



**Third 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 July to 31 December 2005**

PART TWO

Cluster-level Progress Reports

11 May 2006

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Introduction

Part two of the Third Six-month Progress Report provides a review, by Cluster, of key aspects of programme implementation from 1 July to 31 December 2005, with updates on progress achieved during the first quarter of 2006. Details on the seven United Nations Clusters and Cluster Coordinators are provided below:

	Cluster	Cluster Coordinator
A	Agriculture, Food Security, Environment and Natural Resource Management	FAO
B	Education and Culture	UNICEF
C	Governance and Human Development	UNDP
D	Health and Nutrition	WHO
E	Infrastructure Rehabilitation	UNICEF
F	Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Durable Solutions	UNHCR
G	Support to Electoral Process	UN DPA/EAD

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. Draft 2006-2007 UN Assistance Strategy for Iraq

In section E, Specific Agency Implementation, completed projects are highlighted in blue for ease of reference. Section H uses information contained in the draft 2006-2007 UN Assistance Strategy of April 2006, which in turn builds on the National Development Strategy presented at the Dead Sea, Jordan, in July 2005. The draft UN Assistance Strategy 2006 is considered as a work in progress that will be adjusted to reflect the new Iraqi priorities that may be articulated by the new Government. The intention, as in 2005, is to adopt the draft strategy as a joint Iraqi-UN strategy following endorsement by the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation.

Further detailed information on progress in the implementation of individual projects to 31 December 2005 and on 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. 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.

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 31 DECEMBER 2005						AS OF 31 MARCH 2006					
		FUNDED		COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT		FUNDED		COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT	
		US\$ 000s	US\$ 000s	%	US\$ 000s	%	US\$ 000s	US\$ 000s	US\$ 000s	%	US\$ 000s	%	
A5-01	Drainage Conditions in Agricultural Areas	FAO	5,127	2,859	56	1,149	22	5,127	2,921	57	1,176	23	
A5-02	Rehabilitation of Pumping Stations	FAO	13,509	13,232	98	2,068	15	13,509	13,337	99	2,232	17	
A5-04	Community Irrigation Schemes	FAO	16,959	9,577	56	7,365	43	16,959	10,479	62	7,733	46	
A5-06	Promotion of Cottage Industries	UNIDO	5,013	1,517	30	1,163	23	5,013	2,761	55	2,254	45	
A5-07	Strengthening Environmental Governance	UNEP	4,700	3,320	71	2,599	55	4,700	3,915	83	2,641	56	
A5-08	Restoration of Veterinary Services	FAO	5,000	3,704	74	3,750	75	5,000	4,015	80	4,006	80	
A5-10	Restoration of Livestock Services	FAO	8,546	2,421	28	2,269	27	8,546	2,435	28	2,701	32	
A5-11	Marshlands Environmental Management	UNEP	11,000	10,883	99	5,806	53	11,000	10,883	99	7,500	68	
A5-12	Capacity Bldg. of Water Institutions	UNESCO	3,276	2,934	90	2,462	75	3,276	3,095	94	2,800	85	
A5-13	Rehabilitation of Dairy Plants	UNIDO	2,938	1,294	44	1,028	35	2,938	1,324	45	1,320	45	
A6-02	Development of Safety Nets and Food Security	WFP	7,000	4,623	66	4,623	66	7,000	5,651	81	5,373	77	
A7-02	Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Capacity-building and Clearance	UNOPS	3,341	3,341	100	3,341	100	3,341	3,341	100	3,341	100	
A7-03	Support to Iraq-Kurdistan Mine Action Center	UNOPS	0	0	0	0	0	2,922	0	0	0	0	
CLUSTER A TOTAL			86,407	59,704	69	37,621	44	89,328	64,156	72	43,077	48	

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.

As of 31 December 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 project and one mine action project). On 31 March 2006, a new project in mine action (A7-03, UNOPS) was approved for a total of \$2.9 million. Overall Cluster delivery at 31 December 2005 amounted to

\$59.7 million in terms of commitments and \$37.6 million in terms of disbursements. This compares favourably to the situation as of 31 June 2005 (the end of the previous reporting period) when commitments were at \$46.8 million and disbursements at \$23 million. By the end of March 2006, commitments had reached approximately \$64.2 million (72 per cent) and disbursements totalled \$43.1 million (48 per cent), representing continuing steady progress.

C. Key Accomplishments

Key Services Delivered

As of 31 December 2005, under the Vulnerable Group element of its project, the World Food Programme (WFP) had delivered 14,315 mt and distributed 13,205 mt of wheat flour, vegetable oil and pea-wheat blended food through the primary health care (PHC) centres and community child care centres to 2,181,763 beneficiaries (increased from 629,582 in the previous reporting period), which include malnourished children under five years of age, pregnant and lactating women, and tuberculosis patients.

The Project Management Committee has reported that as a result, chronic child malnutrition rates have decreased by up to 35 per cent in assisted districts and the rate of child wasting has diminished from 7.5 to 4.9 per cent in these districts.

A total of 10,489 mt of high-energy biscuits and vegetable oil had also been delivered to more than four thousand schools in Iraq, with 7,363 mt of biscuits and 1,522 mt of vegetable oil having been distributed under school feeding activities benefiting 1,223,655 pupils. As a result, attendance rates at assisted schools have increased from 60 to 92 per cent for girls and from 78 to 94 per cent for boys and enrolment rates in assisted schools have increased by 10 per cent for boys and 4 per cent for girls.

A purchase order for \$2,360,431 was issued for the supply of pumps and equipment for the North Suwira Pumping Station in September 2005 and for \$1,688,159 for the Al-Alimiriyah Pumping Station in December of that year.

All the veterinary supplies for which purchase orders had been issued during the previous reporting period (totalling over \$3.6 million) were delivered into Iraq, improving the operative capacity of the veterinary clinics, laboratories and field services. Purchase orders worth \$2.7 million for feed laboratory supplies and glassware, veterinary hormones for artificial insemination centres, feed laboratory equipment, laboratory equipment and artificial insemination equipment, including liquid nitrogen production facilities, were delivered to Iraq, improving the operational capability of the Livestock Department and its artificial insemination and feed analysis laboratories.

Policy Dialogue

Policy dialogue between international experts and officials of counterpart ministries continued to be an important aspect of project implementation in the Cluster. In the field of environmental protection, major progress has been made in developing an environmental framework law, with a final draft ready for ministerial consideration. 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

A total of 2,566 Ministry of Health (MoH) staff at all levels, 6,002 Ministry of Education (MoEd) staff and Parent-Teachers Association members, and 268 Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation

(MoPDC) staff members have been trained by WFP in areas including food aid management, development planning and household survey design.

In the water planning sector, capacity development was successful in raising the level of Iraqi expertise so that research papers were accepted at international water symposia during the second half of 2005. In total, five training courses, two workshops and two meetings were organized in addition to the co-organization of two international and regional workshops in the field. A total of 78 Iraqi water experts participated in capacity-building activities of the project.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (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 Ministry officials to initiate possible changes in Iraq. During the last module of the change management training in late August 2005, the Iraqi participants prioritized highly pathogenic avian influenza as a real concern due to the growing risk of disease spread in the Middle East.

Under the cottage industries project of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), six government officials and experts from vocational training centres participated in an international study tour to Europe for exchanges of experience in project activities. In addition, 37 different audio-visual training materials (DVDs and CDs) and 54 different kinds of printed training manuals have been prepared and provided to the Nassiriyah vocational training centre.

Under the project of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on support for environmental management of the Iraqi Marshlands, over 270 Iraqis had been trained in technical, policy and institutional aspects of wetland management as of December 2005. Participants included officials from the Ministry of the Environment (MoEn), the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) and the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works (MoMPW). In addition to Ministry officials, members of the local Marshlands community and members of academia have also been trained.

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; municipalities; research centres; universities; extension service providers; non-governmental organizations (NGOs); women's associations; scientific, geographical and conservation societies; and the private sector.

UNEP has taken a lead role in integrating environmental concerns into the projects of the UNDG ITF. Although all UN agencies are committed to the principle of sustainable development, 53 per cent (25 out of 47) of the UN project documents reviewed (representing nearly \$231 million) were found to have the potential for moderate to significant environmental impact. The three most common areas of potential environmental impact in the reviewed projects (>50 per cent) involve the protection of water quality and quantity, the safe disposal of solid waste and the sustainable use of biodiversity. Potential impact in the areas of air quality and groundwater quality was also identified in more than 30 per cent of the projects. UNEP is thus working on a paper to address the mainstreaming issues with the UN Country Team (UNCT) and the UNDG ITF.

The UNEP Marshlands project continues to be exemplary for its participatory project management. It has

supported community-level initiatives in three governorates to provide additional small-scale assistance to meet specific needs. These local initiatives had been identified, discussed and endorsed by the communities themselves. Care has been taken to support activities that can be implemented by local communities on their own without extensive travel, monitoring or movement of UNEP-sponsored personnel to address the security concerns. Also, such support improves the awareness of environmental protection and the understanding of the project goals (i.e., sustainable management of the Iraqi Marshlands) among the communities, thereby contributing to smooth implementation of the overall project.

The UNEP Marshlands project has engaged a national coordinator inside Iraq, which has been a crucial factor in facilitating the successful implementation of this project. The national coordinator has maintained constant dialogue with local community groups, contractors and ministries inside Iraq to monitor progress, share information on the project implementation, and solicit dialogue with partners so as to facilitate action. Whenever the security situation allows, the national coordinator has travelled to the southern governorates to meet and follow up on activities with local partners.

The project also works with contractors that have demonstrated experience in delivering necessary services inside Iraq on similar projects. These contractors have the know-how to address various constraints, such as delays, security and logistical challenges.

In the area of food security, the central Project Management Committee continues to play a key role. Each of the participating ministries (Health and Education) is represented by two senior staff at the policy and decision-making levels, who are delegated responsibility for the overall implementation of the project, with WFP playing an advisory role. It is this body that provides the reporting on key results detailed in section E. Information continues to be fed into a monitoring and evaluation database that provides up-to-date information on project progress to date.

For both of its agro-industry projects, UNIDO has also continued to operate an inclusive Project Steering Committee. FAO, in the execution of its projects, continues to work closely with Iraqi line ministries – the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the MoWR – and national counterparts and fully relies on them for the implementation of field activities throughout Iraq.

E. Specific Agency Implementation

Agriculture

- **FAO – A5-08, Restoration of Veterinary Services**

All the veterinary supplies for which purchase orders had been issued during the previous reporting period (worth over \$3.6 million) were delivered into Iraq, improving the operative capacity of the veterinary clinics, laboratories and field services.

The construction of nine new veterinary centres was cancelled at the last moment at the request of the MoA, which preferred to support a national brucellosis control campaign. A nationwide brucellosis survey involving the collection and testing of 21,000 samples has provided the basis for formulating a national brucellosis control programme. The MoA intended to follow this up with the procurement of \$1.5 million in vaccines and equipment; however, funds have not yet been secured for this procurement.

The comprehensive training programme designed in consultation with the Iraqi veterinary services to enhance national capacity for disease surveillance, diagnosis and control continued unchanged. Six veterinarians completed a study tour on veterinary services and institutions, having familiarized themselves with the Moroccan experience in privatizing veterinary services. In November 2005, six staff members went on a two-week veterinary public health and meat-processing-hygiene study tour in Germany, and five veterinarians returned in December from seven weeks of training in Australia in epidemiology and animal health information systems.

- \$64,000 worth of diagnostic sera and antigens, protective clothing and disinfectants were delivered to combat avian flu.
- \$3.6 million in veterinary supplies delivered.
- A national brucellosis programme formulated.
- 12 veterinarians completed study tour in Morocco and Germany.
- 2 veterinarians trained in avian influenza diagnosis procedures.

The organization of a modular series of change management training sessions continued in Amman for groups of 30 to 35 Iraqi senior veterinary staff. Module four was delivered during the reporting period. The main subjects of the change-management training programme covered the restructuring of national veterinary services to deliver core services to stakeholders most effectively, preparedness for trans-boundary animal diseases and other emergency diseases, and an effective veterinary quarantine structure.

During the last module of the change-management training in late August 2005, the Iraqi participants prioritized highly pathogenic avian influenza as a real concern because of the growing risk of disease spread in the Middle East. In response, the MoA developed a draft contingency plan to be implemented in the event of an avian influenza outbreak. This was put into immediate effect following the outbreaks in neighbouring Turkey. Disease surveillance was intensified on large poultry farms and many specimens were collected. In response to the request of the MoA, the project issued tenders for avian influenza testing sera and reagents, personal protection equipment, and disinfectant and disinfection equipment. Following the avian influenza outbreak in February 2006 in Iraq, further measures were taken, which are detailed in section G.

• **FAO – A5-10, Restoration and Development of Essential Livestock Services in Iraq**

Supplies and equipment from purchase orders worth \$2.7 million – feed laboratory supplies and glassware, veterinary hormones for artificial insemination centres, feed laboratory equipment, laboratory equipment and artificial insemination equipment, including liquid nitrogen production facilities – were delivered to Iraq, improving the operational capability of the Livestock Department and its artificial insemination and feed analysis laboratories.

- Supply of 30 Holstein-Friesian bulls from Australia.
- \$2.7 million worth of feed laboratory supplies delivered.
- Liquid nitrogen production facility to enhance artificial insemination delivered.
- 3 staff trained overseas on installation and maintenance of liquid nitrogen production equipment.

Orders worth an estimated \$1.4 million have been placed for inputs, including 1,000 Awassi sheep, 200 Shamee goats, 30 Holstein-Friesian bulls, cattle obstetric sets and electro-ejaculators for the artificial insemination centres, and chemicals and an explosion-proof refrigerator for the feed analysis laboratories. Results of the tender for these inputs were agreed with the MoA at the end of June 2005. Some of these inputs have already been supplied while others, including the breeding stock, have yet to be shipped. It is expected that all inputs will have been supplied by the end of the first quarter of 2006. As part of the ongoing training programme, three technicians were trained in Holland in November 2005 on the installation and maintenance of liquid nitrogen production equipment.

Agro-industry

• UNIDO – A5-06, Promotion of Cottage Industries

Major capacity-building efforts were under way throughout the reporting period. Six government officials and experts from vocational training centres participated in an international study tour to Europe for exchanges of experience in project activities. In addition, 37 different audio-visual training materials (DVDs and CDs) and 54 different kinds of printed training manuals were prepared and provided to the Nassiriyah vocational training centre. A two-day workshop was organized in Amman on the use of the audio-visual and printed material in the training of beneficiaries. Similar training materials for modules covering subjects such as business management, bookkeeping, entrepreneurship development, marketing and food-processing technologies are being finalized for use in the Al-Qorno training centre.

The contracts for the rehabilitation of the two training centres in Nassiriyah and Al-Qorno were signed with two Iraqi construction companies and the rehabilitation work is under way. The procurement of pilot plants and workshop equipment for woodworking, metalworking and textiles with a value of \$198,421 for the Nassiriyah vocational training centre was completed and the items were delivered to the site. The equipment for the 750 beneficiaries in non-food-processing technologies, including textile, wood and metal works with a value of \$386,523, was procured and was delivered to the site. The purchase of equipment for the food-processing training centre in Al-Qorno with a total value of \$550,000 has been finalized and partially delivered to the centre. The procurement of equipment for the business associations (total value of \$111,000) and 590 individual beneficiaries (total value of \$165,000) that will be engaged in food-processing cottage industries has also been finalized and delivery will take place soon.

- 43 trainers trained in entrepreneurship and appropriate technologies.
- 70 beneficiaries trained in garment making and metal works.
- 6 pilot plants for two vocational training centres delivered.
- 4 business associations established by beneficiaries to start micro-industry activity.

The first four business associations have been established by project beneficiaries to start their micro-industry activity. In addition, the training of more than 1,500 cottage-level entrepreneurs is ongoing as is the design and manufacture of food- and non-food-processing equipment in local workshops.

• UNIDO – A5-13, Rehabilitation of Dairy Plants

The Project Steering Committee decided that the dairy plant in Al-Diwaniyah was the plant to be upgraded in June 2005. Following competitive tender, the contract for rehabilitation works for \$1.8 million was awarded in October 2005. Equipment has already arrived in the country and will be installed in March 2006. The repair of facilities is ongoing.

The train-the-trainers sessions (each for two weeks) began in July 2005 and 80 per cent of the trainers have been recruited. Three train-the-trainer sessions were held in Amman and 18 trainers were trained through courses in good hygienic practices, good manufacturing practices and hazard analysis critical control points. The trainers that were trained held training sessions in several dairy plants. To date, 200 people have received training in good hygienic practices and hazard analysis critical control points in Iraq. Based on the training given, the Food Department of the University of Baghdad is preparing a separate curriculum for dairy experts, including training in good hygienic practices and hazard analysis critical control points.

Food Security

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

A further \$3 million was provided in August 2005 in addition to the partial funding of \$4 million provided on 4 March 2005. By 31 December 2005, \$4.6 million had been disbursed on food transport costs and project support.

Under the Vulnerable Group element of the project, as of 31 December 2005, WFP had delivered 14,315 mt and distributed 13,205 mt of wheat flour, vegetable oil and pea-wheat blended food through the PHC centres and community child care centres to 2,181,763 beneficiaries (an increase from 629,582 in the previous reporting period), which include malnourished children under five years of age, pregnant and lactating women, and tuberculosis patients.

The impact of the food aid assistance to these vulnerable groups, as indicated previously, has encouraged mothers of malnourished children to bring them regularly to the health clinics, either for screening or for regular check-ups and to receive a nutritionally blended food ration for the children.

The Project Management Committee has reported that chronic child malnutrition rates have diminished by up to 35 per cent in assisted districts and the rate of child wasting has diminished from 7.5 to 4.9 per cent in these districts. In addition, 76,464 malnourished children under five years of age were admitted to the Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres and 84 per cent regained their nutrition status and were discharged after successful rehabilitation.

Benefit to Assisted Districts

- Chronic child malnutrition rates reduced by 35 per cent
- Child wasting reduced from 7.5 to 4.9 per cent.
- 76,464 malnourished children under 5 years of age admitted to Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres.
- 84 per cent regained nutrition status.

Pregnant and lactating women and tuberculosis patients are now regularly following their schedule of clinic visits. The project covers 933 health facilities. Health personnel in these facilities have reported improvements in regular attendance by the vulnerable groups over the past six months of project assistance and that the project has also contributed to the success of the vaccination programme, which is linked to ration distribution schedules.

