



**Second Six-month Progress Report on Activities Implemented under the
UNDG Iraq Trust Fund of the
International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq**

**Report of the Executive Coordinator of the UNDG ITF
for the Period 1 January to 30 June 2005**

PART TWO

Cluster-level Progress Reports

30 November 2005

CONTENTS

Introduction.....	2
1. Cluster A: Agriculture, Food Security, Environment and Natural Resource Management.....	4
2. Cluster B: Education and Culture	18
3. Cluster C: Governance and Human Development	27
4. Cluster D: Health and Nutrition.....	36
5. Cluster E: Infrastructure Rehabilitation.....	45
6. Cluster F: Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Durable Solutions	57
7. Cluster G: Support to Electoral Process.....	63

List of Tables

1. Cluster A: Agriculture, Food Security, Environment and Natural Resource Management – Approved and Funded Projects	4
2. Cluster B: Education and Culture – Approved and Funded Projects.....	18
3. Cluster C: Governance and Human Development – Approved and Funded Projects	27
4. Cluster D: Health and Nutrition – Approved and Funded Projects	36
5. Cluster E: Infrastructure Rehabilitation – Approved and Funded Projects	45
6. Cluster F: Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Durable Solutions – Approved and Funded Projects	57
7. Cluster G: Support to Electoral Process – Approved and Funded Projects	63

Introduction

Part two of the Second Six-month Progress Report (1 January-30 June 2005) provides a review, by the seven new Clusters, of key aspects of programme implementation from 1 January to 30 June 2005, with updates on progress achieved during the third quarter of 2005. Details on the seven new United Nations Clusters, the corresponding old Clusters and the new Cluster Coordinator are provided below:

	NEW CLUSTER	CLUSTER COORDINATOR	OLD CLUSTER BY NUMBER
A	Agriculture, Food Security, Environment and Natural Resource Management	FAO	Cluster 5, Cluster 6, Cluster 7
B	Education and Culture	UNICEF	Cluster 1
C	Governance and Human Development	UNDP	Cluster 9, Cluster 10
D	Health and Nutrition	WHO	Cluster 2
E	Infrastructure Rehabilitation	UNICEF	Cluster 3, Cluster 4
F	Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Durable Solutions	UNHCR	Cluster 8
G	Support to Electoral Process	UN DPA/EAD	Cluster 11

Each Cluster-level report provides information on:

- A. Purpose of Cluster;
- B. Programmes/projects funded to date;
- C. Key accomplishments;
- D. Implementation mechanisms;
- E. Specific agency implementation;
- F. Hurdles encountered and implementation constraints;
- G. Future work plan for ongoing approved projects/programmes; and
- H. 2005-2007 Iraqi-UN Joint Assistance Strategy

Further detailed information on progress in the implementation of individual projects to 30 June 2005 and future implementation is available in the individual project progress reports submitted to UNDP by the Participating UN Organizations in accordance with the reporting provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the agencies and UNDP. A list of the available reports will be posted on the Report page of the UNDG ITF section of the IRFFI web site (www.irffi.org). Donors and others who wish to obtain copies of the individual agency project progress reports are requested to write to the Executive Coordinator at undg.itf@undp.org with a specific request. A list of the available individual progress reports for the period 1 July 2004 to 31 December 2004 is already posted on the IRFFI web site.

1. Cluster A: Agriculture, Food Security, Environment and Natural Resource Management

A. Purpose of Cluster

Years of sanctions, conflict and neglect have left Iraq with an unenviable legacy: an estimated 25 per cent of the population remains highly dependent on food rations; the agricultural sector is characterized by diminished services and low productivity; water resources are inefficiently used and poorly equipped; and the environment is experiencing severe degradation, pollution and natural resource depletion. Additionally, the country-wide contamination with explosive remnants of war (ERW) poses a serious threat to the safety of the civilian population and denies access to valuable agricultural and natural resources.

Mission Statement

To address the long-term challenge of achieving sustainable food security; to promote sustainable and environmentally sound development; to ensure effective management of water resources and agricultural production; to reduce casualty rates and risks from explosive remnants of war (ERW) contamination; and to clear land and infrastructure assets for productive use.

B. Programmes/Projects Funded to Date

Table 1. Cluster A: Agriculture, Food Security, Environment and Natural Resource Management – Approved and Funded Projects

PROJECT	AGENCY	AS OF 30 JUNE 2005						AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2005					
		FUNDED AMOUNT		COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT		FUNDED AMOUNT		COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT	
		USD 000s	USD 000s	%	USD 000s	%	USD 000s	USD 000s	USD 000s	USD 000s	%	USD 000s	%
A 5-01	Drainage Conditions in Agricultural Areas	FAO	5,127	643	13	643	13	5,127	274	5	825	16	
A 5-02	Rehabilitation of Pumping Stations	FAO	13,509	9,393	70	687	5	13,509	11,935	88	1,280	9	
A 5-04	Community Irrigation Schemes	FAO	16,959	6,421	38	6,392	38	16,959	6,419	38	6,484	38	
A 5-08	Restoration of Veterinary Services	FAO	5,000	3,787	76	2,760	55	5,000	3,741	75	3,044	61	
A 5-10	Restoration of Livestock Services	FAO	5,000	1,712	20	64	1	8,546	1,995	23	1,140	13	
A 5-07	Strengthening Environmental Governance	UNEP	4,700	3,947	84	1,140	24	4,700	3,964	84	2,106	45	
A 5-11	Marshlands Environmental Management	UNEP	11,000	9,908	90	2,688	24	11,000	10,427	95	3,098	28	
A 5-12	Capacity Building of Water Institutions	UNESCO	3,276	2,256	69	1,068	33	3,276	2,536	77	1,319	40	
A 5-06	Promotion of Cottage Industries	UNIDO	5,013	1,348	27	399	8	5,013	1,384	28	525	10	
A 5-13	Rehabilitation of Dairy Plant	UNIDO	2,938	146	5	62	2	2,938	208	7	124	4	
A 6-02	Development of Safety Nets and Food Security	WFP	4,000	3,982	57	3,982	57	7,000	3,982	57	3,982	57	
A 7-02	Explosive Ordnance Disposal Capacity Building and Clearance	UNOPS	3,341	3,341	100	3,161	95	3,341	3,341	100	3,341	100	
TOTAL			79,861	46,882	59	23,047	29	86,407	50,204	58	27,269	32	

NB: In this and the other Cluster tables in Part Two, all amounts are rounded to the nearest thousand and percentages to the nearest whole per cent.

To 30 June 2005, twelve projects (totalling \$86.4 million) had been funded in the Cluster (eight projects within the agriculture and water resources sectors, two environment projects, one food security and one mine action project). During the reporting period, no new projects were approved. Overall cluster delivery at 30 September 2005 amounted to approximately \$50.2 million (58 per cent) in terms of commitments and approximately \$27.3 million (32 per cent) in terms of disbursements. This compares favourably to the situation at the end of December 2004 when commitments were at \$24 million and disbursements at only \$10 million and represents substantial implementation progress.

C. Key Accomplishments

Key Services Delivered

As of 30 June 2005, under the Vulnerable Group element of its project, WFP had dispatched into Iraq 13,741 metric tonnes and distributed 9,517 metric tonnes of wheat flour, vegetable oil and pea-wheat blended food to 629,582 beneficiaries, which included malnourished children less than five years of age, pregnant and lactating women and tuberculosis patients. Under the School Feeding element, WFP had delivered a further 8,886 metric tonnes and distributed 6,006 metric tonnes of high-energy biscuits and vegetable oil to 806,558 primary school children.

For Kirkuk pumping stations, the following spares, worth over \$1 million, were procured: pump bearings, standard bearings, two sizes of autotransformers, grease pumps, two sizes of vacuum contactor, dewatering pumps, capacitors and oil pressure devices. The contract for the civil works of the Heran irrigation scheme was awarded and work has commenced. Agricultural commodities and supplies valued at \$5.3 million and consisting of fertilizer and seeds were delivered and distributed in early 2005.

In the area of livestock, during the reporting period, purchase orders amounting to over \$1.6 million were issued for feed laboratory supplies and glassware, feed laboratory equipment, veterinary hormones for artificial insemination centres, laboratory equipment and artificial insemination equipment. In addition, purchase orders totalling over \$3.6 million were issued for veterinary laboratory supplies, veterinary field supplies, veterinary laboratory equipment, veterinary chemicals, a veterinary laboratory freeze dryer, reagents, 2 forklifts, 15 refrigerated trucks, 6 pickups, 100 motorcycles and 7 cold storage rooms.

Environmental site assessment teams, comprised exclusively of Iraqi officials under remote guidance from UNEP, completed field measurement and sampling at five priority contaminated sites. In the marshlands, six communities were selected in February 2005, based on consensus between the Ministry of the Environment (MoEn), the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works (MoMPW), the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) and the Marsh Arab Forum. Water quality and field assessment work for facility design and construction in the communities has been ongoing since April 2005. The UNEP Marshland project web site in Arabic, which provides a wealth of critical information to all those concerned, has been launched: http://marshlands.unep.or.jp/default.asp?site=marshlands&page_id=A13202FD-DAEA-4F2E-9BE9-9E66835A4B77.

The Cluster also made a considerable difference in the area of mine clearance, with 106,519 items of mines, explosive ordnance and unexploded ordnance recovered and more than 6.5 million square metres of land cleared by 30 June 2005. All clearance work and training were conducted in accordance with International Mine Action Standards. The benefits of this clearance accrued to the local population, who are now in a position to engage in productive cultivation of cleared land, generate income and enjoy greater mobility.

Policy Dialogue

Policy dialogue between international experts and officials of counterpart ministries continued to be an important aspect of project implementation in the Cluster. The Cluster is assisting in exploring the implications of a reversal of the previous policy of keeping food prices artificially low and the decline in agricultural production. Revitalization of the agricultural sector needs to be closely aligned with reform of the public distribution system and ensuring food security.

In the field of environmental protection, major progress has been made in developing an environmental framework law. Land contamination expertise has been transferred to Iraq for environmental site assessment. Through the Marshland Information Network (MIN), dialogue on wetland policy issues is constant.

Capacity Development

Capacity development is a gradual process and its benefits become clear only over time. A total of 2,181 MoH staff at policy and local levels has been trained by WFP in areas including food aid management. In the water planning sector, capacity development was successful in raising the level of Iraqi expertise so that research papers will be accepted at international water symposia during the second half of 2005. UNESCO organized 6 training courses, 3 regional workshops and 1 study tour for 100 Iraqi water experts, in several aspects of integrated water resources management.

FAO is strongly focusing on and investing in human resource and capacity development through intensive training programmes for various levels of staff of the Ministries of Agriculture and Water Resources. Besides many tailor-made technical training and refresher courses all over the world, modular change management training workshops have been organized in Amman, and study tours have been organized as a way to inspire responsible Ministry officials to initiate possible changes in Iraq. In total, 13 training courses have already delivered and 5 others are under preparation.

Successful development of capacity for environmental impact assessment has also taken place. Under the UNEP project on support for environmental management of the Iraqi marshlands, a training session was given on the Marshlands Information Network (MIN) in Amman, Jordan, in March 2005 for 31 participants from Iraq. Participants included representatives from MoEn, MoMPW, MoWR, the Centre for Restoration of Iraqi Marshlands, the Marsh Arab Forum and the Iraq Foundation.

In the area of mine action, UNOPS has also successfully trained 66 trainees in mine action work, including 15 team leaders, 36 EOD de-miners and 15 medics. These personnel are the basis for constituting EOD teams in the South for tasking by the Regional Mine Action Centre.

D. Implementation Mechanisms

The Cluster members comprise FAO (the Cluster Coordinator), UNDP (Mine Action), UNEP, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO and WFP. They work closely with the Ministries of Agriculture, Water Resources, Environment, Trade, Planning and Development Cooperation, Health, and Education; the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA); municipalities; research centres; universities; extension service providers; NGOs; women's associations; scientific, geographical and conservation societies; and the private sector.

In the area of food security, each of the participating ministries (Health and Education) is represented on a central Project Management Committee (PMC) by two senior staff at policy and decision-making levels, who are delegated responsibility for the overall implementation of the project, with WFP playing an advisory role. The PMC coordinates, monitors and reports on implementation progress. At the governorate level, a Project Management Unit (PMU) composed of representatives from the Ministries of Health and Education as well as WFP (in an advisory capacity) carries out the day-to-day implementation and oversight activities. These activities comprise responsibility for receiving and storing food commodities arriving from neighbouring countries, secondary transport of commodities, distribution, monitoring and reporting. Parent-Teacher Associations are responsible for the supervision of food storage and stocks and the organization and supervision of the process of distributing food to the beneficiaries.

For both of its agro-industry projects, UNIDO has set up an inclusive Project Steering Committee (PSC). The dairy project PSC has representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture and Industry and UNIDO and it is envisaged that a representative of the governorate of Al-Qadisiyah will also join this Committee. The PSC is responsible for all strategic and policy decisions and has an advisory role in project management. In this way, transparency and ownership of the project are assured among all project stakeholders.

Owing to the nature of the cottage industry project, there are many stakeholders: two international organizations (UNIDO and FAO) with complementary technical skills and different administrative practices and internal

procedures and three ministries with different mandates and interests. In addition, there are very diverse activities in both the food processing (including dairy, cereals, fruit and vegetables, meat, confectionery and fish processing) and non-food areas (including masonry, wood, metal, leather, textile and handicrafts), and these activities are targeted at diverse beneficiaries – urban and rural, organized and individual. Coordination of these activities and keeping all the stakeholders on board were challenging and will remain so. An all-inclusive PSC was established to facilitate dialogue between the stakeholders and improve the communication between, and the participation of, all members. This has improved the inter-ministerial cooperation from the counterparts in Iraq and has enhanced the transparency and the feeling of ownership of the project by all ministries

FAO, in the execution of its projects, works closely with Iraqi line ministries (MoA and MoWR) and national counterparts and fully relies on them for the implementation of field activities throughout Iraq. Iraqi counterparts are actively involved in the procurement process. The FAO also has national staff in Baghdad and Erbil for its implementation. It uses telephone and VCR facilities for communication with its own staff and its counterparts. Details of the methodology adopted for implementation of UNDG ITF projects are provided in the second chapter of part one of the present report.

In the area of local procurement, for example, the identification of inputs or services required is undertaken jointly by FAO/Iraqi line ministry. Detailed specifications, bills of quantities (BOQs), drawings, delivery times and destinations are prepared by FAO/Iraqi line ministry. The list of local potential suppliers is provided by Iraqi line ministry. Tenders inviting local and international potential suppliers are launched by FAO. Technical review of the offers received and preparation of recommendations are carried out jointly by FAO/Iraqi line ministry, and the purchase order or contract is issued by FAO.

The UNEP marshlands project is exemplary for its participatory project management. The project has requested the Iraqi national, provincial and local institutions (MoEn, MoMPW, MoWR, provincial and local councils and the Marsh Arab Forum) to nominate communities for pilot implementation of water and sanitation services and marshland management practices. The primary mode of project operations is as follows: the project implements activities in communities only when (a) there is demonstrated demand and support for interventions from the community leaders; (b) there exists a clear pledge of security provision by the local communities; and (c) all stakeholders, including ministries, endorse implementation. By including the provision of security and local commitment to assist in implementation in the selection criteria, the project has sought to minimize the security and staff constraints.

Whenever possible, the project has sought to use Iraqi institutions to carry out activities, such as water quality monitoring, secondary training and field assessments. It has maintained constant dialogue with the Iraqi partners, using the on-line Marshland Information Network that the project established, e-mail, telephone, and other means that do not require movement of personnel and that enable international communications.

The project has also organized regular training activities outside Iraq with representatives from ministries, governorates, academia, and local communities and held meetings at the same time to save time and costs. In addition, whenever the security situation allows, the project national coordinator (Iraqi citizen) has travelled to the southern governorates to meet and follow up on activities with local partners.

E. Specific Agency Implementation

Agriculture

FAO – A5-08 Restoration of Veterinary Services

Purchase orders totalling over \$3.6 million were issued for veterinary laboratory supplies, veterinary field supplies, veterinary laboratory equipment, veterinary chemicals, a veterinary laboratory freeze dryer, reagents, 2 forklifts, 15 refrigerated trucks, 6 pickup trucks, 100 motorcycles and 7 cold storage rooms. Furthermore, during the reporting period, tenders were issued for goods worth an estimated \$3 million, including bacterial and viral

vaccine strains for the restoration of Iraq veterinary vaccine production, as well as the construction of nine new veterinary centres throughout Iraq. During the past six months, a large part of the goods and materials either arrived in Baghdad or is en route or the orders have been placed with selected suppliers and arrival is foreseen during the next three months.

An intensive, diverse training programme has started. From May to July 2005, four Iraqi veterinarians completed two months of training in Morocco on the quality control of veterinary drugs and vaccines. In June, another group of six veterinarians left for Morocco for a study tour on veterinary services and institutions. A modular series of change management training sessions has been and will continue to be organized in Amman for a group of some 30 to 35 Iraqi senior veterinary staff. During the reporting period, modules 2 and 3 took place, focusing on planning and implementation of national disease-control programmes. The participants from Iraq have identified infection with *Brucella melitensis* as the major endemic disease owing to its prevalence, multi-specie susceptibility, significant impact on livestock production and threat to food security as well as the ever-present risk of human infection. This disease is being used to develop generic surveillance and control procedures for other diseases in the future.

FAO – A5-10 Restoration and Development of Livestock Services

During the reporting period, purchase orders amounting to over \$1.6 million were issued for feed laboratory supplies and glassware, veterinary hormones for artificial insemination centres, feed laboratory equipment, laboratory equipment and artificial insemination equipment. All these goods will be delivered at final destinations in Iraq within the coming two months. Furthermore, during the reporting period, additional tenders were issued for goods worth an estimated \$2.4 million, including 1,000 Awassi sheep, 200 Shamee goats, 30 Holstein-Friesian bulls, 2 liquid nitrogen plants, cattle obstetric sets and electro-ejaculators for the artificial insemination centres as well as chemicals and an explosion-proof refrigerator for the feed analysis laboratories. Results of all these tenders were received, analysed, discussed and agreed upon with the Animal Production Department of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) during a joint session in Amman at the end of June 2005. Placing of the purchase orders and delivery to the final destinations will take place during the second half of 2005. Apart from some additional equipment for a new national sheep-breeding station, as identified during this joint session, all the inputs have now been procured or are under procurement.

During the reporting period, an intensive and diverse training programme started. In May/June 2005, four livestock specialists and technicians were trained in France in the latest procedures and techniques for the collection, processing and freezing of cattle semen as well as in the use of artificial insemination equipment provided by the project. In addition, six specialists attended a four-week refresher training course in Cairo on laboratory techniques and procedures for the quality control of animal feeds and feed additives and five livestock specialists participated in a two-week study tour in Morocco.

Agro-industry

UNIDO – A5-06 Promotion of Cottage Industries

The baseline assessment has been completed for the Thi Qar Governorate, with 13 subsectors of cottage industry identified on the basis of potential viability and sustainability and appropriate locations. Capacity-building has been undertaken: 40 trainers from three ministries have been trained in business management and in food and non-food processing technologies (including a 37-day international training-of-trainers programme). Design and tendering have been completed for civil construction and rehabilitation of two vocational training centres in Al-Qorno and Nassiriyah with an estimated cost of \$370,000. Technical specifications of the pilot plants have been finalized and tendering and procurement have been initiated for equipping the dairy, fruit and vegetable, date and cereal plants as well as for metalworking, woodworking, textile and agro-mechanical workshops. Tenders worth about \$800,000 have been awarded to suppliers of this equipment. A participatory process has been initiated for the actual selection of beneficiaries.

UNIDO – A5-13 Rehabilitation of Dairy Plants

Based on the assessment of 17 dairy plants by an international subcontractor and Iraqi experts, the Project Steering Committee decided that the dairy plant in Al-Diwaniyah was the plant to be upgraded. The engineering design for the pilot dairy plant, including technical specifications, was finalized (a plant with a capacity of 150,000 litres per day at 50,000 litres per shift in three shifts). Following competitive tender, the contract is expected to be awarded in late September for approximately \$2 million. The train-the-trainers sessions (each for two weeks) began in July. Through the combination of training in Amman and on-site experience in Iraq, the programme will be able to develop a tailor-made approach based on the conditions prevailing in Iraq.

Food Security

WFP – A6-02 Development of Safety Nets and Food Security through Support to Vulnerable Groups, including School Feeding

This project, which is part of a larger WFP Emergency Operation programme providing assistance to vulnerable children and mothers and promoting school and health clinic attendance, was given UNDG ITF partial funding of \$4 million on 4 March 2005.

Under the Vulnerable Group element of the project, up until 30 June, WFP had dispatched into Iraq 13,741 metric tonnes and distributed 9,517 metric tonnes of wheat flour, vegetable oil and pea-wheat blended food to 629,582 beneficiaries, which include malnourished children under age five, pregnant and lactating women and tuberculosis patients. The impact of the food aid assistance to these vulnerable groups has encouraged mothers of malnourished children to regularly bring them to the health clinics either for screening or for regular check-ups and to receive a nutritionally blended food ration for the children so as to regain normal health. Pregnant and lactating women and tuberculosis patients are now regularly following their clinic visit schedule. The project covers 1,237 health facilities. Health personnel have reported improvements in regular attendance by the vulnerable groups over the past six months of project assistance and this has contributed to the success of the vaccination programme, which is linked to the ration distribution schedules.

Under the School Feeding element of the project, some 8,886 metric tonnes (7,781 metric tonnes of high-energy biscuits and 1,105 metric tonnes of vegetable oil) had been delivered into various schools in Iraq by 30 June, with approximately 5,201 metric tonnes of high-energy biscuits and 806 metric tonnes of vegetable oil distributed under school feeding activities benefiting 806,558 school children.

The project has also registered success in the area of capacity-building. A total of 2,181 MoH staff at policy, primary health care and community child care unit levels have been trained in areas including food aid management. Two study tours were organized for two senior staff of the MoH to visit Chile and Egypt to learn from the experiences of counterparts in these two countries. Various types of training in food aid management have been undertaken by 7,029 implementing partners.

Water Resources

FAO – A5-01 Improvement of Drainage Conditions in Major Agricultural Areas: Connection of Hilla-Hashimia Drain

In spite of the change of the project site made in March 2005 by the MoWR (Hilla-Hashimia instead of Ramadi), the project is progressing well. The technical dossier for Ramadi drain, required for the preparation of a Contract for Civil Works, was finalized and was ready to be signed in March 2005. This dossier included the feasibility study, site maps, technical drawings and BOQs. These documents were used by the MoWR to issue the contract directly itself.

FAO completed a pre-feasibility study for the rehabilitation of the Hilla-Hashimia drain, and a full feasibility study, including site maps, technical drawings and BOQs, was completed by a consulting firm. The contract for the civil works is being drawn up for a tender worth \$2 million plus supervision costs. It is scheduled to be issued in November 2005.

In addition, tipper trucks worth \$213,783 were procured and other equipment, including water tanker, fuel trucks, fork lifts and excavators worth \$578,051, is currently under procurement.

FAO – A5-02 Rehabilitation of Pumping Stations

For Kirkuk pumping stations, the following spares, worth \$1,035,298, were procured: pump bearings, standard bearings, two sizes of autotransformers, grease pumps, two sizes of NiCad batteries, dewatering pumps, capacitors and oil pressure devices. Silicon oil and vacuum contactors are currently under procurement. At Mandali pumping station, a contract worth \$3,815,836 was awarded for the supply and installation of the replacement pumps. For the Al-Amiriyah and North Suwira pumping stations, a contract worth \$4,968,400 for the supply only of the replacement pumps has been issued. A separate installation contract will be negotiated through open tender for the installation of the pumps.

FAO – A5-04 Community Irrigation Schemes

Four potential project sites were identified by the MoWR: two construction projects in northern Iraq (Heran and Kalar) and two rehabilitation projects in the south and centre (Mussayib and Thraima). The contract for the civil works of the Heran irrigation scheme (\$216,545) was awarded and work has begun. Agricultural commodities and supplies consisting of fertilizer and seeds and valued at \$5.3 million were delivered and distributed in early 2005. Surveying instrumentation, including 10 total survey stations and plotters to assist MoWR in project design, was purchased for a value of \$428,794.

UNESCO – A5-12 Capacity-building in Water Institutions of Iraq

During the reporting period, UNESCO organized 6 training courses, 3 regional workshops and 1 study tour for 100 Iraqi water experts in several aspects of integrated water resource management, including surface water, ground water and water project management. Using the latest expertise and information obtained through the training and workshops, Iraqi experts have started to develop research projects and needs assessments, some of which will be accepted for presentation at the regional and international conferences in the second half of 2005, thus encouraging Iraqi water experts to rejoin the international community after the long period of isolation. As for rehabilitation and development of the local training research centre, the list of necessary equipment was prepared and will be delivered by the end of September 2005.

Environment

UNEP – A5-07 Strengthening Environmental Governance through Assessment and Capacity-building

For the Environmental Assessment and clean-up of hotspots, five Environmental Site Assessment Team Leaders were provided with specific training in the preparation of sampling and analyses plans for their specific locations in March 2005, using procured sampling equipment. Environmental site assessment teams, comprising exclusively Iraqi officials under remote guidance from UNEP, completed field measurement and sampling at the five priority contaminated sites identified. All samples collected were sent to Al Control Laboratory in the United Kingdom and analyses were completed. Based on information gathered during the field visits, high-resolution satellite images were procured and processed to produce ground maps for the sites visited.

