF and supporting the elaboration of the Common Country Analysis (CCA). UNIDO provides substantial inputs as a member of the UNCT's working group on Job Creation and Livelihoods, which includes an aligned strategy between the United Nations development system and the World Bank in the country.

As an active contributor of the UNDAF, UNIDO made strong efforts to bridge the humanitarian-development divide, to promote investment and local business development as well as to provide assistance in the energy and environment fields. UNIDO is committed to support Iraq in the years to come to ensure the country and its people will be able to reap the full benefits of inclusive and sustainable industrial development.



ILO IN IRAQ

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.

Founded in 1919, 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. Constituents of the ILO in Iraq are the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA), and Employers' and Workers' organizations.

THE ILO IN IRAQ

Though Iraq is still a non-resident agency in Iraq, it continues to have a pivotal and a central role in Iraq alongside other UN resident agencies in supporting the government of Iraq in its development efforts towards the reconstruction and recovery of the country. ILO interventions during the period under review combined policy advice and technical support, in reviews of the laws (social security law), social protection, social dialogue, child labour. In

addition to longer-term capacity building programmes for its constituents, the ILO also provided short-term improvement of local livelihoods and promotion of social dialogue to strengthen social cohesion.

The National OSH Profile was finalized in 2018, and will be launched in the first quarter of 2019. The labour inspection assessment, which was carried out with technical support of the ILO, will be followed by the development of an action plan in 2019 to reform labour inspection

system in the country in line with the relevant international labour standards. A study tour and training workshop on the automation of the Labour Inspection and strengthening the capacity of the National Occupational Safety and Health Centre were conducted in Cairo, Egypt in 2018

The government of Iraq has requested assistance to develop a national employment policy (NEP). In response to this request, the ILO developed in 2018 a project to conduct a labour force survey. The out-

come of the survey will serve as the basis for developing the national employment policy, while enhancing the institutional capacities of the tripartite constituents, including other key government partners to analyse the labour market data. The survey will start in 2019 in collaboration with the Central Statistics Office. The NEP would enable the government to address both, the immediate needs to create livelihoods and emergency employment, and to address the structural labour market challenges and decent work deficits in the country.

In response to the request of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to develop a Decent Work Country Program for Iraq for the next four years, and with the view to inform the decent work dimensions within 2020-2024. ILO has produced a Decent Work Country Diagnostic Report, which assesses and analyses the country situation, focusing on scope for ILO interventions, guided by the overarching objective of promoting decent work and the achievement of SDGs. The Decent Work Country Program (DWCP) document is expected to be finalized during the second quarter of 2019.



ILO'S WORK PROGRAMME IN 2019

Under the forthcoming DWCP, the ILO will continue providing policy advice on the review of laws and developing policies, aligned with the priorities of the Government of Iraq and the national development frameworks.

ILO interventions will focus in 2019, on technical assistance in response to the continuing crisis and fragility through skills and entrepreneurship promotion. With the funding support of the government of Netherlands, the ILO launched early this year a new partnership initiative to create an enabling environment for the

socio-economic inclusion of the internally displaced Persons (IDPs) to prepare them for their return; to enhance access to education and child protection for vulnerable children, and to strengthen resilience of host communities through inclusive socio-economic development that benefit the IDPs.

In addition, ILO will continue to provide technical assistance and advisory services to promote Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, reform the social security law and enhance social protection system through establishing a Social Protection Floor. Capacities of MOLSA on achievement of SDGs will also be strengthened.





الأمم المتحدة - العراق
United Nations Iraq