A total of 10,489 mt of high-energy biscuits and vegetable oil has also been delivered to more than 4,000 schools in Iraq, with some 8,885 mt of these commodities having been distributed under school feeding activities, benefiting 1,223,655 school children (more than doubling the level of beneficiaries during the previous reporting period).

The Project Management Committee has reported that attendance rates at assisted schools have increased from 60 to 92 per cent for girls and from 78 to 94 per cent for boys and that enrolment rates in assisted schools have increased by 10 per cent for boys and 4 per cent for girls.

- Attendance rates for schools increased
 - For girls from 60 to 92 per cent;
 - For boys from 78 to 94 per cent.
- Enrolment rates to schools increased
 - For girls by 4 per cent;
 - For boys by 10 per cent.

The project has also registered success in the area of capacity-building. For example, 2,566 MoH staff at policy, PHC centre and community child care centre levels, 6,002 MoEd staff and members of Parent-Teachers Associations and 268 staff of the MoPDC have been trained in various areas, including food aid

management; development project management skills; and household food security survey design, data collection and data analysis.

A follow-up on the baseline food security study (published in September 2004) through a second-round food security survey has been undertaken in collaboration with the MoH/Nutrition Research Institute, MoPDC/ COSIT and UNICEF as part of the project. The final report will be published in May 2006.

Water Resources

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

The main objective of the Hilla-Hashimia Land Reclamation Project, Babil Province, Euphrates watershed, is to reclaim 62,000 hectares to benefit more than 50,000 farming families. The main drain cannot accommodate sufficient discharge flows, first because of silting, with the existing hydraulic cross-section of the main drain requiring both widening and deepening, and second, because of the growth of weeds, which need to be removed. In line with this situation, the main Hilla-Hashimia drain will be excavated to its original depth to enable full, unimpeded flow of drainage water.

The design report, Bill of Quantities (BOQ) and drawings for the FAO contribution to the Hilla-Hashimia Land Reclamation Project were approved by the FAO Technical Division and the MoWR in August 2005. Tender documents were prepared and the tender was issued to 37 potential Iraqi bidders. The contract with the winner was signed on 10 December 2005, with work due to start in January 2006. The schedule for completion of the works is 180 days after the start of the contract, which begins as soon as the Performance Bond has been received.

- Rehabilitation and remodelling of 49 km of main drain.
- Reclamation of 62 ha.
- Assured employment of 50,000 farm families.
- Water fuel tankers and hydraulic excavators delivered.
- 10 MoWR staff trained at Cranfield University (United Kingdom) in operation and maintenance of irrigation schemes.

The supervision of the civil works contract for rehabilitation of the main drain was still to be finalized at the end of the year. The two tipper trucks procured in July 2005 were delivered in December 2005. New purchase orders totalling \$520,000 were raised in November 2005 for the procurement of one forklift, one excavator, one fuel tanker and two water tankers of the sizes and makes specified by the MoWR.

Under the capacity development programme in water resources, four major training courses have been arranged in four different international training institutions to strengthen technical institutions. The first course, funded under this project and entitled “Operation and Maintenance of Irrigation and Drainage Schemes” (including weed control), was held for 10 MoWR engineers at Cranfield University, Bedfordshire, England, from 16 October to 9 December 2005. The three other courses are funded under project A5-04.

- **FAO – A5-02, Rehabilitation of Pumping Stations**

A detailed condition assessment survey of eight pumping stations has been completed. An estimated \$25.7 million is required (against a budget availability under this project of \$13.5 million) for the rehabilitation of all eight surveyed pumping stations. The rehabilitation of only four pumping stations is under way under this project while a separate project document is being formulated for submission to the ISRB and UNDG ITF Steering Committee for the additional \$12.2 million needed for the other four

stations.

For the two Kirkuk pumping stations, total spares procured amounted to \$1,180,511. A purchase order for \$2,360,431 was issued for the supply of pumps and equipment for the North Suwira Pumping Station in September 2005 and a purchase order for \$1,688,159 for the Al-Alimiriya Pumping Station was issued in December 2005. A meeting between the supplier and the MoWR/FAO to clarify equipment specifications resulted in a saving of approximately \$1 million over the original contract amount. In addition, contracts were being prepared for equipment installation and for the supervision of installation.

- Purchase orders and contracts valued at \$9 million and covering 4 pumping stations have been signed for supply of equipment and installation.
- 16 MoWR staff received hands-on training in condition assessment of pumping stations and 19 were involved in the hands-on technical evaluation of procurement proposals.

Contracts for the supply and installation of the Al-Sijillah, Salman Pak, Al-Hussainiyah and Hutaman pumping stations were also being finalized during the reporting period under review in anticipation of receiving the additional \$12.2 million.

MoWR technical staff have completed hands-on training in condition assessment and pumping station surveys as well as technical evaluation of major international procurement contracts. However, on-the-job training will continue in both areas while the project continues. Standard database packages for the inventory of the 305 pumping stations have been identified as well as the key reporting information required from the database. A Jordanian company has been identified to develop a database demonstration incorporating the identified requirements.

- **FAO – A5-04, Community Irrigation Schemes**

Surveying instrumentation, including ten total survey stations, computers and plotters to assist the MoWR in project design and purchased for a value of \$428,794 during the previous reporting period, was delivered in September 2005. Training by the suppliers in the use of the equipment was carried out in Iraq in November 2005. Three aquatic weed harvesters (1 of 10 m³ and 2 of 20 m³) were procured for \$1,503,956, with delivery planned for June 2006. This equipment will be used to strengthen the capabilities of the MoWR to control weeds in rivers, canals and reservoirs; training of operators will be given in the United States in June 2006.

Four of the five potential project sites identified with the MoWR in November 2004 were originally selected for rehabilitation; however, following receipt of the bids, which were substantially higher than estimated, only three of the five potential project sites are being rehabilitated. These cover an irrigated area of about 23,145 ha, which will benefit around 12,680 farming families at a cost of \$6.53 million.

- Heran irrigation scheme fully rehabilitated, increasing cropping by 50 per cent, and 2 other sites are under rehabilitation, all covering an irrigated area of 23,145 ha and benefiting 12,680 farming families.
- 3 weed harvesters worth \$1.5 million purchased to enhance weed control capability of the MoWR.
- 10 staff trained in soils, drainage and land reclamation.

The Heran (Governorate of Erbil) irrigation scheme (civil works contract for \$216,000) had been 80 per cent completed by the end of 2005. For the Mussayib (Governorate of Babil) and Al-Thraima rehabilitation projects, contracts were awarded in January 2006 for \$3,014,000 and \$3,300,000, respectively.

One pumping station has been selected for inclusion under this project: a pumping station for drainage water associated with the Mussayib irrigation scheme, known as Drain 22. A full condition assessment of this pumping station has been completed. The funds for the rehabilitation of this pumping station and training of operators are included under the rehabilitation of the whole irrigation scheme, and the contract for rehabilitation was signed on 29 December 2005.

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

During the reporting period, technical and institutional capacity-building in the management of international water resources continued as during the first half of 2005. In total, five training courses, two workshops and two meetings were organized in addition to the co-organization of two international and regional workshops in the field. A total of 78 Iraqi water experts participated in capacity-building activities of the project, a decrease from the 150 planned for the period due to necessary cancellations following the attacks on Amman, Jordan. Building on outcomes in the previous period, a series of advanced training courses was held as well as strategic activities.

- 78 Iraqi water experts and managers trained in integrated water resources management during the reporting period.
- Two trilateral meetings among Turkish, Syrian and Iraqi delegation organized to identify cooperation potential on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.
- Training centre and library of the MoWR partially rehabilitated.

UNESCO also expanded its reach to other water-related ministries during the second half of 2005, whereas it had tended to focus more on technical staff in the MoWR in the first half of that year. For example, decision-maker training at UNESCO-IHE for participants from several water-related ministries was noteworthy in terms of networking with international institutions and strengthening horizontal relationships among water-related ministries.

The attendance of the Minister for Water Resources at the International Water Week in Stockholm attracted the attention of the international community to trans-boundary water and environmental issues. As a result of the Stockholm conference, UNESCO co-organized a trilateral technical meeting (Iraq, Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey) on the Euphrates river in November 2005 to identify the potential for regional cooperation among riparian countries – the first such meeting in 30 years.

Participation in regional and international conferences was encouraged for Iraqi water experts and scientists to present the current situation on water management issues to the international water community. For example, research papers were presented at the Seventh Gulf Water Conference (Kuwait, 19-23 November 2005) and the Third International Conference on Wadi Hydrology (Yemen, 12-14 December 2005).

As for the rehabilitation and development of the local training and research centre, delivery of necessary equipment had been finalized by the end of February 2006. In addition, books and academic journals were provided to the library of the MoWR.

Environment

- **UNEP – A5-07, Strengthening Environmental Governance in Iraq through Environmental**

Assessment and Capacity-building

For the environmental assessment and clean-up of hot spots, the last of five workshops for the five environmental assessment teams was held on “Interpretation, Risk Assessment and Remediation” from 22 to 24 August 2005 in Amman, Jordan. This workshop, organized once the field samples had been received from the five priority sites, served as an opportunity to discuss the results and to plan for the potential remediation of the sites. Based on the workshop, UNEP was able to prepare a project proposal for the remediation of the Al-Qadissiya site, which represents a severe risk to human health as it is contaminated with cyanide and is publicly accessible (quick-impact project D2-08; see report on Health and Nutrition Cluster).

Further to the assessment activities undertaken from January to June 2005 and the above-mentioned workshop, the final report was written, published and launched on 10 November 2005 by the Minister of Environment, the UNEP Executive Director and the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations in Geneva. The final assessment report, entitled “Assessment of Environmental ‘Hot Spots’ in Iraq”, details the specific recommendations for each site. The report can be downloaded from the following web link: http://postconflict.unep.ch/publications/Iraq_ESA.pdf and is also available on the UNDG ITF Home Page of the IRFFI web site www.irffi.org under “Special Reports”.

For the institutional capacity-building of the MoEn, a task force of seven Iraqi counterpart staff was established to undertake an institutional assessment in collaboration with UNEP international expertise. At a Consultative Meeting with the task force on 28 September 2005 in Amman, Jordan, UNEP experts provided the members with the tools, methodology and planning for the analysis. Questionnaires were prepared and were provided to the task force, which then collected information from all levels (national, governorate) in order to provide the data on administrative and mandate-related structures and the resources to fulfil this mandate. The results of this assessment were collected during December 2005 and were discussed at a follow-up workshop in January 2006, where an analysis of strengths and weaknesses as well as opportunities and threats was undertaken.

In the area of training and technical assistance in the development of environmental policy, the Second Consultative Meeting on the development of environmental framework law took place on 8 July 2005 in Amman, Jordan. A technical assistance consultancy was provided to the law-drafting task force in Baghdad from 7 to 21 October 2005. A capacity-building workshop on the reconnection of Iraq to the multilateral environmental agreements was conducted in Amman, Jordan from 11 to 13 July, attended by the Minister of Environment of Iraq. As a result, it is foreseen that the new Iraq Cabinet will announce its intention to ratify and accede to nine Conventions. These include the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention on Desertification, the Ramsar Convention (wetlands), the Montreal Protocol and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. In addition, a workshop on biodiversity and natural resource management was held in Dana Nature Reserve, Jordan, for 20 officials from 29 September to 2 October 2005.

Tender procedures for the procurement of a range of laboratory equipment were finalized and a contractor was selected, but the actual procurement had to be postponed owing to the move of the MoEn to new premises. Final delivery and installation of equipment to establish a modern laboratory (capable of undertaking a range of environmental analyses) will now take place by mid-2006.

An appropriate space has been identified for establishing the environmental information centre, and a training session was conducted on environmental information management for staff from the MoEn from 7 to 22 October 2005 at UNEP, Nairobi, Kenya. As a result of the move of the Ministry into a new building, the procurement of the publications, furniture and equipment had to be postponed. The nearly 2,000 books and publications will be delivered in January, and library software will be provided to the

Ministry in March 2006, after which a second training session in environmental information management will take place.

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

Through the Marshlands Information Network (MIN), UNEP is using Web-based technology to encourage communication and dialogue among Iraqi stakeholders. All the institutions involved in Marshlands restoration and management have access to this cost-effective, Internet-based tool through an Arabic version of ESTIS, the innovative, multi-language e-service developed by IETC in 2003. The MIN is now supported by one server in Amman and five in Iraq (see: http://www.estis.net/communities/min_eng/). The Iraqi Marshlands Observation System (IMOS) continues to serve as a decision-making support tool to assist stakeholders to pragmatically modify and adapt restoration plans in a timely manner based on valid scientific information (see: <http://gridca.grid.unep.ch/xoops/html/>)

A series of capacity-building activities was completed during the reporting period. The tenth and final training course on Environmentally Sound Technology (EST) Assessment Methodology and Implementation was delivered from 1 to 3 December 2005 in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic. All ten training manuals have been translated into Arabic. Five of the course manuals have been used for secondary training inside Iraq.

Six secondary training courses were organized and implemented inside Iraq by Iraqi trainers who have participated in UNEP courses, based on the original training by UNEP. In total, over 270 Iraqis had been trained in technical, policy, and institutional aspects of wetland management as of December 2005. 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. Three public awareness campaigns also were run in the southern Governorates of Basrah, Missan and Thi-Qar from November 2005 through December 2005.

Diversified Support to Marshland Environment

- Provided safe drinking water in an environmentally sustainable manner to 15,000-22,000 Marshland residents.
- Established Web-based communication and data-sharing network in Arabic among Iraqi stakeholders.
- Made satellite-based observations of Marshland recovery available to decision-makers for development of management plan.
- Trained over 270 Iraqis in wetland management and used trained personnel in project implementation.
- Supported 3 local-level public awareness campaigns for Marshland management.
- Trained local representatives on how to organize community-level initiatives.

Pilot implementation of environmentally sound technologies for the provision of water, sanitation and wetland management began in six communities that had been selected by the MoEn, the MoWR, the MoMPW and the Marsh Arab Forum based on consensus. The reports on Field Assessment, Preliminary Design and Detailed Design were completed on the provision of drinking water and sanitation for the pilot communities.

The contractor to supply, deliver and install the EST equipment for drinking water provision and the sanitation system was selected based on the TOR to implement the works worth \$3 million. The contract included the treatment units, pipelines, sanitation demonstration, monitoring and local training. The civil construction works necessary to install the EST equipment for drinking water treatment were completed by early December 2005 at five sites. EST equipment worth \$2.5 million for the provision of drinking water was delivered to the Iraqi border by early December 2005 (entry into Iraq was delayed due to border closings

associated with the election). The equipment was subsequently installed to provide clean water to the residents by early 2006. Water quality monitoring work in the field was completed, with three sampling events in each of the six pilot project sites. Numerical models to help in the design of artificial wetlands for wastewater treatment and assessment of wetland rehabilitation and reconstruction were produced. The Handbook on Phytotechnology for Water Quality Improvement and Wetland Management through Modelling Applications was also completed.

With the consent of the line ministry (MoEn), an MOU with the MoWR for field assessments, design and construction supervision of phytotechnology applications for wetland rehabilitation and wastewater treatment was drafted in September 2005. As a result of unforeseen problems in fund transfer to Iraq and time availability, the final version of the MOU was signed in December 2005, focusing on wetland rehabilitation and reconstruction. Pilot activities have been targeted at four sites; of these, two have been selected as final areas for project activity.

Mine Action

UNOPS – A7-02, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Capacity-building and Clearance (Completed)

This project was completed during the previous reporting period. By 30 June 2005, the project had 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. All clearance work and training were conducted in accordance with International Mine Action Standards. The benefits of this clearance accrued to the local population, which is 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 in the First and Second Progress Reports.

The area of water resources continued to face major constraints in rehabilitation works. Problems have occurred in some cases because of 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. Arriving at decisions on key rehabilitation works with the MoWR has also been difficult at times. The Cluster Coordinator was on mission in Baghdad in March 2006 to strengthen relationships with the MoWR and the MoA. Discussions with the MoA include the relative importance to be placed on avian influenza and brucellosis under existing projects.

During September 2005, the Deputy Minister for Environment was replaced, and UNEP had to actively and remotely re-establish a fruitful working relationship to prior levels. By not being able to assist the MoEn on a day-to-day basis, it is unclear what kind of follow-up has been provided to the various issues addressed in the training workshops. However, UNEP has received good indications that the results of the workshops are indeed taken seriously by the Ministry and that task forces are following through on the capacity-building support provided.

Security has been a major constraint in WFP project implementation. Although WFP used three different corridors to deliver food to Iraq (Jordan, Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey), frequent border closures and inaccessibility of some governorates have often caused disruption in cargo delivery. Transit losses have

been low, however. The use of the Project Management Committees and delegation of responsibility to them have been valuable in enabling the project to proceed inside Iraq while overall high-level management has been based outside the country. Communication is crucial to enable this arrangement to work well. Regular Project Management Committee and Project Management Unit meetings, attended by WFP national staff, are one of the key contributors to successful implementation.

G. Future Work Plan for Ongoing Approved Projects/Programmes

During the upcoming reporting period, 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 eight-week training course for two specialist Iraqi trainees on avian influenza and other avian diseases in Pennsylvania, United States, began on 27 February 2006. An expert meeting for senior veterinary staff in Rome with FAO, and in Paris with the World Organisation for Animal Life (OIE) took place from 20 February to 3 March 2006. Two technical training courses on bacteriology and virology in Australia and the United Kingdom, a study tour to Germany on livestock quarantine practices and policies, and the remaining two modules of the change-management training will take place during the upcoming reporting period, funds permitting.

The procurement of brucellosis vaccines, vaccination equipment, and a national animal health information and data management system had to be postponed owing to a lack of funds and has now been ranked as a lower priority in favour of the avian influenza emergency. Procurement of avian influenza personal protection equipment, disinfectant and disinfection sprayers will be the first priority.

As indicated in the February 2006 UNDG ITF Newsletter, FAO is coordinating very closely with Cluster D on avian influenza. In response to the February 2006 outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 (HPAI), immediate control measures were implemented, including culling, quarantining of the area, disinfection, movement control, a regional ban on poultry markets and intensified veterinary surveillance of poultry farms. Subsequent to the WHO-led UN mission, FAO is currently preparing a veterinary expert mission to Iraq to assist and advise the Veterinary Department and the State Veterinary Company in their control, surveillance, diagnostic and coordination tasks.

In order to immediately assist the Government of Iraq in its efforts to control the HPAI outbreaks and further spread of the virus, FAO is procuring initial amounts of laboratory test reagents, protective clothing, disinfectant and sprayers, some of which have started to arrive in the country.