In terms of environmental governance, two high-level consultations with the Minister of Environment were held on the development of an environmental framework law and environment article in the constitution. Training was provided to 20 officials from a number of ministries on the development and enforcement of environmental law,

and technical support is currently being provided for the development of a framework environmental law for Iraq. Training was provided to 25 officials from the MoEn, the Ministry of Oil, the Ministry of Industries and the Ministry of Justice on environmental impact assessment, and a workshop on managing marine oil spills was conducted in Aqaba, Jordan, in June 2005 for 20 staff from the MoEn, Ministry of Oil and MoMPW. A workshop on the reconnection of Iraq to the Multilateral Environment Agreements was also conducted in Amman, Jordan, for 20 staff from the MoEn, the Ministry of Justice and the Cabinet office.

UNEP – A5-11 Support for Environmental Management of the Iraqi Marshlands

In 2005, the level of policy engagement for this project was further intensified. The three key ministries were fully engaged in project decision-making from selection of pilot implementation sites and contracting of ministry-led activities to participation in the donor coordination mechanism and dispatching of relevant personnel for policy and technical training programmes. In addition, with the new government and elected representation at the governorate and national levels, new policy and institutional structures emerged in 2005. One of the key elements is the intended decentralization and ownership of activities at the governorate level. UNEP has increased its engagement with these new structures, including the Marshland Committee at the National Parliament and Governorate Councils in the three governorates.

The training course on the Marshlands Information Network (MIN) was conducted in Amman, Jordan, in March 2005. A total of 31 participants from Iraq included representatives from the MoEn, the MoMPW, the MoWR, the Centre for Restoration of Iraqi Marshlands and the Marsh Arab Forum as well as representatives from the Iraq Foundation. By the end of the workshop, each organization had built its own web site (in Arabic, English or both) where information related to the marshlands could be shared through the MIN. Five MIN servers are currently being set up – two in Baghdad and one each in Basrah, Missan and Thi Qar. The Training Course on Wetland Remote Sensing was conducted in Amman, Jordan, in February 2005. The Iraqi Marshlands Observation System was launched to monitor the extent and distribution of reflooding developments and the associated changes in vegetation cover.

The UNEP Iraqi marshlands project site in Arabic has been launched:

http://marshlands.unep.or.jp/default.asp?site=marshlands&page_id=A13202FD-DAEA-4F2E-9BE9-E66835A4B77) and the UNEP Iraqi marshlands project sites in English and Japanese have been updated

according to the progress of activities. Five-minute video and communication tools in three languages have been prepared.

Nine training manuals on a range of topics relating to wetland management have been produced and distributed to participants, including manuals on water quality management, technical options for sustainable sanitation and drinking water provisions, and community-level awareness-building. As of 30 June 2005, over 250 Iraqis have been trained in technical, policy and institutional aspects of wetland management. Participants included officials from the MoEn, the MoWR and the MoMPW. In addition to ministry officials, members of the local marshlands community and members of academia have also been trained and have begun to converse on wetland management issues.

Six communities have been selected out of 16 nominated by the MoEn, the MoWR, the MoMPW and the Marsh Arab Forum, based on consensus in February 2005. Water quality and field assessment work for facility design and construction has been ongoing since April 2005. The first versions of the numerical models for the design of artificial wetlands for wastewater treatment and models for wetland rehabilitation were developed. A technical workshop to capacitate experts from the MoWR, the MoEn, the MoMPW and the Iraq Foundation to use these tools was undertaken in Amman, Jordan, in May 2005. A preliminary design for a subsurface constructed wetland has been produced.

Mine Action

UNOPS – A7-02 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Capacity-building and Clearance

In March 2005, UNOPS began the foreseen capacity-building activities, which were delivered as scheduled by the company, Mine Tech International (MTI), with the exception of third-party quality assurance. By the end of June, 66 trainees had successfully completed training, including 15 team leaders, 36 explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) de-miners and 15 medics. These personnel form the basis for constituting EOD teams in the South for tasking by the Regional Mine Action Centre. These teams were fully equipped and with support and supervision can continue clearance work.

The trainees were deployed in the rural farming areas to help to relieve the humanitarian problem caused by unexploded ordnances (UXOs). Although these sites were not heavily contaminated, the cluster munitions and blinds prevented farmers from making a living and a large variety of munitions was found. All reports of UXOs were investigated by the EOD Quick Response Survey and Disposal Team and were dealt with as a matter of priority. MTI operated a Central Demolition Site on the uninhabited salt flats south of Basrah and used it for bulk disposal of munitions. This site proved to be useful as a lot of the work of MTI was in close proximity to inhabited areas.

The project completed significant clearance work, with 106,519 items of mines, explosive ordnance and unexploded ordnance recovered and more than 6.5 million square metres of land cleared by 30 June 2005. All clearance work and training were conducted in accordance with International Mine Action Standards. The benefits of this clearance accrued to the local population, who are now in a position to engage in productive cultivation of cleared land, generate income and enjoy greater mobility.

F. Hurdles Encountered and Implementation Constraints

Notwithstanding the considerable progress described above, the Cluster continued to face the implementation constraints identified by former cluster 5, Agriculture, in the First Progress Report. In particular, the Cluster had to postpone decisions on several activities from January to April while there was uncertainty about who would be in the next cabinet.

Particularly strong constraints have been faced in the area of water resources. In March 2005, MoWR decided to issue the contract for the rehabilitation of the Ramadi drain itself instead of through FAO. As a consequence, the project focus was subsequently moved to the Hilla-Hashimia Project site. No focal point was initially appointed by the MoWR to coordinate inputs with FAO, which seriously delayed the collection of information. A substantial length of time was required to assure that international standards were met for an appropriately detailed technical dossier. Furthermore, the need to manufacture pumps to order, as there are no stock items, and manufacturing lead times of six to nine months before delivery pose further constraints on implementation.

There is also a risk of incompatibility between new and existing 30-year-old equipment when replacing or repairing pumps, motors, electrical control and auxiliary equipment in an existing pumping system and pump house structure. Problems have been faced in some cases due to the poor installation of new equipment or sub-assemblies and inadequate care taken during the rehabilitation of pumping stations as a result of using unknown and untried contractors because the poor security situation in the country has prevented known contractors from tendering. Having to rely on third-hand information provided by the MOWR staff as FAO cannot field international technical staff to pump station sites also sometimes imposes constraints.

The slow process of obtaining approved and cleared nominations of individuals/candidates from the MoA possessing a suitable background and professional history for training programmes and study tours has continued to constrain implementation in agricultural projects. It has become apparent that the issues of animal welfare, health certification, export licenses, customs requirements, shipping, transporting, quarantining of live animals

from overseas and protocols to be established between Iraq and the countries of origin are very complex under the current conditions in Iraq.

Basic data are important for sound policy and strategy formulation, for example in the case of marshland conditions, and they are still lacking in a number of cases. Cluster agencies have stepped in to assist in the collection of these data. FAO examples are given above. UNEP has carried out water quality and biodiversity analysis and assessment of re-flooding and vegetative recovery and has supported an information system to share such data and analytical tools.

A lack of absorptive capacity for physical infrastructure has also been noted. Setting up modern information management systems and laboratory equipment necessitates the availability of space and utilities. UNEP is currently working together with the MoEn to ensure that appropriate conditions are available in the Ministry to receive hardware.

With the changeover in the government, new institutions and decentralization policies have been implemented, which necessitated that project managers establish contact and cooperation with governorates and national parliament structures. The division of responsibility mandates and internal mechanisms for endorsement of local-level initiatives continued to change, complicating the communication and project management process.

Sudden changes in policies and regulations delayed project implementation in some instances. For example, bank transfers of foreign currency to government agencies were suddenly restricted in the spring of 2005 without any prior notice to UNEP or UNOPS. This meant that the Iraqi counterparts could not access necessary funds to start implementing activities. It also created additional administrative burdens and increased the time needed to deliver the funds using alternative mechanisms.

Activities in mine action were constrained by the untimely departure of the Operations Adviser in April due to injury, which meant that no external quality assurance/quality control could be carried out on the training of mine action personnel. Delays in the delivery of equipment led to a two-month delay in capacity-building activities.

G. Future Work Plan for Ongoing Approved Projects/Programmes

The Cluster will continue to assist in delivery of services and strengthening of capacity and institutions in the areas of agriculture, food security, water resources, environment and mine action.

Agriculture

FAO – A5-08 Restoration of Veterinary Services

The remaining modules of the change management training will be given at approximately two-month intervals. These modules will be used to develop the following: (a) a national control programme for Brucellosis based on the results of the nation-wide serological survey, supported by the required quantities of vaccines and vaccination equipment; (b) an implementation plan for the agreed programme in all governorates, supported with necessary inputs; and (c) pre-agreed selected standard operating procedures for animal disease surveillance, reporting, emergency preparedness and emergency disease response planning. The latter has become especially important in the light of the Avian influenza threat, for which FAO will furthermore continue to assist the MoA through the procurement of the required testing sera and antigens as well as the necessary personal protection clothing and equipment. All the placements for the focused technical training and study tours on food safety, epidemiology, virology, bacteriology, ticks, ectoparasites and avian diseases will be implemented.

FAO – A5-10 Restoration of Livestock Services

A start-up and planning workshop in Amman will be organized for the scheduled livestock survey, fixing a starting date for this survey as soon as possible. A livestock-sector strategic planning and policy formulation

workshop will be organized. Following the study tour held in Morocco on the organization and development of the small ruminant sector, a workshop will be held on this sector and the formulation and initiation of related micro-projects. A senior-level training course on feed quality and safety (advanced techniques, international standards and regulations) will be organized in Europe in early 2006, followed by training on embryo transfer technology for livestock genetic improvement. Furthermore, a delegation of the MoA will participate in workshops in Cairo (on meat and feed quality) and Beijing (on livestock). The second half of the project will be focusing as much as possible on grass-roots level implementation of the various activities and programmes, keeping in mind the obvious security constraints.

Agro-industry

Implementation of two key agro-industry projects, the dairy-sector pilot rehabilitation project and the cottage industry project with FAO, will be accelerated.

UNIDO – A5-06 Promotion of Cottage Industries

Two training centres will be rehabilitated/commissioned and newly acquired equipment will be installed. National and international training will be provided to about 50 trainees in both food and non-food technologies. Assistance will be provided for the establishment, start-up and registration of community associations representing the different cottage industries identified by the project. Cottage-industry community centres will be established in key target areas. These centres will provide facilities for technical and management training, equipment distribution, and marketing for micro and cottage industries that will be established. Training handbooks and manuals will be prepared and distributed. Mentoring support will be provided to entrepreneurs, associations and the management committees of the cottage industries and community centres.

UNIDO A5-13 Rehabilitation of Dairy Plants

Equipment will be purchased for the dairy plant and the rehabilitation and construction work for around \$2 million will commence. The train-the-trainers programme will continue.

Food Security

WFP – A6-02 -Development of Safety Nets and Food Security through support to vulnerable groups, including School Feeding

A follow-up on the baseline food security study (published in September 2004) through a second-round food security survey is being undertaken in collaboration with the MoH/Nutrition Research Institute, the MoPDC/COSIT and UNICEF as part of the project. Field data collection has been completed and the data entry and validation have started. The final report is planned for October 2005 and should be published by the end of the year.

Water Resources

FAO – A5-01 Improvement of Drainage Conditions in Major Agricultural Areas: Connection of Hilla-Hashimia Drain

A contract will be issued for the supervision of the rehabilitation of the Hilla-Hashimia drain and the civil works will continue through the first half of 2006. The delivery of earth-moving and other equipment will be finalized.

FAO – A5-02 Rehabilitation of Pumping Stations

Two further tender documents for manufacture, supply and installation in Huttaman/Al-Hussianyah/Salman Pak, plus supply only for Al-Sijillah will be finalized (\$8.3 million) and appropriate contracts will be signed. A

separate contract will be finalized for the installation of the pumps for Al-Sijillah, and a contract for the supervision of the installation for all pumping stations will be implemented. The feasibility studies for the remaining four pumping stations – Nahar Saad, Abo Bushut, Al-Muhadad and Halata – will be finalized. A pumping station asset database will be established for 196 pumping stations and MoWR staff will be trained in data collection and the operation and use of the database.

FAO – A5-04 Community Irrigation Schemes

Heran irrigation scheme rehabilitation that started at the beginning of June 2005 will be finalized. The feasibility studies for the remaining three subprojects (Kalar, Mussayib and Thraima) were finalized and the Kalar irrigation scheme was found not to be viable. Contracts will be awarded for the rehabilitation of the Drain 22 (Mussayib) pumping station (\$786,301) for the supply and installation of the pumps and ancillary electrical, civil and mechanical works, and contracts for the rehabilitation of the Mussayib and Thraima irrigation schemes (\$3.3 million) will be issued. A supervision contract will be implemented for the supervision of the above contracts which will continue during the first half of 2006. The three training courses will be run from January until the end of April. Improved coordination links between the MoWR and the MoA on the establishment of water user associations, farmer training and extension will be established and the training programmes will be implemented.

UNESCO – A5-12 Capacity Development of Water Institutions

In July 2005, the expert panel meeting for the Tigris and Euphrates rivers was organized to lay out the road map for the future. During August, UNESCO organized a three-week intensive training course on integrated water resources management in Utah, United States, in collaboration with Brigham Young University and other United States water-related institutions. Ten senior water experts from the central ministry and local governorates participated in the course. The Minister of Water Resources was invited to the fifteenth International Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden, where international water experts from more than 100 countries gathered. He addressed the session on “Water for Agriculture: shared water in the Middle East”, which is the main concern of the Iraqi water planning sector. His participation in such international conferences will attract more attention from the international water community to the current water situation of Iraq. For the second half of 2005, several technical training sessions and workshops are under preparation. A total of 150 Iraqi water experts will be trained in several aspects of integrated water resource management. The trilateral meeting between Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey is under preparation with international water experts in order to discuss the Euphrates river issues in November 2005.

Environment

UNEP – A5-07 Strengthening Environmental Governance through Environmental Assessment and Capacity-building

The environmental assessment of contaminated sites has reached its final stages. The launch of the final report with the results of the environmental site assessment is pending and will lead to specific recommendations for future investment in contaminated site clean up and management. A team of officials from the MoEn will be trained from 26-28 September on data-gathering for institutional assessment. Linked to this, UNEP will work with the MoEn on the development of an environmental framework law. Staff and space have been identified for setting up an environmental information centre. Training for the staff will be provided at the UNEP Library in Nairobi. Procurement of books and computers is currently being undertaken. All requested environmental laboratory equipment is being procured and will be ready for delivery and installation in the last quarter of 2005. The MoEn and UNEP will conduct a joint session on management of biodiversity in Iraq in September 2005. This will form the basis for initiating specific projects within Iraq for mapping biodiversity.

UNEP – A5-11 Support for EST Applications in Iraqi Marshlands

The identification of the contractor to construct the artificial wetlands, if recommended as a viable environmentally sound technology (EST) for wastewater treatment by the MoWR, and the implementation of the approaches for wetland rehabilitation will be undertaken through UNOPS in December 2005. In addition, results from the pilot implementation will generate data to develop a strategy for wider application of technical options for marshland management. The contractor for the “Field assessment, facility design, construction, supervision and commissioning of pilot projects on drinking water and sanitation provision” began work, with service delivery scheduled by December 2005. The revised models for artificial wetlands to be used to design wastewater treatment have been finalized. The updated versions for wetland rehabilitation/restoration and wetland management are undergoing revision with feedback from Iraqi experts and are expected to be finalized by mid-October 2005.

UNEP carried out a study tour for high-level ministry officials, members of the Iraqi Parliament, heads of the Marsh Arab Council, and the three governors of Basrah, Missan and Thi Qar in August 2005. The purpose of the study tour, which took place in Tokyo and the Kansai region of Japan, was to show the Iraqi delegation examples of EST implementation and to emphasize the importance of an integrated, multi-agency, multi-governmental-level approach to the management of the marshlands. UNEP organized a public symposium on 24 August 2005 at the United Nations University in Tokyo for 130 people, including Her Excellency Ms. Yuriko Koike, Minister of Environment.

UNEP has signed agreements with the three southern governorates to undertake community-level projects, focusing on building public awareness of the environmental importance of the marshlands, to be completed by mid-December. It is also working with the University of Thi Qar, the University of Basrah, the MoEn, the MoWR and the MoMPW to carry out secondary training. Each of these institutions has committed to training Iraqis inside Iraq in several subject areas covered during primary training courses organized by UNEP outside Iraq.

With the consent of the line ministry (MoEn), the project has reached an agreement with the MoWR to carry out field assessments, design and supervision of the construction of phytotechnology applications for wetland rehabilitation and wastewater treatment. The tasks will be carried out on a cost-sharing basis between UNEP and the Ministry. The design and construction of artificial wetlands and wetland rehabilitation will use the models developed, as appropriate. Field work to collect and analyse water/sediment and biodiversity indicators is in progress (in mid-September). The results of this field work will confirm the selection of ESTs.

Mine Action

The UNOPS mine action project was completed at the end of June 2005. Transfer of the project equipment to UNDP is planned to support further capacity-building in mine action and the continuation of EOD clearance and mine clearance activities by the national authorities.

H. 2005-2007 Joint Iraqi-UN Assistance Strategy

As a matter of priority, the Cluster will address the urgent needs of the most vulnerable while assisting with the establishment of necessary regulatory, legislative and institutional policies. In accordance with the Joint Iraqi-UN Assistance Strategy, many of the current activities will continue into 2006. Similarly, the issues of access and security will have an impact on the degree to which activities will be undertaken with a direct UN presence. However, focus areas for this Cluster will be to:

- Rehabilitate irrigation and drainage canals;
- Bring more land under cultivation;
- Prevent livestock diseases and improve stock;
- Provide targeted food aid in primary schools and health facilities;
- Enhance programme support capacity on food security analysis;

- Monitor food security indicators for safety net strategy and policy options;
- Enhance sustainable long-term food production and natural resource management;
- Rehabilitate essential infrastructure;
- Strengthen institutional development and capacity-building with Iraqi counterparts;
- Support legislation, policy and strategy formulation;
- Promote regional cooperation over transboundary water resources and environment;
- Foster employment and income-generation activities;
- Enhance environmental restoration and conservation activities, including Environmental Impact Assessments for new projects;
- Clean up contaminated sites and create national hazardous waste management facility;
- Facilitate creation of an environmental framework law;
- Support the NMAA in all aspects of comprehensive mine action management;
- Promote landmine advocacy issues at national and international levels.

2. Cluster B: Education and Culture

Mission Statement

To strengthen the overall quality of education and service delivery at all levels, to support policy development, and to preserve and conserve tangible and intangible Iraqi cultural heritage

A. Purpose of Cluster

Both the Iraqi National Development Strategy (NDS) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) equally stress the centrality of education for development. The Interim Government also identified culture as one of its priorities for the rebirth of the country. The Education and Culture Cluster has as its main purpose to increase participation and completion rates at all levels of education, especially for vulnerable groups; strengthen service delivery; improve learning achievement; support and inform policy development; and advise and assist Iraq to restore its cultural patrimony.

Education and culture are both critical unifying elements as the country strives towards peace, stability and development. In education, primary and secondary schools are still affected by large enrolment and gender disparities and low transition rates to secondary schools. For higher education, a new vision was called for to emphasize both academic freedom and institutional autonomy within a system that is accountable and relevant in today's Iraqi society.

In culture, Iraq has a tremendous and diverse national treasure to protect and preserve, with archaeological and historical sites throughout the land. Furthermore, the conservation, revitalization and promotion of the intangible cultural heritage of Iraq are critical to safeguarding the country's national identity. Institutions and initiatives encouraging traditional culture such as music, dance and poetry should be supported to preserve the existing diversity in Iraqi culture and to build understanding and tolerance.

B. Programmes/Projects Funded to Date

Table 2. Cluster B: Education and Culture – Approved and Funded Projects

PROJECT	AGENCY	AS OF 30 JUNE 2005						AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2005					
		FUNDED AMOUNT		COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT		FUNDED AMOUNT		COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT	
		USD 000s	USD 000s	%	USD 000s	%	USD 000s	%	USD 000s	USD 000s	%	USD 000s	%
B 1-10	Iraq Networking Academy Project - Phase 1	ESCWA	1,000	697	70	283	28	1,000	747	75	428	43	
B 1-17	Iraq Networking Academy Project - Phase 2	ESCWA	0	0	0	0	0	3,780	0	0	0	0	
B 1-01	Vocational Education	UNESCO	2,758	2,732	99	1,910	69	2,758	2,726	99	2,407	87	
B 1-05	In-service Training for Teachers	UNESCO	2,346	1,385	59	1,141	49	2,346	1,634	70	1,359	58	
B 1-07	Protecting the Iraqi Cultural Heritage	UNESCO	2,092	1,900	91	1,471	70	2,092	1,912	91	1,595	76	
B 1-08	Literacy and Life Skills Development	UNESCO	2,230	1,020	46	225	10	2,230	955	43	242	11	
B 1-13	Education Management Information Systems	UNESCO	1,500	807	54	711	47	1,500	930	62	695	46	
B 1-14	Revitalization of Technical and Vocational Education -Phase 1	UNESCO	0	0	0	0	0	3,000	2	0	0	0	
B 1-15	Revitalization of Technical and Vocational Education -Phase 2	UNESCO	0	0	0	0	0	4,721	0	0	0	0	
B 1-18	Textbooks Quality Improvement Programme II	UNESCO	0	0	0	0	0	7,100	3,488	49	6	0	
B 1-09	Education Facilities Rehabilitation	UNHABITAT	17,581	9,838	56	2,989	17	17,581	11,932	68	9,239	53	
B 1-11	Rehabilitation of School Buildings in Lower South Iraq	UNHABITAT	5,270	3,726	71	840	16	5,270	4,962	94	4,627	88	
B 1-06	Strengthening Primary and Intermediate Education - Phase 1	UNICEF	34,254	29,598	86	21,934	64	34,254	32,019	93	26,752	78	
B 1-12	Strengthening Primary and Intermediate Education - Phase 2	UNICEF	12,700	8,249	51	0	0	16,230	13,271	82	8,189	50	
B 1-19	Integrated Community-based Project to Deliver Quality-based Social Services	UNICEF	0	0	0	0	0	12,900	1,576	12	0	0	
TOTAL			81,731	59,951	73	31,503	39	116,763	76,153	65	55,540	48	

To date, 15 projects totalling approximately \$116.8 million have been funded in the Education and Culture Cluster. As of 30 June 2005, the Cluster had contractually committed about \$60 million (73 per cent) and about \$31.5 million (39 per cent) in terms of disbursements. By the end of the third quarter of 2005, these figures increased to \$76 million in commitments (65 per cent) and \$55.5 million in disbursements (48 per cent).

C. Key Accomplishments

The Cluster made a major contribution to the revitalization of all levels of education in the critical areas of physical rehabilitation, service delivery of supplies and capacity development.

Rehabilitation of 34 schools was completed, while rehabilitation work in 39 is ongoing. Furthermore, a total of 8 technical institutes has been completed in Basrah and Samawah and 18 are under rehabilitation/equipment supply (including 6 contracts to rehabilitate 10 schools in Baghdad). Eleven vocational training institutes were rehabilitated and supplied with new equipment. These rehabilitation works provided thousands of short-term jobs to Iraqis.

Education learning materials were successfully provided to approximately 4.5 million primary school children in addition to school bags for first graders. The new Education Management Information Software (EMIS) was finalized for the collation of school data. Sixty-five core trainers have been trained and five per cent of the printed materials have been produced for teacher training institutes, while information technology equipment was supplied to four networking academies in four universities. The National Literacy Resource Centre has been set up as well as five Community Learning Centres in Baghdad, Dyala and Samawah to cater to the learning needs of adult illiterates in the age group 18+ years, in particular girls and women.

In the area of culture, 35 vehicles for archaeological site protection with special communication equipment were dispatched to Iraq during the first half of 2005. The Melodic Institute in Baghdad was successfully rehabilitated by 10 July 2005. Equipment, including 80 computers, a photocopier and furniture, has been delivered to the National Library premises in Baghdad to enable National Library staff to resume work.

D. Implementation Mechanisms

The Cluster members comprise UNICEF (the Cluster Coordinator), ESCWA, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNIFEM, UNOPS, WFP and WHO. They work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoEd) and its Directorates, the Ministries of Higher Education, Culture, Labour and Social Affairs, Sports and Youth as well as with the Child Welfare Commission, NGOs, community groups, international education institutions, donor agencies and the private sector. Division of labour among Cluster agencies continues to be based on respective comparative advantage, as indicated in the First Progress Report.

UNICEF has five well-qualified education staff between the Baghdad, Basrah and Erbil offices, assisted by 11 qualified engineers and 23 monitors hired under an institutional contract. In addition, it has full-fledged operations, supply/logistics and finance support units in the Baghdad, Basrah and Erbil offices that support education as well as other sectoral programmes. The UNICEF contracting and supply delivery procedures, as indicated in the First Progress Report, had to be adapted. For example, under normal circumstances, UNICEF would channel the supplies first through the UNICEF warehouse in Baghdad and then redistribute them to counterpart warehouses through a secondary transporter. However, to minimize additional security risks involved, UNICEF sent all shipments directly to the partners in the governorates.