- **FAO – A5-10, Restoration and Development of Essential Livestock Services in Iraq**

The security situation necessitates a close review of the feasibility of conducting the nationwide livestock survey and the extension training programme. The ongoing training and study tour programme will continue, including the training course in feed quality control and feed safety and possible training in embryo transfer technology in the first half of 2006. Iraqi personnel will participate in a regional workshop on meat and feed quality in Cairo and in a workshop on livestock services in Beijing.

Agro-industry

- **UNIDO – A5-06, Promotion of Cottage Industries**

The rehabilitation of the two vocational training centres in Nassiriyah and Al-Qorno will be finalized during the upcoming reporting period. The installation, start-up and commissioning of six pilot plants in the training centres will be completed. The training of 1,000 beneficiaries in cottage and micro industry entrepreneurship and various food- and non-food-processing technologies will be ongoing as will the provision of equipment and tools for the beneficiaries. The design and manufacture of food- and non-food-processing equipment to be used by 1,000 beneficiaries in local workshops will be ongoing. The organization of beneficiaries into 15 production groups (micro industries) will continue. Support will be provided to the beneficiaries in the start-up phase in the provision of raw materials, operations, maintenance of equipment and marketing of their products. Usage of equipment will be monitored. Also, the processing procedures, quality control and food safety awareness will be promoted.

- **UNIDO A5-13, Rehabilitation of Dairy Plants**

Rehabilitation and construction work for the dairy plant will be completed. It is expected that the second shipment of equipment will arrive at the plant during April 2006 so that a smooth installation can be secured. Other equipment, which is under purchase, will arrive by 30 April so that the project can be finalized by 30 June 2006. 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 has been undertaken in collaboration with the MoH/Nutrition Research Institute, the MoPDC/ COSIT and UNICEF as part of the project. The report will be published in May 2006. Further priority actions can be addressed only if additional funding for food procurement is forthcoming to allow additional deliveries into Iraq.

Water Resources

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

The contract for the supervision of civil works for the rehabilitation of the Hilla-Hashimia Drain will be issued and progress will be monitored. The training programme will be implemented in conjunction with the two other irrigation projects. Although the project end date was originally planned for June 2006, it will now need to be delayed until 31 December 2006. A request for this extension has been made to the UNDG-ITF Steering Committee.

- **FAO – A5-02, Rehabilitation of Pumping Stations**

The distribution/installation of spares at Kirkuk pumping stations will continue. At Mandali pumping station, a supervision contract for the \$3,815,836 contract awarded for the supply and installation of the replacement pumps will be implemented. For the stations at North Suwira and Al-Amiriyah, a contract for the installation of the replacement pumps will be issued. In addition, the report on asset management software available for pumping station management will be finalized.

- **FAO – A5-04, Community Irrigation Schemes**

Three training courses will be run from January until the end of April 2006. In Alterra-ILRI Wageningen, the Netherlands, ten Iraqi engineers attended a six-week course on “Soil, Drainage and Land Reclamation” from 9 January 2006. Engineers have been identified to attend a six-week course on “Agro-Hydrology” from 6 March 2006 at UNESCO-IHE in the Netherlands and for an eight-week course in Bari, Italy, on “Planning and Design of Modern Irrigation Systems”.

The remaining civil works contract for Al-Thraima will be awarded and the awarding of the supervision contracts for the Al-Thraima Irrigation Scheme, Drain 22 Pumping Station and Irrigation Scheme in Mussayib will be finalized. The project will need to be extended until the end of December 2006 to complete these activities.

- **UNESCO – A5-12, Capacity Development of Water Institutions**

As a result of the Iraq-Syrian Arab Republic-Turkey trilateral meeting in November 2005, joint training on dam safety assessment for four parties (Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey) was held in Istanbul in February 2006. This was the first time that such regional cooperation on common issues concerning the Tigris and Euphrates rivers has taken place.

Training in rainwater harvesting will be organized in the Syrian Arab Republic in collaboration with the Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD). During the Fourth World Water Forum in Mexico in March 2006, one of the biggest political events on water issues, UNESCO organized a trilateral ministerial meeting on the Euphrates river as well as a quadrilateral technical meeting, inviting the official delegations. The meetings finalized a future plan for regional cooperation on trans-boundary water issues.

In order to raise awareness on the water-related clauses in the Constitution, a “water round-table” meeting will be organized after the establishment of a new government. This conference, to which key officials from central ministries and local representatives will be invited, will provide a platform for the discussion of “a fair distribution of water”. Not only water experts but also policy-makers will be invited to share ideas on how scarce water resources will be regulated to guarantee access to clean and sufficient water for all through the concept of integrated water resources management. This activity will require a further extension in the duration of the project but no increase in the project budget, 83 per cent of which had already been disbursed by the beginning of March 2006.

Environment

- **UNEP – A5-07, Strengthening Environmental Governance in Iraq through Environmental Assessment and Capacity-building**

Activities continued to finalize the institutional capacity assessment in January 2006, including the analysis of an institutional questionnaire. The final result of this exercise will be a report with recommendations for institutional change and further capacity-building requirements; the report is likely to be ready by April 2006. A workshop on work planning will be organized for May/June to present the final outcomes of the institutional development component.

Technical assistance was provided during the first two months of 2006 to assist in the finalization of a draft environmental framework law, with the final text to be submitted to the Minister of Environment and subsequently to the State Consultative Committee and the newly elected Parliament. The delivery of

equipment for the environmental monitoring laboratory will be completed in March/April 2006. Equipment for the environmental information centre will also be delivered in March 2006, and the second environmental information management training event will be organized in April 2006. UNEP has requested an extension of the project by six months to complete these activities.

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

A number of activities were executed during the first quarter of 2006. Concerning the pilot implementation of environmentally sound technologies, EST equipment for the provision of drinking water was installed and commissioned at five sites, providing immediate relief to 15,000 to 20,000 Marshland residents by providing safe drinking water. The provision of safe drinking water in the villages helps these residents, many of whom had been displaced previously, in re-establishing their livelihoods. The models for artificial wetlands to treat wastewater and wetland rehabilitation (SubWet, SufWet and Wet-Restore) have been finalized.

Twenty-five packages containing four CD-ROMs were produced and sent to experts from the MoEn, the MoWR, the MoMPW, the University of Baghdad and Basra institutions, the Iraq Foundation and southern governorates. Likewise, the company involved in the pilot implementation of the sanitation component also received copies of SubWet to assist in designing the wastewater treatment wetlands. In addition, the project has produced CD-ROMs of all of its training workshops and has distributed them inside Iraq.

The provision of basic electricity services and the extension of water distribution networks in the pilot implementation areas are ready to be implemented during the upcoming reporting period, pending formal approval by the UNDG ITF Fund Steering Committee of this project revision. The phytotechnology activities will be fully implemented during 2006. The results from the pilot implementation of phytotechnology applications for wetland rehabilitation and reconstruction will provide the basis for wider replication of this type in the Iraqi Marshlands.

The production of a longer video to improve media relations is ongoing. If the security conditions in Iraq permit the video shooting in the Marshlands, UNEP plans to produce a documentary-style BBC Earth Report (for global distribution on BBC World TV), a shorter video news release (five to six minutes long) and a 30-minute collection of background footage for media use.

Mine Action

The UNOPS mine action project A7-02, which concentrated on the south of Iraq, was completed at the end of June 2005. At the UNDG ITF Steering Committee meeting of 16 March 2006, a similar project was approved: Capacity Development in the Iraq Kurdistan Mine Action Centre

H. Draft 2006-2007 UN Assistance Strategy for Iraq

The objectives of the UNCT in the areas of Agriculture, Food Security, Environment and Natural Resource Management are set against the background of the longer-term targets identified in the Iraq National Development Strategy and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As a matter of priority, the Cluster will continue to address the urgent needs of the most vulnerable while assisting with the establishment of necessary regulatory, legislative and institutional policies.

Focus areas for this Cluster during 2006 and 2007 will be as follows:

- Initiate internal and external water management policies;
- Improve the utilization of water for increased production and productivity;

- Clear mines and rehabilitate agricultural and grazing land;
- Train and equip Iraqi non-governmental mine action organizations to be operational within the framework of concerned Iraq laws and be able to operate in accordance with International Mine Action Standards;
- Increase crop and livestock production;
- Provide short-term and long-term employment opportunities through infrastructure rehabilitation;
- Increase economic activity in the rural areas through promotion of cottage small and micro industries and services;
- Strengthen rural technical institutions;
- Increase capacity of the government to identify food needs, develop strategies and carry out food-based programmes;
- Provide support to the Public Distribution System reform through policy advice on safety options and market reform;
- Provide basic information and statistical data on agriculture, livestock and manufacturing and food trade to the community level for efficient planning;
- Build capacity at municipal and local levels;
- Encourage local governments to actively address public-private partnership concepts and community involvement in their strategies;
- Strengthen laboratory capacity for investigation, diagnosis and surveillance of major livestock and poultry diseases including avian influenza as well as for quality control of locally produced and imported veterinary vaccines, drugs and animal food products;
- Conduct surveys and studies and draft and obtain agreement on plans for the cattle breeding strategy; and
- Strengthen environmental management, including development of environmental laws, the environmental impact assessment process and application of environmental safeguards.

To implement projects in these areas of action, Cluster A has a total net funding requirement for 2006-2007 of \$76.2 million (\$31.5 million for 2006 and \$44.7 million for 2007).

2. Cluster B: Education and Culture

A. Purpose of Cluster

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.

Both the Iraq National Development Strategy and the MDGs equally stress the centrality of education for development. The Interim Government of Iraq 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, 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 31 DECEMBER 2005						AS OF 31 MARCH 2006					
		FUNDED		COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT		FUNDED		COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT	
		US\$ 000s	US\$ 000s	%	US\$ 000s	%	US\$ 000s	%	US\$ 000s	US\$ 000s	%	US\$ 000s	%
B1-01	Vocational Education	UNESCO	2,758	2,741	99	2,491	90	2,758	2,719	99	2,534	92	
B1-05	In-service Training for Teachers	UNESCO	2,346	1,754	75	1,538	66	2,346	1,907	81	1,640	70	
B1-06	Strengthening Primary and Intermediate Education - Phase 1	UNICEF	34,254	31,883	93	30,206	88	34,254	32,388	95	30,409	89	
B1-07	Protecting the Iraqi cultural heritage	UNESCO	2,092	1,890	90	1,633	78	2,092	2,040	98	1,773	85	
B1-08	Literacy and Life Skills Development	UNESCO	2,230	786	35	593	27	2,230	1,179	53	974	44	
B1-09	Education Facilities Rehabilitation	UNHABITAT	17,581	15,862	90	13,718	78	17,581	16,198	92	14,618	83	
B1-10	Iraq Networking Academy Project	ESCWA	1,000	892	89	497	50	1,000	892	89	818	82	
B1-11	Rehab. of School Buildings in Lower South Iraq	UNHABITAT	5,270	5,270	100	5,270	100	5,270	5,270	100	5,270	100	
B1-12	Strengthening Primary and Intermediate Education - Phase 2	UNICEF	16,230	9,555	59	8,890	55	16,230	14,043	87	9,444	58	
B1-13	Education Management Information System	UNESCO	1,500	951	63	837	56	1,500	1,184	79	1,036	69	
B1-14	Revitalization of Technical and Vocational Education - Phase 2	UNESCO	3,000	60	2	3	0	3,000	335	11	123	4	
B1-15	Strengthening Secondary Education - Phase 1	UNESCO	4,721	91	2	1	0	4,721	194	4	20	0	
B1-17	Iraq Networking Academy Project - Phase 2	ESCWA	3,780	111	3	27	1	3,780	1,531	41	60	2	
B1-18	Textbooks Quality Improvement Programme II	UNESCO	7,100	6,060	85	55	1	7,100	6,136	86	5,929	84	
B1-19	Integrated Community-based Project to Deliver Quality-based Social Services	UNICEF	12,900	3,092	24	1,204	9	12,900	10,418	81	1,445	11	
B1-20	Basra Leadership Human Rights Awareness	UNOPS	0	0	0	0	0	63	0	0	0	0	
CLUSTER B TOTAL			116,763	80,999	69	66,966	57	116,826	96,435	83	76,093	65	

To date, 15 projects totalling approximately \$116.8 million have been funded in the Education and Culture Cluster. As of 31 December 2005, the Cluster had contractually committed about \$81 million (69 per cent) and about \$67 million (57 per cent) in terms of disbursements, significant progress vis-à-vis the previous reporting period when the level of commitments was \$60 million and disbursements totalled \$31.5 million (disbursements had more than doubled). In March 2006, a new project on human rights awareness was approved for a total of \$0.063 million (B1-20, UNOPS). By the end of the first quarter of 2006, the figures for commitments and disbursements had increased to \$96.4 million (83 per cent) and \$76.1 million (65 per cent), respectively.

C. Key Accomplishments

The Cluster has significantly contributed to the revitalization of the primary and intermediate levels of education in the critical areas of physical rehabilitation, service delivery of school supplies and capacity-building.

To date, the Cluster has completed the comprehensive rehabilitation of about 153 schools. Of these, 50 completed by UNICEF and 103 completed by UN-HABITAT were funded through the UNDG ITF, including the provision of additional classrooms in selected cases. Work on 135 schools is ongoing with UNDG ITF funds (120 UNICEF and 15 UN-HABITAT). In addition to the 400 rehabilitated schools, a further 542 schools have been provided with improved water supply and sanitation facilities to address a critical problem – the shortage of adequate sanitation facilities – that has been a main contributory factor to the low enrolment rates of girls. The school rehabilitation programme is now providing an improved learning and teaching environment for over 340,000 Iraqi students and teachers. By the same token, this effort has provided thousands of jobs to Iraqis.

Comprehensive Rehabilitation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 153 schools rehabilitated. • Work ongoing in 135 schools. • 542 schools provided with water and sanitation facilities. • 340,000 Iraqi students and teachers provided with improved learning/teaching environment.

The objective of providing basic furniture to 114,000 students in 164 primary schools has been partially met. Two types of furniture were developed, depending on children's anthropometrical measurements: type A for students in grades 1-3 and type B for students in grades 4-6. By the end of December 2005, 83 per cent of type A furniture and 74 per cent of type B furniture had been distributed to schools.

Under the quick-impact project initiative, the procurement of 47,000 student chairs and 23,500 student desks (each for two students) was completed and the furniture was delivered to the concerned Directorates of Education (DoEs). The DoEs are now delivering these supplies to the targeted schools. In addition, the purchase order has been issued for the procurement of recreational supplies, while bidding for procurement of the sanitation supplies has been completed. The delivery of materials will be completed in March 2006.

In addition, 11 vocational training institutes have been successfully rehabilitated and equipped by UNESCO through its completed project, B1-01, Vocational Education.

The provision of education learning materials to 4.5 million children was successfully carried out and nine million textbooks were distributed to 6 million

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 vocational training institutes rehabilitated and equipped. • 4.5 million children provided with learning materials. • 9 million textbooks distributed to 6 million children covering 1,200 schools. • First post-war data generated on primary, intermediate and secondary schools, including gender and geographical data on students and teachers.
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children, covering more than 12,000 schools for the academic year 2005/2006.

The Cluster also supported educational authorities through the Educational Management Information System to generate the first post-war data on all primary, intermediate and secondary schools in the country, including gender and geographically disaggregated data on students and teachers. Among other findings, these data revealed a disturbing trend in girls' enrolment and attendance, especially in the rural areas of the lower south.

In higher education, the Cluster contributed to dialogue and policy formulation in the subsector while ensuring the provision of necessary equipment and Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) training courses and orientation courses for the establishment of academies in four universities and the establishment of tens of local networking academies. Also worth noting is the fact that the Cluster provided critical, timely support to the MoEd for the conduct of terminal and non-terminal examinations, including the orientation of teachers. In addition, 20,000 primary school teachers were trained and 30,000 more will receive training by June 2006 in modern pedagogical methods. Further evidence of the success of joint efforts by the UN and the Iraqi Government is the timely start of the school academic year for two years in a row (2004 and 2005). Finally, Cluster efforts led to the establishment in August 2005 of a functional SWG on education.

Developing the synergies of the cluster system, a joint programme proposal (UNICEF–UN-HABITAT) for the rehabilitation of 160 schools and capacity-building of MoEd/DoE staff on school maintenance has been prepared.

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 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.

Implementation mechanisms remain much the same as those described in the First and Second Progress Reports. Efforts to ensure coordination on policy and operational matters are now concentrated in the Education SWG. In addition, specific coordination mechanisms exist in particular areas, e.g., the Educational Management Information System (EMIS) Coordination Group, including UNESCO, UNICEF, USAID and the World Bank, which is meeting on a regular basis in order to coordinate the efforts of all stakeholders working on EMIS in Iraq. An EMIS Matrix indicating the main actions to be taken for establishing EMIS together with the responsible partner for each action has been developed and is updated regularly.

Sharing of information between agencies on implementation issues such as contracting for rehabilitation works has been stepped up. UN-HABITAT and UNICEF share information on Iraqi companies qualified in school rehabilitation, thus improving the competitive nature of the bidding process. The Cluster also continues to develop its unique partnership with civil society through outsourcing of services and partner agreements with the MoEd and NGOs.

- Increased information-sharing between agencies on implementation issues such as contracting for rehabilitation works.
- Cluster continues partnership with civil society through outsourcing and agreements with the MoEd and NGOs.

E. Specific Agency Implementation

Education

- **UNICEF – B1-06 and B1-12, Strengthening Primary and Intermediate Education (Phase 1 and Phase II)**

Essential learning materials for approximately 4.5 million primary-level students in addition to one million school bags for all first graders were effectively distributed to all primary schools at the beginning of the 2005/2006 academic year. Two types of kits were designed for students (those in grades 1-4 and those in grades 5-6) in addition to the first graders' school bags. Plans were that only first graders (1 million students) were to receive school bags; however, following a request by the Minister of Education prior to the IRFFI Donor Committee Meeting in July 2005, UNICEF agreed to procure 500,000 bags for all students in grade 7 (first grade in intermediate schools). These bags have been delivered to the DoEs but distribution to all intermediate-level schools has been postponed by the MoEd.

Overall, procurement, assembly, delivery and distribution of learning materials entailed massive efforts. Production and assembly were carried out in China, with the assembled materials then shipped to Jordan. Owing to the security conditions in Iraq, UNICEF shipped the materials directly to counterparts through freight forwarders instead of routing them through the UNICEF warehouse in Baghdad. A mechanism 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 involved more than 800 transport trucks.

In 2005, UNICEF scaled down the number of schools that could realistically be rehabilitated to 40 primary and intermediate schools through phase 1 of the project, out of which rehabilitation of 36 schools was completed (including 11 in Fallujah city and 7 in the Marshlands) while rehabilitation of 4 is ongoing. These 40 schools are located in Anbar, Babil, Baghdad, Basrah, Kerbala, Missan, Muthanna, Tamim and Thi-Qar Governorates.

During phase 2 of the project, UNICEF planned to rehabilitate another 50 schools. To date, 14 schools have been completed (including 6 schools in Fallujah city). One of the rehabilitated facilities is Qasr Al-Hamra' kindergarten, which was rehabilitated to be a national centre for early childhood development in Iraq. In addition, works are ongoing in 12 schools (including 3 schools in Fallujah and 3 in the Marshlands) and 6 schools are in the bidding process, while BOQs are being prepared for the remaining 18 schools.

- 14 schools rehabilitated (6 in Fallujah city).
- Qasr Al-Hamra kindergarten rehabilitated to be a national centre for early childhood development in Iraq.
- Comprehensive rehabilitation to benefit 41,000 students in 90 schools.

The overall comprehensive rehabilitation initiative (phases 1 and 2 of the project) is to benefit about 41,000 students (29,000 boys and 12,000 girls) in 90 schools. The rehabilitation works consist of rehabilitation of the school building, yards, water and sanitation facilities, and boundary walls.

Concurrently, UNICEF bilateral funds were allocated to the comprehensive rehabilitation of other schools; 80 schools were completed, while works are ongoing in another 9 schools. UNICEF is also undertaking the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities in 800 schools in all 18 governorates (470 schools completed to date), and it has completed the rehabilitation of 23 teachers' training halls.

Based on the child-friendly school furniture design created in collaboration with UNIDO and endorsed by the MoEd, UNICEF procured 57,000 sets of such furniture (set=2 single chairs and one double desk) for the benefit of 114,000 children in 164 schools. To date, 83 per cent of type A furniture and 74 per cent of type B furniture had been distributed to the targeted schools

The assembly of the desks and chairs required the training of UNICEF monitors (1 from each of the 23 DoEs), who in turn trained DoE concerned staff to enable them to assemble students' desks and chairs at school premises once supplies are delivered. The assembly of the furniture is ongoing.

The procurement of 32,000 cupboards is in the pipeline. The cupboards will be distributed to 16,000 primary and intermediate schools (two cupboards per school). Two types of different sizes were developed for primary schools (25,000 cupboards) and for intermediate schools (7,000 cupboards).

- **UNICEF - B1-19, Education/Integrated Community-based Social Services (Quick-impact Project)**

This project began in September 2005 as part of the quick-impact initiative agreed at the Dead Sea meeting in July 2005. Completion of the project is projected to be three months behind schedule (end of May 2006) owing mostly to delays in obtaining agreement on sites to be rehabilitated.

After preparing BOQs for all 100 schools, contracts were awarded for the rehabilitation of 80 schools in Baghdad, Basrah, Erbil, Missan and Wassit, and while contracts for the remaining 20 schools in Thi-Qar are awaiting Contract Review Committee approval.

This intervention includes the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities in all 100 schools, construction of playgrounds in 47 schools and rehabilitation of playgrounds in another 53 schools. Furthermore, all 100 schools will be provided with essential sports and recreation materials such as volleyball and football poles and nets and basketball poles and rings, including the lining of the yards using oil paint.

The procurement of 47,000 student chairs and 23,500 student desks (each for two students) was completed and the furniture was delivered to the concerned DoEs. The DoEs are now delivering these supplies to the targeted schools. In addition, the purchase order has been issued for the procurement of recreational supplies, while bidding for procurement of the sanitation supplies has been completed. The delivery of materials will be completed in March 2006.

Equipment has been provided for health screening: 42 audiometers with accessories for detection of hearing difficulties, 47 ophthalmoscopes with accessories for detection of visual problems and 40 Snellen's plastic charts. In addition, 178 orthopaedicians, ophthalmologists, technicians and teachers were trained from the six governorates. Preparation of hygiene information materials was completed. Three teachers from each of the 100 schools received training in the use of these materials in early March 2006.

The supporting water and sanitation works include rehabilitation of seven water treatment plants/compact units, water networks at six locations, and a booster pump station in Basrah, Erbil, Missan, Thi-Qar and Wassit Governorates. They also include the rehabilitation of two sewage pumping stations and sewer networks at eight locations in Basrah, Thi-Qar and Wassit Governorates. Upon completion of these projects, approximately 650,000 people in the six governorates will benefit from improved access to water and sanitation.

Twenty-six PHC centres were selected in the project area for UNICEF intervention. The initial needs

assessment indicated that 10 PHC centres required renovations. Rehabilitation works have been initiated in seven such centres in Basrah, Erbil, Missan and Thi-Qar. On the basis of the needs assessment, vaccines, medical supplies and equipment for PHC centres were procured and are being distributed to the selected centres.

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

Under project B1-09, 23 of the 38 institutes have been completed; 15 of these were completed during the present reporting period. A further 12 institutes are under rehabilitation/equipment supply, 2 are under tender evaluation and 1 is in the assessment phase.

Four vocational training institutes in Samawah with the required furniture supply have been completed while a further four are under construction and rehabilitation under contracts valued at \$2.5 million. The rehabilitation of the buildings, workshops and infrastructure for the Basrah Technical Institute has been completed. In addition, contracts have been awarded for the supply of \$3.3 million worth of laboratory and workshop equipment and tools for the Samawah and Basrah Technical Institutes. One contract (with a value of \$110,000) to rehabilitate a vocational training workshop at Basrah University Engineering College is being implemented while one contract to rehabilitate five vocational training workshops in Al-Nassiriyah with a value of \$250,000 is under tendering.

In Baghdad, the supply of \$570,000 worth of information technology equipment for the University of Technology in Baghdad has been completed as has the rehabilitation of 18 schools in Baghdad while works are in progress on 7 schools. Proposals to provide engineering consultancy services for the Al-Zafaraniya Institute in Baghdad (the largest institute to be rehabilitated under the project) have been evaluated and a contract is being prepared.

The 23 facilities that have been completed are providing an improved learning environment for 23,128 students. To date, the project has generated 255,000 person-days of employment, equivalent to creating 4,000 jobs for a period of about 3 months. In addition to the estimated 4,000 construction workers, the project has also enhanced the skills of over 95 Iraqi professionals. Rehabilitation contracts have been awarded to about 37 small Iraqi contractors whose management and technical capacities have been upgraded through the management of the rehabilitation contracts.

Under project B1-11, other than a revision in the implementation target from 90 to 80 schools caused by inflation, overall progress was satisfactory and the project was on track to meet its objectives. At the end of the reporting period, educational activities had resumed/been enhanced in 70 schools that had been comprehensively rehabilitated and expanded to provide an improved learning environment for about 35,200 students. In addition, skills had been developed for an estimated 3,800 construction workers and Iraqi professionals. A total of 71 small Iraqi contractors had been awarded rehabilitation contracts averaging about \$52,000 each. Approximately 245,000 person-days of employment had been generated through local contractors.

UNESCO – B1-01, Vocational Education (Completed)

Project B1-01 has been successfully completed in line with the planned strategy. Delivery and installation of all vocational and information technology equipment had been fully completed by 31 December 2005, as foreseen in the Second Progress Report.

The main project outcome is the reopening of 11 technical and vocational schools, which are currently operational and fully functional with vocational workshops and state-of-the-art computer labs, benefiting 4,000 vocational students as direct immediate beneficiaries. In addition, the sector witnessed an improvement in the quality of teaching in an environment conducive to new training methodologies. Vocational students acquired information technology skills and are now making full use of improved information technology facilities dedicated to the teaching staff.

- 11 technical and vocational schools reopened.
- 4,000 vocational students benefited.
- Improved quality of teaching.

The impact of the project started to reveal itself during the 2005-2006 academic year. It will become more apparent in the coming years with the sustainable support to be provided through the second phase of the project, which will concentrate on capacity-building of core trainers and materials development. This will enable those schools to improve the quality of education delivered, with a greater emphasis on practical training and thus a major contribution to reduction in youth employment.

- **UNESCO – B1-05, In-service Training for Teachers**

The training for the 65 core teacher trainers was completed in early March 2006 and the core team of trainers worked hard on the development of the printed and audio-visual materials. These materials comprised six booklets and one video per subject area for training the teachers as well as one mentor guide per subject for training the mentors. The core trainers are now ready to train the mentors and to act as the core team of teacher trainers inside Iraq.

The project faced some problems regarding the installation of the information and communication technology (ICT) facilities at the 18 teacher training centres. A total of 720 computers and 36 servers have been provided to teacher training centres in 17 governorates. The installation started in July 2005 and the equipment was successfully installed in the Institute of Educational Development and Training in Baghdad. The installation in other governorates was suspended because of the need for sufficient infrastructure and necessary furniture. UNESCO purchased the furniture needed in all 18 centres upon the request of the MoEd. The furniture is currently being procured and once fully delivered, the installation process will be resumed.

- **UNESCO – B1-08, Literacy and Life Skills Development**

For the project “Literacy and Life Skills Development”, project funds have been instrumental in setting up the National Literacy Resource Centre and five Community Learning Centres in Baghdad, Diyala 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. Directors of the centres have been identified and are undertaking capacity-building programmes. Furthermore, the centres need rehabilitation and this is anticipated to start at the end of March 2006. Once rehabilitation has been completed, the delivery of equipment to the centres will start. Basic furniture and equipment have been partially delivered to the central warehouses in Baghdad to equip the National Literacy Resource Centre and Community Learning Centres, but the last batch is being delayed owing to warehouse overload.

- **ESCWA – B1-10 & B1-17, Iraq Networking Academy (Phase 1 and Phase 11)**

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) continues to actively implement the Iraq Networking Academy System, which consists of the establishment of regional academies in four Iraqi universities, followed by the establishment of 40 local networking academies in institutions of higher and secondary education all over the country. A series of training sessions was organized for

students and instructors in the four regional academies. Six Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) courses for students at Mosul University were completed as well as three orientation courses for instructors. At Baghdad University, there were three CCNA courses for students and one for instructors. At Mansour University, two CCNA courses for students were organized.

During the past six months, detailed technical specifications of equipment were finalized, tenders were organized and offers were evaluated. A number of items were also delivered to their final beneficiaries. Shipment of second received equipment (HP servers with back-up devices, Cisco switches, Adetran Simulators, Computer Cards, network toolkits) was made to Baghdad, Basrah, Mansour and Mosul Universities; shipment of third received equipment (122 IBM work stations) was delivered to regional networking academies in October 2005; and 4 UPS with additional features and for which purchase orders had been issued in the previous reporting period were shipped to the regional networking academies in November 2005.

The project was promoted through presentations and publications on more than ten occasions in regional and international venues.

- **UNESCO – B1-13, Educational Management Information System**

This project is one of the highest-priority projects of the Minister of Education as outlined in the new publication, “Education in Iraq: Current Situation and New Perspectives”. Agreement was reached with the MoEd on the standardization of school census forms and the school census for 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 were both completed using the new forms.

All information technology equipment (including 470 personal computers and 21 servers) has been delivered to the MoEd warehouses; however, its installation will start in mid-March 2006. The process has been delayed owing to the lack of sufficient infrastructure and furniture at the locations, which then needed to be provided by UNESCO upon the request of the MoEd. As a result, data entry at the DoE level is still pending. Ten generators have been delivered and installed in ten DoEs.

Training in Local Area Network administration for 50 Local Area Network Administrators was organized in Alexandria from 12 to 23 February 2006. The training covered the administration of the Windows 2003 module and the installation and use of the EMIS software, which will be provided by the project team.

- **UNESCO – B1-14, Revitalization of Technical and Vocational Education (Phase II)**

As a follow-up to the first phase of this project, phase 2 will focus on re-equipping another 11 technical and commercial schools throughout Iraq (in particular in Baghdad, Irbil and Samawah) with workshop equipment and basic computing capability, review the vocational and technical disciplines, and train a core team of trainers in order to prepare young people in Iraq for work in a revived, developing and demand-driven economy.

The project was just initiated in February 2006 with a planning meeting with the MoEd project focal team to decide and agree on the project work plan, timetable and implementation strategy. The project inception was delayed owing to the delays in the nomination of the project focal point and team by the MoEd. The identification of the equipment lists for high-priority disciplines together with their specifications will start by mid-March 2006.

- **UNESCO – B1-15, Strengthening Secondary Education (Phase 1)**

A planning meeting was organized with the MoEd project focal team in Amman during February 2006 to

decide and agree on the project work plan, timetable and implementation strategy. No major activities have been initiated. This delay in the project inception is due to the delays in the nomination of the project focal point and team by the MoEd. A total of 55 secondary schools has been identified by the MoEd. UNESCO is awaiting the formal provision of the list in order to start the identification of the needs for minor refurbishment of the laboratories. In addition, a contract has been signed with a research and development centre to analyse the Iraq science curriculum, prepare the Framework for Science Experiment Manuals, and prepare the lists of specifications according to the experiment manuals.

- **UNESCO – B1-18, Textbook Quality Improvement Programme II (Quick-impact Project)**

The aim of this quick-impact project is to provide immediate support to basic education in Iraq through the printing and distribution of primary and secondary textbooks. Nine million copies of primary, lower secondary and secondary school textbooks (39 titles) were printed and distributed to about 6 million students in about 12,000 schools. The textbook content had already been reviewed to ensure gender sensitivity, political neutrality and socio-cultural diversity. The project was also designed with the aim of generating between 1,000 and 1,500 short-term jobs in local printing units, the MoEd and the private sector (private contractors) inside Iraq. Since a few million textbooks were printed locally, the project resulted in the creation of 300 to 500 medium-term job opportunities within 18 Iraq-based printing companies.

Culture

- **UNESCO – B1-07, Protecting Iraqi Cultural Heritage**

Within the framework of the rehabilitation of cultural institutions, delays were faced in the rehabilitation of the Child Museum caused by the local security situation. A list of specifications for the rehabilitation of the Child Museum was received from the National Museum in Baghdad during May 2005. A consultant was hired to verify the specifications in Baghdad and to facilitate the local bidding process. The results from the consultant were obtained by the UNESCO Iraq Office on 28 July 2005, and the bidding process for reconstruction was launched. The bids were sent to UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in mid-December and the contract committee finally selected a company on 9 January 2006. Work on the premises started on 12 March 2006.

In August-September 2005, another training course in the application of a geographical information system (GIS) and the Global Positioning System (GPS) for archaeological sites was organized by UNESCO, the World Monuments Fund and the Getty Conservation Institute in Amman. Under the Museum Programme, the manuals for museum management were published in Arabic and English. The security manuals are at present being translated into Arabic. Both will be distributed to Iraqi museums and will serve as a base for training courses in museum management to be organized in 2006-2007.

F. Hurdles Encountered and Implementation Constraints

The lack of improvement regarding the security situation remains an issue for Cluster activities. The rehabilitation of the Melodic Institute and the Child Museum was held up because of security issues in Baghdad. A security firm had to be hired to ensure the delivery of vehicles to the Ministry of Culture.

Turnover of staff at the MoEd and DoE levels and coordination between them remain serious issues. However, the Cluster has succeeded in establishing close working ties with the Minister of Education and his office, which helped to reduce red tape and bottlenecks regarding implementation. Nevertheless, for various reasons, elections in particular, availability of key officials remained an issue with respect to

holding regular meetings of the Education SWG and obtaining timely decisions. This also resulted in delays in key decisions such as the identification of sites. The UNICEF quick-impact project, for example, which was due to be finished within six months, suffered a delay of two months in order for the MoEd to agree on the selection of schools to be rehabilitated.

Lack of proper coordination between the MoEd and DoEs continues to hamper implementation of many projects. The issue has been discussed with MoEd officials at the annual review meeting and will be tabled at the SWG to enable MoEd and other supporting donors and agencies to explore remedies together. Examples include the delay in the installation of information technology equipment because the required furniture and power supply have not been provided at the DoE level. The lack of training in information technology at all levels is a contributing factor and is being addressed by the Cluster. Finally, the MoEd is currently facing a problem with its central warehouses, where they are overloaded with equipment. Accordingly, UNESCO, for example, has been requested to delay the delivery of equipment.

Price inflation remained a critical issue for school rehabilitation as offers continue to exceed estimated market prices, further delaying the required works. For example, UN-HABITAT had to revise its average estimated unit cost of \$45,000 to the actual average construction cost of \$55,000. This constraint is ultimately having an impact on the number of schools to be rehabilitated within the agreed budget. Cluster agencies are sharing information on contracting firms and prices as one method of constraining costs. In addition, the extensive damage that some of the facilities have sustained and the need for some of the institutes to undertake major rehabilitation requiring substantial technical assessments and engineering design work have presented further hurdles to rapid implementation.

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)**

During the period from January 2006 to June 2006, the rehabilitation of four schools under phase 1 and 12 schools under phase 2 of the project will be finalized. Books for 16,000 primary and intermediate schools will be procured and the delivery of the remaining quantities of student desks and chairs to DoE warehouses and schools will be continued. Procurement and delivery of 32,000 cupboards to 16,000 primary and intermediate schools will be completed.

- **UNICEF – B1-19, Education/Integrated Community-based Social Services (Quick-impact Project)**

During the upcoming reporting period, the rehabilitation work in the selected 100 schools will be completed. The delivery of school furniture and sanitation kits from DoE warehouses to selected schools will be completed as will the procurement and delivery of recreational kits to DoE warehouses and schools.

The specialized teams trained earlier (field visits and screening of school children took place from 7 to 20 March 2006) will complete the health screening of students in schools. Students at primary schools who are screened for visual and hearing difficulties and who are identified as having a problem will be provided with eyeglasses and hearing aids. Students at primary schools screened for bone deformities will be referred to a specialist at hospital for further management. The rehabilitation work on the PHC centres will be completed.

- **UN-HABITAT – B1-09, Educational Facilities Rehabilitation**

Actions have already been taken to overcome the implementation constraints. In particular, the need for more extensive technical work has necessitated the engagement of engineering companies in Baghdad and Basrah to undertake some of the assessment and design work. During the next reporting period, the priority will be to complete the building rehabilitation works for the remaining 15 institutes and to complete the supply of furniture, laboratory and workshop equipment and tools.