To improve the ability to verify safe delivery of the supplies to the governorates, Consignee Signatory Panels were established within counterpart agencies to provide Proof of Delivery (POD) at the governorate/directorate level. UNICEF-contracted monitors also played a crucial role in ensuring that the supplies were received by the right consignees and distributed to end-users without undue delay.

To enable the bidding process to continue despite the restricted movement of staff inside the country and between Iraq and Jordan, UNICEF introduced a new modality of bidding and issuance of institutional contracts inside Iraq

through the use of courier services. These measures helped to lay the foundation for the ability of UNICEF to continue providing support even if the security situation does not improve in the future.

The adapted monitoring procedures used by UNICEF are described in the second chapter. During and after completion of activities, reports including achievements, lessons learned and obstacles are prepared, checked by education staff on the ground and sent to Amman to the international staff who analyse these reports and provide guidance on improvement and/or ways to overcome obstacles.

The Cluster has put in place a unique partnership with civil society through outsourcing of services and partner agreements with the MoEd and NGOs. Given the realities on the ground, UNICEF has contracted a number of agencies, which are providing the services of 24 experts, senior and professional education monitors (one monitor per Directorate of Education (DoE) in central/south Iraq and Kurdistan) and 10 civil engineers on an ongoing basis. UNICEF is also increasingly entering into agreements with NGO partners to expand the outreach of its programmes. Most importantly, UNICEF has entered into specific project agreements with the MoEd at the national and directorate levels for implementation and management of the key activities in the education sector (such as distribution of education kits and textbooks, conduct of school surveys and planning for start-up of teacher training activities). Capacity-building efforts have included the organization of several workshops for MoEd supply staff, with a view to improving on the specification and quality of school kits; these workshops were held in Amman in early 2005. The MoEd also participated in preparations for the design and specifications of the child-friendly school furniture, which is being procured under the Trust Fund project.

E. Specific Agency Implementation

Education

UNICEF – B1-06 and B1-12 Strengthening Primary and Intermediate Education – Phase 1 and Phase 2

Essential learning materials for approximately 4.5 million primary-level students in addition to school bags for first graders were procured and are currently being shipped to DoE warehouses inside Iraq. The first supplies arrived at their destinations in August 2005 and distribution started on 11 September when the 2005-2006 school year officially began. It is still continuing to cover the 14,000 primary schools. A mechanism for delivery was developed whereby concerned counterparts were requested to assign authorized persons from their departments to receive goods from UNICEF (freight forwarders) on behalf of their departments. The operation involves more than 800 transport trucks. The offshore procurement process is undertaken by the UNICEF Global Procurement Division in Copenhagen through competitive bidding, which continues to use the www.irffi.org web site.

UNICEF planned to rehabilitate 150 primary and intermediate schools through phase 1 of the project and an additional 50 schools through phase 2. Rehabilitation of 3 schools was completed, while 12 are ongoing and 25 are in the bidding stage (including 11 in the city of Fallujah and 7 in the marshlands). These 40 schools, all funded under phase 1, are located in Anbar, Risafa III (Baghdad), Babil, Basrah, Kerbala, Missan and Muthana Governorates. They are expected to benefit about 19,000 students.

The rehabilitation works consist of rehabilitation of the school building, yards, water and sanitation facilities, and boundary walls. In addition, BOQs for 3 schools (funded under phase 2) in the destitute marshland areas are being finalized. Although the 2004 original target of phase 1 was 150 schools, only 40 will be rehabilitated by the end of this year, owing to the diversion of budgetary resources to other priority areas.

As a result of the 2004 school survey, supplies were required for an additional 730,000 children above original estimates. Furthermore, the MoEd, prior to the start of the 2004-2005 academic year, requested as an urgent priority that UNICEF provide school bags for all children in primary and intermediate schools, which had not been budgeted at the planning stage. In addition, the initial cost estimates for school rehabilitation amounted to an average of \$50,000 per school.

Since 2004 when the project was approved, the bidding process has showed an increase in the market price for school rehabilitation to \$75,000 and recently to \$91,000, which represents an 82 per cent increase from the original estimated price. Furthermore, the cost of rehabilitation works for the 11 schools located in Fallujah was found to be much higher than the estimated cost owing to extensive damage inflicted to school buildings during the conflicts. Regarding phase 2 of the project, the original target was 50 schools; however, the allocated funds will be sufficient to cover the rehabilitation of 30 schools by end of March 2006 owing to market price increases.

Concurrently, UNICEF bilateral funds have been allocated to the comprehensive rehabilitation of other schools, which has resulted in the completion of rehabilitation works in 69 schools. Works are ongoing in 18 schools, while 11 schools are still in the bidding process.

Based on the child-friendly school furniture design carried out in collaboration with UNIDO and endorsed by the MoEd, UNICEF has procured 57,000 sets of such furniture (a set consists of two single chairs and one double desk) for the benefit of 114,000 children. Supplies started to reach warehouses of DoEs by mid-August 2005. The procurement of 32,000 cupboards is in the bidding process. The cupboards will be distributed to 16,000 primary and intermediate schools (two cupboards per school). Two types of cupboards of different sizes were developed for primary schools (25,000 cupboards) and for intermediate schools (7,000 cupboards).

UN-HABITAT – B1-09 Educational Facilities Rehabilitation and B1-11 Rehabilitation of School Buildings in Lower South Iraq

Project B1-09 is currently on track to exceed its targets. The revised work plan envisages the rehabilitation of 38 educational institutes (the original project comprised 34 institutes); a total of eight institutes has been completed in Basrah and Samawah, 18 are under rehabilitation/equipment supply (including 6 contracts to rehabilitate 10 schools in Baghdad), 10 are under tender evaluation and 2 are in the assessment phase. Procurement of equipment is also under way, such as information technology equipment for the University of Technology in Baghdad and workshop tools and laboratory equipment for the Basrah and Samawah Technical Institutes. With better facilities and an improved learning environment, the eight completed educational institutes are now providing an enhanced standard of education to over 4,000 Iraqi students.

Rehabilitation contracts have been awarded to about 30 small Iraqi contractors whose management and technical capacities have been upgraded through the management of the rehabilitation contracts. The rehabilitation works are being supervised by a team of over 24 Iraqi professionals under the general guidance of UN-HABITAT international staff. This is helping to build the capacity of Iraqi architects and engineers. The rehabilitation works are generating over 3,000 jobs in the construction sector.

Under project B1-11, out of a total target of 90 schools, rehabilitation of 31 schools has been completed, 27 are currently under rehabilitation and another 14 are in tender process. Approximately 176,300 construction-worker days of employment have been generated through local contractors. Approximately 31,000 students have benefited. Skills of construction workers, contractors, subcontractors, building material manufacturers and young engineers involved in the rehabilitation projects have been considerably enhanced.

UNESCO – B1-01 Vocational Education, B1-05 In-service Training for Teachers, B1-08 Literacy and Life Skills Development and B1-13 Educational Management Information System

All 11 technical and vocational education and training (TVET) centres in Baghdad, Erbil and Samawah will have newly equipped workshops and computer labs for electrical and mechanical engineering as well as for carpentry and commerce programmes and will start providing learning facilities by the end of the year. UNESCO has already delivered the equipment and is also contributing to the comprehensive rehabilitation of the 11 TVET centres benefiting almost 5,000 learners. This will enable the institutions to improve the quality of education delivered, with a higher emphasis on practical training.

Despite some delays in the implementation of the in-service training for teachers, the project implementation rate has gained momentum and project locations and premises nationwide have been identified by the MoEd. The 65 core trainers have been trained and 50 per cent of the printed materials have been produced ahead of schedule (during the August 2005 workshop). A total of 720 computers and 36 servers has been provided to Teacher Training Centres in 17 governorates. The development of 12 draft manuals for teacher training in science, mathematics and the English language was completed.

For the project “Literacy and Life Skills Development”, project funds have been instrumental in setting up the National Literacy Resource Centre (NLRC) and five Community Learning Centres (CLCs) in Baghdad, Dyala and Samawah to cater to the learning needs of adult illiterates in the group of those 18+ years of age, in particular girls and women. A study tour to India, Jordan and Thailand was organized from 4-18 March 2005 for Iraqi Directors of CLCs and the Director of the NLRC. A training manual for non-formal education (NFE) facilitators and an Advocacy Plan of Action have been developed in preparation for the launching of a National Literacy Campaign and training of NFE facilitators. A needs assessment survey was completed in seven representative governorates in August 2005. It was designed to collect basic quantitative data and qualitative information as a means for developing a national policy document as well as for planning the future activities in other governorates. Basic furniture and equipment are in the process of being delivered to the central warehouses in Baghdad to equip the NLRC and CLCs.

The Educational Management Information System software version has been tested and validated and its final version has been in use to enter the data at the MoEd level. The data entry process at the MoEd level started on 18 June 2005 and is ongoing. Agreement has been reached with the MoEd on the standardization of school census forms. Consultations are in progress to develop a national network for assimilating the educational data and for sharing the MoEd resources – both technical and physical. All information technology equipment (including 470 personal computers and 21 servers) has been delivered to the MoEd warehouses. UNESCO is currently contracting private companies for the installation of this equipment in DoEs. Ten generators are also in the process of being delivered to the MoEd. UNESCO is coordinating with UNICEF, USAID and the World Bank to develop several data-collection instruments and to prepare an annual statistical document to help the MoEd to plan its activities systematically on the basis of empirically quantified information.

ESCWA – B1-10 Iraq Networking Academy – Phase 1

ESCWA is implementing the Iraq Networking Academy System, which consists of the establishment of regional academies in 4 Iraqi universities, followed by the establishment of 40 local networking academies in institutions of higher and secondary education all over the country. During the reporting period 1 January-30 June 2005, detailed technical specifications for equipment were finalized in collaboration with the ESCWA Information Technology Unit and in consultation with the four recipient universities. Hewlett-Packard servers with backup devices, Cisco System switches, Adetran Simulators, Computer Cards, network toolkits and photocopying machines were delivered to their ultimate destinations in Iraq between May and August 2005. Three Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) courses for instructors at Mosul University were completed, three information technology essential courses at Mansour University were given and Baghdad University finished the first information technology essential course during June 2005.

The project was promoted through presentations and publications on more than ten occasions in regional and international venues, including the 23rd Ministerial Session of ESCWA, which took place in Damascus, Syria, on 9-12 May 2005. Phase 1 of “Iraq Networking Academy” was awarded the Cisco Prize for “Against All Odds” projects during the Europe, Middle East and African Cisco International Academy Conference in Valencia, Spain, on 8 September 2005.

Culture

UNESCO – B1-07 Protecting Iraqi Cultural Heritage

In the area of culture, UNESCO supported site protection, including the provision of equipment such as vehicles and security and communication devices delivered to the Ministry of Culture in Baghdad. A total of 35 vehicles for archaeological site protection with special communication equipment was dispatched during the first half of 2005. As soon as proper registration in Baghdad is finished and the security situation allows, all the vehicles will be sent to their final destinations around the country.

Within the framework of the rehabilitation of cultural institutions, promoting and researching in the field of intangible heritage conservation, the Melodic Institute in Baghdad was rehabilitated. Works were finalized by 10 July 2005. Equipment, including 80 computers, a photocopier and furniture, has been delivered to the National Library premises in Baghdad to enable National Library staff to resume work. The International Council of Museums was contracted to produce a manual on museum management adapted to the Iraqi situation in English and Arabic and to translate major international museum publications into Arabic for Iraqi Museum libraries. A security manual has also been produced and translation into Arabic is under way.

F. Hurdles Encountered and Implementation Constraints

Security has remained a major challenge during the reporting period with a critical impact on school attendance by children. It has also hindered or stopped capacity-building activities, transport and distribution of learning materials and rehabilitation work in areas such as Haweeja (in Tamim Governorate) and Fallujah (in Anbar Governorate).

The continuing and increased turnover among government partners, including the replacement of the Minister of Education (March 2005) and subsequent changes of most Director Generals in the Ministry, resulted in delays in approval of project activities. This led UNICEF to resort to establishing direct and closer working ties with the Minister himself and his office. This was a positive development, as evidenced by the constructive interaction of the Minister and his team with the UN team in July prior to the Donor Conference.

Lack of technical expertise at the MoEd level was an obstacle to the appropriate implementation of the EMIS project by the MoEd staff. Additional training on database software will be provided to update the skills of MoEd staff.

Lack of proper coordination between the MoEd and DoEs led to the allocation of rehabilitation works for the same schools to two or more organizations. This issue is plaguing implementation by all supporting agencies and donors and will be tabled at the recently inaugurated Sector Working Group on Education as it is causing a waste of efforts required to undertake technical assessment, BOQ preparation and the bidding process. In addition, price inflation by companies for school rehabilitation and contractors' offers continue to be two to three times higher than estimated market prices, leading to numerous rebidding exercises, further slowing implementation. In the case of UN-HABITAT, the proposed numbers of schools need to be revised downwards from 90 to 72, and for UNICEF in its second phase, from 50 to 30 schools. In spite of meticulous planning, construction on occasion has been subject to delays as a result of local activities such as school examinations.

The lack of coordination between the MoEd and the DoEs also has led to a delay in the installation of information technology equipment because the required furniture and power supply have not been provided by DoEs. Further hurdles include lack of information technology training for teaching staff and difficulties in having companies deliver equipment.

G. Future Work Plan for Ongoing Approved Projects/Programmes

Education

UNICEF – B1-06 and B1-12 Strengthening Primary and Intermediate Education – Phase 1 and Phase 2

Using the UNDG ITF funds, rehabilitation works in 37 additional primary schools under phase 1 of the Trust Fund project will have been completed in several governorates by 31 December 2005. Seven of these schools are located in the marshlands and 11 schools are in the city of Fallujah. Rehabilitation works in 30 primary schools under phase 2 of the project will be in different stages of rehabilitation (bidding, ongoing, completed) in several governorates by 31 December 2005.

Procurement of reading books for 16,000 schools and delivery of 4.5 million students' kits and 1 million students' bags to the warehouses of DoEs will have been completed before the end of September 2005. As Iraqi children returned to school on 11 September, UNICEF made sure that 4.5 million primary school children received the necessary school kits to enable them to study and participate in school life. For these children, this meant having items such as exercise books, pencils, sharpeners, erasers, rulers and drawing books that they need in the classroom. The distribution of these school kits required a substantial logistical effort as the kits were produced and assembled in China and subsequently shipped to Jordan. From there, they were transported directly to MoEd warehouses throughout Iraq. The operation used more than 800 trucks and cost a total of \$14.4 million. Finally, the school kits were distributed by the DoEs in all 18 governorates of Iraq.

Currently, the net school enrolment rate for primary education in Iraq stands at 86 per cent in comparison with the region's average of 81 per cent. This commendable achievement is even more outstanding in light of the country's ongoing security situation. Completion of delivery of students' desks and chairs to the warehouses of DoEs to benefit 114,000 students in 164 primary schools is planned to take place before December 2005 as is the procurement and delivery of 32,000 cupboards to 16,000 primary and intermediate schools.

UN-HABITAT – B1-09 Educational Facilities Rehabilitation and B1-11 Rehabilitation of School Buildings in Lower South Iraq

For UN-HABITAT during the next reporting period, the priority will be to complete the building rehabilitation works for the 38 institutes and to complete the awarding of all procurement contracts for the supply of workshop tools, furniture and laboratory equipment. As of 30 September 2005, 8 out of 36 educational institutes to be rehabilitated under the project have been completed, benefiting over 2,000 Iraqi students and teachers. Another institute (the Basrah Technical Institute with 3,600 students) is now 96 per cent completed, with full completion scheduled for October 2005. Rehabilitation work is in progress on another 16 institutes (4 in Samawah and 12 in Baghdad) while tenders are under assessment for the rehabilitation of another 10 educational facilities in Baghdad. A total of \$4 million worth of equipment is being procured to update and modernize the standard of technical education at two technical institutes and the University of Technology in Baghdad. A purchase order has already been issued for the supply of IT equipment for the University of Technology and tenders are being assessed for the supply of a wide range of laboratory and workshop equipment and tools for the Basrah and Samawah Technical Institutes.

Out of 80 schools that have been targeted for rehabilitation under project B1-11, 52 schools have been completed, which are providing an improved learning environment for over 20,000 Iraqi students and teaching staff. Interviews with the concerned government departments and the school administration staff have indicated that the rehabilitated schools have helped to increase school attendance and reduce dropout rates. Rehabilitation work is in progress on another 20 schools and tenders are under evaluation for the remaining 8 schools.

The two rehabilitation projects have benefited over 80 small Iraqi contractors and generated over 332,000 person-days of employment in the construction sector in Iraq.

ESCWA – B1-10 Iraq Networking Academy – Phase 1

ESCWA plans to complete the establishment of four Regional Network Academies and six Local Network Academies. International procurement is under way. Subsequently, inspection of equipment and training of Iraqis for equipment installation and operation will be undertaken in Beirut. Advanced training on server and open source software is planned for 15 days in Beirut or Amman in February 2006. Baghdad and Mosul universities will conduct CCNA IT Essential training courses in Iraq during December 2005. Training on maintenance and trouble shooting of the UPS will be given for the staff members of the four Regional Academies.

Culture

UNESCO – B1-07 Protecting Iraqi Cultural Heritage

By September, under the VET project, all workshop equipment and information technology facilities had been delivered, and the priority actions planned consist of contracting the private sector for installation of the equipment in the 11 TVET centres.

For the literacy project from July to September 2005, the needs assessment survey was completed; data entry will be completed shortly. Training is planned in the development of advocacy materials for use in launching a National Literacy Campaign in Iraq. Training will be provided to NFE facilitators, volunteers and literacy workers based on the manual for training NFE facilitators that was developed between July and September 2005.

Under the teacher training project, training was given to 62 core teacher trainers on new teaching methods and on the development of audio-visual materials in Amman from 29 August-8 September 2005. During the upcoming period, the project will provide necessary video equipment to teacher training centres and organize a follow-up workshop for the 62 teacher trainers to be held in Amman in order to review the materials that they further developed in Iraq as well as the materials for training the 300 mentors. Training on information and communication technology (ICT) skills for the core staff and the mentors will be organized in Baghdad. The initial strategy was to use multimedia software materials to reach the targeted 30,000 math, science and English language teachers. However, owing to the insufficient information technology background of the group of 65 core trainers, the decision has been taken to rely on ODL traditional materials (paper and audio-visual).

For the Educational Management Information System (EMIS) from June to December 2005, installation of computers, generators, servers and EMIS software will be completed. Also, training of the project team (consisting of 5 MoEd officials) in basic SQL skills will be provided in order to enable them to install and use the software for data entry purposes. Training for 50 local area network (LAN) administrators will be conducted on the administration of the Windows 2003 module and on the installation and use of the EMIS software, which will be provided by the project team. Staff will also receive training in data entry at the DoE level, which will be provided by the LAN administrators once they complete their own training programme. An analytical report on the state of the art of primary and secondary levels of education will be prepared once this training effort has been completed.

Priority actions in the cultural field include the continuation of training and capacity-building for geographical information system (GIS) and global positioning system (GPS) application, the development of an educational programme for the Child Museum after its rehabilitation, and the rehabilitation of the Regional Centre for Conservation in Baghdad as well as the development of a programme for the protection of intangible heritage in Iraq in relation to the newly rehabilitated Melodic Institute in Baghdad.

H. 2005-2007 Joint Iraqi-UN Assistance Strategy

In accordance with the Joint Iraqi-UN Assistance Strategy, many of the current activities will continue into 2006. Similarly, the issues of access and security will have an impact on the degree to which activities will be undertaken with a direct UN presence. However, focus areas for this Cluster will be to:

- Establish an early childhood stimulation and learning programme to improve children's readiness for school while addressing the needs of out-of-school children and youth through an accelerated learning programme. Also, encourage school attendance using incentives such as school feeding and take-home rations;
- Increase the quality of, access to and participation in schools, higher education institutes and technical vocational centres through teacher training, development and provision of teaching/learning materials, the supplying of school furniture and rehabilitation of facilities;
- Provide in-service training for 50,000 principals and primary school teachers in child-centred methodologies, civic education, education for peace and tolerance, mine risk education and HIV/AIDS prevention;
- Initiate the reform of the examination/certification system as well as curriculum reform to integrate issues of gender, equity, child rights and life skills;
- Build the capacities of key interlocutors in relevant ministries to contribute to policy formulation and system development and preparation for educational reform;
- Foster the networking of higher education institutions and provide graduates with up-to-date hardware and software, Internet and networking technologies;
- Strengthen the capacity of urban and regional planning institutions in the conservation and preservation of cultural heritage;
- Provide technical training in the conservation, restoration and management of sites, monuments and artifacts while revitalizing cultural teaching institutions to encourage, promote and revive cultural enterprises.

3. Cluster C: Governance and Human Development

A. Purpose of Cluster

The turbulent history of Iraq over the last 30 years has had a devastating impact on the social, political, physical and human capital of the country. Rebuilding and investing in political and social capital are major tasks faced by Iraqis with the support of the international community. Nonetheless, Iraq has the human, cultural and economic potential to forge ahead and Iraqis are eager to rebuild their lives, communities and institutions. The Cluster aims to improve the human development situation in Iraq and promote good governance by strengthening institutional capacity, contributing to the creation of employment opportunities and providing policy advice, especially in the areas of local government, public-private partnership, pro-poor growth strategies and civil society and human rights in line with Iraqi needs, objectives and priorities.

Mission Statement

To strengthen public institutions and other entities to become efficient, transparent and accountable, based on the principles of sustainable development, human rights, gender equality, the rule of law and good governance, thereby creating an environment for Iraqi people and institutions to interact in a vibrant, participatory and transparent manner.

B. Programmes/Projects Funded to Date

Table 3. Cluster C: Governance and Human Development – Approved and Funded Projects

PROJECT	AGENCY	AS OF 30 JUNE 2005						AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2005					
		FUNDED AMOUNT		COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT		FUNDED AMOUNT		COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT	
		USD 000s	USD 000s	%	USD 000s	%	USD 000s	%	USD 000s	USD 000s	%	USD 000s	%
C 9-01	Support to Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation (MoPDC)	UNDP	1,744	682	39	549	31	1,744	674	39	673	39	
C 9-05	Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening of MMPW	UNDP	3,019	393	13	393	13	3,019	510	17	510	17	
C 9-10/a	Institutional Support for the Constitutional Drafting Process	UNDP	7,000	728	5	0	0	14,148	6,248	44	2,532	18	
C 9-10/e	Involving Iraqi Media and Journalists covering Constitutional Process	UNDP	0	0	0	0	0	994	331	33	331	33	
C 9-10/f	Involving Iraqi Media and Journalists for New Democracies TV Film Festival	UNDP	0	0	0	0	0	495	351	71	351	71	
C 9-10/c	Media and Human Rights: Promotion of Freedom of Expression	UNESCO	700	15	1	0	0	1,994	1,413	71	423	21	
C 9-04	Women Solidarity Toward Active Participation in Elections	UNIFEM	1,905	1,223	64	756	40	1,905	1,404	74	1,351	71	
C 9-10/b	Iraqi National Constitution and Referendum Awareness Campaign (INCRAC)	UNIFEM	0	0	0	0	0	1,670	195	12	6	0	
C 9-02	Civil Society Forums	UNOPS	1,720	1,572	91	1,477	86	1,720	1,665	97	1,585	92	
C 9-10/d	Civil Society Constitutional Outreach Campaign	UNOPS	1,000	2,764	56	170	3	4,964	4,517	91	2,557	52	
C 10-04	Smart Community Project	ESCWA	2,703	0	0	0	0	2,703	84	3	4	0	
C 10-02	International Employment Conference	ILO	321	301	94	286	89	321	301	94	286	89	
C 10-01	Iraqis Rebuilding Iraq - Phase 1	UNDP	387	349	90	343	89	387	317	82	312	81	
C 10-03	Iraqis Rebuilding Iraq - Phase 2	UNDP	2,777	0	0	0	0	2,777	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL			23,276	8,028	34	3,975	17	38,840	18,009	46	10,920	28	

To date, 14 projects totalling \$38.8 million have been funded in the Governance and Human Development Cluster, including \$24 million for the constitution programme approved in June 2005. Overall Cluster delivery at the end of June 2005 (based on 7 projects under implementation) was \$8 million (34 per cent) in commitments and disbursement of \$4 million (17 per cent). At the end of September 2005, commitments had reached \$18 million (46 per cent) and disbursements, \$11 million (28 per cent).

C. Key Accomplishments

Support to the Constitution (funded by a dedicated earmarked contribution from the European Commission)

Constitution drafting and public dialogue are intertwined activities in order for the results of the constitutional process to be positive and inclusive. Unfortunately, Iraqis did not have this luxury in the past. At the end of June (date of programme approval), the UNDG ITF constitutional sub-Cluster mobilized the Constitutional Committee, media outlets, international and national organizations, NGOs and other stakeholders in support of public dialogue on the drafting of the constitution. Eighteen governorate offices were set up; 48 newspapers and 18 radio and 19 television stations were contacted to participate in the media campaign; 200 posters were prepared; and 600 banners, 100,000 billboards and 550 blue boxes were provided to obtain public submissions from 18 governorates (estimated submissions were 300,000). Also, 1,000 conferences, seminars and meetings with NGOs and women's and human rights groups, etc. were planned.