B1-11, Rehabilitation of School Buildings in Lower South Iraq (Completed)

At the end of February 2006, project B1-11 was completed, as reported in the UNDG ITF Newsletter for February 2006. The 10 schools still under rehabilitation at the end of the reporting period were completed, bringing the total number of schools rehabilitated under the project to 80 (against the original target of 90).

- **UNESCO – B1-14, Revitalization of Technical and Vocational Education (Phase 2)**

The training of 28 information technology persons in the installation of information technology equipment and networking was undertaken during the period from 11 to 30 March 2006. During the upcoming reporting period, equipment lists will be agreed between the MoEd and UNESCO and tenders will be launched. The MoEd should provide UNESCO with nominations of a core team of four to five persons representing the Staff Development Unit as well as 20 to 30 core trainers. The MoEd will also identify the schools to be rehabilitated according to the agreed criteria.

- **UNESCO – B1-05, In-service Training for Teachers**

Installation of the ICT equipment at the remaining 17 teacher training institutes will be completed. The print and audio-visual material will be duplicated for use during the training of the 362 mentors and the 40,000 secondary school teachers in new teaching methods. The material will also be translated into Kurdish for use in the training of mentors and teachers in the north of Iraq. Video equipment will be provided for the studio established at the Institute of Educational Development and Training in Baghdad.

- **UNESCO – B1-08, Literacy and Life Skills Development**

During the upcoming reporting period, the rehabilitation of the six centres and delivery of all furniture and equipment to the centres will be completed. An expert group meeting will be organized at the Dead Sea, Jordan, in April 2006 for the presentation of the Needs Assessment Survey results. The results will be taken into account in the formulation of the second phase of this project. Furthermore, training in the development of advocacy materials in order to use them for launching a national literacy campaign will be provided as well as training in methods and techniques of non-formal education/literacy curriculum development and micro-credit facilities.

- **UNESCO – B1-13, Educational Management Information System**

During the upcoming reporting period, the installation of computers, servers and EMIS software will be completed. The project team (consisting of four to five MoEd officials) will be trained on SQL reporting in order to enable them to produce reports using the EMIS software. The training of the 50 Local Area

Network administrators on the use of EMIS software will be undertaken in Baghdad. Once this has been completed, the administrators will train staff on data entry at the DoEs. The training of 33 statisticians in Education for All statistics will be organized in Cairo from 1 to 13 April 2006 in collaboration with UNICEF. A training session on the planning and management of the education sector will also be held in Cairo from 15 to 27 April 2006 for 30 MoEd and DoE high-level officials. In addition, an analytical report on the state of primary and secondary education will be prepared. Owing to the delays in the project, the duration will need to be extended until the end of June 2006.

- **UNESCO – B1-15, Strengthening Secondary Education (Phase 1)**

During the upcoming reporting period, the project will begin the rehabilitation of school libraries and science laboratories and provide both with furniture and equipment. It will also develop and prepare training materials on the criteria for and process of identifying the requirements for school libraries and science laboratories; develop and prepare the required science laboratory guides, handbooks, manuals, etc.; and develop and prepare selected titles according to the needs of the educational system and the community requirements in Iraq.

- **UNESCO – B1- 18, Textbooks Quality Improvement Programme II**

During the implementation of the first component of the project, that is, textbook printing and distribution, the crucial need to create printable sources (CDs) for each title was very clear. Available printing sources are either bad electronic copies of the titles created by scanning and rescanning old (mostly 2001/2002) editions or hard copies of old editions; thus, the quality of newly printed books is very low. The planned priority actions during the upcoming reporting period are to establish a modern prepress centre (including training 15 MoEd designers), establish a textbook and CD library, assist the MoEd in formulating the national textbook printing and distribution policy by August 2006, and organize training workshops on the writing and design of textbooks beginning in April 2006.

- **ESCWA – B1-10 and B1-17, Iraq Networking Academy (Phase 1 and Phase 2)**

Twenty-four equipment racks and 12 server racks, for which purchase orders had been issued in the previous reporting period, were received in January 2006 and shipped to the regional networking academy. In addition, eight Cisco lab bundles, for which purchase orders had been issued in the previous reporting period, were received in February 2006 and shipped to Iraq for the Iraq Networking Academy. Three training sessions were provided at Baghdad University and two at Mosul University for both instructors and students.

During the upcoming reporting period, the establishment of four regional networking academies and six local networking academies will be completed. Orders will be placed for the complete requirements of 34 local networking academies and advanced training on server and open source software in Beirut will be organized. An invitation letter with the project document for phase 2 has been sent to the Minister of Education requesting a decision on the institutions that are to participate in phase 2 of the project (1 regional academy and 10 to 14 local academies).

Culture

- **UNESCO – B1-07, Protecting Iraqi Cultural Heritage**

Priority actions in the cultural field include the continuation of training and capacity-building in the application of geographical information systems (GISs) and the Global Positioning System (GPS).

Emphasis will also be on the development of an educational programme for the Child Museum after its rehabilitation 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. Draft 2006-2007 UN Assistance Strategy for Iraq

The UN objectives for 2006-2007 for the development of education are set against the background of the Iraq National Development Strategy, the MDGs and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The objectives aim at assisting Iraq to: (a) reach universal and equitable participation in and completion of quality education with an evidence-based focus; (b) enhance national cohesion (unity in diversity); (c) uphold respect for human rights (in particular of the most vulnerable groups); and (d) foster democratic values through the empowerment of civil society organizations (CSOs) and communities in collaboration with the Iraqi Government at all levels.

The strategy underpinning UNCT efforts in education and culture will hinge on the following principles:

- Iraqi ownership and leadership of the reconstruction process;
- Alignment with the National Development Strategy as well as with the priorities defined by the Education SWG;
- Strengthening of national capacity; and
- Maximization of UN collective expertise and resources through increased joint programming and coordinated implementation.

Areas of action in 2006-2007:

- Placing human rights at the centre of the education system;
- Building capacity for institutional reforms in education and culture in line with the new Constitution;
- Reinforcing skills for policy formulation and system development;
- Strengthening access, attendance and completion of quality education at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels;
- Improving the teaching/learning environment at all levels through comprehensive rehabilitation of schools, including water and sanitation facilities;
- Building capacity in teacher education and training, including teacher support and mentoring and in-service training;
- Enhancing capacity in curriculum reform and renewal;
- Supporting flexible, skills-oriented technical and demand-driven vocational education and training for improving livelihoods;
- Enhancing capacity in early childhood stimulation and learning policy;
- Providing quality basic education to out-of-school children and adolescents through non-formal delivery mechanisms;
- Promoting greater social mobilization and participation of community/parents/children to support local schools;

- Promoting education for peace and democratic values (including respect for diversity and sectarian/ethnic conflict prevention and resolution);
- Engaging communities and partners in psychosocial work and trauma management/healing to maximize learning;
- Improving the relevance of higher education and promoting the role of research, guidance and counselling, and furtherance of academic freedom and institutional autonomy;
- Promoting adult and youth literacy and lifelong learning opportunities for empowerment and income-generation;
- Improving professional skills in the field of tangible and intangible cultural heritage conservation and protection; and
- Promoting tolerance and dialogue among Iraqis through education, culture and sports.

To implement projects in these areas of action, Cluster B has a total net funding requirement for 2006-2007 of \$168 million (\$69 million for 2006 and \$99 million for 2007).

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 31 DECEMBER 2005						AS OF 31 MARCH 2006					
		FUNDED		COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT		FUNDED		COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT	
		US\$ 000s	US\$ 000s	%	US\$ 000s	%	US\$ 000s	US\$ 000s	US\$ 000s	%	US\$ 000s	%	
C9-01	Support to MoPDC	UNDP	1,744	593	34	592	34	1,744	850	49	890	51	
C9-03	Civil Society Forums	UNOPS	1,720	1,690	98	1,690	98	1,720	1,703	99	1,703	99	
C9-04	Women Solidarity Toward Active Participation in Elections	UNIFEM	1,905	1,700	89	1,700	89	1,905	1,645	86	1,705	90	
C9-05	Capacity-building and Institutional Strengthening of Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works	UNDP	3,019	576	19	576	19	3,019	576	19	1,196	40	
C9-10/a	Instit. Support for the Constitutional Drafting Process	UNDP	14,148	9,023	64	9,023	64	14,148	9,099	64	9,192	65	
C9-10/b	Iraqi National Constitution and Referendum Awareness Campaign (INCRAC)	UNIFEM	1,670	725	43	725	43	1,670	680	41	841	50	
C9-10/c	Media and Human Rights: Promotion of Freedom of Expression	UNESCO	1,994	1,783	89	1,285	64	1,994	1,907	96	1,566	79	
C9-10/d	Civil Society Constitutional Outreach Campaign	UNOPS	4,964	4,347	88	3,755	76	4,964	4,559	92	4,179	84	
C9-10/e	Involving Iraqi Media and Journalists Covering Constitutional Process	UNDP	994	355	36	355	36	994	767	77	767	77	
C9-10/f	Involving Iraqi Media and Journalists for New Democracies TV Film Festival	UNDP	495	372	75	372	75	495	372	75	372	75	
C9-12	Support to Govt. of Iraq in International Assistance Coordination and Capacity-bldg.	UNDP	0	0	0	0	0	2,643	37	1	37	1	
C9-18	Supreme Audit Board	UNDP	4,880	0	0	0	0	4,880	3	0	3	0	
C10-01	Iraqis Rebuilding Iraq - Phase 1	UNDP	387	328	85	323	83	387	328	85	323	83	
C10-02	International Employment Conference	ILO	321	301	94	307	96	321	307	96	312	97	
C10-03	Iraqis Rebuilding Iraq - Phase 2	UNDP	2,777	0	0	0	0	2,777	0	0	0	0	
C10-04	Smart Community Project	ESCWA	2,703	84	3	8	0	2,703	531	20	407	15	
CLUSTER C TOTAL			43,720	21,878	50	20,712	47	46,363	23,365	50	23,493	51	

To date, 15 projects totalling \$43.7 million have been funded in the Governance and Human Development Cluster, including \$24 million for the Constitution programme approved in June 2005. Two projects – Supreme Audit Board and Support to Government of Iraq in International Assistance Coordination and Capacity-building (both UNDP) – were approved only in November 2005. Significant implementation thus began only in the reporting period starting on 1 January 2006. The new project,

Support to Government of Iraq in International Assistance Coordination and Capacity, was funded for \$2.64 million (C9-12, UNDP, \$2.4 million; UNOPS, \$0.2 million) in January 2006.

Overall Cluster financial delivery at the end of December 2005 comprised \$21.9 million (50 per cent) in commitments and \$20.7 million (47 per cent) in disbursements. This represented a major increase in delivery over the previous reporting period, at the end of which commitments were only \$8 million and disbursements were at \$4 million. This significant increase is accounted for mostly by the Support to the Constitutional Process programme. As of 31 March 2006, commitments had increased to \$23.4 million (50 per cent) and disbursements had reached \$23.5 million (51 per cent).

C. Key Accomplishments

Support to the Constitutional Process programme (funded by a dedicated earmarked contribution from the European Commission)

The Support to the Constitutional Process programme was most certainly the key “quick-impact” project in the Governance and Human Development Cluster. No constitution worldwide has been drafted in such a short time (two months plus last-minute parliamentary negotiations) and in such a violent and insecure environment. The programme was also characterized by an unprecedented multifaceted effort to promote public dialogue.

The UN succeeded in sharing vital international and Iraqi knowledge with those responsible for drafting the Constitution: the Constitutional Committee. Upon the request of the Government, the programme provided knowledge and information on Iraqi legislation and international constitutional experience, including previous Iraqi constitutional legislation, international conventions and agreements signed by Iraq, and access to the best and comparative practices in constitution-making. Beyond knowledge-sharing, the Cluster provided the essential human and physical support to enable the Constitutional Committee to finalize its work. The Cluster resourced the Constitutional Committee with 200 professional staff, including for the governorate offices, and provided all the necessary logistical support, including over 250 computers and Internet access.

Support to public dialogue was successfully approached from the perspective of the broader public as well as the Constitutional Committee. All the UN agencies participating in the joint programme provided their support to this public outreach effort in their unique areas of expertise. UNDP, through its direct support to the Public Outreach Unit of the Constitutional Committee, assisted the Unit in contracting nearly 100 different media outlets, including 61 newspapers, 22 radio stations and 16 television stations, in an effort to reach a broad and inclusive audience. UNDP also lent support to the development of an independent news agency, Aswat al-Iraq. The news agency published a comprehensive news service from a network of correspondents across Iraq, concentrating particularly on political news relating to the drafting of a new constitution and the election of a new National Assembly. Some 10,000 news items were issued in Arabic and widely published in Iraqi and Arab regional media.

UNOPS, building on its work on civil society, provided support to 234 workshops, 175 conferences, 15 training courses, 12 seminars, 11 educational courses, 100 orientation sessions, and 12 round-table discussions on the Constitution. UNIFEM concentrated on women’s NGOs while UNESCO concentrated on the role of journalists. Fifteen workshops and seminars were organized and attended by about 500 government officials, civil society representatives and media professionals on a diversity of constitutional topics. A draft on freedom of expression for the new Iraqi Constitution was submitted to the Iraqi constitution drafting committee and an interactive web site for creating debate and discussion on constitutional issues was developed (www.iraqidustour.com).

Finally, 500,000 public submissions were received by the Constitutional Committee, and the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq (IECI) reported that 66 per cent of Iraqi citizens voted in the referendum – a successful level of participation by any measure.

Following the referendum on the Constitution, the support from the programme continued. A workshop in Cyprus in November 2005 provided an opportunity to have a more considered appraisal of the current constitutional text in light of critical concerns expressed by Iraqi political actors, civil society, media and the commentary of the UN itself. The assessment by the 15 international experts formed the basis of proposals and recommendations for the review and/or textual reformulations to be provided during the official constitutional review process. A series of study tours is now under way for Parliamentarians to understand these issues. The work on the media also continued, with documentaries on democracy being broadcast and the newly established independent news agency moving from strength to strength.

Other Areas of Governance and Human Development

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

Crucially, a donor assistance database (DAD) as the principal tool to track, analyse, monitor and prioritize aid flows to Iraq was effectively established. DAD, now accessible at www.mop-iraq.org/dad, is fully operational and maintained by the MoPDC. Data on more than \$8.5 billion in donor assistance has been incorporated into the database. Through advice and support, the project also established the Aid Coordination Directorate, which is responsible for project implementation and DAD operation at the MoPDC.

Under the Iraqis Rebuilding Iraq (IRI) programme, by the end of the reporting period, 159 candidates' profiles had been matched with ministries' specific requests (against only 66 at the end of the previous reporting period.). In early July, the first three experts were deployed to Iraq. The experts were appointed as Director Generals at the Council of Ministers' Secretariat in Baghdad. By 31 December 2005, eight IRI experts had been deployed to Iraq in four different Ministries: the Council of Ministers' Secretariat, the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation, the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of Culture. Eight additional IRI experts have been accepted by Iraqi ministries and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is proceeding with their recruitment. The candidates will take up their assignment in early 2006.

A civil society development project was successfully completed. Two hundred NGOs and CSOs benefited. There were 3,000 direct beneficiaries many of whom are now qualified trainers in the field of human rights; 35 families in Al-Fallujah regained a source of income; and 140 trauma counsellors were trained.

D. Implementation Mechanisms

The Cluster members comprise UNDP (the Cluster Coordinator), ESCWA, ILO, IOM, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the UNAMI Human Rights Office and Constitutional Support Unit, 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 (particularly the Constitutional Committee), 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 implementation mechanisms of the Cluster are characterized by a strong degree of inter-agency/joint implementation. The Support to the Constitutional Process programme was managed as part of the UNAMI core mission in Baghdad as a joint programme (UNAMI, UNDP, UNESCO, UNIFEM and UNOPS all working together for common objectives). The ESCWA Smart Communities project brings together three further UN entities to deliver parts of the project in accordance with their special expertise. ILO will provide business management training workshops on “how to start your own business” as well as support services. UN-HABITAT will provide consultancy and advisory services on maximizing the use of locally available raw materials in the selected localities for construction purposes and preparing building designs. UNIDO will provide training in dairy production and processing, with an emphasis on including quality control and hygienic practices.

The unique capacity-building initiative Iraqis Rebuilding Iraq uses Arab radio stations (for example, SBS Australia, Radio Monte Carlo and Radio Middle East Canada) around the world to publicize the programme and attract suitable candidates. The support cell in Baghdad, which operates from within the MoPDC, is a key to the success of the project. Participating ministries are coordinated through this cell and support is provided to experts once deployed.

For the implementation of the Support to the Constitutional Process programme on the ground in Iraq, three international experts were in place in Baghdad assisting the Constitutional Committee full time in addition to the UNAMI Office of Constitutional Support. The programme provided key support to the whole of the operation of the Constitutional Committee: provision of over 200 Iraqi staff and logistical support. In addition, a unique provision was made for securing public outreach. A special office was created under the Constitutional Committee, which concentrated on organizing public debate and relations with the media. Using the key international implementing partner, the Reuters Foundation, project management and training support was provided to the nascent Iraqi news agency, Aswat al-Iraq, establishment of an independent news agency being considered as a sine qua non of successful constitutional development.

E. Specific Agency Implementation

Governance

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

The main focus of the first project was the establishment of a donor assistance database (DAD) as the principal tool to track, analyse, monitor and prioritize aid flows to Iraq. By December 2005, the project goals had been largely accomplished. DAD, now accessible at www.mop-Iraq.org/dad, is fully operational and maintained by the MoPDC, with data on donor assistance with a value of more than \$8.5 billion incorporated into it. Through advice and support, the project also established the through advice and support, which is responsible for project implementation and DAD operation at the MoPDC.

The first portion of data on United States assistance was converted into DAD in July 2005. DAD backup servers were set up in the UNDP Iraq country office in Amman

- Established Donor Assistance Database (DAD), available online at www.mop-Iraq.org/dad and containing data on donor assistance valued at more than \$8.5 billion.
- Extensive training provided to the 13 core staff members.
- Information technology equipment and Internet connectivity provided to the MoPDC.
- DAD to be extended to 5 additional line ministries to strengthen capacities in aid coordination, monitoring and planning.

as well as networking and office equipment to create an MoPDC internal network. Internet connectivity was also provided to the MoPDC, which allowed the transfer of DAD ownership and hosting to Baghdad. Extensive technical and DAD training was provided to the 13 staff members that form the core group of the Aid Coordination Directorate. Support in populating DAD with donor assistance data and generating reports is being provided regularly; for example, reports generated from DAD were presented at the Fourth IRFFI Donor Committee meeting at the Dead Sea, Jordan, in July 2005.