The sub-Cluster resourced the Constitutional Committee with 200 professional staff, including for the governorate offices. It purchased and distributed over 250 computers, Internet services, digital cameras, photocopiers, 200 mobile phones and SIM cards. The technical assistance and equipment helped the Constitutional Committee to rapidly set up the Secretariat and the Analysis and Media Outreach Units in Baghdad and in the 18 governorates. The goods and services contracts will generate over 250 jobs and the printing of 5 million copies of the constitution for public distribution will generate additional economic activity and also create jobs.

This assistance directly enabled the 55 members of the National Assembly Constitutional Committee and the additional Sunni members to participate in drafting the constitution. The Secretariat provided the institutional and organizational support. Committee members were able to use the web site resource materials and international case studies and discuss constitution-related issues with experts. Public outreach initiatives in the 18 governorates were set up, including blue boxes, conferences, seminars and meetings with NGOs, and religious, human rights and women's groups. Contracts were in place for media outlets to place advertising

Alongside the direct support to the Constitutional Committee, the sub-Cluster actively engaged approximately 200 NGOs through 25 umbrella organizations. The organizations are actively conducting numerous discussion and educational seminars and meetings on issues pertaining to the new Iraqi constitution throughout Iraq. For example, the Al-Thaqalain Centre for Strategic Studies held seminars in Najaf with 150 participants. "Submission" boxes have been distributed in banks, mosques and churches, which provided the opportunity for the public to complete questionnaires on key issues in the new constitution. The Constitutional Drafting Committee received thousands of completed questionnaires and processed the information for inclusion in the drafting process.

The sub-Cluster was also active in supporting freedom of expression and the media in the drafting of the new Iraqi constitution. Media in Cooperation (MIC) organized a workshop for 22 directors of radio stations who agreed and signed a professional code of honour (code of conduct). In addition, the International Federation of Journalists carried out a workshop for 37 media workers and professionals and issued a declaration on the Iraqi constitution.

Other Areas of Governance and Human Development

The Cluster continued to provide additional assistance in policy advice and capacity-building in other areas as well.

The Donor Assistance Database was successfully adapted to Iraq and installed at the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation (MoPDC) in Baghdad. Trained staff in the Aid Coordination Unit in Baghdad have already input UNDG ITF, United States and World Bank ITF data and will shortly receive and input data from the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) and the European Commission.

The Iraqis Rebuilding Iraq programme received 100 requests for experts from 15 participating ministries. A total of 153 applications was received by the programme. By 31 August 2005, profiles of 66 candidates had been matched with ministries' specific requests and they have been shared with participating ministries for their final selection. The first three experts were deployed to Iraq, appointed as Directors-General at the Council of Ministers' Secretariat in Baghdad. Seven additional experts are in the recruitment process and will be deployed during the months of September and October 2005.

Over 100 training workshops were provided for civil society organizations, particularly women's organizations, on human rights issues as well as organizational management. These resulted in contributions such as a human rights monitoring network, the creation of environmental libraries and women's counselling centres.

D. Implementation Mechanisms

The Cluster members comprise UNDP (the Cluster Coordinator), ESCWA, ILO, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the UNAMI Human Rights Office, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNIFEM and UNOPS. They work closely with the Ministries of Planning and Development Cooperation, Human Rights, Justice, Labour and Social Affairs, Environment, Finance, Interior, Women's Affairs, Provincial Affairs, Municipalities and Public Works, Housing, Trade, Communications and Culture as well as with the National Assembly, NMAA, the Supreme Council of the Judiciary, the Supreme Audit Board, the Commission of Integrity, COSIT, governorates, local municipalities, religious authorities, NGOs, media, and academic and research institutions.

The constitutional support programme was managed as part of the UNAMI core mission in Baghdad. The other projects in governance and human development continued the remote management mode, with emphasis on meetings and training sessions in Amman followed by distance support to project activities in Iraq. Iraqi nationals were used heavily to support project activities in country either directly as consultants or in ministry project management units and indirectly working for NGOs.

E. Specific Agency Implementation

Governance

UNDP – C9-01 Support to Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation

The project has successfully helped to establish the Aid Coordination Unit in the MoPDC as well as to develop a Donor Assistance Database (DAD) system within the Ministry. Along with the MoPDC, the Ministry of Finance will be able to incorporate the information into the annual budgeting process of the Government. Synergy International has been contracted to provide and configure the database hardware/software. The generic version of the DAD has now been successfully customized for Iraq. Twelve MoPDC management and technical staff members have been trained and the DAD data structure has been identified. The system is now in place both in Baghdad (for which hardware, power supply and network security hardware were delivered to the MoPDC) and as backup in the UNDP office in Amman. Data from the UNDG ITF, the United States and the World Bank have been input. Requests have been sent to other donors to provide the requisite information. A report/presentation on DAD was successfully provided to the July 2005 IRFFI Dead Sea meeting.

UNOPS – C9-03 Civil Society Forums

Eleven Iraqi human rights-oriented NGOs and research and academic institutions have been supported financially and technically to develop their institutional and technical capacities in project design and management. They have also been encouraged to develop informal networks of organizations with similar interests and concerns. In addition, 105 human rights or social development organizations have been given courses in human rights advocacy and protection and have been exposed to issues such as human rights monitoring, international human rights instruments and complaint mechanisms. Also, 105 NGOs have received training or participated in

workshops on the subjects of consensus-building, public participation, advocacy, democratic decision-making and networking. The same organizations have received institutional capacity-strengthening support (formal and informal). Each workshop and training programme has been documented in detail by both partners in the field and UNOPS staff. Examples of the results of this support and capacity-building include the National Association for Human Rights, which set up an environmental library in two schools in Sadr City; contributions to human rights in the drafting of the constitution; and the setting up of women's counselling centres.

UNIFEM – C9-04 Women Solidarity toward Active Participation in Elections - IRAQIA

Training was provided to a core of 30 capable “master trainers” in the MoMPW who are specialized in women's rights and women's roles in the electoral process. Three women's civic education training centres were established in Baghdad, Diwaniya and Erbil to promote women's political participation in Iraq. A database of Iraqi women (from ministries and civil society) who wish to participate in the electoral process was created. The General Council of Arts and Culture was supported in producing ten television spot clips for women on the reconstruction and democratization process. Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) was supported to train women in electoral issues: 28 women from civil society organizations participated in a training programme in Amman in January 2005 and in a follow-up workshop in early March.

Twelve training-of-trainers workshops were conducted to train the staff of line ministries and different NGOs in the electoral process (84 from line ministries and 244 from NGOs). In addition, a number of focused training workshops in different governorates were undertaken. UNIFEM has also partnered with OKI to establish an independent women's radio station in Iraq, “Voice of Women”. Nearly 1.3 million posters were printed, of which 70 per cent were disseminated. Ten television spots on women's political participation and women's role in Iraq reconstruction were produced and broadcast through a radio production and broadcasting campaign with Radio Digla throughout a two-month period before the January 2005 elections.

UNDP – C9-05 Capacity-building and Institutional Strengthening of Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works

Two meetings of the working groups have been conducted in Baghdad during which procedures and methods to ensure efficient implementation and monitoring of the activities have been determined. Fifty computers, printers, computer desks, and training material have been delivered to selected municipalities in the 18 governorates. A comprehensive training needs assessment at central and local levels is currently being conducted by a local institute. An MOU has been signed with ESCWA to conduct modern management training for 90 mid-managers. Six modules for the training of the mid-managers have been approved and participants have been selected. The first training session, involving 15 participants, took place in Beirut. The TOR for the training of 150 senior managers have been prepared, and regional and international institutes are being identified.

C9-10 Constitution Programme Supported by the European Commission

Information on the constitution programme is provided in the “Future Work Plan for Ongoing Approved Projects/Programmes” section since the implementation of the project began in mid-June 2005.

Human Development

IOM/UNDP – C10-01 and C10-03 Iraqis Rebuilding Iraq – Phase 1 and Phase 2

The preparatory phase was completed with the launch of the Iraqis Rebuilding Iraq (IRI) official web site on 23 May 2005. During the reporting period, the project's main objectives were to fully staff the Amman Management Unit to provide support to Iraqi professionals interested in joining the programme; continue assisting Iraqi authorities to identify human resource gaps in key areas of the public sector; collect data and maintain an Iraqi Skills Roster to match the demand and supply of human resources; launch the information campaign for the promotion of the programme among Iraqi professionals living abroad; and screen, recruit, deploy and monitor IRI experts in the field.

By the end of August 2005, a fully functional Amman Management Unit and Baghdad Support Cell (two national consultants and MoPDC counterpart staff) had been established. IRI had received 100 requests for experts from 15 participating ministries; 93 requests have been entered in the IRI Database. A fully functional web site and database have been established; an information campaign has been carried out; and promotional materials have been printed and distributed to over 150 Iraqi associations abroad as well as to professional associations. The programme matched, recruited and deployed the first IRI experts to Iraq. A total of 153 applications was received by the programme. By 31 August, 66 candidates' profiles had been matched with ministries' specific requests and they have been shared with participating ministries for their final selection. The first three experts were deployed to Iraq, appointed as Directors-General at the Council of Ministers' Secretariat in Baghdad. Seven additional experts are in the recruitment process and will be deployed during the months of September and October 2005.

ILO – C10-02 International Employment Conference

The conference project is essentially complete, with follow-up activities concentrating on assisting in the implementation of the action plan. This includes the development of an integrated strategy for employment and strengthening of labour-market institutions and the capacities of the concerned ministries to provide employment services, which facilitate job creation and lead to an equitable and efficient labour market.

In follow-up to the International Employment Conference of December 2004, the final report of the conference was produced in 1,000 hard copies and CDs, which were then distributed at donor meetings and in other workshops and seminars held on employment creation. In addition, "Guidelines for Optimizing Local Employment in Infrastructure Reconstruction and Development Programmes in Iraq" was drafted as a policy and technical tool for the Government of Iraq, the UN and donors to mainstream and maximize employment creation in their respective infrastructure programmes.

F. Hurdles Encountered and Implementation Constraints

The constitution programme faced a very short time frame to assist in the drafting of the constitution and conduct a credible public outreach campaign. The assassination of a prominent Sunni member and its impact on Committee members derailed the drafting and public outreach process. However, Iraqi NGOs, media and public institutions rose to the occasion and most were able to overcome these obstacles and tragedies. Reaching out to the Sunni regions and communities was a challenge. The UN collaborated with the international community and made all possible efforts to overcome these challenges. The security of UN staff and Constitutional Committee members in outreach to the public, NGOs, etc. was a major constraint.

The Iraqis Rebuilding Iraq (IRI) programme faced long delays in the selection process of participating ministries, consequently delaying the recruitment of selected IRI experts. On average, it takes a ministry five to seven weeks to take its final decision on the IRI candidate whom it has selected to join the ministry based on the requests that it has submitted to the IRI programme. Such delays at times jeopardize the recruitment of the expert, who in the meantime could commit him/herself to a different job. In order to speed up the selection process, the IRI Baghdad Support Cell follows up weekly with the interested ministries by phone and/or email as well as with personal visits to the requesting office. Despite the tense security situation in Iraq, the majority of Iraqi experts registered in the IRI database are ready to take up assignments in Iraq.

The capacity-building efforts in the MoPDC and in the MoMPW faced similar delays in identifying training participants and in providing the necessary physical infrastructure for information technology equipment.

The major constraint in organizing workshops for NGOs was the unpredictable security situation. The technique of training trainers outside the country followed up by support workshops led by the new trainers in country was used successfully to overcome these obstacles and ensure national involvement and contribution to the implementation of activities.

G. Future Work Plan for Ongoing Approved Projects/Programmes

Governance

UNDP – C9-01 Support to Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation

During the July to September period, Internet connectivity was established in the MoPDC and a local contractor is now being sought to upgrade the bandwidth available. Development and installation of donors' profiles are ongoing as is the integration of public investment programmes funded by the national budget in DAD. DIFD and the European Commission will provide their information shortly. The MoPDC web portal will be developed and installed.

UNOPS – C9-03 Civil Society Forums

The project is scheduled to finish at the end of September 2005. In order to continue the ongoing programme of support to civil society organizations, UNOPS has submitted the extension to the project to Cluster C for consideration and further approval. Extensive networks of Iraqi NGOs and civil society organizations as well as Arab regional partners have been created and require further nurturing.

Under a UNOPS-funded and arranged workshop, 24 human rights organizations along with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ms. Hina Jilani, collectively made recommendations to the Iraqi government, the UN and other Iraqi and regionally based organizations on human rights issues. Following a human rights monitoring and training workshop, one of the participating organizations began the establishment of human rights monitoring centres across Iraq. Twelve trainers are now ready to provide more extensive training within Iraq to additional NGOs across the country.

Eleven NGOs that benefited from the training workshops have been supported to implement workshops on human rights awareness, management and computer literacy, human rights monitoring and support to business communities across Iraq. Women's counselling centres have also been established, civic education programmes on basic hygiene and sanitation have been implemented and a conference on women's rights has been held. In addition, 20 Iraqi and Arab NGOs participated in two workshops and a conference on women's rights and the new Iraqi constitution, the outcomes of which were communicated to the Iraqi National Assembly, and lobbying and advocacy by these participating NGOs are ongoing. In addition, a community development/income-generation project for IDPs in Fallujah is being implemented and is expected to continue through October 2005.

UNIFEM – C9-04 Women Solidarity toward Active Participation in Elections - IRAQIA

UNIFEM will organize and deliver a training workshop for civil society organizations on shadow reports and observation of government activities in September 2005. It will continue supporting the established "Women's NGO Network" in Iraq to improve their skills through extensive training in capacity-building, management, finance and budgeting, and civil society rights and duties within the context of elections. UNIFEM will continue to support the Voice of Women radio station, which started broadcasting on 25 March 2005. Building on the success of the training workshops around the Country, MoMPW will design more concentrated workshops to raise the level of discussion and interaction on the issue of constitution writing by supporting women in their efforts to organize to achieve their goals and make a difference.

UNDP – C9-05 Capacity-building and Institutional Strengthening of Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works

Upon the return of the participants in the training courses, the MoMPW will support them in forming and maintaining an active discussion peer network. Such a network will help to disseminate knowledge and experiences among the participants. As part of new constitutional developments, decentralization will be an issue for the country and more specifically for the MoMPW. Therefore, the capacity-building of the group targeted under this project will be in the context of decentralization and community participation to better equip the

personnel to identify decentralization issues and local government priorities. Work will also be undertaken to encourage and seek opportunities for twinning between local municipalities across national/regional boundaries to share experiences. Training will be expanded to cover the Mayoralty of Baghdad and other key ministries.

C9-10 Constitution Programme (Supported by the European Commission)

UNDP – C9-10a Institutional Support for the Constitutional Drafting Process, c9-10e Involving Iraqi Media and Journalists Covering Constitutional Process and C9-10f Involving Iraqi Media and Journalists for New Democracies TV Film Festival

UNDP resourced the Constitutional Committee with 200 professional staff, including for the governorate offices. Over 250 computers plus Internet services, digital cameras, photocopiers, 200 mobile phones and SIM cards were supplied to the Constitutional Committee for it to set up its Secretariat as well as the Analysis and Media Outreach Units in Baghdad and in all 18 governorates.

Five million copies of the constitution text were printed for public distribution. Additionally, 48 newspapers and 18 radio and 19 television stations were contracted to participate in the media campaign to promote the constitutional process. Public outreach initiatives in the 18 governorates were set up, including 550 blue boxes to obtain public submissions, conferences, seminars and meetings with NGOs and religious, human rights and women's groups

UNESCO – C9-10c Media and Human Rights: Promotion of Freedom of Expression

UNESCO has already established a network of civil society and media organizations in Al-Kut, Baghdad, Basrah, Erbil, Fallujah, Karbala, Kirkuk, Mosul, Najaf, Salahudin, Samawah and Suleimaniya. Building on this as part of this project, UNESCO, in collaboration with its implementing partners, organized and completed a number of workshops in Amman. For example, Article 19 held a workshop for 23 Iraqi lawmakers, media owners/workers and human rights advocates; proposed a draft on freedom of expression for the new Iraqi constitution; and submitted the draft to the Iraqi constitution drafting committee. Media in Cooperation (MIC) organized a workshop for 22 directors of radio stations from all over Iraq and discussed future cooperation as well as agreed on common interests of radio report contents, terminologies, and the formation of a radio station union. Most importantly, they have also agreed to and signed a professional code of honour (code of conduct). The International Federation of Journalists carried out a workshop for 37 media workers and professionals on unbiased media coverage and reporting skills and issued a declaration on the Iraqi constitution as part of follow-up to discuss a charter of labour rights and press freedoms. Article 19 carried out a workshop for 20 Iraqi participants from various media sectors, discussing freedom of expression and human rights issues in view of the new constitution and the international standards.

UNOPS – C9-10d Civil Society Constitutional Outreach Campaign

The UNOPS constitutional outreach support project has engaged approximately 200 NGOs throughout Iraq. For coordination purposes, activities of all 200 organizations are organized through 25 umbrella NGOs. The organizations are actively conducting numerous discussion and educational seminars and meetings on issues pertaining to the new Iraqi constitution throughout Iraq. For example, the Al-Thaqalain Centre for Strategic Studies held seminars in Najaf with 150 participants (100 men and 50 women) in August, focusing on public participation in the drafting of the constitution through submission of proposals and completed questionnaires, and discussed contentious issues such as federalism and the role of Sharia law in the constitution and women's rights in Iraq today and in the future. Field liaison officers manage and monitor these activities and provide weekly calendars of events and reports.

Other key successes include the distribution of "submission" boxes in banks, mosques and churches, which provided the opportunity for the public to complete questionnaires on key issues in the new constitution. The Constitutional Drafting Committee received thousands of completed questionnaires and processed the information for inclusion in the drafting process. In addition, the UNOPS polling expert has so far had two public opinion

polls conducted in the field that assess the level of understanding of the constitution, the processes involved in its drafting, and the level of public participation and support. The full results were presented to the UNAMI constitutional support team in Baghdad, members of the Constitutional Drafting Committee, members of the Iraqi National Assembly and other interested parties.

The majority of NGO activities are coming to a close in the lead up to the 15 October referendum on the constitution.

UNIFEM – C9-10b Iraqi National Constitution and Referendum Awareness Campaign (INCRAC)

A total of 240 participants took part in a conference on the constitution in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture. In addition, a series of workshops on the constitution was organized for more than 300 women in collaboration with an Iraqi civil society organization and the recommendations were raised to the Constitutional Committee. UNIFEM and an Iraqi partner organized a conference in Basrah for more than 150 women as part of ongoing support to the Iraqi Women's Network.

Human Development

IOM/UNDP – C10-01 and C10-03 Iraqis Rebuilding Iraq – Phase 1 and Phase 2

The project will continue the public information campaign and promote the Iraqis Rebuilding Iraq (IRI) programme among the Iraqi émigré community. To date, 25 per cent of the IRI applicants have expressed their preference for deployment in the three northern governorates. IRI is developing a strategy with the MoPDC to promote the programme throughout Iraq and particularly in the northern regions. When the authorities in the north identify the human resource needs, Iraqi professionals registered in the programme database could be matched for these assignments. The programme will continue to encourage expatriate experts to participate in the programme, match them with existing vacancies, proceed with the recruitment and deploy them to the field. At present, there are seven more candidates in the recruiting process who will be deployed in the coming weeks.

ILO – C10-02 International Employment Conference

A capacity-building workshop on maximizing employment in reconstruction programmes was held in August 2005 for major Iraqi stakeholders and Cluster C UN agencies using the draft ILO guidelines on optimizing local employment. Through the end of the year, other capacity-building and/or consultative follow-up workshops will be held, including those on labour market information, social security strategies, development of the small and medium-sized enterprise sector, and employment policies.

H. 2005-2007 Joint Iraqi-UN Assistance Strategy

Based on the Joint Iraqi-UN Assistance Strategy, many of the current activities will continue into 2006, building on the accomplishments to date. Notwithstanding the security considerations, which will continue to have an impact on UN work in Iraq, efforts will be sustained for closer interaction with Iraqi authorities and institutions, focusing on the following areas:

- Support the constitutional process through building the human and institutional capacities of the Constitutional Committee and the implementation of advocacy and outreach activities to ensure participation and inclusiveness;
- Support the Government's efforts to refine the National Development Strategy and formulate sound thematic and sectoral strategies and policy papers;
- Assist in the elaboration of a framework for enhancing capacities of local authorities in the management of local affairs and promote the implementation of local pilot development initiatives. This will include compiling relevant legislation and conducting comparative research;
- Continue implementing interventions aimed at providing basic services. At the same time, help to build the capacities of central agencies, key line ministries and local administrations to better deliver public

services and respond to the needs of the communities that they serve;

- Provide short-term employment opportunities through small-scale public works and improve living conditions of local communities and slum dwellers;
- Help public institutions to address problems of corruption, money laundering and drug trade and create a transparent public accountability system by raising awareness and strengthening planning, coordination, budgetary and management capacity of key institutions;
- Promote economic initiatives and enterprise development and modernize business support services through the chambers of commerce;
- Support the development of a free and independent media,; promote a culture of protection of human rights in key governmental and non-governmental institutions; facilitate judicial system reform; mainstream gender equality in national policies and promote change within the Iraqi society in support of gender equality and women's rights; and support the strengthening of Iraqi civil society;
- Advocate for issues concerning youth and child protection needs, developing child rights-based systems and policies, expanding child protection mechanisms at the governorate level, implementing projects that promote the growing Iraqi youth population, and providing policy advice to government and civil society.

4. Cluster D: Health and Nutrition

A. Purpose of Cluster

As a component of the National Development Strategy, the objective of the Ministry of Health (MoH) is to transform inefficient, centrally planned and curative care-based services into a new system based on prevention and evidence-based, equitable, high-quality, accessible and affordable primary health care (PHC). This includes addressing the nutritional issues prevalent in the country. The challenge for the UN in health and nutrition is to support the MoH in continuing to enhance the current health care delivery system in Iraq. The aim of the UN in health and nutrition in Iraq is to support the MoH National Health Strategy in meeting basic health needs. The fundamental objective of this strategy is to shift from a hospital-oriented health care delivery system to one based on primary health care delivery, including emergency preparedness and response, addressing the needs of the Iraqis, especially the vulnerable population, while promoting a healthy living environment. The UN health and nutrition agencies coordinate their activities with the MoH and all stakeholders working in the health sector to ensure that they complement the MoH strategy in the health reform process.

Mission Statement

To support the Ministry of Health National Health Strategy in meeting basic health needs as well as interventions aimed at addressing nutritional issues.

B. Programmes/Projects Funded to Date

Table 4. Cluster D: Health and Nutrition – Approved and Funded Projects

PROJECT	AGENCY	AS OF 30 JUNE 2005						AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2005					
		FUNDED AMOUNT		COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT		FUNDED AMOUNT		COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT	
		USD 000s	USD 000s	%	USD 000s	%	USD 000s	%	USD 000s	USD 000s	%	USD 000s	%
D 2-08	Hazardous Waste Chemicals Collection and Storage: Al Qadissiya Site	UNEP	0	0	0	0	0	905	0	0	0	0	0
D 2-02	Emergency Obstetric Care	UNFPA	12,603	8,085	64	4,564	36	12,603	10,912	87	7,391	59	
D 2-06	Strengthening Immunization Services in Iraq	UNICEF	7,900	0	0	0	0	7,900	2,256	29	707	9	
D 2-03	Supporting Primary Health Care System	WHO	37,364	20,171	54	15,027	40	37,364	23,772	64	18,063	48	
D 2-04	Re-establishing the National Drug Quality Control Laboratory	WHO	5,977	3,529	59	1,721	29	5,977	5,581	93	2,537	42	
D 2-05	Non-communicable Diseases and Mental Health	WHO	11,000	5,147	47	1,858	17	11,000	6,617	60	3,084	28	
D 2-07	Improving Preparedness and Response to Impending Cholera Outbreak	WHO	0	0	0	0	0	858	0	0	0	0	
D 2-09	Malaria and Leishmania Control and Prevention Emergency Programme	WHO	0	0	0	0	0	5,157	755	15	0	0	
D 2-10	Health Care Waste Management	WHO	0	0	0	0	0	1,408	114	8	25	2	
D 2-11	Provision of Emergency Medical Oxygen Supply in Baghdad, Mosul and Kirkuk	WHO	0	0	0	0	0	2,825	160	6	0	0	
TOTAL			74,844	36,932	49	23,170	31	85,996	50,166	58	31,808	37	

To date, 10 projects totalling about \$86 million have been funded in the Health and Nutrition Cluster. Overall Cluster delivery at the end of June 2005 amounted to approximately \$37 million (49 per cent) in terms of commitments and about \$23 million (31 per cent) in terms of disbursements. By the end of September 2005, commitments had reached \$50 million (58 per cent) and disbursements, \$32 million (37 per cent).

C. Key Accomplishments

The Health Cluster has made notable contributions over the past year.

Basic health services have been sustained since the war when they could have collapsed. A cholera epidemic has been avoided (no cholera cases reported since January 2005) with the assistance of chlorination provided by cluster E (Infrastructure Rehabilitation), which, together with Iraqi experts, has chlorinated water supplies every month. Polio cases have not appeared. During the summer of 2005, the United Nations and Iraqi authorities

vaccinated nearly 5 million children. As a result of three measles, mumps and rubella campaigns (March/April 2004, December 2004 and April/May 2005), Iraq has the lowest-ever incidence of measles and mumps, while other neighbouring countries are experiencing an increased level of mumps. Iraq is moving from the measles control phase to measles elimination. Only 38 cases of malaria were reported in Iraq during the first ten months of 2005 compared to 130 cases reported in the same period of 2004; such is the positive impact of prevention and control activities in the country implemented by the Centre for Disease Control in Baghdad with WHO technical and logistical support. In addition, a 50 per cent decrease in the incidence of visceral leishmaniasis cases has been reported in the whole of Iraq during the first eight months of 2005 in comparison with the same period in 2004.