The project also trained seven members of the core national human development report (NHDR) team on concepts and processes of the NHDR. It also provided information technology equipment and Internet connectivity to the Human Development Section in the MoPDC and established a network of 23 national experts who will participate in the preparation of the NHDR.

Support to Ministry of Planning

- Trained seven members of the core National Human Development Report (NHDR) team on concepts and processes of the NHDR.
- Established a network of 23 national experts who will participate in the preparation of the NHDR.

In the course of implementing Phase 1 of the project, new areas of assistance were identified in the context of aid coordination, the latter being declared a priority by the Government at the donor meeting in July. These areas included integration of the national budget projects with DAD, the extension of DAD over five key ministries, and extensive capacity-building activities to include the development of managerial knowledge and skills and to maintain technical skills already obtained by staff. They also included the provision of necessary systems and aid coordination tools. These activities are to be carried out within the framework of Phase 2 of UNDP project C9-12, Support to Government of Iraq in International Assistance Coordination and Capacity-building (see section G).

UNOPS – C9-03 Civil Society Forums (Completed)

This national programme for the development of civil society had an impact on all 18 governorates. Forty per cent of the budget was allocated for activities in Baghdad, 25 per cent for the north, 22 per cent for the south, and 13 per cent for Fallujah and Ramadi. Ninety workshops, training activities and conferences were held inside and outside Iraq on human rights, governance and capacity-building.

A total of 200 NGOs and CSOs benefited from the project (information on all of which was also included in a database that is permanently being maintained). There were 3,000 direct beneficiaries, many of whom are now qualified trainers in the field of human rights; 35 families in Al-Fallujah regained a source of income; and there also were tens of thousands of indirect beneficiaries throughout Iraq.

Four main networks (with 103 members and with recognized efforts in research, monitoring and advocacy) were set up and four documentation and studies centres were created. Twenty-one women's counselling centres in the North (140 women trained to be psychosocial trauma counsellors for female victims of violence), one computer centre (used by NGOs in the South) and two school libraries (focusing on environmental issues in Sadr city) were also set up.

Overall the capacity of many NGOs to draft proposals and design and implement projects was enhanced; some projects have already obtained donor funding while others are still seeking funds. Twelve sports teams and 12 drama and painting groups were formed in the North and work to develop social and human rights awareness for adults and children. A study on the legal framework for local NGOs was completed (used also as a framework to counter the controversial draft prepared by the Ministry of State for Civil Society Affairs) and several Human Rights Violation reports and statements were issued. All projects

activities have been fully implemented and 96 per cent of the budget has already been disbursed.

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

Women’s participation in voting events is a major concern for UNIFEM worldwide. In Iraq, the situation is further exacerbated for security reasons. However, UNIFEM, through the media campaign and in collaboration with its local partners, promoted women’s participation in the voting process in the January 2005 elections, the October 2005 referendum and the December 2005 elections.

The campaigns, which comprised audio and print activities, called on women to exercise their right to vote free of influence. The October and December campaigns also contained messages that addressed men’s responsibility in encouraging women to vote free of influence and included discussions on the importance of women’s rights through a television round-table discussion and radio call-in programmes.

The project trained 600 people from NGOs and government from around Iraq, and three permanent Civic Education Centres were established. Over 15,000 people in 10 governorates benefited from the project.

Even though women’s participation in electoral processes has been notable in Iraq, their participation in the governing structure needs to be strengthened. UNIFEM is currently working on enhancing the capacity of women and men activists to advocate for gender-sensitive legislation and endorse modification to the Constitution that will protect women rights.

- **UNDP – C9-05, Capacity-building and Institutional Strengthening of Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works (MoMPW)**

With the assistance of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), six management-training modules were designed and implemented. The first training course for 20 focal points was completed in February 2006. Support is provided to the focal points to develop individual and group action plans to be implemented upon the participants’ return over a period of six months.

Practical steps were put in place by UNDP and the MoMPW in order to improve the impact of the training on the work of the MoMPW and to support behavioural change of the participants once they return to their work. These steps include the embedding of the training into the workflow of the MoMPW through several actions such as debriefing of superiors on what has been learned and on what actions they intend to pursue (e.g., individual and group work plans). An active discussion peer network has been set up to disseminate knowledge and experiences between participants. Based on the feedback and evaluation of the training modules, an analysis of further training needs is being made, which will be incorporated into the human resource management planning of the MoMPW.

A comprehensive training needs assessment has been completed by the Iraqi Engineering Association. The report has identified training priorities and gaps of the MoMPW staff at the central and governorate levels. A detailed training strategy has also been recommended to the Ministry. The report was discussed with the MoMPW and UN entities at the end of March 2006.

UNDP has also engaged in a partnership agreement with UNITAR to implement a pilot initiative to support Iraqi national and local authorities in capacity-building of 150 senior managers in the decentralization process, strategic planning of local development and services delivery in addition to facilitating twinning arrangements

- Supported capacity building of 150 senior managers on the decentralization process, strategic planning of local development and services delivery.
- With the assistance of ESCWA, six management-training modules designed and implemented.

between Iraqi and regional municipalities. The programme will cover a six-month period starting in April 2006. Information technology equipment has also been provided to the regional training centres.

- **UNDP – C9-18, Supreme Audit Board**

This project only began activities in January 2006 (see section G, Future Work Plan).

- **C9-10, Constitution Programme (supported by the European Commission)**

- *UNDP – C9-10a, Institutional Support for the Constitutional Drafting Process*

The UNDP/UNAMI programme had two main outputs: (a) the establishment of a legal and institutional framework, and (b) the adoption of the Constitution after a referendum. Both were successfully achieved during the reporting period.

While UNDP can confirm that participation in the process was extremely high, with nearly 500,000 public submissions received by the Constitutional Committee, it is difficult to measure the precise percentage of participation in the process. However, the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq (IECI) reports that 66 per cent of Iraqi citizens voted in the referendum. Although this number does not meet the 70 per cent target, it is an extremely high percentage of participation for referendums of this nature and therefore can be considered successful.

The Transitional National Assembly ratified the final draft of the Iraqi constitutional text on 13 October 2005. This marked the culmination of the parliamentary phase of the constitution-making process, which began when the Transitional National Assembly established its Rules of Procedure and mandated the Constitutional Committee to “write the permanent Constitution draft for Iraq no later than 15 August 2005”, in accordance with Articles 60 and 61 of the Transitional Administrative Law. Given its role and its central importance to the process, the majority of the UNDP Constitutional Support Programme was channelled directly through the Constitutional Committee so that it could achieve the necessary capacity to undertake its task.

A fundamental pillar of the UN assistance to the constitution-making process was knowledge-sharing. Upon the request of the Government, the UNDP/UNAMI programme provided knowledge and information on Iraqi legislation and international constitutional experience, including previous Iraqi constitutional legislation, and international conventions and agreements signed by Iraq, and access to the best and comparative practices on constitution-making, among others.

The actual inclusion of international experts at the committee and subcommittee levels was difficult, given the position adopted by the Iraqis that the Constitution was to be drafted “in-house” without external interference. Thus, while there was a general agreement with the UN to selectively involve relevant renowned experts, this could not be fully operationalized. The killing in Iraq of the Ambassador of Egypt to Iraq further complicated the process, as a ban on travel to Iraq imposed by the Government of Egypt limited access to Arabic-speaking experts.

This notwithstanding, three international experts did travel to Baghdad and offered their services on the ground to the Constitutional Committee and the Office of Constitutional Support on issues of separation of powers, federalism and human rights and civil-military relations. The majority of the expert support, however, was provided through research and issue papers that were shared with the Constitutional Committee and its subcommittees through the Office of Constitutional Support.

After the constitutional referendum, UNDP/UNAMI organized an international workshop on “Planning

for the Implementation of the New Iraqi Constitution”, which took place in Larnaca, Cyprus, from 22 to 24 November 2005. This workshop enabled 15 international leading constitutional experts to contribute their critical input to the post-constitutional process. It also provided an opportunity to have a more considered appraisal of the current constitutional text in light of critical concerns that had been expressed by Iraqi political actors, civil society, media and the commentary of the UN itself. The assessment by the 15 international experts formed the basis of proposals and recommendations for the review and/or textual reformulations to be provided during the official constitutional review process. The workshop also addressed issues within two broad areas: (a) institutions, procedures and substance relating to the rule of law and human rights, and (b) implementation of the federal/decentralized system of government.

Three offices were established to support the Constitutional Committee and its subcommittees: the Secretariat and the Public Outreach Unit, which comprised the Analysis Unit plus the Media and Public Affairs Unit. The Secretariat was located within the Convention Centre (in the Green Zone) where the staff members (15-20) of the Chairman and the deputies were provided office space. UNDP provided the office equipment, computers, Internet connectivity and other immediate services. The Analysis Unit, located outside the Green Zone, was staffed with over 100 analysts who received, compiled, analysed and developed a public report from the national submissions. The Media and Public Affairs Unit was also based in the Convention Centre and had 10 to 12 staff members, who were responsible for working directly with media outlets to disseminate information to the general public in addition to helping to organize weekly/biweekly press conferences. It was also responsible for the publication and dissemination of posters, banners and other publicity materials of the Constitutional Committee. UNDP supported all three offices in addition to constitutional offices set up in 18 governorates.

In order to carry out its responsibilities both in Baghdad and in the 18 governorates, the Constitutional Committee had to employ close to 200 short-term staff. Their profiles varied from senior subject-matter experts to information technology specialists, public information officers, and administrative and security staff. UNDP provided the funds and worked with the Constitutional Committee in defining the post profiles, a remuneration scheme and a performance assessment system that would allow the rapid deployment of such a large pool of national personnel to staff the Constitutional Committee Secretariat and the Public Outreach Office (Analysis Unit plus the Media and Public Affairs Unit) as well as the 18 governorate offices.

- Resourced the Constitutional Committee with 200 professional staff. Provided operational and logistical support, including 250 computers and Internet access.
- Assisted in contracting 100 media outlets for public dialogue.
- Organized post-referendum conference to develop guidelines for constitutional process and review.

In addition, infrastructure support was provided, including the provision of vehicles (armoured and soft skin), books, computers, furniture, air conditioners, water coolers, tape recorders, mobile phones, generators and digital scanners for the Constitutional Committee, its members, the Secretariat and the 18 governorate offices. The rental for the three Baghdad offices of the Constitutional Committee and the petty cash for their daily operations were provided as well as funding for the accommodation of the Chairman and some of his key staff in the Green Zone during the drafting process.

Translation services for the Constitutional Committee and UNAMI were provided as well as funding for the provision of promotional material. In addition, a contracting and direct payment system was established to enable the Constitutional Committee to acquire the goods and services that it needed while remaining accountable for the funds, and on-the-job coaching and mentoring on financial and operational management were provided to the Secretariat and the Public Outreach Office. Internet connectivity in the main Convention Centre office and at the Public Outreach Office in the centre of Baghdad was secured.

The mandate of the Constitutional Committee was both to draft the Constitution and also to undertake a public outreach programme to ensure that the drafting of the Constitution was conducted in a transparent, participatory and inclusive manner. Public outreach was considered an essential part of the constitution-making process, not only for the elaboration of the Constitution per se but also for its successful passage in the referendum and for its implementation – critical elements for the future stabilization of Iraq and the sustainability of the political process. However, in light of the security situation and the short time frame, this became one of the key challenges facing the Constitutional Committee.

UNDP provided expert advice and technical assistance to the public affairs section and supported it in the design, development and implementation of its public outreach programme. This support had two components: assistance to the Constitutional Committee through a large-scale media campaign and funding of the printing of the constitutional text and its distribution prior to the referendum.

The Constitutional Committee contracted nearly 100 different media outlets, including 61 newspapers, 22 radio stations and 16 television stations, in an effort to reach a broad and inclusive audience. Both national and local media outlets were included and daily advertisements flooded the country on local, regional and national stations. Questionnaires and free-form submissions were published in newspapers and were distributed at places of worship and other community areas in an attempt to encourage public submissions. Finally, the campaign also printed and distributed over one million posters and small billboard advertisements, leaflets and large lit signs to ensure that the public was informed of the constitution-making process.

Some of the themes promoted by the Media and Public Affairs Unit were: “Our Constitution is our tent”; “Let us write our Constitution with our own hands”; “We write the Constitution together to provide us with protection tomorrow”; “Our Constitution is the essence of our freedom”; and “The Constitution is a national merit”.

In addition to the text of the Constitution, UNDP agreed to print a shorter, simplified version of the text. This easy-to-read text was drafted by the Constitutional Committee with the assistance of UNAMI. The final booklet also included a public submissions report, which detailed how the public was asked to participate and which opinions were received. The Constitutional Committee requested that the booklets be printed in Iraq. As the capacity of Iraqi printers is quite low, UNDP contracted with five Iraqi printers, each of which was asked to print one million copies.

UNDP also assisted the Constitutional Committee with the drafting of a comprehensive plan for the distribution of the Constitution. First, copies were distributed using the Public Distribution System in which citizens in selected areas were able to receive the text of the Constitution with their food rations. Second, the Council of Ministers was asked to distribute the Constitution through universities and schools and to government employees, with a special emphasis on distribution in primarily Sunni areas and western Iraq. Third, political and tribal leaders were provided with copies of the Constitution for distribution to their members and constituencies. Fourth, national and international NGOs were asked to use their networks to distribute copies of the Constitution to hard-to-reach and vulnerable populations. Finally, the Kurdish Regional Government was given the primary responsibility for the distribution of the Constitution in northern Iraq.

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

As part of its activities to promote gender equality and women’s rights within the Constitution and governing structure, UNIFEM supported the MoMPW to train government staff members and support a

selected number of CSOs. In coordination with Al-Mansoura Training College, 320 government officials were trained. Funding support was provided to seven CSOs devoted to women's issues.

The Women Leadership Institute was supported in its awareness-raising activities. These included awareness-raising materials to promote women's participation in the political process as well as workshops and conferences for government employees and National Assembly members on women's rights, international conventions and the implications of the Constitution for women. Altogether more than 220 women attended the activities of the Institute. Perhaps most notable was the conference attended by 160 women – members of the National Assembly, political parties (from all across the spectrum) and civil society. The conference, held in August 2005, was well received especially in that it brought together the different viewpoints for discussion and dialogue.

Security conditions relating to mobility of staff to the Green Zone hampered the ability of UNIFEM to establish the National Assembly Working Group (women's Caucus) at the start of the project. In addition and in light of the transitional status of the National Assembly, establishing a women's Caucus may not have been sustainable. However, UNIFEM intends to pursue working with newly elected Parliamentarians who are expected to remain in seats for the next four years.

To promote women's participation in the referendum and December 2005 elections, UNIFEM conducted two print and audio media campaigns, one in October and the other in December, and supported NGOs in their work to promote women's participation in the electoral processes.

○ *UNESCO – C9-10c, Media and Human Rights: Promotion of Freedom of Expression (Completed)*

The project was developed as part of a programme of UN activities on human rights in Iraq and part of a media development strategy for Iraq. Feeding into the Iraqi constitutional process, the project aimed at creating the foundations for sustainable local initiatives in defence of Iraqi rights of free expression and human rights in general by addressing the strategic areas of consultative support, advocacy, and capacity-building in human rights.

The support was aimed at facilitating a broader, more sustainable defence of human rights in Iraq, reinforced by new resources, notably backed by national and international networks and implemented by Iraqi experts and groups specifically trained for this purpose and for information dissemination about the constitutional process, including the drafting of the Constitution as well as the following referendum.

The project has produced various concrete products. These include more than 15 workshops and seminars that were organized and attended by about 500 government officials, civil society representatives and media professionals on diverse topics as well as a safety guide CD-ROM, which was produced as a guideline for journalists in conflict zones. In addition, a proposed draft on the freedom of expression for the new Iraqi Constitution was submitted to the Iraqi constitution drafting committee. Also, an interactive web site for creating debate and discussion on constitutional issues was developed (www.iraqidustour.com) and a database for implementing partners and Iraqi participants from various media sectors was created.

Agreements to form a radio station union and a signed professional code of honour (Code of Conduct) among 21 radio stations were the results of two meetings. In addition, a Declaration was issued on the Iraqi Constitution as part of participants' follow-up to discuss a charter of labour rights and press freedom.

o *UNESCO – C9-10d, Civil Society Constitutional Outreach Campaign (Completed)*

UNOPS completed its Constitutional Outreach support project, which engaged a wide segment of the Iraqi society in an informed, constructive dialogue. The project also assisted Iraqi civil society to design and carry out a public information and awareness campaign on the constitution-making process with the goal of contributing to an inclusive, participatory and transparent drafting process. The total number of direct beneficiaries was 33,502, including teachers, students, farmers, housewives, political leaders, NGOs, CSOs, tribal leaders and many more, while the indirect beneficiaries consisted of the whole Iraqi population.

This project helped the community to understand the principles of the Constitution. It also explained the fundamental rights, such as human rights, women's rights, federalism and legislation; responsibilities of participating in local and national governance; and the importance of effective participation in the referendum.

Project impact was achieved by holding more than 234 workshops, 175 conferences, 15 training courses, 12 seminars, 11 educational courses, 100 orientation sessions, and 12 round-table discussions. Additionally, the project distributed more than 1,500,000 posters, 150,000 copies of the constitutional draft, 5,000 copies of a monthly magazine about the Constitution, 500 educational booklets, 500,000 comic booklets, and 50,000 atlases. It raised public awareness by producing 15 video clips broadcast through 2 satellite channels, holding plays and shows in rural areas for children, and recording and broadcasting 10 radio programmes through Babel station.

o *UNDP – C9-10e, Involving Iraqi Media and Journalists Covering Constitutional Process*

The project has progressed very well, producing a comprehensive news service, which is widely used by Iraqi and Arabic media. A leadership team and a staff of talented Iraqis have been recruited. However, training programmes have been implemented more slowly than planned and long-term stable funding has not yet been secured.

Aswat al-Iraq news agency published comprehensive news from a network of correspondents across Iraq, concentrating particularly on political news relating to the drafting of a new constitution and the election of a new National Assembly. Some 10,000 news items were issued in Arabic and widely published in Iraqi and Arab regional media. This far exceeded the objective of 500 to 600 news items a month. Aswat al-Iraq became a recognized and important part of the national media of Iraq, and its network of correspondents expanded to cover 15 out of the 18 governorates (an increase from 10 at the beginning of the year). A Kurdish service was launched with translations of many news items from the Arabic service and original items in Kurdish. In addition, an English service of one top news item a day was launched.