The development of key policies to support the MoH as well as a plethora of standard operating procedures and guidelines continued during the reporting period under review. For example, the MoH developed a plan of action and an operational research protocol – with technical support from WHO – to screen for blindness and take necessary preventative measures. A national surveillance system for cardiovascular diseases, cancer and diabetes was established. An Iraq National Medicines Policy (NMP) and a National Drug Quality Strategy were developed and a Maternal and Child Health and Reproductive Health Strategy was finalized.

WHO managed to award 166 international fellowships and study tours under the PHC programme alone. During the reporting period, 88 officials of Iraqi line ministries were trained and 166 participated in workshops conducted in Amman and/or neighbouring countries. Six delegates from the Iraqi MoH took part in a one-week study tour in Egypt at the National Training Institute in March 2005. The training of trainers in emergency obstetric care for doctors and nurses/midwives took place for 36 doctors and nurses in Egypt during the period 12-17 May 2005.

In addition, a large amount of procurement has been completed and more continues to be processed. WHO has delivered almost one million different pieces of medical equipment, supplies, drugs, kits, informatics equipment, accessories and other items. Furthermore, it is also in the process of purchasing considerable amounts of equipment for use in the Primary Health Care Centres. UNFPA delivered 42 ambulances to Baghdad to be distributed among the 21 hospitals in addition to three monitoring vehicles and multiple consignments of spare parts kits for the vehicles, delivery kits and manual suckers for the ambulances, and pharmaceutical and medical products.

WHO, under the PHC project alone, is currently rehabilitating 134 health facilities, out of which four were completed and 10 were under implementation in the reporting period (see section G for the latest figures). It is also constructing 19 training centres within the Directorate of Health in each governorate, which will also be fully equipped. Thirteen of these are currently under implementation and will have been completed by the end of October 2005. Five training halls have been completed and one project in Baghdad is still under the bidding process. Steady progress has been made in the physical rehabilitation of the laboratory space at the National Drug Quality Control Laboratory and the main laboratory building is 88 per cent complete, with \$1.49 million worth of laboratory equipment and supplies having been received (as of 30 June 2005).

Under the UNFPA project, rehabilitation work managed by UNOPS has begun at the maternity wards of four hospital sites. At seven sites, detailed designs were prepared and submitted to the MoH for final approval, and for a further seven sites, preliminary designs were prepared and submitted to the MoH for approval.

D. Implementation Mechanisms

The Cluster members comprise WHO (the Cluster Coordinator), IOM, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNIFEM, UNOPS and WFP. They work in close collaboration with the MoH as the driving force as well as with other key ministries such as Higher Education, Education, Environment, and Planning and Development Cooperation. Non-governmental partners include national and international NGOs, other UN Clusters, parent organizations and donors.

WHO currently has three sub-offices in Iraq (Baghdad, Basrah and Erbil) in addition to focal points in the other governorates. It has over 75 national staff (technical and support staff) working inside the country. From its base in Amman and its national staff network, it works closely with the MoH/district directors through

teleconferencing and direct meetings in Amman and by visits of the WHO representative to Baghdad. Information flow is streamlined, with increasing use of video links for sharing with partners, planning, decision-making and advocacy. WHO local staff serve as first contact in Baghdad; then WHO staff in Amman (virtual communication or face to face) are used to provide technical support.

WHO collaborates with the MoH and the private sector for the implementation of rehabilitation works. An adapted procedure for these works was agreed between WHO and the Ministry and is set out in Part One, chapter two, section 2.2.3. WHO also cooperates with the International NGO, MERLIN, for a small component of capacity-building of MoH staff in the Communicable Disease Control Centre. UNFPA uses UNOPS as implementing partner for the rehabilitation of maternity wards.

E. Specific Agency Implementation

WHO – D2-03 Strengthening Primary Health Care Services Programme

The implementation of the expected outcomes is progressing as planned. The programme emphasizes policy formulation and implementation based on the objective of transitioning the health care delivery system from a hospital-oriented, capital-intensive model to a quality primary health care (PHC) system with a proper referral system and the initiation of the family medicine practice at the PHC level. Several standard operating procedures and guidelines have been provided in different areas, such as procurement where a team has been trained in proper procedures and documentation. Other activities such as the awarding of fellowships and national training have taken place. Training in computer skills and use of the Internet has been ongoing together with courses in the English language. Another dialogue was initiated with the MoH staff on the preparation of the “Health system profile” document, which gives a summary of the health system in Iraq together with all other factors affecting the health system whether they are macro- or microeconomic factors, laws and regulations, the judicial system or others.

WHO is currently rehabilitating 134 primary health care facilities (fewer than originally planned owing to budgetary constraints and price inflation in the country). The centres that were in urgent need, according to the needs assessment conducted in November 2004, have priority. Four have been completed and 10 are under implementation. WHO is also constructing 19 training centres within the Directorate of Health in each governorate, which will also be fully equipped in order to improve knowledge and ensure continued education. These training centres are linked to the training-of-trainers courses that WHO is conducting: as Iraqis are trained in Amman by WHO international experts, they return home to train their fellow colleagues in the WHO/MOH-constructed training centres. Thirteen of these centres will have been completed by the end of October 2005. Five training halls have been completed and one project in Baghdad is still under the bidding process (which slowed down owing to the security situation).

Considerable amounts of supplies that were reported as being procured in the First Progress Report have now been delivered. WHO has delivered almost one million different pieces of medical equipment, supplies, drugs, kits, informatics equipment, accessories and other items. Furthermore, it is in the process of purchasing considerable amounts of equipment for use in the PHC centres. WHO is currently working on the improvement of the health information system in Iraq, entailing the provision of hardware and software (under way). In response to emergencies, WHO has supported the MoH in the provision of medicines and medical supplies for a variety of emergency programmes.

In terms of capacity-building, WHO managed to award 166 international fellowships and places on study tours. In addition, during the reporting period, about 88 Iraqi line ministry officials were trained and 166 participated in workshops conducted in Amman and/or neighbouring countries.

WHO has provided considerable technical and logistical support to prevent and control malaria and leishmaniasis in Iraq. It supported the nationwide leishmaniasis and malaria preventative spraying campaigns that were conducted in April and September 2004 and April 2005 and fogging activities that had been started in April 2004

and that continued until November 2004 as well as those that were conducted in April 2005. It distributed bed nets to all governorates along with health education materials. WHO also supported the rodent control activities and entomological surveillance and recently provided 40 entomological kits.

WHO – D2-04 National Drug Quality Control Laboratory Programme

Steady progress has been made in the physical rehabilitation of the laboratory space and the main laboratory building is 88 per cent completed (as of 30 June 2005). Most of the ordered equipment has been delivered to the site and the installation and commissioning will start as soon as the physical rehabilitation of the laboratory space has been completed. The majority of requested laboratory equipment, supplies and reagents have been delivered to the National Drug Quality Control Laboratory (NDQCL). As of June 2005, orders valued at \$2,034,522 had been confirmed, of which \$1,494,715 worth of goods had been received in Amman; subsequently, \$1,415,300 worth of goods have been transferred to the NDQCL project site in Baghdad. This includes about 6,000 different pieces of laboratory equipment, supplies, reagents, international reference standards, informatics equipment, etc.

In specific areas of drug analysis, the return to the National Centre for Drug Control and Research (NCDCR) of 12 lab technicians who completed their fellowships in Egypt and Tunisia has contributed immensely to a better drug quality control process and reporting.

WHO has assisted the MoH in developing an Iraqi National Medicines Policy. Also a National Drug Quality Strategy has been developed and guidelines and standard operating procedures are being developed. These valuable policies will serve as a framework for strengthening all components of the national pharmaceutical sector over the next five years.

Similarly, the development of guidelines and standard operating procedures is progressing as planned. Technical documents with detailed guidelines on good laboratory practices and quality assurance schemes have been procured and delivered to the NCDCR and are regularly being used by technical staff. These will assist them in developing standard operating procedures and adapting these guidelines to the specific conditions of the laboratory and the needs of Iraq.

During study tours and training, compilations of standard operating procedures applied to specific tests are also being done. Some of these standard operating procedures are related to testing products of human origin and vaccines as well as high pressure liquid chromatographic techniques, which are already being applied.

WHO – D2-05 Mental Health and Non-communicable Disease Programme

The standardized baseline data on common non-communicable disease (NCD) risk factors have been established as well as a surveillance system for cardiovascular diseases, cancer and diabetes. The national cancer registry system has been strengthened. WHO has responded to an MoH request for the provision of varying quantities of 28 line items of medicines and medical supplies. The NCD equipment (worth just over \$1.8 million) has been procured by the WHO global procurement system; it has been partially delivered into Iraq and is being partially staged in Jordan for delivery. The system has delivered almost 90,000 different pieces of medical equipment, supplies, informatics equipment and accessories.

The MoH developed a plan of action and an operational research protocol – with technical support from WHO – to screen for blindness and take necessary preventative measures. As part of this protocol, WHO is supporting Iraqi eye hospitals and eye centres. Furthermore, WHO is advocating the VISION 2020 Action Plan for Iraq and several meetings were held in the MoH for the National Committee on prevention of Blindness. WHO has also supported four national training workshops for PHC physicians and refractionists on the management of common causes of blindness and low vision in PHC settings; 120 participants have been trained. It has procured ophthalmic supplies with a total value of around \$600,000. Supplies, including ophthalmic argon lasers with full accessories, microscopes, light-direct ophthalmoscopes and indirect ophthalmoscopes and binoculars, were delivered into Iraq in late August 2005.

In terms of the mental health component of the project, much has been achieved. Mental health facilities are being revitalized and the system is being strengthened with new units. Six new mental health units are to be constructed and eight are to be rehabilitated. As of 30 June 2005, one unit was under construction in Erbil and had been 15 per cent completed; three construction projects were at the contracting stage and two were still under bidding. For rehabilitation, one project had been completed in Suleimaniya; four projects were under implementation (Baquba, 25 per cent completed; Babel, 10 per cent; Basrah, 1 per cent; and Mosul, 20 per cent); two projects were under bidding; and one project was at the contracting stage.

WHO officials continued to meet with MoH representatives in Amman to review and finalize current plans and current implementation for mental health activities and specifically agreed to support the pilot on assessment of mental disorders using the composite international diagnostic interview, a more thorough assessment of mental health services using the WHO AIM tool, and training for teams and non-psychiatric mental health workers.

The following capacity-building initiatives were completed: in-country training for primary care providers in dealing with addiction in primary care settings; a research workshop in Amman for 20 psychiatrists to develop research proposals that would be supported for follow-through activities; and WHO training for two medical officers and a pharmacist in conducting workshops on school-based and public health education (psychosocial first aid) and integration of mental health with primary health care services. Two booklets on psychological first aid are being prepared for trainers and public mental health education. Also, a group of Iraqi psychiatrists was trained in the United Kingdom for two months and two psychiatrists participated in an international conference on mental health in Italy.

UNFPA – D2-02 Emergency Obstetric Care Programme

Rehabilitation work managed by UNOPS began at four hospital sites: Alhamdanyia Hospital, Hamoania, Ninewa; Balad General Hospital, Balad, Salah-El-Din; Alnoor (Al-Hakeem Hospital), Al-Shala town, Baghdad; and Kirkuk General Hospital, Kirkuk, Tameem. At seven sites, detailed designs were prepared and submitted to the MoH for final approval, and for a further seven sites, preliminary designs were prepared and submitted to the MoH for approval.

UNFPA procured the first quantity of medical equipment, supplies and essential drugs in accordance with the request of the MoH. Twenty-one ambulances were delivered to Baghdad for distribution among the 21 hospitals. Along with the 21 ambulances, another 3 monitoring vehicles were also sent to the MoH in Iraq in addition to multiple consignments of spare parts kits for the vehicles, delivery kits and manual suckers for the ambulances, and pharmaceutical and medical products.

Another 21 ambulances with spare parts kits were purchased and are expected to arrive in Jordan by the end of July 2005, and 3 armoured vehicles were ordered and are expected to arrive in Jordan by the end of August 2005. Those vehicles along with a consignment of five containers of medical equipment are expected to be sent to Baghdad by mid-September 2005.

Six delegates from the Iraqi MoH took part in a study tour in Egypt at the National Training Institute during the period 19-24 March 2005. The training of trainers in emergency obstetric care for doctors and nurses/midwives was conducted for 36 doctors and nurses in Egypt from 12-17 May 2005.

F. Hurdles Encountered and Implementation Constraints

The change of government and the high turnover of senior MoH management have been significant constraints on implementation; certain plans of action had to be reworked after having been agreed. With the change of personnel came a loss of some of the capacity already built. Since the Cluster operates according to the principle of achieving implementation through intense capacity development of the MoH, the process sometimes had to be started again.

The decision-making process was often lengthy: senior managers approved original action plans and then some of the decisions taken and plans agreed upon would be overruled after project approval.

Security constraints to the in-city and inter-city movement of national staff have also constituted a major constraint to implementation.

Communication between the MoH at the centre and on the periphery has often been inadequate. The operational budget of the MoH has also been a significant hurdle. The Cluster is engaging middle-level managers at both the central and governorate levels in order to mitigate the effect of these hurdles and to ensure commitment from a wider range of professionals.

G. Future Work Plan for Ongoing Approved Projects/Programmes

WHO – D2-03 Supporting Primary Health Care System

The major achievements from June to September 2005 include considerable progress in training and completion of significant amounts of rehabilitation and construction work as well as a large amount of administrative and background work associated with major impact, which will be demonstrated in the next reporting period.

WHO continued to support the physical rehabilitation of various health facilities. Out of 134 primary health care centres and 19 training centres selected for rehabilitation, 50 PHC and 8 training centres have been completed to date. Through December 2005, WHO plans to complete the rehabilitation of the primary health care centres and the installation of the procured equipment. Family medicine practices will be piloted in two locations. A basic health kit package will be developed and associated training delivered. CBI will be implemented in the eight designated areas; the programme has already started, the baseline survey has been completed, and two groups each consisting of 15 participants have been sent to the Islamic Republic of Iran and Thailand to gain from the experience of other countries and ensure lessons learned. Almost 22,000 basic public health items, supplies and equipment and medical and non-medical furniture will be procured. Moreover, WHO is currently working with the Ministry on the preparation of a basic health service package that will provide a list of services for each level of care, and a basic training package that will refresh the skills of the health staff in the provision of the basic services at the PHC level.

WHO is currently working with the MoH on the finalization of the referral system, which is necessary to strengthen the PHC system and to provide a strong basis for referrals to tertiary care.

WHO is also working with different ministries on linking the MDGs with their strategic planning and budgeting. This will accelerate the implementation of the MDGs through interventions that will address the prevailing needs. It is vital to sustain the public health achievements made and for this to be reflected in government policies and in the priorities of development partners.

WHO – D2-04 Re-establishing National Drug Quality Control Programme

The rehabilitation of the Annexes will continue in the period to September and beyond. Once the main laboratory building has been completed, the installation of delivered equipment will begin immediately. At the same time, measures are being taken to ensure that there is no interruption of the NDQCL services currently being provided. During the rehabilitation work, these drug-related basic services are limited mainly to the performance of mandatory drug testing activities. These activities, which are currently accommodated in these Annex buildings, will be moved to the main building as soon as the rehabilitation work has been completed.

Between July and September 2005, lab medical equipment, reagents and supplies worth \$565,067 were received in Amman and goods valued at \$225,350 were delivered to the project site. This brings the cumulative values of good received in Amman and shipped to Iraq as of 12 September to \$2,059,782 and \$1,640,653, respectively.

In September, two laboratory technologists completed five days of training in the use of two newly acquired titration systems (Metrohm and Karl Fisher systems) in Amman; the training was organized by the supplier representative. Preparations for training courses for the engineering team that will be involved in the repair and maintenance of sophisticated equipment are at an advanced stage and will take place in Jordan and other neighbouring countries in October and November 2005.

With regard to training of lab technicians, plans for placing 32 fellows in Indonesia and in the Islamic Republic of Iran have been made. The training in the Islamic Republic of Iran will include topics such as the management of quality control, densitometer thin layer chromatography, dissolution techniques and the use of densitometer and infrared absorption as well as training in standard operating procedures.

During the next reporting period, the priority will be to ensure that all capacity-building activities, including the above-mentioned fellowships, are completed. Priority will also be given to the installation and commissioning of laboratory equipment, in particular that requiring installation by the supplier engineering team.

WHO – D2-05 Non-communicable Disease and Mental Health Programme

A workshop for training of trainers in the establishment of the WHO Stepwise approach to non-communicable disease (NCD) risk factor surveillance was held in Amman from 14-18 August 2005 for 25 participants. Participants had the opportunity to discuss the Jordanian experience in implementing the system and practice developing a national plan of action. They also were provided with tools to establish a national surveillance system.

The following national training activities and multi-sectoral meetings on the areas of NCD surveillance, prevention and control were conducted during this period:

- Two national symposia were held in August and September with professional and specialized physicians in the MoH and other related ministries to discuss the national plan for a NCD risk factor surveillance system.
- In response to the increasing risk of tobacco consumption among youth, a national school-based project for tobacco control has been established and is now in the process of implementation.
- Three national training workshops in the integrated approach in NCD care at the PHC level and at public clinics were conducted for 100 general practitioners and PHC physicians.
- Two multi-sectoral symposiums for community leaders on NCD risk factors and promotion of healthy life styles were conducted for 50 participants in Baghdad.
- One training workshop was held on the Einfo statistical analysis programme for 15 participants from the MoH in preparation for Stepwise risk factor surveillance.
- A national three-day workshop for training of trainers for NCD risk factor surveillance focal points in all DoHs was organized in Suleimaniya for 38 participants.
- Sixteen national training activities for local surveillance teams in preparation for conducting surveillance for NCD risk factors were undertaken from September to November 2005.
- Several national committee meetings were held with COSIT to determine sample size of the Stepwise country plan.

From June to September 2005, progress was made in the construction and rehabilitation of mental health units. For construction, three projects are under bidding and three are being implemented (Najaf: site preparation; Nassiriyah: 3 per cent completion; and Erbil: 65 per cent completion). With regard to rehabilitation, two projects are under bidding, one is being implemented (Baghdad Karkh/Al-Yarmok: 95 per cent completion) and five have been completed (Babel, Baquba, Basrah, Mosul and Suleimaniya). In addition, almost \$500,000 worth of supplies and medical equipment were delivered into Iraq from 30 June to 20 September 2005. As a result, the total value of equipment delivered in support to this project is \$2.27 million to date.

WHO priority actions planned up until 31 December 2005 include capacity-building for MoH staff through training fellowships; national training activities for all disciplines outlined in the NCD prevention and control

programme; obtaining baseline data on major NCD risk factors; starting a surveillance system for major NCDs of public health significance; installation of all equipment that has been received; and integration of NCD care into primary health care services. In addition, capacity-building will be provided to support the provision of available mental health services, psychiatric units will be expanded to replace the need for mental health hospitals, and psychiatric medications and therapeutic tools will be delivered. Twenty training fellowships in Egypt, India and the United Kingdom in the area of substance abuse will be supported by WHO.

UNFPA – D2-02 Emergency Obstetrics Care Programme

A needs assessment will be carried out at the 21 sites targeted by the project in consultation with the MoH to recognize the determinants of maternal mortality. The assessment will focus on issues such as domestic violence, community response, inefficiency and delay of referrals in addition to cultural and social behaviours that might have an effect on increasing maternal deaths. It will update and expand upon the 2003 assessment. The project will also contribute to the development of the National Reproductive Health Strategy document.

UNOPS, together with the UNFPA office in Iraq, is making every effort to have the remaining hospitals approved by the MoH for rehabilitation. It is planning to conduct a technical workshop to be held in an appropriate location in or outside Iraq that will include national staff from the MoH.

A plan for delivery, distribution and monitoring of supplies, drugs and equipment procured under the emergency obstetrics care project will be developed during the last quarter of 2005 in collaboration with the MoH. Delivery of all supplies, drugs, equipment and vehicles will be carried out mostly from Jordan to Iraq using specialized private-sector companies through a competitive bidding process. Each of the 18 referral-level health facilities with training centres will receive information technology equipment as will the data processing centre of the MoH to strengthen data collection and analysis capacity. The specifications for the three armoured vehicles were finalized in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator (UNSECOORD) and the UNFPA Security Division. It is expected that the delivery will be finalized during the last quarter of 2006.

Cascade training will take place during the last quarter of 2005. The emergency obstetrics care project will provide support to developing/updating, printing and nationwide dissemination of the following materials in collaboration with the MoH: a training manual for midwives and gynaecologists on family planning service delivery, safe motherhood and emergency obstetrics care (three modules); a training manual for traditional birth attendants; and communication materials and check lists on family planning, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS, and sexual and gender-based violence.

UNICEF - D2-06 Strengthening Immunization Services in Iraq

The aim of the Strengthening Immunization Services in Iraq project, approved in June 2005, is to assist the MoH to sustain the national immunization programme through the provision of urgently needed vaccines, cold chain equipments and incinerators (for disposal of used syringes and needles as part of injection safety) as well as personnel transportation for outreach services during Polio National Immunization Days (PNIDs) in March/April 2006.

UNICEF, in consultation with the MoH, allocated 31 per cent of project funds to procure:

- 8.3 million 0.5 ml AD syringes to be delivered to Baghdad in November 2005 to replenish the syringe stock used for the measles, mumps and rubella campaign in April/May 2005 and to complement 2006 requirements.
- 1 million 0.05 ml BCG AD syringes to be delivered to Baghdad in November 2005 to cover 2006 national requirements for the routine immunization programme.
- 245,000 safety boxes to be delivered to Baghdad in October 2005 to be used for the collection of used AD syringes for safe disposal. This quantity will cover the all of the 2006 needs.
- 10 million doses of OPV to be delivered to Baghdad in January/February 2006 to cover the needs of PNIDs scheduled for March/April 2006.

- 1 million doses of BCG vaccine to be delivered to Baghdad in March 2006 to cover 2006 national requirements for the routine immunization programme.
- Spare parts for kerosene refrigerators
- 3 cold rooms for the national vaccine store.

The national immunization programme will be further strengthened through activities that will include transportation arrangements to support over 5,000 vaccination teams for PNIDs in March/April 2006; the procurement of incinerators for disposal of used syringes and needles; and the procurement of cold chain equipment as well as vaccines for routine EPI.

H. 2005-2007 Joint Iraqi-UN Assistance Strategy

In accordance with the Joint Iraqi-UN Assistance Strategy, many of the current activities will continue into 2006. Similarly, the issues of access and security will have an impact on the degree to which activities will be undertaken with a direct UN presence. However, focus areas for this Cluster will be:

- Provision of logistical support to ensure proper distribution of essential medical supplies;
- Rehabilitation of essential health infrastructure, including blood laboratories, and provision of basic equipment and technical assistance;
- Enhanced MoH focus and capacity through provision of technical and financial support on issues relating to the control of communicable and non-communicable diseases, including vaccine campaigns, and the development of a comprehensive plan of action (including identification of partners) to ensure a programmatic HIV/AIDS response;
- Enhanced reproductive health services, supplies, education and information, including maternal and child health services, emergency obstetric services and adequate communication equipment and ambulance capability;
- Capacity-building for health care professionals, including the development of mental health and psychosocial support services at the primary health care level, and promotion of disease prevention programmes and health and nutrition education activities for health service providers and the community at large;
- Provision of technical and logistical support to food safety laboratories; supplementary feeding, and vitamin, mineral and micronutrient supplementation to vulnerable groups; and support for micronutrient fortification nationwide as well as for the school feeding programme;
- Promotion of a healthy living environment through strengthened surveillance, assessment of depleted uranium contamination and formulation of follow-up activities; designing of an environmental health strategy and activities; and conducting emergency assessments and clean-up activities.

Furthermore, the six programme outcomes for the UN agencies working together in health and nutrition from 2005 to 2007 are to support the MoH in achieving:

- A 50 per cent reduction in under-five and infant mortality;
- A 15 per cent reduction in maternal mortality;
- Increased access to quality health care services, especially for vulnerable groups and the unreached;
- Enhanced disease prevention and control, including HIV/AIDS;
- Enhanced healthy living environment and promotion of a healthy lifestyle;
- Emergency preparedness and response.

5. Cluster E: Infrastructure Rehabilitation

A. Purpose of Cluster

Two decades of war and sanctions have left the Iraq infrastructure in a dilapidated and dysfunctional state. Various key components of the national electrical grid were destroyed; sewage and water treatment plants, including pumping stations, were looted and torched; and the port infrastructure of Um Qasr sustained severe damage, with navigational and environmental problems posed by wrecks in the approach channels further limiting access. There is a serious need to address the poor living conditions of many Iraqis, whether these are inadequate and insufficient housing, the consumption of unsafe water or inadequate water use, the poor management of urban space or the run-down condition of urban services, industry and infrastructure. In addition, policies on infrastructure rehabilitation need review in order both to manage pressing short-term issues and prepare for future demands.

Mission Statement

The Infrastructure Rehabilitation Cluster aims to ensure key infrastructure is rehabilitated and utilised efficiently, and to make real progress towards developing Iraq's national capacities in infrastructure planning, prioritisation and management

The Cluster seeks to formulate and implement programmes on institutional/policy reform, capacity-building and service provision necessary to rehabilitate and develop the infrastructure of human settlements, including water, sanitation, housing, electricity and waste disposal. It also tackles urban management and industry aimed at improving the quality of life at both urban and rural levels in ways that maximize access to services and minimize environmental impact as per the MDGs.

B. Programmes/Projects Funded to Date

Table 5. Cluster E: Infrastructure Rehabilitation – Approved and Funded Projects

PROJECT	AGENCY	AS OF 30 JUNE 2005						AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2005					
		FUNDED AMOUNT	COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT		FUNDED AMOUNT	COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT			
		USD 000s	USD 000s	%	USD 000s	%	USD 000s	USD 000s	%	USD 000s	%		
E 3-05	Community-based Integrated WATSAN Rehabilitation and Management Project	UNHABITAT	0	0	0	0	0	1,984	0	0	0	0	
E 3-01	Rehabilitation of Water and Sanitation Systems in Southern Iraq	UNICEF	21,500	9,599	45	1,718	8	21,500	12,651	59	4,996	23	
E 3-02	Rehabilitation of Chlorination Plant	UNIDO	7,016	638	9	82	1	7,016	548	8	109	2	
E 3-07	Kerbala Water Treatment Plant: Rehabilitation of Filter Units	UNOPS	0	0	0	0	0	1,251	0	0	0	0	
E 3-03	Water Quality Control and Surveillance	WHO	6,262	2,196	35	868	14	6,262	4,733	76	1,658	26	
E 4-01	Emergency Power Supply	UNDP	11,999	2,719	23	225	2	11,999	5,994	50	1,085	9	
E 4-02	National Dispatch Centre	UNDP	11,948	10,000	84	2,109	18	11,948	10,000	84	2,374	20	
E 4-06	Dredging of Um Qasr Port Approach Channel	UNDP	24,742	24,742	100	17,563	71	24,742	24,742	100	20,396	82	
E 4-07	Rehabilitation of Mousul Power Station	UNDP	17,585	17,528	100	3,150	18	17,585	17,528	100	3,306	19	
E 4-08	Rehabilitation of Taji Power Station	UNDP	25,892	25,846	100	4,636	18	25,892	25,846	100	4,969	19	
E 4-09	Rehabilitation of Hartha Power Station	UNDP	17,789	15,392	87	3,648	21	17,789	15,392	87	10,393	58	
E 4-10	Rehabilitation of Mussayib Power Station - Stage 1	UNDP	15,511	15,345	99	2,892	19	15,511	15,345	99	4,035	26	
E 4-15	Rehabilitation of Mussayib Power Station - Stage 2	UNDP	33,000	0	0	0	0	33,000	0	0	0	0	
E 4-04	Strengthening Capacity of Housing Sector	UNHABITAT	5,966	5,683	95	2,953	50	5,966	6,269	105	3,547	59	
E 4-11	Strengthening Urban Sector through Building Capacities in Municipal Planning and Management	UNHABITAT	2,550	982	39	437	17	2,550	2,079	82	1,562	61	
E 4-14	Rehabilitation of Community Facilities and Infrastructure	UNHABITAT	0	0	0	0	0	16,025	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL			201,761	130,670	65	40,281	20	221,021	141,128	64	58,430	26	

As of 30 September 2005, 16 projects, totalling about \$221 million, had been funded in the Infrastructure Rehabilitation Cluster. Overall cluster delivery at the end of June 2005 amounted to approximately \$131 million (65 per cent) in commitments and \$40.3 million (20 per cent) in disbursements. By the end of the third quarter of 2005, approximately \$141 million (64 per cent) in commitments and \$58 million (26 per cent) in disbursements had been made.

C. Key Accomplishments

Delivery of Services

Rehabilitation of Electrical Power Stations

Works are ongoing in rehabilitating four electrical power station generating units with a total design capacity of 800 megawatts (MW). Upon finalization of these works, about 300 MW will have been added to the system, the reliability of the power stations will have been increased and power network stability assured.

Regarding the supply of essential maintenance parts for two units of 200 MW each in Hartha Thermal Power Station, under Stage I, the supply of spares has been completed. Unit No.1 was synchronized after rehabilitation works. The unit has been running with an output of 195 MW (which had decreased to 125 MW in the past) without interruption. For the rehabilitation of three gas turbine units of 20 MW each in Taji Power Station, a contract with Hitachi was signed and a kick-off meeting was held in July 2005, with an estimated completion date of February 2007. A contract with Hitachi was also signed and a kick-off meeting was held in July 2005 for the rehabilitation of two gas turbine units of 20 MW each in Mosul Power Station. For the rehabilitation of one unit of 300 MW in Mussayib Thermal Power Station, a contract with Hitachi was signed and hot and cold assessment is ongoing.

Rehabilitation of National Dispatch Centre (NDC)

The intended outcome of this project is to stabilize the electricity situation throughout Iraq, to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the electricity network. Contract implementation of 18 months commenced on 15 January 2005 and will be completed by 15 July 2006. The contract includes procurement of a new SCADA/EMS system, including Remote Terminal Units.

Emergency Electricity Repair

Sixty-five diesel generators (a total of more than 60 MW) have been procured and delivered. Fifty-two of these have already been installed in 16 hospitals/health centres, 18 water-pumping stations and 18 other essential services. Works are in progress for installing the balance of the generators. The purchasing of four cable test vans and training for four Ministry of Electricity (MoEl) engineers increased the capability of MoEl maintenance crews to locate faults in underground high-voltage cable networks, thus reducing significantly the time required for undertaking repair works.

Rehabilitation of Waterways

The Cluster completed the main work of clearing the access waterways to the port of Um Qasr. A total of approximately 8 million cu m of material was removed from the approach channel and disposed of in the specified spoil areas, thus increasing maritime accessibility and enabling the smooth flow of aid and reconstruction needs into the country.

Rehabilitation of Water and Sanitation

Six water treatment plants/compact units in Missan and Wassit Governorates were rehabilitated and are serving about 100,000 people. The population of these communities has also been trained in the maintenance of these units and in hygiene promotion. A large number of water and sanitation rehabilitation activities in the eight

southern governorates are ongoing/ in the process of being implemented and are expected to benefit approximately 1.8 million people.

The Cluster is also working on the rehabilitation of a chlorine production plant in Basrah. Following a baseline assessment that indicated that the current diaphragm cell technology in the plant could not be rehabilitated based on environmental and operational considerations, modern membrane technology was agreed upon with project counterparts in June 2005. In the meantime, through a non-UNDG ITF project, UNICEF is delivering the necessary chlorine until national production can be assured.

Water quality surveillance is the other key area of Cluster intervention; the number of water samples being analysed has risen by 70 per cent, contributing to a clean water supply.

Training and Capacity Development

The Cluster undertook several initiatives to address the chronic shortcomings in institutional and technical capacities of its Iraqi counterparts that had resulted from years of sanctions and decades of isolation. Seventy-five officials were trained in urban planning and geographical information systems (GISs). Twenty-one technical staff from the MoEI underwent training in Japan and the Republic of Korea in assessment of the condition of thermal power stations to facilitate the rehabilitation of Al-Mussayib thermal power station. The returned staff undertook a detailed technical assessment of the condition of this thermal power station. The assessment information provided to UNDP and contractors via a remote videoconferencing link will be used to define parts and materials for rehabilitation. Smaller groups of engineers (from 5 to 10) were sent abroad to manufacturers for training under the other electricity rehabilitation projects, e.g., training of six MoEI engineers in Remote Terminal Unit maintenance in Mannheim, Germany, and Vasteras, Sweden. Extensive training programmes were organized as an integral part of water and sanitation projects. Exclusive training in the proper operation and maintenance of reverse osmosis units besides brief workshops on “Leak detection” and “Low mechanical content water treatment plant” was conducted in Kuwait.

D. Implementation Mechanisms

The Cluster members comprise UNICEF (the Cluster Coordinator), ESCWA, UNDP, UNEP, UN-HABITAT, UNIDO, UNOPS and WHO. They work closely with the Ministries of Municipalities and Public Works, Planning and Development Cooperation, Electricity, Transportation, Housing and Construction, Justice, Environment and Industry as well as with the Mayoralty of Baghdad, municipalities, communities, NGOs and the private sector.

As indicated in the First Progress Report on water and sanitation, all the agencies active in this area work closely together. Owing to its specialized nature, the UNDP team working on electricity works somewhat independently (it is based in Nicosia, Cyprus). In Iraq, all parts of the Cluster work extremely closely with engineering counterparts at every stage.

For the rehabilitation work of the MoEn Central Water Quality Laboratory, WHO engineers work hand in hand with the MoEn engineers and prepared all the drawings, BOQs and the tender documents. The MoEn announced the bidding in the local newspapers and a committee from the MoEn – with supervision from WHO engineers – opened and analysed the offers and then selected the winner. During the implementation of the project by an Iraqi contractor, both MoEn and WHO engineers are supervising the works.

In terms of global procurement, generally the line ministry and WHO prepare the list of items that need to be procured globally. Then the request is forwarded to the WHO Iraq office for the procurement process. The WHO Project Manager, in consultation with the concerned technical teams from the line ministry, set the specifications for the requested items and send the lists to WHO Headquarters through the WHO Regional Office for global procurement.

UNICEF continues to run operations via its national staff, in close consultation with the international staff in Amman and Kuwait. Iraqi staff travel to Amman on a regular basis to ensure the proper flow of information

between offices in Amman and Baghdad. A strengthened logistics line has been established between Amman and Baghdad, while procurement of major supplies continues to be undertaken through the UNICEF Supply Division in Copenhagen, with the distribution of supplies being monitored by contracted monitors. In addition, UNICEF will make use of its already pre-qualified local contractors, who can undertake rehabilitation works at the selected project sites.

Quality control at the project sites and monitoring of the activities are undertaken by a team of monitors and engineers hired by UNICEF through an external contractor. The monitors and engineers – some of them previously UNICEF/UN staff – provide critical monitoring/supervisory input to the implementation of the project. They track the arrival of supplies/equipment and supervise the civil works and installation of equipment in various governorates while reporting to the UNICEF staff in Baghdad/Amman for technical guidance and adherence to implementation schedules. This enables UNICEF to minimize the exposure of its national staff to risks involved in travelling to project sites while still being able to monitor the programme implementation process and results. The security situation permitting, UNICEF national staff make random visits to a statistically significant number of project sites. The local-authority staff are involved in every step/process, starting with the handing over of sites to contractors, monitoring during implementation and taking over after the warranty period, further ensuring that the deliverables are in accordance with quality standards.

At present, a few international NGOs are active in the water and sanitation sector in the lower south and this project works in full partnership with them. Owing to deterioration in the financial capacity of the MoMPW, UNICEF is no longer able to outsource services to this Ministry. The project therefore directly contracts work, with the full involvement of the MoMPW in the identification of priorities, the development of BOQs and tender documents, supervision of contractors and final acceptance of all work conducted, including that done by international NGOs.

For UNDP, the whole of the infrastructure section is located in Nicosia, with international staff working on Um Qasr-related activities based in Kuwait. In some specific cases and when the security situation permitted, border meetings and cross-border operations were organized. Specifically, missions from Kuwait to Um Qasr were organized on several occasions for international staff to be directly involved in coordinating and supervising specific activities such as dredging. Innovative remote management mechanisms have been introduced for power station rehabilitation, as indicated in the box in chapter two.

E. Specific Agency Implementation

Electricity

UNDP – E4-01 Emergency Power Supply

An order has been placed to supply 360 kilovolt-ampere distribution transformers and associated LV Boards, with delivery planned towards January 2006. Contracts for rehabilitation of the Um Qasr electricity distribution network have been awarded to two local contractors, with a completion date in April 2006. Orders have been placed for procuring necessary equipment (steel poles, insulators, conductors, cable and accessories). Delivery has started and is expected to be completed by the end of October 2005. Purchase orders have been placed for software and computing equipment.

Ten electrical engineers from six distribution directorates of the MoEl arrived in Amman on 15 September: eight engineers for the system planning training and two engineers for GIS training. Basic software training has been completed. GIS software application and system training is on going. Training in the application of CYEMDIST software has been completed. Training in the application of ArcGIS Editor Software will be completed in mid-October 2005.

UNDP – E4-02 National Dispatch Centre

A turnkey contract for the supply and installation of SCADA/EMS system (Stage 1), including Remote Terminal Units (Stage 2), was awarded to ABB Power Technologies of Sweden on 8 December 2004 and works commenced on 15 January 2005.

The SCADA/EMS Factory Acceptance Test for the Pre-development System has been conducted successfully. At present, the equipment is being used for training and database population in the factory (Sugar Land, Houston, Texas, United States). Training for the database maintenance group (five MoEl engineers) has been conducted and as their on-the-job training, they are now doing the database population and graphic displays generation in Sugar Land. The SCADA database has been completed while the EMS database and graphic displays generation is in progress. The factory acceptance test for the system (for the above-mentioned hardware and software) is scheduled for mid-September 2005. Shipment is planned for October, with installation to start in November.

Manufacturing of the Remote Terminal Units (RTUs) has been 90 per cent completed. The factory acceptance test has been carried out for 50 per cent of the RTUs (first batch), which were shipped to Baghdad in July 2005. Installation started in August. Database generation for the first batch of RTUs has been completed and the remaining is in progress (by UNDP and MoEl engineers). Graphics display generation is to start in August. Shipment for the second batch of RTUs is scheduled for September 2005. Training for the MoEl RTU maintenance engineers (six people) has been conducted in Mannheim, Germany, and Vasteras, Sweden. Training for the first group of MoEl RTU technicians (two people) has been conducted in Mannheim, Germany, with training for the second group (four people) scheduled for October 2005.

Power Station Rehabilitation

UNDP – E4-07 Rehabilitation of Mosul Power Station and E4-08 Rehabilitation of Taji Power Station

Taji and Mosul contracts were signed on a turnkey basis with Hitachi Ltd. in May 2005. Project supervision and technical management will be performed by Hitachi Ltd. Implementation of site works will be carried out by a local (Iraqi) subcontractor hired by Hitachi. Monitoring of the site works will be carried out by the UNDP local consultant, supported by MoEl site personnel. The main site activities and consequently achievements on site, as per the project time schedule, will commence from mid-2006.

UNDP – E4-09 Rehabilitation of Hartha Power Station

The expected increase in generating capability of the units from 150 MW to 190MW has been achieved. The expected stability of the units has also been achieved to a great extent. After June 2005 when Unit 1 was put under shutdown for major rehabilitation, which resulted in increased stability, the unit has tripped only twice and that also on a transmission line fault. The duration of breakdown on fault has been reduced as the spare parts are readily available in most cases. Capacity-building through training of engineers in both stages has been achieved. A set of manuals, drawings and software requested by the Hartha power plant have been delivered.

With the use of spare parts supplied under Stage 1, Unit 1 has been rehabilitated. Its output had fallen as low as 125 MW but it has now improved to 195 MW. The Unit is stable and the output is the maximum to which it has so far been loaded. Rating of the Unit is 200 MW.

Units 1 and 4 have achieved quite a stable state except for disturbances in the transmission system; the unit outages have been substantially reduced.

For Stage 2, the shipment of the first lot of equipment had already been delivered to Hartha in March 2005. Subsequently, four partial shipments of lot 2 spares and complete shipment of lot 3 equipment have been received and delivered to Hartha.

As predicted in the last report, detailed preparation permitted the signature in May 2005 of several major rehabilitation contracts.

UNDP – E4-10 and E4-15 Rehabilitation of Mussayib Power Station – Stage 1 and Stage 2

A contract between UNDP and Hitachi was signed on 11 May 2005 for the provision of goods and services under Stage 1. The contract encompasses the supply of equipment (in particular, long-lead pressure parts components for the boiler) and delivery of equipment to the site. The services component of the contract includes training of MoEI staff, monitoring of the Unit 1 assessment work by Hitachi/Hyundai specialists temporarily based in Amman, plus non-destructive examination of plant components and other site services. Twenty-one Iraqi specialists were trained in thermal unit assessment in Japan and the Republic of Korea for three weeks; three Iraqi staff were trained in Amman on the assembly and operation of the audio video teleconferencing system to be deployed at the station for monitoring the assessment and rehabilitation works.

The second stage was approved only in June 2005. Work concentrated on obtaining from the equipment supplier a list of items (identified as essential in the unit assessment) requiring long manufacture/delivery times to be procured as a Stage 2-Part A package as well as the selection of an independent outside consultant to assist in the price reviews of equipment in the supplier's bid.

Dredging

UNDP – E4-06 Dredging of Um Qasr Port Approach Channel

The main access to the only sea port of Iraq is being restored. Safer, more reliable navigation is being achieved, resulting in faster, more economic shipping of goods into Iraq. A comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Study was completed prior to the implementation of the project. A pre-contract bathymetric survey to assess/estimate the quantities to be dredged was completed and used for preparation of the contract tender documents. Pre-dredging bathymetric and UXO surveys prior to commencing the actual dredging activities were undertaken by the contractor. Two trailer suction hopper dredgers were mobilized and dredged eight million cubic metres, finishing in August 2005. The overall achieved dredging results are satisfactory and exceed the initial and anticipated productions and quantities. Technical and operational delays were minimal and well within the industry standards. Obstructions originally identified by the UXO survey were cleared and the required depths were reached in those locations.

Housing

UN-HABITAT – E4-04 Strengthening Capacity of the Housing Sector Project

A National Habitat Committee has been set up. In addition, an interministerial task force on slum upgrading is active, a slum upgrading strategy has been developed and the Ministry of Planning has approved a special allocation of \$9 million for slum upgrading. Rapid slum surveys have been carried out in 25 cities across the country. Also, 165 person-weeks of training in various aspects of design, planning, implementation and management of the housing sector have been implemented, exposing key sector stakeholders to international best practices. Seven out of 17 planned training activities and four special GIS events were implemented inside Iraq. Specialized training in housing finance and mortgage training was provided to professionals from the Ministry of Construction and Housing (MoCH), the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works (MoMPW), the Iraqi Housing Fund and the Real Estate Bank.

A round table on housing finance involving 35 Iraqi officials and 10 international experts led to the publication of the document, "Introductory Approach towards a Housing Finance Strategy in Iraq". The document, the first one of its kind, assesses housing finance needs, challenges and opportunities in Iraq and clearly establishes the importance of the housing sector in poverty alleviation, employment generation and economic development in the country. Delivery of more than \$1.3 million worth of electronic data processing equipment to the MoCH, the MoMPW and the Municipality of Baghdad was completed.

UN-HABITAT – E4-11 Strengthening the Urban Sector through Building Capacities in Municipal Planning and Management

Overall baseline organizational assessments and detailed reviews of existing planning and financial management systems were started in Basrah and Erbil. These will form the basis for end-of-the-year reports on capacity development requirements, organizational improvements and the design and implementation of more effective planning and financial management systems. Work on the feasibility of establishing public-private partnerships for the delivery of municipal services in Basrah and Erbil has been initiated.

Training and capacity development activities for staff from the Ministry and Basrah and Erbil included: a 10-day urban planning course for 15 senior planning officials; 10 days of management skills training for 30 municipal managers from Basrah and Erbil; 25 days of basic and advanced GIS training for 30 planners; and an urban planning and local government study tour to Egypt for 15 senior government officials.

Water and Sanitation

UNICEF – E3-01 Rehabilitation of Water and Sanitation Systems in Southern Iraq

UNICEF adopts a two-pronged approach in delivering the services: one is through private contractors specialized in water and sanitation rehabilitation works and the other through NGOs, which undertake rehabilitation works hand in hand with related software components such as training of operators and hygiene promotion. Completed works include six water treatment plants/compact units in Missan and Wassit Governorates that were rehabilitated and are serving about 100,000 people. Also, UNICEF has successfully installed two reverse osmosis units of 25m³/hr capacity in Al-Talimi Hospital, Basrah. A number of other activities are expected to be completed shortly. Since many of the contracts were awarded in the latter part of the second quarter of 2005, it is expected that service delivery will continue to gain momentum in the coming months, benefiting a large number of disadvantaged people.

During the reporting period, UNICEF, together with the local authorities, identified and prioritized the water and sanitation rehabilitation projects worth over \$7 million, prepared BOQs and bidding documents and issued bids for a large number of projects. In all, bids for rehabilitation of 25 water and sanitation projects have been prepared. Some of these bids have been awarded and implementation is ongoing and some needed rebidding, while some of the bids will be awarded in September 2005.

Project cooperation agreements were signed in June 2005 with two international NGOs to implement rehabilitation works along with software components (training, hygiene promotion, etc.) to have a synergistic impact on the ground and benefit some 250,000 people. In the context of these agreements, UNICEF will rehabilitate/upgrade five water treatment plants in Al-Hurya, Al-Sadr Hospital and Al-Adala, as well as ten compact units together with the extension of water networks in the marshland area of Missan Governorate. Other major activities include transformation of sewage-filled neighbourhood sites into recreational sites, construction of storm water drains and community-based solid waste projects in select neighbourhoods of Nassiriyah and Samawah cities in Thi Qar and Muthanna Governorates, respectively.

As part of the Management Services Agreement with UNICEF, UNOPS completed a preliminary assessment of the water treatment facilities, namely, Al-Adil and Al-Maymounah water projects in Missan Governorate; Al-Batha, Al-Fuhood, Al-Nasr and Al-Shuyoukh water projects in Thi Qar Governorate; and Al-Hay water and new Aziziyah water projects in Wassit Governorate.

During the reporting period, approximately 1,500 people were gainfully employed through contractors as well as NGOs. With the intensification of rehabilitation works in the coming months, employment opportunities are expected to increase significantly.

UNICEF successfully conducted a training programme in Kuwait for 20 engineers and operators from Basrah, Missan, Muthanna and Thi Qar Governorates on the proper operation and maintenance of reverse osmosis plants.

It also organized a workshop in Kuwait on the Low Mechanical Content Water Treatment Plant and Leak Detection Programme on 27 March 2005. A water quality testing and broad needs assessment study of 37 water treatment project sites in Missan Governorate was also completed.

UNIDO – E3-02 Rehabilitation of Chlorination Plant

The baseline assessment of the chlorine production plant in Basrah has been completed. On the basis of this assessment, the project approach and project strategy have had to be modified as the assessment indicated that the current diaphragm cell technology in the plant could not be rehabilitated based on environmental and operational considerations. Modern membrane technology was therefore agreed upon with project counterparts in June 2005. A supplier has been selected to undertake the basic engineering services required to define the rehabilitation work ahead. The equipment to be delivered within the current budget will be defined, and an implementation plan for the engineering services to be provided will be drawn up. The project will supply the basic engineering package and the major equipment (electrolyser). Some services and installation personnel will have to be provided by the national counterpart as in-kind contributions.

WHO – E3-03 Water Quality Control and Surveillance

Thirty-two training activities were conducted inside and outside Iraq for about 900 laboratory technicians from both the MoEn and the MoMPW. The trainings sessions have had a positive impact on the performance of the staff and the number of water samples being tested has increased by about 70 per cent.

The hygiene education campaign conducted in Al-Sadr city helped to increase the hygiene practices within the community and had a positive impact on waterborne disease incidence.

The rehabilitation of the MoEn Central Water Quality Control Laboratory in Baghdad has been completed. The laboratory will accommodate all the procured equipment and it will work as a reference laboratory in Iraq.

The procurement of equipment and supplies estimated at \$4 million for both the MoEn and MoMPW water quality control laboratories was completed. The equipment and supplies have been received by both ministries and will be used to equip the 15 central, 30 district and 220 operational laboratories in different governorates for water quality testing to ensure that water supplied to the consumers is in compliance with the Iraqi standards. Thirty vehicles have been procured for both ministries for use in transporting water samples from monitoring points to the water quality control laboratories. In addition, 50 computers with printers and scanners have been procured and delivered to both ministries to be used for water quality data management.

The positive impact of the implemented activities has been noticed in the enhancement of both the water quality monitoring process and the diagnosis of sources of water pollution, which has been reflected in the reduction of the incidence of waterborne diseases.

F. Hurdles Encountered and Implementation Constraints

Implementation rates have picked up substantially. Some delays are still unavoidable, given the difficult circumstances, but the conceptualization, design and planning of the programme and the establishment of a physical and human resource structure and a contracting machinery for the private sector and NGOs are now largely in place and ready to deal with whatever issues may arise.

In the area of electricity rehabilitation, some unique constraints arise. At Mussayib power station, there have been difficulties in obtaining access to the unit for cold assessment (i.e., condition assessment while the unit is not operating) due to the shifting of target dates for access to the unit because of the need to operate the unit whenever possible. Mussayib Unit 1 (currently operating at 200-220 MW) represents roughly 4.5 per cent of the estimated available capacity in Iraq of 4,500 MW.

For Taji and Mosul power stations, geographical isolation, coupled with difficult security conditions, makes communication and planning on this technically complex project extremely difficult. UNDP is strengthening communications interfacing among the MoEI, Hitachi and UNDP by means of satellite audio-visual equipment. New implementation modalities are being reviewed in ongoing discussions where MoEI engineers will play a larger role in the installation works.