- 10,000 news items broadcast via the UNDP-supported independent Iraqi news agency, Aswat al-Iraq.
- News agency network of correspondents expanded to cover 15 out of the 18 governorates of Iraq.

A talented team of senior Iraqi journalists was recruited to manage and develop the news agency. A large house in a relatively secure neighbourhood of Baghdad was rented and equipped as the national headquarters of Aswat al-Iraq. An office was built at a partner newspaper in Sulaymaniyah as a regional headquarters in Kurdistan. Relationships were opened with 50 Iraqi newspapers, 14 television channels and 13 radio stations. The response to Aswat al-Iraq was very positive. Training workshops on reporting constitutional affairs were held in Amman for almost all of the 30 Aswat al-Iraq correspondents and

stringers. The senior management team of Aswat al-Iraq also received training in leadership, human resource management and financial planning from a business school in Beirut.

A suitable statute was drafted in English and Arabic to establish Aswat al-Iraq as an independent legal entity, but registration was not completed during 2005 as planned because important safeguards for the independence of the news agency proved incompatible with Iraqi company law. This issue was resolved in early 2006 by deciding to register Aswat al-Iraq as an Iraqi non-profit organization.

○ *UNDP – C9-10f, Involving Iraqi Media and Journalists for New Democracies TV Film Festival*

The project selected, contracted, collected, translated and subtitled 23 (sometimes famous) documentary films and had them broadcast by five Iraqi television stations from November 2005 to January 2006. Sixteen one-hour programmes were produced from September to December 2005 in cooperation with the Al-Sumeria channel on the draft Iraqi Constitution – the only programme in Iraq where citizens could express their opinions in depth and enter into discussion with experts. Journalists were trained to conduct local debates with citizens about the draft Constitution; around 7,000 citizens participated in these debates and their results were published twice and forwarded to all Members of Parliament.

- Selected and translated 23 documentary films broadcast on five Iraqi television stations.
- Produced 16 one-hour programmes in cooperation with al-Sumeria channel on the draft Constitution.
- Iraqi journalists trained to conduct local debates about draft Constitution; 7,000 citizens participated.

The training in opinion polling and other forms of "Bringing out the voice of the people" must have left a trace in virtually all Iraqi media because of the huge number of journalists that participated and because of the popularity of opinion polling, political talk shows and public debates in the Iraqi media. The journalists were introduced to the issues linked with polling by media and how to deal with opinion polls undertaken by others. Printed educational materials were given to all the participants, providing journalists and their media with a good basic reference guide ("Citizen-oriented media", published in Arabic, English and Kurdish).

The staff of Al-Sumeria noticed the enormous effect that applying certain principles in the design of a programme had on the quality of that programme (the principles were fixed in the contract with the station), and people in the public noticed this effect, too, as they rated the programme among the "most professional" and the one that really let "citizens express themselves". The programme also had an impact on fellow professionals, who started rethinking themselves and the ways in which they were presenting talk shows with an actively participating public.

Human Development

IOM/UNDP – C10-01, Iraqis Rebuilding Iraq – Phase 1 (Completed)

As indicated in the previous report, the preparatory phase was completed with the launch of the Iraqis Rebuilding Iraq (IRI) official web site on 23 May 2005.

- **C10-03 Iraqis Rebuilding Iraq – Phase 1 and Phase 2**

During the reporting period, over 200 Iraqi associations abroad were contacted and were provided with information about the programme and IRI promotion material. Owing to the numerous requests for experts in the medical and academic fields, public information efforts also targeted medicine- and education-related associations/networks abroad to promote such requests among their members. IRI staff have participated in several conferences that were well attended by professional Iraqis in Jordan and abroad to ensure that IRI programme awareness among potential candidates is high. An advertisement was also taken out in *The Economist*.

By the end of December 2005, IRI had received 198 requests for experts from 20 participating ministries. Of these, 178 requests have been entered in the IRI database, and those remaining are being finalized. In response to requests from professional Iraqis for placements in the northern governorates, in November 2005, authorities in the northern region were visited, ministries' representatives were informed about the programme and regional authorities were encouraged to identify human resource gaps in their institutions and possibly fill such gaps through the IRI programme. The response of local authorities was very positive, and by December 2005, the first 60 requests from Erbil for medical and academic professionals had been received.

By 31 December 2005, the Amman Management Unit had received 214 applications from interested Iraqi professionals living abroad. Complete applications (143) were entered in the programme database, whereas incomplete forms have been followed up on to gather missing details. Applications have been received from Iraqi professionals residing in over 20 different countries. By the end of the reporting period, 159 candidates' profiles had been matched with ministries' specific requests. Such profiles have been shared with participating ministries for their final selection.

In early July, the first three experts were deployed to Iraq. The experts were appointed as Director Generals at the Council of Ministers' Secretariat in Baghdad. By 31 December 2005, eight IRI experts had been deployed to Iraq in the Council of Ministers' Secretariat, the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation, the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of Culture. Eight additional IRI experts have been accepted by Iraqi ministries and IOM is proceeding with their recruitment. The candidates will take up their assignment in early 2006.

- **ILO – C10-02, International Employment Conference**

The conference project has been completed for the most part, with follow-up activities concentrating on assisting in the implementation of the action plan. Within the framework of follow-up to the Action Plan adopted at the end of the Conference, ILO organized several meetings with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA), the MoPDC and the MoF in April 2005 in Beirut and in November 2005 in Geneva. These meetings contributed to the establishment of a coherent series of activities focused on the application of labour-based reconstruction methodologies, skills development, local economic development, development of the small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) sector, reform of social security schemes and social dialogue.

The Higher National Council for Employment Creation was established in Iraq, headed by the two key ministries: the MoLSA and the MoPDC, with another ten line ministries as key members. In addition, ILO helped in the definition of a social security reform strategy through a high-level workshop in Geneva in December 2005.

- **ESCWA – C10 -04, Smart Communities Project**

Plans were formulated and preparations were undertaken to implement modern technologies for generating employment and alleviating poverty. Awareness was raised of the project benefits and expected services within the selected villages. In addition, sites were secured by the local community to host the Smart Community facilities, and designs were finalized for the Agro-Food Processing Unit and the Multipurpose Technology Community Centre. Two national coordinators/consultants were identified and contracted to conduct on-site and related substantive activities. All sites for hosting the Multipurpose Technology Community Centre and the Agro-Food Processing Unit were identified and resources were allocated by the local community for the rehabilitation needed. Rehabilitation work on all sites was initiated and the design of the information technology and furniture items for the Multipurpose Technology Community Centre was finalized. The design of the dairy Agro-Food Processing Unit was finalized and procurement of Multipurpose Technology Community Centre items was initiated.

F. Hurdles Encountered and Implementation Constraints

The constitutional programme faced unparalleled hurdles and constraints when compared with past international experience. No constitution has been drafted in such a short time (two months plus last-minute parliamentary negotiations) and in such a violent and insecure environment.

Iraqis recognized the complexity of the issues (federalism, fiscal federalism, distribution of wealth and power, among others) but were unable to delve into full public debate and dialogue owing to the short-time frame. In the end, the constitutional drafting exercise appeared divisive, further exacerbating sectarian tensions. Hence, at the eleventh hour, a clause was included to amend the Constitution after the elections in 2005. Perhaps, given the acrimonious discussions that took place during the Constitution drafting process, the country would be well served by a “calming” period in order to concentrate more on national dialogue and reconciliation as well as on alleviating poverty and addressing the security issue before returning to divisive constitutional issues.

The killing of the Ambassador of Egypt to Iraq that took place in Iraq further complicated the process of providing constitutional assistance since a ban on travel to Iraq imposed by the Government of Egypt limited access to Arabic-speaking experts. Women activists have been threatened and assassinated, even when posting posters in the streets, which in turn dissuaded some from participating actively in awareness-raising and public campaigns. Women’s issues have been given secondary consideration in the tense political situation. Moreover, and owing to the rising conservatism in Iraq, women NGOs have been challenged by community leaders and members when conducting awareness-raising campaigns.

The Iraqi NGO Civil Pillar (as implementing NGO) faced considerable difficulties in organizing a television film festival on new democracies. It was difficult to persuade the Iraqi television stations to broadcast the documentaries all in the same month (one month before the referendum on the Constitution); this would have allowed proper publicity and the creation of a "festival" spirit as well as distribution of the programme of the festival and informative advertising and posters. This was perhaps due to the stations not receiving specific payments for broadcasting although they received a package of subtitled films worth around \$40,000. It appeared also that the television stations found cooperation difficult. Some stations also were afraid to sign contracts and kept postponing doing so.

The other governance and human development projects faced the standard constraints as indicated in the previous progress reports and as faced by other Clusters.

G. Future Work Plan for Ongoing Approved Projects/Programmes

Governance

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

Activities during the next reporting period will include Internet connectivity set up in the MoPDC, the development and installation of the donor profile application and the MoPDC Web portal, the integration of public investment programmes funded by the national budget in DAD (under Phase 2 of DAD), the setting up of an aid coordination advisory team (under a separate project) and production of a national human development report in 2006.

- **UNDP – C9-12, Support to Government of Iraq in International Assistance Coordination and Capacity-building**

This second phase of project C9-01 started in January 2006. Interventions will include continuing support in capacity-building, focused specifically on upgrading management, communications and analytical reporting skills, and the provision of essential expertise; public investment tracking and integration with DAD, aimed at supporting the budget planning process; and DAD extension over five ministries (Finance, Electricity, Health, Education, Municipalities and Public Works) to strengthen their capacities in aid coordination, monitoring and planning.

Methodological and technical support will also be provided to the ministries in setting up Data Management Units and DAD operations and maintenance. Professional and project management support will be provided to all ministries through the introduction of help-desk facilities using local knowledge, skills and expertise. Necessary networking hardware and Internet connectivity to support DAD operations on the Web will be provided. The MoPDC regards DAD as a critical tool for harmonizing aid and the capital budget, especially in terms of tracking soft loans, which are likely to be the principal source of development assistance for Iraq in the coming years.

UNOPS – C9-03, Civil Society Forums (Completed – see section E)

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

During the first quarter, the MoMPW, in cooperation with Al-Mansour University College, implemented 14 workshops in Baghdad. These workshops included 300 participants (210 women and 90 men) from various ministries and NGOs, 12 ministries and 9 NGOs from various governorates. The topics of the workshops covered gender mainstreaming and promoting women's rights in public and political life.

For the rest of the reporting period, UNIFEM will continue to support the Iraqi Women Network in the constitutional reform process, encouraging activities to reach out to different governorates. The Ministry of Women's Affairs was provided with funds and will be encouraged to build the capacity of its human resources and prioritize its work to respond to the needs of Iraqi women's groups. The progress and activities of the civic education centres will be monitored.

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

The remaining five modules of the mid-managers training will be implemented as will the capacity-building of 150 senior managers in the decentralization process, strategic planning of local development and services delivery, and twinning arrangements between Iraqi and regional municipalities. In addition, a needs assessment survey of the current structure of local governance – dynamics, issues and priorities – will be carried out, leading to recommendations and detailed proposals for second-phase implementation.

- **UNDP – C9-18, Supreme Audit Board**

UNDP has already negotiated the training modules with all eight partner institutions, which are members of the International Institute for Supreme Audit Institutions, and MOUs have been developed covering areas such as money laundering, fraud detection, public procurement and privatization. One programme (privatization audit) started on 26 March 2006; other short-term programmes are scheduled for delivery in 2006. UNDP, the Supreme Audit Board and the World Bank have evaluated all participating partners’ programmes. The partners are selected because of their training expertise in the field. On 3 April 2006, a partnership agreement between the Supreme Audit Board of Iraq and the Audit Board of Jordan was signed. The comprehensive package of training includes training of trainers and practical examples drawn from Jordanian experience.

- Training modules with all eight partner institutions negotiated and MOUs developed.
- The programme of privatization audit began in March 2006, with other short-term programmes scheduled for delivery in 2006.

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

- *UNDP – C9-10a, Institutional Support for the Constitutional Drafting Process*

With the remaining resources of \$3,395,377, UNAMI and UNDP have developed a work plan that includes activities that address the thematic and specific shortcomings of the Constitution. These activities include: national dialogue and reconciliation; study tours and seminars on fiscal federalism, human rights, judicial reforms and wider institutional development; and capacity-building.

In March 2006, for example, a study tour to South Africa was organized for a delegation of nine Iraqis parliamentarians representing a wide range of ethnicities. The delegation met a broad range of South Africans, including President Mbeki, and reviewed how South Africa managed political transition during conflict, multi-party engagement and minority inclusion, and transitional justice. In early April 2006 at the Dead Sea, Jordan, a workshop was organized to generate discussion and ideas on a comprehensive range of considerations pertinent to oil and gas resources in Iraq, including the constitutional framework and statutory regulation as well as the economic and physical context of the hydrocarbon sector in Iraq. Upcoming study tours include missions to Spain to study federalism and to Geneva to tackle human rights issues.

- Thematic and specific shortcomings of the Constitution addressed through national dialogue and reconciliation, study tours and seminars on fiscal federalism, human rights and judicial reforms.
- Parliamentarians’ study tour to South Africa and a workshop on oil and gas resources in Iraq. Upcoming study tours to include missions to Spain (federalism) and Switzerland (human rights).

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

In light of the challenges and delays UNIFEM encountered in implementing the project, it has submitted a request to the UNDG ITF Steering Committee for an extension. In particular, UNIFEM is planning through the coming few months to focus more on the constitutional and legislative review processes and on building the awareness of Iraqi women and men with respect to the Constitution as well as enhancing the capacity of newly elected women parliamentarians to fulfil their roles. To this end, a workshop was held in February 2006 on “Advocating for a Gender-sensitive Constitution and Legislation”.

UNIFEM will work closely with the newly elected women Members of Parliament on building their skills and capacity, with the aim of creating the basis for the establishment of a women’s caucus in the Parliament. Lobbying will be supported for endorsing the suggested modifications to the Constitution as per Iraqi women’s demands and recommendations made by UNIFEM. A civic education campaign on the importance of gender-sensitizing the legislation and the Constitution will be implemented through supporting NGOs and using media channels. A play on women’s rights and the importance of women’s participation in the political process developed by Helping Women for Life will be supported in performances across Iraq.

UNESCO – C9-10c, Media and Human Rights: Promotion of Freedom of Expression (Completed)

- *UNOPS – C9-10d, Civil Society Constitutional Outreach Campaign (Completed)*
- *UNDP – C9-10e, Involving Iraqi Media and Journalists Covering Constitutional Process*

The Aswat al-Iraq editorial operation produced more than 900 news items in January 2006 and more than 1,000 in February despite deteriorating security. An expanded English service of upwards of 10 items a day was launched in January 2006.

The Aswat al-Iraq news agency operation producing textual news coverage of Iraq in Arabic, English and Kurdish will continue during the upcoming reporting period, with production increasing to approximately 2,000 news items a month in the three languages. The Aswat al-Iraq still photo service will be launched, including a network of two staff photographers based in Baghdad; stringer photographers and text correspondents trained to shoot photographs in the 17 other governorates; and a chief photographer and two desk editors in Baghdad directing photo coverage, editing photos and captions and uploading photos for distribution.

A service of audio reports in Arabic and Kurdish will be launched for radio stations. Television facilities will be provided to Iraqi and international television channels on a cost-sharing basis. The planned first facility will be pooled coverage of news conferences and other events in the Green Zone. A marketing and sales operation will be established to begin selling Aswat al-Iraq’s textual news and photos services commercially to customers in Iraq and internationally. International training attachments to Arab and international media organizations, each for two months, will be organized for staff of Aswat al-Iraq.

- *UNDP – C9-10f, Involving Iraqi Media and Journalists for New Democracies TV Film Festival*

All programmes have been executed. As a result of payment of fewer broadcast fees than planned, the NGO Civil Pillar wants to continue the polling workshops in those cities where the NGO was not able to go in 2005 and organize local meetings with journalists to involve them in the research on constitutional issues. Although unforeseen events continue to hamper project implementation, the project is expected to be completed by May 2006.

Human Development

- **IOM/UNDP – C10-03, Iraqis Rebuilding Iraq (IRI) – Phase 2**

The programme, through its targeted information campaign (i.e., radio spots and radio interviews on radio stations listened to by large numbers of Iraqis living abroad), 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 the end of December 2005, there were eight more candidates in the recruiting process who would be deployed to Iraq in the following weeks.

Following the positive response achieved through outreach activities carried out in the Kurdish region in late 2005, it is expected that in the first term of 2006, a number of IRI candidates could be selected to work in the northern region as well. Meetings with representatives from the Ministry of Higher Education have also demonstrated that an interest exists at this Ministry to recruit a number of IRI candidates to be deployed as professors and faculty staff in various universities countrywide. In early 2006, IRI will follow up with the Ministry and various universities to further assess the needs of academic staff and possible IRI assistance to provide such experts.

- **ILO – C10-02, International Employment Conference**

A new seminar planned within the framework of the Action Plan for Employment is scheduled for the first half of 2006.

- **ESCWA – C-10 04, Smart Communities**

During the first quarter of 2006, ESCWA signed Letters of Agreement with ILO and UN-HABITAT and initiated plans for joint activities. The rehabilitation of the Multipurpose Technology Community Centre at both sites was finalized and the procurement of dairy equipment was initiated.

By June 2006, the rehabilitation of Agro-Food Processing Unit sites will have been completed and dairy procurement will have been finalized. A system for heating water using solar energy will be designed as well as a wastewater treatment system on the basis of local needs and conditions. Equipment will be identified for an electromechanical workshop to be established at each site. A technology dissemination programme will be launched and a train-the-trainers workshop will be implemented on the basis of the International Computer Driving Licence.

H. Draft 2006-2007 UN Assistance Strategy for Iraq

The objectives of the UNCT in the areas of democratic governance, sustainable human development and poverty reduction are set against the background of the longer-term targets identified in the Iraq National Development Strategy and the MDGs.