For the Hartha power station, the problem of communicating through normal means of communication with the engineers of Hartha Power Plant still persists though it is of a lesser magnitude. The problem has been overcome to a great extent by the appointment of a consultancy company. The issues relating to the customs and arrangements with the multinational force for transport of goods have gradually been resolved at the appropriate level. However, the ongoing security situation remains a serious hurdle for the transport of material from Kuwait to Hartha. Quite often, the consignment is huge and cannot be offloaded in a day because the crane operators are genuinely reluctant to stay out after dark. UNDP has therefore had to adopt a method of shifting the material in batches, which is time-consuming and requires extra vigilance but adapts to the security concern. Difficulties are also faced in obtaining agreement from the MoEI in Baghdad with respect to engineers for pre-shipment inspections. A further constraint has been the complete change in the scope of works on transmission lines, which is still being clarified.

The National Dispatch Centre SCADA project was seriously delayed when the pre-qualified bidders withdrew because of the worsening security situation. As a result, pre-qualification had to begin again.

Water and sanitation projects also suffered under constraints, most of which emanated from the lack of adequate security. The steady exodus of international NGOs out of Iraq, noted in the First Progress Report, prevented UNICEF from becoming involved in pilot development initiatives. The security situation delayed the joint assessment of water and sanitation rehabilitation projects for the southern governorates from the General Directorate of Water and the General Directorate of Sewerage and the subsequent list of prioritized rehabilitation projects by UNICEF. Lack of adequate coordination between the central government and the Directorates in some cases led to changes in project locations as some water treatment plants had already been rehabilitated.

Frequent changes in government staff resulted in the need to work with new partners unfamiliar with UNICEF rules and regulations, which therefore affected the progress of works. Sporadic rises in prices of raw materials, fuel, oil and other basic commodities raised the value of contracts unfavourably and contributed to several rebidding exercises, adding to the delay in the awarding of contracts and subsequent implementation. Contractors refused to sign the contract after being awarded the work in Babil Governorate on the basis of security concerns. In general, a major constraint has been the lack of enough competent contractors in the southern governorates. UN agencies are now sharing information on competent contractors to widen the pool of available expertise as well as conducting market surveys to more realistically measure potential project costs. Delay in nomination of participants by the local authorities and subsequent visa processing affected the schedule of training programmes.

Owing to the need to maintain the low visibility of the UN for security reasons, services have been contracted in, including for monitoring and supervision, and the strongest possible emphasis has been put on building capacity of ministries. Findings from the UNICEF-sponsored Water Quality Testing and Needs Assessment of all the water project sites in Missan Governorate highlighted the fact that the performance of many of the treatment plants could significantly improve with enhanced operation and maintenance skills alone (particularly in filter backwashing, chemical dosing and general maintenance of M&E works). Training programmes geared towards enhancing the skills of local authority staff in the operation and maintenance of water and sanitation facilities would thus continue to be a major focus area for UNICEF interventions. The study also suggested the need for the rehabilitation of water treatment plants to go hand in hand with the rehabilitation of distribution networks to achieve full benefit from the interventions.

G. Future Work Plan for Ongoing Approved Projects/Programmes

Electricity

UNDP – E4-01 Emergency Power Supply

The contracts for rehabilitation of the Um Qasr distribution network and installation of small diesel generators in southern Iraq are expected to be signed during September/October 2005. Delivery of materials and equipment for implementation is expected to be completed by 30 October. The training of MoEl engineers on the Distribution Master Plan is expected to commence during October, with completion expected in mid-December. The training of MoEl generation engineers and transmission/communication engineers is expected to start in September 2005. The delivery of transformers and related equipment is scheduled to start during November. The following equipment is also expected to arrive at the MoEl during November: test equipment to insure staff safety and protection of equipment, tools for reliable erection and connection of materials and the undertaking of repair works, and safety equipment to minimize the personal risk of technicians and increase their efficiency.

UNDP – E4-02 National Dispatch Centre

The delivery of the pre-development system was completed in September 2005. The SCADA/EMS system will be delivered in October and on-the-job training will begin in November. The first batch of Remote Terminal Units was delivered in August and delivery of the second batch will be completed in October. Installation and commissioning are ongoing, with a site acceptance test planned for July 2006.

Power Station Rehabilitation

UNDP – E4-07 Rehabilitation of Mosul Power Station and E4-08 Rehabilitation of Taji Power Station

For Mosul and Taji power stations, work is under way by Hitachi. The main site activities and consequently achievements on site, as per the project schedule, will commence from mid-2006.

UNDP – E4-09 Rehabilitation of Hartha Power Station

The equipment that Mitsubishi Heavy Industries has shipped as the fifth partial shipment of lot 2 is expected to arrive from Japan on 21 October 2005. Shipping documents have been received. Documents from the Humanitarian Operations Centre and customs are being prepared for customs clearance upon arrival. Six nominees appointed by the MoEl were deputed to Japan for training in turbines.

UNDP – E4-10 and E4-15 Rehabilitation of Mussayib Power Station - Stage 1 and Stage 2

Price negotiations will be initiated and conducted with the main contractor (Hitachi) for Stage 2 of the project (including the supply of equipment with long-lead and short-lead delivery periods as well as services for the installation of the equipment), based on the experience gained during the negotiations for Stage 1. The selection of a consultant for price reviews is planned for October 2005, and the preparation of, and agreement on, the scope of supply by the contractor on the long-lead parts package are planned for November 2005. Rehabilitation of the unit will add about 60 MW to 80 MW of generating capacity at the station.

Dredging

UNDP – E4-06 Dredging of Um Qasr Port Approach Channel

The dredging of the approach channel from the Gulf to the port of Um Qasr was completed in August 2005. Final bathymetric post dredge surveys will be undertaken and the data obtained will then be processed and charted. The immediate objective of the project, namely, to re-establish reliable and safe access to the Iraq seaport of Um Qasr

by dredging the approach channel, was reached. The works have resulted in a major improvement in the capability of the port in receiving larger vessels, thereby improving the economics of operating the port.

Housing

UN-HABITAT – E4-04 Strengthening Capacity of the Housing Sector Project

Training in land management, strategic planning and GIS applications was conducted in August and a study tour on housing finance took place in September 2005. For the upcoming period, a further study tour on planning housing projects is planned along with a housing and urban services maintenance workshop and the organization of a housing market survey and expert meeting. An interministerial working group has been set up take up pilot projects in Diwaniya and Nassiriyah in 2005-2006. UN-HABITAT has been requested to coordinate the activities of the interministerial working group.

UN-HABITAT – E4-11 Strengthening the Urban Sector through Building Capacities in Municipal Planning and Management

The first set of ESCWA/UN-HABITAT Management Skills Training and Capacity Development Workshops for 30 Basrah and Erbil officials took place in late August/early September 2005 for four weeks in Beirut; the second will follow at the end of November/early December. A study tour on local government and urban planning for 15 government officials took place in Egypt in August. GIS training for 18 officials was organized. Round-table meetings on municipal finance reform and reform of urban and land management took place in September and will continue in November and December in Amman.

Water and Sanitation

UNICEF – E3-01 Rehabilitation of Water and Sanitation Systems in Southern Iraq

Nine recently awarded sewerage projects, which include rehabilitation of approximately 10 km of sewer lines as well as three sewage pumping stations, are under way, benefiting approximately 113,000 people. Eight bids are being reissued for sewerage work along with five new ones.

Technical and financial offers from prospective companies to conduct a training programme on “Design of sanitary landfills” have been received and are being scrutinized. In addition, terms of reference for conducting training programmes on “Public-private partnerships in solid waste management” have been developed and requests for proposals have been issued. A training programme on “Integrated water resources management” through the Jordan Valley Authority is also planned.

A contract was issued to an international NGO in August 2005 to undertake rehabilitation of a 200 m³/hr capacity water treatment plant in Thi Qar Governorate and training of 40 operators in the proper operation and maintenance of reverse osmosis plants, including pre-treatment. Approximately 73,200 people would benefit from this intervention.

UNICEF signed a Management Services Agreement with UNOPS on 31 of August 2005 to rehabilitate water distribution networks in Al-Bani; Al-Houra and Al-Salam; and Al-Asken, Al-Jaziar and Diwaniyah in Muthanna, Wassit and Qadissiyah Governorates, respectively. This will involve the rehabilitation of 68 km of water distribution networks and benefit more than 230,000 people in these towns. The project envisages the introduction of new pipe material along with best practices in the installation of pipe-work and house connections. Necessary guidance and on-the-job training for the local staff in the use of new materials and methods will be provided, including the provision of basic tools and literature. Labour-intensive methods will be used during implementation to create employment opportunities for the local population.

UNIDO – E3-02 Rehabilitation of Chlorination Plant

A kick-off meeting was held with project counterparts on 23 August 2005 to select the membrane technology and establish the implementation plan for the project, including in-kind contributions from counterparts for the rehabilitation programme. However, owing to a change of personnel in the counterpart institutions, prior understandings and agreements reached had to be rediscussed at this meeting. It is hoped that outstanding issues will be clarified shortly on a mutually acceptable basis. A contract worth about \$500,000 has been concluded for the basic engineering design package for the plant. A request has been posted for expression of interest in a contract for the supply of a membrane electrolyser with a capacity of 40 metric tonnes of chlorine per day valued at approximately \$2.5 million.

WHO – E3-03 Water Quality Control and Surveillance

During the period July-September 2005, the key achievements were the continuation of the rehabilitation work, the shipment of some of the procured equipment and follow-up of water quality status across the whole country. The future work plan will concentrate on the follow-up of pipeline activities such as the delivery of the procured equipment and supplies and continue the renovation of the central water quality control laboratories in Baghdad and installation of the equipment in the water quality control laboratories.

H. 2005-2007 Joint Iraqi-UN Assistance Strategy

In accordance with the Joint Iraqi-UN Assistance Strategy, many activities will continue into 2006. Similarly, the issues of access and security will have an impact on the degree to which activities will be undertaken with a direct UN presence. However, focus areas for this Cluster will be to:

- Increase access to potable water in urban and rural areas;
- Improve sewage treatment and access to urban sewerage systems, increase levels of solid waste collection and disposal, and improve sanitation services in rural areas;
- Provide support and technical advice to rehabilitate key electrical infrastructure and other key infrastructure facilities providing essential humanitarian services;
- Rehabilitate and develop local industries and small enterprises for local communities, especially for low-income groups;
- Continue to dredge and remove wrecks and other obstructions in the Iraqi waterways;
- Complete the mapping of priority infrastructure areas not yet surveyed;
- Rehabilitate and develop the domestic construction sector and its institutions;
- Develop a national housing policy and strategy;
- Initiate capacity-building programmes at managerial levels to upgrade the skills of senior managers to plan, prioritize and manage;
- Build national and decentralized capacity for urban and water management and land administration while studying options for policy reform and privatization of State-owned enterprises.

6. Cluster F: Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Durable Solutions

A. Purpose of Cluster

As a result of years of suppression, war and deprivation, several million Iraqis were uprooted and displaced inside and outside Iraq as refugees, asylum seekers and rejected asylum seekers, migrants and internally displaced persons (IDPs). While the Iraqi authorities shoulder the main responsibility for the well-being, protection, return and reintegration of these persons, the Cluster provides crucial support to key ministries and the vulnerable populations living in such complex conflict and transition situations. Basic assistance for, and humane treatment of, the displaced should be assured in the short term as well as ensuring durable solutions in the longer term for sustainable return, relocation and peaceful reintegration into society.

Mission Statement

To support the Iraqi authorities in providing adequate assistance and effective protection to uprooted populations in Iraq, and to assist them in preventing new displacement as well as to achieve durable solutions, in line with the National Development Strategy

B. Programmes/Projects Funded to Date

Table 6. Cluster F: Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Durable Solutions – Approved and Funded Projects

PROJECT	AGENCY	AS OF 30 JUNE 2005						AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2005					
		FUNDED AMOUNT		COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT		FUNDED AMOUNT		COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT	
		USD 000s	USD 000s	%	USD 000s	%	USD 000s	%	USD 000s	USD 000s	%	USD 000s	%
F 8-02	Return and Reintegration of Iraqis and others of concern in Southern Iraq	UNHCR	7,126	7,126	100	6,232	87	7,126	7,126	100	6,781	95	
F 8-03	Return and Reintegration of Iraqis and others of concern in Northern Iraq	UNHCR	0	0	0	0	0	990	990	100	336	34	
F 8-01	Return and Reintegration of IDPs and Iraqi refugees in the Northern Governorates	UNOPS	9,741	8,315	85	2,502	26	9,741	8,543	88	7,632	78	
TOTAL			16,868	15,441	92	8,734	52	17,858	16,659	93	14,748	83	

To date, three projects totalling approximately \$18 million have been funded in the Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Durable Solutions Cluster. The third project, F8-03, was approved by the UNDG ITF Steering Committee on 29 August 2005. Overall Cluster delivery at the end of June 2005 amounted to approximately \$15.4 million in terms of commitments (92 per cent) and about \$8.7 million (52 per cent) in terms of disbursements. By 30 September 2005, disbursements had reached \$14.7 million (83 per cent).

C. Key Accomplishments

Since August 2003, the Cluster has facilitated the safe voluntary return of 15,500 persons from the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia to southern Iraq.

Community-based activities have been implemented in returnee-affected communities in southern Iraq, thereby enhancing basic services such as water, sanitation, education rehabilitation/supplies and primary health care rehabilitation. Concrete outcomes include the rehabilitation of 32 primary and intermediate schools, thereby enabling some 6,500 boys and girls to attend school; the completion of 11 water projects; the rehabilitation and equipping of 5 primary health clinics serving returnee-affected areas in the marshlands; and the establishment and equipping of 14 agricultural and livestock workshops. Through the sum total of community-based activities mentioned above, UNHCR estimates that more than 60,000 persons – most in rural, returnee-affected areas – have benefited from improved public services.

A pilot shelter project has been undertaken to provide the most vulnerable – and in particular the most vulnerable returnees – with shelter. A total of 831 shelters has been constructed in Basrah, Meysin, Muthanna and Thi Qar Governorates. Some 5,000 persons (831 vulnerable families) are housed in sustainable accommodation.

Quick-impact projects and vocational training have been identified and implemented with the full participation of rural, returnee communities, addressing community needs and providing access to employment. To reduce the threat of yellow fever in the marshlands for more than 17,000 at-risk people, including children, more than 400 persons were employed to carry out mosquito spraying. Footbridges were constructed across the Glory Canal, providing more than 22,000 persons with easier access to schools, markets and health care. Vocational courses benefited more than 500 persons in such areas as Arabic literacy, computers and sewing. Sixty people were employed to produce hospital linens in Meysin, supplying Iraqi hospitals with Iraqi-produced/finished linens.

In addition, the Iraqi Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM), with the provision of support to cover the cost of rent, basic running costs and staff capacity-building, has opened offices in Basrah, Meysin and Nassiriyah. Under the auspices of these branch offices, the Government of Iraq has registered more than 100,000 returning refugees and displaced persons.

In the north of Iraq, the main achievement of the Cluster has been to bring together local authorities and representatives of beneficiaries and involve them in a dialogue on demands and needs to be addressed and continuous cooperation at every step of the implementation process.

All internationally procured material has been received in the warehouse and 33 per cent of it has been distributed to construction sites. All preparation work is in place to deliver another 18 per cent to implementing partners and finally beneficiaries are being identified and lists prepared to deliver the remainder of the material (49 per cent) to beneficiaries, who will receive only internationally procured material as the UNHCR contribution to the construction or renovation of their shelters.

At all housing construction sites managed by UNOPS, land allocation has been completed and construction is progressing. Of a total of 1,000 houses at all sites, 45 houses have not yet been started, 46 are at the planning stage, 884 are at various stages of construction (of which 177 are at the finishing stage) and 25 houses have been completed.

D. Implementation Mechanisms

The Cluster members comprise UNHCR (the Cluster Coordinator), FAO, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNAMI, UNDP, UNEP, UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNOPS, WFP and WHO. They work closely with the Ministries of Displacement and Migration, Justice and Human Rights as well as with other line ministries, the World Bank, the International Committee of the Red Cross, NGOs, community-based organizations, the Iraq Property Claims Commission, the Iraqi National Human Rights Institution and local authorities.

The programmes enjoy the full support of the beneficiary communities and authorities at the central and local levels. Community participation in beneficiary selection and implementation has been encouraged as have coordination and endorsement of local authorities. A number of important partnerships have been established with the international and national NGOs that are directly involved in implementation, such as Relief International and the Salvation Army. Both implementing partners have proven their ability to achieve concrete outcomes in the difficult security environment and specifically in the Governorates of Basrah, Meysin and Wassit in southern Iraq. For the work in northern Iraq, the project is being implemented by UNOPS. For the IDP monitoring component, the Joint Humanitarian Information Centre North coordinates the field monitoring, data entry and initial analysis of collected data as a local implementing partner. IOM and UNHCR advise on monitoring frameworks and tools as key agencies of the Cluster.

E. Specific Agency Implementation

UNOPS – F8-01 Return and Reintegration of IDPs and Iraqi Refugees in the Three Northern Governorates

The project is considered a flagship for the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) as well as the local authorities involved in the implementation. It brings an innovative approach, different from that of the previous UN interventions in Iraq in the past few years. The main achievement of the project has been to bring together local authorities and representatives of beneficiaries and involve them in a dialogue on demands and needs to be addressed and continuous cooperation at every step of the implementation process.

All internationally procured material was received in the warehouse and 33 per cent of it has been distributed to construction sites managed by UNOPS. All preparation work is in place to deliver another 18 per cent to UNHCR implementing partners. Finally, beneficiaries are being identified and lists prepared to deliver the remainder of the material, 49 per cent, to beneficiaries who will receive only internationally procured material as the UNHCR contribution to the construction or renovation of their shelters.

At all housing construction sites managed by UNOPS, land allocation has been completed and construction is progressing. Of a total of 1,000 houses at all sites, construction of 45 houses has not yet started, 46 houses are at the planning stage, and 884 are at various stages of construction (of which 177 are at the finishing stage and 25 houses have been completed). Implementation is running a little late and construction scheduled to be completed by end September 2005 will, in fact, be completed by end November 2005 at some sites. On the other hand, contracts are in place to deliver locally procured material to UNHCR implementing partners for the construction of 500 houses.

With respect to basic communal services, 16 subprojects have been identified, consisting of 9 water projects, 3 schools and 4 health centres. Of these, 6 are at the tendering process stage, the contract award is in process for 3 and 7 are being implemented.

Four vocational training programmes are currently under preparation for a total of 205 trainees. All programmes are at the contract award stage. Toolkits are also being procured under ITF funding for distribution to trainees of a now-completed vocational training programme funded under the UNHCR budget.

With respect to capacity-building of local authorities, mayors' offices have been furnished and provided with computer equipment and Internet access. A capacity-building workshop was held for the benefit of mayors and District Planning Committee (DPC) and Community Steering Group (CSG) members who actively participated in the preparation and the implementation of subprojects in their respective areas.

UNHCR – F8-02 Return and Reintegration of Iraqis in Southern Iraq

This UNHCR project, designed to implement multisectoral community-based assistance to promote reintegration of returning IDPs and refugees in southern Iraq, has a very high implementation rate. In the selected villages, a number of diverse sectoral interventions were completed, as follows:

SECTORAL ACTIVITY	IDENTIFIED / COMMITTED/PLANNED	IN PROCESS	COMPLETED	UNHCR IMPLEMENTING PARTNER
Education	Rehabilitate 15 schools	14	Estimated 70 % complete	Salvation Army (2), Relief International (13)
Water / Sanitation	Rehabilitate or install 2 water systems	1	Estimated 90% complete	Salvation Army (2)
Agriculture	Establish 2 agricultural support workshops	1	Estimated 90% complete	Salvation Army (2)
Health	Rehabilitate/construct 2 health centres	1	Estimated 90% complete	Salvation Army (2)
Livestock	Construct and equip 2 agricultural farm workshops with dipping station	1	90% complete	Salvation Army (2)

Relief International worked with local authorities and the MoEd to identify the locations for the needed schools in accordance with UNHCR criteria for selection of rural returnee host communities. The school construction is progressing well and is expected to be completed by 30 November 2005.

The Salvation Army identified two rural returnee villages for its activities, including Badra in Wassit Governorate and Al-Heartha in Basrah Governorate. It has begun its activities in Wassit Governorate in coordination with local authorities and the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM). The implementation in Wassit is ongoing without significant problems. As of 30 June, 46 of the 64 houses were in process and are estimated to be some 60 per cent complete. The situation is different in Basrah Governorate, where considerable problems relating to property have been identified. The Salvation Army has not been able to reach agreement between the Basrah Governor, the MoDM and the Ministry of Public Works to identify who has the authority to agree that the project is to commence. Thus construction on the planned 76 houses has not been able to start.

Regarding quick-impact employment projects for returnee-affected communities to achieve community-identified goals, progress is as follows:

SECTOR	ACTIVITY	PROGRESS TO DATE	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER
Income-generation	Establish and equip two vocational sewing centres	Construction is more than 50 per cent complete.	Salvation Army
Vocational training	Train two para-veterinarians	One para-veterinarian has started training.	Salvation Army
Vocational training	Train two semi-skilled mechanics	One semi-skilled mechanic has begun training.	Salvation Army
Income-generation	Construct and equip two mechanical repair workshops	Construction is more than 50 per cent complete.	Salvation Army
Income-generation	Construct and distribute 140 poultry houses with 8 hens each	Construction of 64 poultry houses has started.	Salvation Army
Income-generation	Establish and equip two vocational sewing workshops	Construction has started on one sewing workshop and is more than 50 per cent complete.	Salvation Army
Vocational training	Provide agricultural business training to some 100 farmers	Training has been started for some 60 participants in Wassit.	Salvation Army

Twelve NGOs were provided with a training session on general topics relating to the internationally accepted standards of NGO work, using the SPHERE Manual as a base document. In addition other topics included project monitoring, assessment and evaluation. The local NGOs were trained in a number of NGO management subjects such as financial management, human resource issues, communications and fundraising.

F. Hurdles Encountered and Implementation Constraints

The deteriorating and unpredictable security situation in Iraq continues to have a significant impact on the implementation of the activities by all partners, requiring most international staff of NGOs to withdraw to neighbouring countries. The inability of international staff to travel within Iraq necessitated regular management meetings at the Iraq/Kuwait border, a vehicle trip of at least three hours each way. Additionally, the trip to and from Al-Amarah in Meysin Governorate was especially problematic owing to regular intertribal fighting or other disturbances (for instance at fuel stations where the queues were often three days long).

UNHCR continues to face difficulties in carrying out independent site visits to the project areas. As such, even though the supporting documents are routinely scrutinized to ensure compliance with procurement policies, the actual physical outputs are not regularly visited by UNHCR staff. UNHCR is identifying a technical evaluation team to provide ongoing site visits and reports on the actual concrete outcomes of the project. While this will provide some assurance that the work is being implemented as planned, it does add an additional implementation cost to the activities.

Before signing a sub-agreement with an implementing partner, the partner must bring an endorsement letter from MoDM indicating that the activity, location and objectives are satisfactory to the local MoDM office. Where possible and if time permits, UNHCR suggests that MoDM Baghdad be informed. Implementing partners are also asked to ensure that the activities are accepted by other local authorities, including tribal leaders as well as local line ministry officials. This often leads to considerable and lengthy dialogue to ensure that all parties reach an accord as to the objectives, plans and time frame.

Frequently, decisions and agreement reached at the field level need to be raised again at the central level for final clearance. A key finding is that there is often ambiguity as to the roles and responsibility of local and central authorities. Moreover, central and local entities often have conflicting priorities. In Arabic, the word for “coordination” (*tunseeq*) is understood to mean “control”. This further adds confusion to the dialogue described above, as international NGOs and others instruct their staff to ensure coordination. The national staff then seek out officials who understand that their role is to coordinate, i.e., to control. Lengthy delays invariably result, as officials demand that funds be diverted for other purposes completely outside the scope of signed sub-agreements. The western construct of “coordinate” causes confusion and considerable implementation challenges.

To overcome these challenges, UNHCR has developed a number of innovations to implement its activities in coordination with local authorities and through implementing partners and in the context of remote management. These include a more vigorous project control mechanism, contracting ongoing technical evaluation specialists, establishment of a web-based photolibrary (password protected) and mandatory partner monthly reports.

UNOPS in northern Iraq faced steep price increases in some of the material, principally cement and concrete blocks, as a result of the infrastructure development currently occurring in the northern governorates. Consequently, supply contracts for construction material had to be renegotiated with the suppliers and amended upward. The net result was twofold. First, the number of shelters that could be built on the budget had to be reduced. Of 3,000 houses originally planned for construction, the number was reduced to 1,500 housing units: 1,000 for construction under the direct management of UNOPS and 500 by UNHCR implementing partners. The balance of internationally procured construction material is to be distributed to beneficiaries who will build or renovate their shelter individually. The second result was that some activities or subprojects originally budgeted under UNHCR funding were transferred to the UNDG ITF budget. These activities or subprojects consist mainly of basic communal services and vocational training and income-generation projects.

The supplier did not have a comprehensive plan for sending the internationally procured materials to Erbil and, unfortunately, the UNOPS logistical team did not always receive timely information on arrival of shipments, resulting in congestion at the warehouse as well as shortfalls in the distribution plan. Local procurement is to be considered for any further activities to avoid such issues.

G. Future Work Plan for Ongoing Approved Projects/Programmes

UNOPS – F8-01 Return and Reintegration of IDPs and Iraqi Refugees in the Three Northern Governorates

The activities to be carried out or completed during the limited remainder of the project consist of: the distribution of internationally procured material to UNHCR partners and other beneficiaries, completion of housing units, completion of basic communal service subprojects, completion of vocational training and distribution of toolkits, design and delivery of quick-impact projects, continuation of capacity-building of local administration and its involvement in project implementation, and facilitation and empowerment of the process of research in order to design subprojects with strong impact (i.e., traditional housing, market-oriented income-generation projects). Frequent and qualitative communication with local communities will be undertaken to fully inform them of the project status and challenges not only through DPC and CSG but also through beneficiaries themselves.

UNHCR – F8-02 Return and Reintegration in Southern Iraq

UNHCR and its implementing partners will continue to implement the activities described in section E. No new activities are foreseen. It is expected that the activities will be 90 per cent complete by 30 September 2005.

On 29 August 2005, the UNDG ITF Steering Committee approved UNHCR project F8-03 for the return and reintegration of Iraqis and others of concern in northern Iraq.

H. 2005-2007 Joint Iraqi-UN Assistance Strategy

In accordance with the Joint Iraqi-UN Assistance Strategy, many of the current activities will continue into 2006. Similarly, the issues of access and security will have an impact on the degree to which activities will be undertaken with a direct UN presence. However, focus areas for this Cluster will be to:

- Enhance national, regional and local capacity to deliver protection and assistance to refugees, IDPs, returnees and Stateless persons;
- Provide policy, legal advice and technical assistance, chiefly to the MoDM and the Iraq Property Claims Commission;
- Provide protection and humanitarian assistance to refugee, IDP and returnee populations as well as Stateless persons;
- Identify and implement durable solutions for refugee, IDP and returnee populations as well as Stateless persons;
- Conduct assessments and mapping for improved understanding of beneficiaries, their intentions, protection and assistance needs and gaps, and locations;
- Strengthen information management tools and dissemination systems; and
- Monitor and evaluate protection and assistance programmes.

7. Cluster G: Support to Electoral Process

A. Purpose of Cluster

The UN was requested, in Security Council resolution 1546, to play a leading role in providing advice and support to the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq (IECI) on the process for holding elections throughout the transitional period. The 30 January 2005 elections were an important milestone in the transition process, but the referendum of 15 October on the constitution and general elections to be held at the end of 2005 presented a new set of challenges to the IECI, requiring international support. The Cluster will continue assisting the IECI to fulfil its institutional and operational requirements while at the same time transferring skills to Iraqi counterparts, ensuring the future sustainability of the organization.

Mission Statement

To provide technical support and capacity-building to the IECI, to support the IECI with the preparation of the October referendum followed by General Elections, and to assist the Transitional National Assembly with discussions related to electoral design and the electoral articles of the Constitution

In particular, the Cluster will:

- Enhance the IECI capacity through long-term training, particularly in terms of operational administration, finance, human resources, logistics, public outreach and civic education;
- Coordinate international technical assistance provided to the IECI in preparation for the referendum scheduled for October 2005, to be followed by general elections;
- Play an important role in supporting discussions within the National Assembly on electoral design; and
- Provide assistance in connection with a range of likely electoral events in 2006, including a constitutional referendum, referenda on the formation of regions, and governorate elections

B. Programmes/Projects Funded to Date

Table 7. Cluster G: Support to Electoral Process – Approved and Funded Projects

PROJECT	AGENCY	AS OF 30 JUNE 2005						AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2005					
		FUNDED AMOUNT		COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT		FUNDED AMOUNT		COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT	
		USD 000s	USD 000s	%	USD 000s	%	USD 000s	USD 000s	USD 000s	USD 000s	%	USD 000s	%
G 11-02 Support to Electoral Process - Phase 2	UNDP	11,246	10,382	92	9,589	85	11,246	10,668	95	9,601	85		
G 11-03 Support to Electoral Process - Phase 3	UNDP	34,501	34,501	100	31,408	91	34,501	34,501	100	32,376	94		
G 11-04 Technical Assistance to IECI	UNDP	3,043	2,125	27	1,181	15	7,802	3,683	47	2,283	29		
G 11-07 Support for fair, safe and professional media coverage	UNESCO	555	447	81	441	80	555	397	71	397	71		
G 11-06 Provision of Electoral Support to Observer Groups in Iraqi Elections - Phase 1	UNOPS	4,542	3,039	89	3,003	88	3,416	3,348	98	3,379	99		
G 11-08 Logistics Support to IECI - Phase 1	UNOPS	54,193	44,119	97	44,253	98	45,344	45,433	100	45,769	101		
G 11-09 Logistics Support to IECI - Phase 2	UNOPS	0	0	0	0	0	47,606	45,337	95	10,116	21		
G 11-10 Provision of Electoral Support to Observer Groups -Phase 2	UNOPS	0	0	0	0	0	5,527	308	6	15	0		
TOTAL		108,080	94,612	88	89,875	83	155,996	143,676	92	103,936	67		

As of 30 June 2005, six projects totalling \$108 million had been funded in the Support to Electoral Process Cluster. With the approval of two projects in September 2005 for the October referendum and December elections, project funding at the end of the third quarter totalled \$156 million for eight projects. At the end of June 2005, the level of commitments was approximately \$95 million (88 per cent) and disbursements totalled about \$90 million (83 per cent). At the end of September 2005, based on the eight projects agreed, commitments were at approximately \$144 million (92 per cent) and disbursements totalled about \$104 million (67 per cent).

C. Key Accomplishments

The UN role in the 30 January 2005 Iraqi vote was groundbreaking. Within eight months, it assisted in creating a new Iraqi national electoral body that succeeded in conducting nationwide elections in an operational landscape characterized by a precarious security situation, calls for boycotts, and the frequent intimidation, often with fatal intent, of staff members and candidates by groups opposed to the vote. The details concerning the breadth of the Cluster's accomplishment in the service of the Iraqi election were provided in the First Progress Report.

During the subsequent period, the Cluster has emphasized the further strengthening of the IECI capabilities in preparation of the constitutional referendum and December 2005 elections. From 16 to 18 March 2005, the Electoral Assistance Division convened a general debriefing in New York to assess the electoral activities and preparations that led to the January elections as well as to define the areas that required further reinforcement and assistance for forthcoming events. The meeting arrived at a series of recommendations on the further strengthening of the IECI, in particular the clarification of the relationship between the Board of Commissioners and the Electoral Administration, the further reinforcement of the electoral administration capacities and a decision that the planning for the referendum and elections should be completed simultaneously. A detailed needs assessment was undertaken by the United Nations for three weeks in June 2005, which developed the framework for additional United Nations assistance to the IECI through the remainder of the year in regard to both the referendum and the election.

Subsequent to the reporting period, the Cluster has also successfully assisted the IECI in delivering the 15 October referendum.

D. Implementation Mechanisms

The Cluster members comprise the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA) Electoral Assistance Division (EAD) (Cluster Coordinator), UNAMI, UNDP, UNESCO and UNOPS. They work closely with the IECI, the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), the European Union and other donors and partners such as the National Democratic Institute.

For the preparatory period up to the referendum, there were over 20 UN international election experts in place in Baghdad and six in Amman, dedicated to providing assistance to the IECI, and this will continue through the elections. They include experts in election law, election procedures, election operations, administration, logistics, information technology, finance, election security and public outreach. The International Election Assistance Team under the UN umbrella also includes 15 experts from IFES. They were joined in October by experts recruited by the European Commission to further strengthen the team's capacity. Although key election decisions are entirely within the purview of the Iraqis, the IECI is a relatively new institution; it has often relied heavily on international advice.

E. Specific Agency Implementation

The main implementing partners of the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (DPA) Electoral Assistance Division (EAD) and their core projects are described below.

Electoral Administration and Operations

UNDP – G11-02 Support to Electoral Process – Phase 2, G11-03 Support to Electoral Process – Phase 3 and G11-04 Technical Assistance to IECI

The work under project G11-02 was essentially complete with the elections of January 2005 and was reported on in the First Progress Report. Under project G3-03, the provision of security to the electoral commissioners continued and was extended through to March 2006 by a project amendment agreed in October 2005.

Project G11-04 recruited and paid for 29 electoral staff working in Baghdad, Amman and New York to support the electoral process, as follows:

- 7 Operations Officers; 1 Human Resources Officer, 1 Logistics Officer; 1 Training Officer; 1 Information Technology Adviser and 1 Illustrator working in Baghdad to provide advice and training to the IECI Secretariat;
- 2 Interpreters and 1 Logistics Officer to support the work of these experts and the IECI Secretariat;
- 2 Programme Staff; 1 Illustrator; 3 Media and Outreach Officers; 1 Operations Officer in Amman provide support and advice to the electoral team in Baghdad;
- 6 support staff (including driver, secretary, administrative assistants) to support the Amman-based Electoral Team; and
- 1 Senior Political/Electoral Affairs Officer based in New York.

Seventeen of these staff members completed their contracts in January and February 2005. The remaining 12 have had their contracts extended until later this year and into 2006, depending on their posts. Consultants for a needs assessment were also recruited for a period of six weeks during June 2005. This needs assessment has been finalized and will provide valuable information for future planning to strengthen the IECI. Additional experts were subsequently recruited under the project to expand the UN presence for the referendum and the December election.

UNOPS – G11-08 Logistics Support to IECI

Achievements for the January elections were reported in the First Progress Report. After the elections, a preliminary infrastructure and logistics assessment mission was conducted in Iraq by UNOPS to assess needs relative to the implementation of the referendum and national elections. The team looked at logistical capacity, infrastructure, communications, security and capacity-building/training priorities.

UNOPS prepared a scope of work for a network of field officers to support IECI staff in Governorate Electoral Offices. As a follow-up to the Needs Assessment Mission (NAM), UNOPS facilitated the organization of a meeting between IECI Commissioners and senior EAD officers and consultants in Jordan from 28-30 June 2005. The meeting participants included the members of the NAM team, who had completed their assessment immediately prior to the conference. The objective of the meeting was to provide participants with an opportunity to exchange views, review the current state of preparedness, and make plans with regard to the upcoming referendum and elections. The remaining funds from the project were transferred to logistics Phase 2 for the referendum and December elections (project G11-09).

Indirect Electoral Activities

UNOPS – G11-06 Electoral Support to Observer Groups

During the period after January 2005, the project concentrated on capacity-building. Up to the end of June, UNOPS facilitated training in logistics and warehousing (46 participants) in three sessions (overlapping into July). Further sessions are under preparation as follows:

- Voter registration procedures (July);
- Public outreach (July);
- Specialized information technology training: 2 sessions comprising 7 participants (August/September);
- “On-site” warehouse training: planning for 30+ participants (September); and
- Other areas identified by IECI as relevant in strengthening the capacities of the personnel involved in the electoral process are accounting, finance and human resource management.

The remaining funds from G11-06 were transferred to Phase 2 of project G11-10, Provision of Electoral Support to Observer Groups.

UNESCO – G11- 07 Support to Fair, Safe and Professional Media Coverage

UNESCO partnered with four NGOs to deliver support to fair, safe and professional media coverage.

The International News Safety Institute (INSI) organized safety training for journalists in Iraq according to plan. The training was carried out in cooperation with the Institute for War and Peace Reporting. Owing to the security situation, the original estimate of 75 journalists was reduced to 50 as the journalists from the south could not travel to Suleimanyia in January 2005. In April 2005, INSI sought to organize the training of the 25 journalists from southern Iraq either in Basrah or elsewhere; however, the security situation neither allowed trainers to go to, nor participants to leave, Basrah. The last part of the training therefore did not take place.

The Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society (IMPACS) translated an election reporting handbook into Arabic. The handbook was sent to Amman to be distributed at training sessions of Iraqi journalists. However, the arrival of the first set of books was considerably delayed and the set was consequently replaced by a second set of books, which was sent to Iraq for distribution.

Article 19 produced specific media policy guidelines and briefing notes for Iraq, which were translated into Arabic and distributed during the training undertaken by INSI in Iraq and through the Internet. The media policy guidelines and briefing notes are included in the elections binder produced by INDEX on Censorship.

INDEX on Censorship produced a clip binder that contains reports on key issues relating to the elections, their follow-up, the Article 19 media policy guidelines and election briefing notes, and a journalism training course as well as security advice for journalists. INDEX, in cooperation with Reuters Foundation, trained Iraqi journalists and senior editors in Amman. The clip binder was distributed at the training and more will be continuously updated and distributed to media workers as the binder was expressly designed as a tool to support election reporting, facilitate training and act as a working reference document for journalists covering the elections.

F. Hurdles Encountered and Implementation Constraints

Organizing every general election is a major challenge, involving enormous logistical and substantive tasks. In Iraq, the challenges are compounded by inexperience in democratic practices, a new election system and a dangerous security situation in which election officials have been specifically targeted by insurgents.

The situation for the IECI was made still more difficult by National Assembly delay in adopting a new electoral law, leaving the IECI with extremely little time to implement new procedures. The electoral law was finally adopted on 12 September, barely three months before Election Day. The law fundamentally altered Iraq's election system, changing it from a single national constituency to a governorate-based system with compensatory national seats. The late adoption of the law seriously delayed election preparations and left the IECI with the monumental tasks of adopting new regulations and procedures, retraining election officials, registering candidates and undertaking a major public information campaign, all within an extremely tight time frame. The new electoral system also increases logistical problems and expenses; for example, there will be 18 ballots – one for each governorate – instead of a single national ballot.

As a new institution working in a new environment and without relevant precedents, the IECI is still developing its procedures and operating methodology. The process has not always been a smooth one. To its credit, the IECI Board of Commissioners has maintained its independence and impartiality. The process of decision-making within the Board, however, has often been arduous and sometimes fractious. The vagueness of the new electoral law is an added complication for the IECI, which has been left with insufficient legal guidance on how to deal with difficult and sensitive political issues. Moreover, each decision must be taken with a view to daunting security implications. While the UN team has been able to provide invaluable expertise, international experts generally remain within the Baghdad green zone, leaving the IECI to deal with the many difficult challenges of operating throughout the country.

G. Future Work Plan for Ongoing Approved Projects/Programmes

The updating of the voter registers was completed at the end of August, with over 1 million names added to the voter register. The national referendum on 15 October 2005 was successfully delivered and general elections will swiftly follow on 15 December 2005. The closeness of the referendum and election required the parallel organization of both exercises.

During the period July to September 2005, UNDG ITF Cluster G undertook a series of training courses for IECI personnel to increase their basic capacities in election-related functions. "Cascade" training began in September for polling centre officials, with groups of IECI officials receiving training that they passed on to others, reaching some 160,000 polling officials by the date of the referendum.

The referendum was an entirely new process in Iraq that required a major effort at public outreach and civic and voter education. The election will also contain significant new elements about which the public and political entities must be effectively informed beyond standard electoral information such as the date, time and places of voting. The UN also provided training, support and assistance to domestic election observers for the referendum and plans to continue to do so for the elections to promote involvement in the electoral process by women and youth groups.

Two Major Programme Lines for the upcoming reporting period

Cluster G will continue with a programmatic approach, with the two major programme lines continuing to be "Electoral Administration and Operations" and "Indirect Electoral Activities".

The first programme line addresses direct assistance to the IECI. It encompasses all activities necessary for the preparation, administration and organization of the October referendum and December 2005 elections within Iraq by the IECI. The activities of this programme line cover, among other things: warehousing facilities, equipment, services and materials; public information and outreach costs; training and capacity-building costs for electoral officials; transportation costs relating to the polling, counting and tabulation of results; and security.

The second programme line covers a series of indirect electoral and referendum activities, in particular domestic observation for both the referendum and the election, enhancement of women's participation and media development.

1. Support to Electoral Administration and Operations

a. Logistics Support for Transport, Security and Communications and Governorate Electoral Office (GEO) Support

The Iraq referendum took place on 15 October, with the general elections planned for 15 December 2005. Both of these voting processes need to cater to approximately 15.4 million eligible voters. The preparation for and staging of the referendum required and general elections will require the procurement, storage and distribution to and within Iraq of a sizable amount of materials and equipment obtained from various international suppliers. These items must be coordinated at the suppliers' sites, packaged correctly for transport, shipped to a regional hub, repackaged, unloaded-loaded and redistributed to governorate-level hubs inside Iraq in support of IECI and its electoral preparation efforts. Materials for the referendum were, and for the election will be, transported from a hub in the Middle East to 20 warehouses, including one contingency stock point, at the governorate-level throughout Iraq for both electoral processes.

Lessons learned from the January 2005 elections logistics support highlighted a number of areas in which the IECI required further support, particularly at the Governorate Electoral Office (GEO) level. These included the need for technical assistance and backstopping of IECI personnel, the requirement for additional critical electoral support in certain regions, assistance in the recovery of unused or reusable election materials and equipment after polling day, and guidance in the organization and administration of their logistical functions. An International

GEO Support Unit will therefore be provided to assist the International Technical Assistance Team in responding to countrywide operational needs and IECI headquarters and partner organizations in strengthening operational capacity of the IECI Iraq-wide GEOs and District Electoral Offices (DEOs); allow for provision of additional critical electoral support to key regions; provide technical assistance and backstopping support for the organization, movement and retrieval of election material from critical points to GEO warehouses; and facilitate the overall command and control capacity of the IECI headquarters over GEOs and DEOs.

Following an official request for assistance from the IECI, assistance in this area will focus on:

- Provision of security in transport of incoming electoral items from arrival airfields to 16 of the 18 governorates and the designated warehouses;
- Contracting of an international company to provide security to the 19 GEO warehouses and a contractor warehouse, which will house contingency stock; and
- Retrieval of Tally Sheets from the GEO level to the IECI headquarters in Baghdad.

During the January 2005 general election process, the IECI relied on a complex mix of fixed line, Global system for mobile communication (GSM), Satellite, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and email. However, this communication system between the field and IECI headquarters was reportedly tenuous at best and generally unreliable at critical periods during the January 2005 election process. Although a number of attempts were made to mitigate the inherent weaknesses of the IECI current communication structure, these were not satisfactory. Ultimately, the IECI had to make do with stop-gap solutions such as using local liaison and ad-hoc communication solutions. Cluster G will therefore assist in the upgrading and maintenance of the current voice and data services together with the accompanying systems.

The IECI Close Security will organize the operation and management of a comprehensive security and protection service in order to protect lives and to deter criminal and terrorist attacks against the IECI Board of Commissioners. The appropriately selected contractor will deliver protective security services to the IECI Board of Commissioners that will include professional security personnel capable of providing close personal protection in the form of armed bodyguards, together with security advice, which will include intelligence and security services on convoy best practices. The contractor will also provide recommended measures to enhance current security measures. Furthermore, the contractor will furnish managerial, administrative and direct personnel to meet these security support needs. Depending upon security developments, other types of security assistance to the IECI and the electoral operations may have to be instituted.

b. Technical Assistance and Capacity-building for the IECI

Provision of International Expertise

In order to enable the United Nations to continue its essential and leading role of coordinating international assistance to the IECI, as requested in the letter from the IECI to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, the UN has continued to provide international experts to the IECI. Based on the effectiveness of this service, the UN has agreed to continue its support to the IECI in this area for its October referendum and December general election preparations. In addition, further assistance will be provided to the Commission's personnel to enable them to increase their capacity beyond the December general elections and into 2006.

During the UN DPA/EAD Electoral Needs Assessment of June 2005, a staffing table was prepared and approved in coordination with the IECI and the relevant Iraqi authorities. The table included additional support based on lessons learned, realities on the ground and the specific requirements of the IECI. The additional support included the provision of two senior positions in Baghdad including a new International Member of the IECI.

Provision of Institutional Memory Support to the IECI

Together with the IECI, Iraqi institutions, UN agencies and other relevant bodies, assistance will be provided to help to collect, compile and categorize documents and materials relevant to the January elections, which will be of use to the IECI in the future. Following this process, a user-friendly database will be designed and developed to host these materials. Finally, a web site with an English language interface will be developed to host this database and render it easily accessible for the IECI, other countries undertaking elections in similar circumstances in the future and other interested parties, such as researchers and academics.

Provision of Short- and Long-term Capacity-building Support to the IECI

A short- and long-term capacity-building programme and matrix to address the Commission's capacity-building needs will be developed. On the basis of this programme, these training needs will be prioritized against the IECI roles and responsibilities, organizational development plans and areas of greatest need so that a capacity-building support needs timetable for IECI personnel can be prepared and a programme implemented. This component is essential in order to enable the IECI to take full control of Iraqi electoral processes in the future. In addition, the IECI will need continued capacity-building into 2006, when new elections are expected at the governorate and local levels as well as governorate-based referenda in accordance with the new constitution.

2. Indirect Electoral Activities, including Observation

Indirect electoral activities are intended to improve the electoral process mainly through enhanced participation and confidence-building mechanisms. The activities are not within the purview of the electoral authority and are addressed through a diverse range of approaches. Assistance activities are aimed principally at the following:

a. Assistance to Independent Electoral Observer Groups

In order to assist the overall electoral process, support will be provided to independent observer groups in Iraq in partnership with two organizations, the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and the Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS). The purpose is to assist these groups to fulfil their role in the upcoming electoral processes so as to ensure their transparency and accountability, thus increasing the confidence of the Iraqi people and the international community as to the validity of their outcomes. Support will include capacity development and facilitation of national organizations and co-funding of activities.

b. Other Indirect Measures

Enhancement of Women's Participation

The range of activities foreseen includes:

- Targeted public information campaigns to inform women of their political rights and civic education (radio, newspapers, leaflets and television);
- Targeted voter education campaigns to enhance awareness of the electoral process, entitlements and scheduled events as provided by the IECI in the official voter education campaign (radio, newspapers, leaflets and television);
- Training and resources for competition in the election (e.g., facilitation of certification and registration of female candidates, training in political campaigning techniques, etc.); and
- Other activities that will facilitate the participation of women as voters and candidates in the electoral process.

Media Development

The national media (print, radio and television) constitute an important medium for the electoral authority, requiring accurate and fair reporting of their statements. Activities foreseen include:

- Hosted forums between media representatives and electoral officials;

- Technical and financial assistance in support of professional media standards;
- Procurement of audio-visual equipment (e.g., tape recorders); and
- Other activities that will enhance the professionalism and capacity of the media to report on the electoral process.

Other Accompanying Measures

All major election operations in emerging democracies always involve a level of uncertainty in implementation. Prudence dictates that budgets and planning should provide leeway for the unexpected. This is all the more so in Iraq, which continues to face a volatile security situation that includes specific insurgent threats against the electoral process. A sudden downturn in security, for example, or a successful insurgent attack on a major election facility could lead to the need for rapid revisions in operating plans and the institution of more cumbersome and expensive procedures. In support of the IECI, UN planning has taken into account the possibility of such developments.

Beyond the activities specified above, funds may also be needed to support other measures to promote the timely, effective and transparent implementation of the referendum and election. Individual projects selected for implementation by UN agencies may cross over/combine the different programme areas listed above, reflecting security considerations, operational realities, and the like.

H. 2005-2007 Joint Iraqi-UN Assistance Strategy

The Cluster, reflecting Security Council Resolution 1546, will continue to play a leading role in providing advice and support to the IECI on the process for holding elections throughout the official transitional period, which ends on 31 December, and beyond into 2006. The 15 October referendum has been successfully completed. The 15 December 2005 elections for a four-year National Assembly are coming up. The Cluster G budget/funding needs for the referendum and elections were recently estimated downwards to \$86 million from the previously estimated amount of \$107 million by UN EAD/IECI and subsequently communicated to IRFFI donors on 17 August 2005. The main reason for the reduction is the significantly lower cost achieved by the UN as result of the international competitive bid for the logistics support for transport. This resulted from the strong interest by 11 companies in participating in Iraq-related operations, the better timing and planning of all parties involved and the lessons learned from the January 2005 elections by IECI/UN EAD/UNOPS.

A breakdown of the \$86 million budget is given hereunder:

CATEGORY	AMOUNT (USD)
Technical Assistance to the IECI	4,759,453
Logistics and Governorate Electoral Office Support	61,309,996
Observers and Institutional Memory	5,526,763
IECI Personal Security Services	4,555,887
Media, Women and Youth	6,347,845
IECI Capacity-building	3,500,000
Total budget	85,999,944

IRFFI donors have generously provided the requisite level of funding for the Support to Electoral Process Cluster in 2005. At the same time, a number of key electoral events are anticipated for 2006, which will require substantial additional funding through Cluster G. Since the timing and specifics of these events will be determined by the permanent government under the new constitution, it is not yet possible to provide exact estimates of the amount required. Nonetheless, it is clear that additional

funding will be needed in 2006, in all probability at very short notice, to assist the Iraqi government with electoral events, including:

- Another national referendum, in line with the amendments to the constitution adopted on 12 October, which provided that a committee of the new National Assembly will be formed to consider constitutional amendments and report within four months. If the National Assembly approves the Committee's recommendations, the amendments will be put to a national referendum within two months.
- The new constitution provides that two or more governorates can form a "region." If they so decide, then there must be a referendum in the concerned governorates to ratify the decision.
- The current governorate assemblies and local councils were elected under Iraq's transitional arrangements. A new law has already been introduced that would mandate governorate elections early in 2006.
- In addition, the constitution calls for the establishment of a new Independent Electoral High Commission (to replace the current IECI), which will need technical assistance, training and support.