For the period 2006-2007, Cluster C intends to focus its assistance on the pursuit of the following four objectives:

- (a) support the new parliament and government in the development of a longer-term vision for economic and social reform and a more stable, effective and accountable administration;
- (b) in close coordination with the central government, improve the performance of local authorities in their service delivery responsibilities and in the planning and budgeting of local area development initiatives that involve the private sector and civil society;
- (c) support the application of the rule of law and the establishment of a national system of human rights; and
- (d) enhance intercommunal dialogue and confidence-building measures in an effort to promote national reconciliation

The areas of intervention in 2006-2007 will cover:

Democratic Governance:

- national dialogue and reconciliation;
- legislatures – support to the Council of Representatives;
- public administration reform, institutional and capacity development;
- accountability, transparency, anti-corruption and aid effectiveness;
- justice, human rights and security sector;
- civil society; and
- access to information.

Linkages and shared operational areas of intervention between governance and human Development:

- local governance and area recovery plans.

Sustainable human development and poverty reduction:

- monitoring of poverty and inequality;
- social protection; and
- pro-poor growth strategies.

To implement projects in these areas of action, Cluster C has a total net funding requirement for 2006-2007 of \$122 million (\$58.3 million for 2006 and \$63.7 million for 2007).

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. 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 PHC delivery, including emergency preparedness and response, addressing the needs of the Iraqis, especially the vulnerable population, while promoting a healthy living environment.

Mission Statement

To support implementation of the Iraq National Health Strategy, which aims to shift services 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.

B. Programmes/Projects Funded to Date

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

PROJECT	AGENCY	AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2005						AS OF 31 MARCH 2006					
		FUNDED		COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT		FUNDED		COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT	
		US\$ 000s	US\$ 000s	%	US\$ 000s	%	US\$ 000s	%	US\$ 000s	US\$ 000s	%	US\$ 000s	%
D2-02	Emergency Obstetric Care	UNFPA	12,603	7,824	62	7,679	61	12,603	7,824	62	7,772	62	
D2-03	Supporting Primary Health Care System	WHO	37,364	29,713	80	21,367	57	37,364	33,139	89	25,855	69	
D2-04	Re-establishing the National Drug Quality Control Laboratory	WHO	5,977	5,590	94	3,696	62	5,977	5,643	94	3,760	63	
D2-05	Non-communicable Diseases and Mental Health	WHO	11,000	6,960	63	4,620	42	11,000	7,843	71	5,155	47	
D2-06	Strengthening Immunization Services in Iraq	UNICEF	7,900	2,969	38	870	11	7,900	3,029	38	930	12	
D2-07	Improving Preparedness and Response to Impending Cholera Outbreak	WHO	858	265	31	98	11	858	564	66	298	35	
D2-08	Hazardous Waste Chemicals Collection and Storage: Al Qadisiya site	UNEP	905	0	0	10	1	905	784	87	102	11	
D2-09	Malaria and Leishmania Control and Prevention Emergency Programme	WHO	5,157	2,800	54	474	9	5,157	4,206	82	1,292	25	
D2-10	Health Care Waste Management	WHO	1,408	197	14	138	10	1,408	1,146	81	195	14	
D2-11	Provision of Emergency Medical Oxygen Supply in Baghdad, Mosul and Kirkuk	WHO	2,825	179	6	16	1	2,825	496	18	146	5	
D2-12	Establishment of Solid Waste Mangement System in City of Kirkuk	UNOPS	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	0	0	0	0	
CLUSTER D TOTAL			85,996	56,498	66	38,969	45	87,996	64,674	73	45,504	52	

As of 31 December 2005, 10 projects totalling about \$86 million had been funded in the Health and Nutrition Cluster. Overall Cluster delivery at the end of 2005 amounted to \$56.5 million (66 per cent) in

commitments and \$39 million (45 per cent) in disbursements in comparison to figures at the end of June 2005 that were approximately \$37 million (49 per cent) in commitments and \$23 million (31 per cent) in terms of disbursements. A new project for Solid Waste Management in Kirkuk was funded for \$2 million (D2-12, UNOPS) in March 2006. By the end of March 2006, commitments had reached \$64.7 million (73 per cent) and disbursements had risen significantly to over half of the funded amount – \$45.5 million (52 per cent).

C. Key Accomplishments

The Health and Nutrition Cluster made notable contributions during the reporting period. Despite considerable challenges on the ground linked to violence and insecurity, Cluster D supported the efforts of the MoH to sustain basic health and nutrition services, ensuring effective and equitable coverage for the 4.5 million children under five years of age and 1 million pregnant/lactating women.

Iraq has maintained a polio-free status for the sixth year.

In 2005, routine immunization coverage was sustained (around 83 per cent). In addition, a polio-free status was maintained. There were also dramatic reductions in reported cases of measles (from 9,181 in 2004 to 820 in 2005) and mumps (from 15,132 in 2004 to 2,161 in 2005). Iraq has the lowest-ever incidence of measles and mumps, while neighbouring countries are experiencing an increased level. Iraq is moving from the measles control phase to measles elimination. As a result of the impact from quick-impact projects begun in September 2005, Iraq also continued to be cholera free, and there was a continued decline in malaria (only 47 cases in 2005) and leishmania (reduction by 40 per cent).

The Cluster has made major efforts in the rehabilitation of health facilities. The rehabilitation of 86 PHC centres and 18 training centres has been completed as well as that of five maternity wards.

The Cluster has also taken timely, appropriate action to deal with the public health threat posed by avian influenza. To date, only two cases of human H5N1 have been confirmed in Iraq. Cluster D has been supporting the preparedness for avian and pandemic influenza in Iraq for over four months. During November 2005, the Cluster Coordinator met ministry officials to accelerate the pandemic influenza strategic planning process. By December, the first draft of the national strategic plan had been finalized in Amman by representatives from all key ministries and the National Technical Committee. Following the confirmation of human cases of avian influenza in Iraq and upon the request of the MoH, a high-level UN/WHO-led avian influenza mission visited the country. The mission was successful in visiting affected areas and provided needed technical support to the Government of Iraq.

The Cluster has assisted in the establishment of the National High-level Committee led by the Deputy Prime Minister and including the MoH, the MoEn, the Ministry of Interior and the MoA and supported by the Cluster. Technical and logistical support has been provided for transportation of samples to reference laboratories for investigation. Personal protection equipment, reagents, antiviral treatment and needed kits have been supplied and lab training has been given in the United States Navy Medical Research Unit (NAMRU) 3/Cairo in the advanced techniques for isolation and identification of different types of influenza viruses. Technical field tools have been finalized, e.g., case definition, management and investigation, and training has been given in epidemiology and infection control for physicians and health workers in the isolation units, hospitals and PHC centres.

Emphasis has also been placed on community-awareness activities in all governorates, in particular through a UNICEF/WHO workshop on the development of an avian influenza communication and social mobilization strategy to identify priority communication and social mobilization needs for avian influenza preparedness as well as outbreak control.

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. The MoH and the Cluster D plan of action was developed to complement the government strategic direction.

Building on this collaborative work, Cluster D is providing significant support to the MoH in its role as chair of the Health. WHO, in partnership with USAID, assists in convening meetings and plays a crucial role in providing the requisite technical assistance to the MoH for the SWG. The SWG holds biweekly meetings, which are chaired by the Deputy Minister of Health from the UN office in Baghdad, linked via video conference to the WHO Iraq office in Amman and, when required, to the MoH in Baghdad.

The value of the SWG is found in the participation of key line ministries in Baghdad such as representatives from the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Higher Education as well as the participation of key development partners in Baghdad and in Amman, such as DFID; the European Commission; the Embassies of Japan, Turkey and the United States; JICA; USAID; the World Bank; France, Italy, and other members of the UN Health and Nutrition Cluster; and UNAMI.

The Health SWG has achieved much to date, including improving dialogue between the MoH and key development partners. It has made significant progress in gaining a clearer and fuller picture of the roles that all development partners are playing in Iraq for health through the planning and implementation of two stakeholder analyses, which are being implemented by USAID and WHO in support of the MoH. When required, discussions at the Health SWG also focused on the linkage of the SWG with the Iraqi Strategic Review Board (ISRB); for example, the UNDG ITF Quick-impact Projects for Health were discussed at the Health SWG.

All Cluster members implement projects towards meeting the government goals. In terms of project implementation, the procurement and provision of supplies are agency-specific, but all agencies go through international competitive bidding processes to ensure quality, efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Monitoring of progress is also agency-specific: some agencies have focal points and national staff in each governorate while others subcontract private companies. Training by Cluster members occurs both inside and outside Iraq, with an emphasis on capacity-building of initiators and training of trainers outside Iraq, which cascades internally within the governorates.

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

UNICEF uses contracted monitors in addition to its staff based in Amman, Baghdad and Erbil. Through their regular monitoring visits, the monitors confirm distribution of supplies to end-user locations, i.e., health facilities, and report on their use. Regular meetings are also held with Directorates of Health in all

governorates. UNICEF actively collaborates with WHO to benefit from its technical expertise and comparative advantage so as to ensure the best possible synergy of actions on the ground. For example, WHO supports all target disease surveillance of the Expanded Programme on Immunization, including the advocacy meeting for clinicians (three meetings per province per year).

E. Specific Agency Implementation

- **WHO – D2-03 Strengthening Primary Health Care Services Programme**

Five policies have been developed: financing and national health accounts, development of a health vision and future strategy, nursing and integrated management of childhood illness. These will complement other policies developed under other WHO programmes.

In addition, 134 PHC centres and 19 training centres geographically spread out in the 19 model districts are under rehabilitation. Of these, the rehabilitation of 86 PHC centres and 18 training centres has been completed (currently being furnished and equipped); the rest will be ready in April 2006. As of December 2005, 3,211 multidisciplinary health personnel had been trained; 316 fellowships have been awarded. A special PHC training package for the 2,500 staff working in the 19 model districts at the PHC level has been prepared and will start in March 2006.

Under the Community-based Initiatives Programme, a baseline survey (June-July 2005), sensitization and awareness campaigns (500 participants) and two study tours (Islamic Republic of Iran and Thailand) have all been completed. The impact has been that a number of projects have been initiated by the people in areas of basic development needs: safe water projects, mobile clinics, health education sessions, illiteracy eradication campaigns and secondary classes in Al-Dasem, Al-Sulaiman and Al-Dahira. Women have been equally involved in the decision-making process.

WHO has procured almost 188,000 different pieces of basic public health items worth almost \$14 million, which includes Health Information System hardware. A team of five MoH staff visited Oman in February 2006 to become familiarized with their Health Information System software in order to as to adapt it to Iraqi needs.

<p style="text-align: center;">Strengthening Primary Health Care Services Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Health vision for a shift from a curative to a preventive, primary health care system was supported, in cooperation with the World Bank, via development of 5 key policies. • Access to quality health services was improved through development of 19 model districts. • Quality of services was improved through training provided for 3,211 multidisciplinary health care staff. <p style="text-align: center;">Integrated Management of Child Illness (IMCI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 86 health care providers (physicians and health workers) completed IMCI Case Management training courses. • 11 physicians were trained in IMCI facilitation skills by EMRO. • 200 copies of the IMCI training module booklets were printed and distributed to primary health care centres. • 86 physicians were trained, as supervisors and surveyors, in assessment of the Action-oriented School Health Curriculum being implemented in all governorates.

- **WHO – D2-04 National Drug Quality Control Laboratory**

The rehabilitation of the main laboratory building was completed as of 31 December 2005; the provision of furniture was almost complete. The process of handing over the building to the MoH by the contractor will begin soon. The rehabilitation of the Annex building is also progressing well but has been slightly delayed owing to the prevailing insecure environment, which has led to work stopping for a number of days. As of 31 December 2005, the implementation rate of the construction works on the Annex building was 8 per cent complete. The works completed include, civil, sanitation and mechanical works as well the replacement of the electrical system.

All ordered equipment and supplies worth \$2,302,038 have been received in Amman, out of which \$2,171,289 worth have been delivered to the site. Over 25 technicians have completed their fellowships in various drug quality control techniques. The plans to train an additional 32 others are also at an advanced stage.

A National Drug Quality Control (NDQC) Strategy, specific guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures have been developed. These are valuable tools that will contribute to enhancing the National Medicines Policy and to achieving an efficient drug management system and rational use of safe drugs.

National Drug Quality Control Project
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Drug Quality Control Laboratory (NDQCL), serving 27 million people, modernized and fully operational. • Obsolete and defective equipment replaced by new, up-to-date, highly efficient and more precise equipment. • Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures for the NDQCL developed and implemented. • 27 million people increasingly gaining access to safe drugs, which is their right. • Increased capacity for drug quality control testing as a result of training of over 20 professional laboratory staff to carry out quality control.

- **WHO – D2-05, Non-communicable Diseases and Mental Health**

In the mental health component of the project, psychiatric units are being rehabilitated and constructed and supplies for units have been procured. In addition, considerable capacity-building activities have been carried out, including a workshop on research projects for Iraqi psychiatrists (conducted in December 2005) and five educational workshops (training of trainers) on raising mental health awareness in schools. Drafts on psychosocial first aid have been prepared and are ready for publication.

In terms of the non-communicable disease component of the project, the Steering Committee of the Non-communicable Disease Task Force has shown strong, effective leadership in the implementation of the project, including implementation of the nationwide survey of STEPWISE non-communicable disease risk factors along with tobacco control activities such as a tobacco-free initiative for students in schools and

Mental Health and Non-communicable Disease Programme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Needs Assessment for Iraq using the WHO-AIMS has provided baseline data as well as the basis for the identification of priorities. • 10 psychiatrists trained for 3 months in psychiatric specialties in the United Kingdom. • Rebuilding of the 7 psychiatric facilities and 3 new psychiatric facilities covering 18 governorates. • About 100 medical officers and nurses trained in psychiatry and in means to integrate psychiatric services into primary health care system. • 16 research projects providing new information about the magnitude of the mental health problems in Iraq that will direct tailored interventions.

colleges. Non-communicable disease care is being integrated into PHC services and much needed ophthalmic care supplies are being delivered into Iraq.

- **UNFPA – D2-02 Emergency Obstetric Care Programme**

The rehabilitation of maternal wards managed by UNOPS is showing steady progress with five sites completed at Al-Hamdanyia Hospital, Hamdanyia Centre, Ninewa; Balad General Hospital, Balad, Salah Centre – Salah al-Din; Al-Noor, Al-Hakeem Hospital, Al-Shala town, Baghdad; Kirkuk General Hospital, Kirkuk, Tamim; Al-Emam Ali Hospital, Al-Sadr City, Baghdad, and contracts awarded and work ongoing for seven sites. Recently, the MoH submitted a new list of nine new sites to be rehabilitated.

Five maternity wards, serving expectant mothers and new-born children, in five districts in five governorates have been rehabilitated and equipped by UNFPA and UNOPS.

Five loaded 40-foot containers were delivered to Baghdad MoH warehouses in September 2005. UNFPA has also procured the second batch of medical equipment; the total amount of the medical items is \$2.4 million. The second consignment is expected to arrive in Jordan in March 2006.

Based on the MoH request, the project has delivered 42 ambulances to Baghdad; each of the 21 hospitals covered by the project will receive two ambulances. The cascade training in emergency obstetric care for doctors and nurses started in Iraq in November 2005. The estimated number of trainees supported by the project until the end of January 2006 is 368.

- **UNICEF – D2-06, Strengthening Immunization Services in Iraq**

Since July 2005, UNICEF has procured supplies representing 43 per cent of funds requisitioned. In October/November 2005, 9.3 million auto-destruct syringes along with safety boxes (for safe disposal of used autodestruct syringes) were procured and delivered to Baghdad to cover 2006 national requirements for the routine immunization programme, benefiting 1 million infants and 1 million pregnant women.

Ten million doses of oral polio vaccine were procured to support Polio National Immunization Days scheduled for March/April 2006. The first shipment of 5 million doses is expected in Baghdad in the first week of March. Over 4.5 million children 0-5 years of age will be vaccinated with two doses of the oral polio vaccine with an interval of one month, contributing to maintaining the polio-free status in Iraq. In addition, \$1 million worth of cold chain equipment and spares was procured for delivery in January/March 2006. All these inputs assisted the MoH to sustain the national immunization programme and contributed to maintenance of the national immunization coverage at about 75 to 80 per cent.

- **WHO - D2-07 - Improving Preparedness Response to impending Cholera Outbreak (Quick-impact Project)**

The objective of the project was to prevent the occurrence of an impending cholera outbreak as a result of importation from the Islamic Republic of Iran. This objective was achieved since not a single case of cholera was reported during the previous six months. The main activities undertaken to achieve this result were the procurement of medicines, medical supplies and laboratory medical reagents; the conduct of one to two seminars in each DoH (Health District) and advocacy meetings in hospitals; the organization of three training workshops in each DoH for health centre and district staff in the proper management of diarrhoea and in raising the awareness of mothers with regard to how to minimize the risk of diarrhoea for children and adult family

No outbreaks of Cholera were reported in 2005.

members. One surveillance and quick-response team (three staff each) in each district was trained and provided with the necessary logistical support as was one monitoring and evaluation team in each DoH.

- **UNEP – D2-08, Hazardous Waste Chemicals Collection and Storage: Al-Qadissiya Site (Quick-impact Project)**

Al-Qadissiya, a military industrial site, contains pure sodium cyanide, a toxin that is lethal in a dose by ingestion of less than 1 gram. The site was looted and demolished, resulting in the deposition of piles of cyanide in open ground. The site is unfenced, unguarded and located in a semi-built-up area south of Baghdad. Trespassers, including children, have been seen on the site and looters were noted stripping metal from reaction vessels containing cyanide. It is estimated that there is up to 100 tons of highly hazardous waste (around 1,000 barrels) scheduled for removal, with over 1,000 tonnes of much less hazardous material expected to remain on site.

This project is close to starting the clean-up of one site. Ultimately, however, following an international tender, which was extended to permit greater Iraqi company participation, only one bid had been received by the final deadline in December 2005 as the other companies had declined to participate. An evaluation was performed on the one bid, and the company concerned (ECCI) was found to be extremely technically competent. However, the company's bid price was significantly in excess of the project budget. At the request of the MoEn, the Scope of Works was reduced in order to exclude the clean-up of the Al-Suwaitra site. A revised bid was submitted, and although a saving of \$291,214 (23 per cent) was offered, the total bid price still exceeded the project budget available for the subcontract. A solution to the works under way is presently being sought.

The removal and storage of hazardous waste at the Al-Qadissiya site would provide both a quick-fix solution to an identified urgent problem and would strengthen the capacity of the Iraqi nationals and institutions, particularly the MoEn, to work towards solving similar problems throughout Iraq in the future.

- **WHO – D2-09, Malaria and Leishmania Control and Prevention Emergency Programme (Quick-impact Project)**

The real impact of the project was very clear in that it prevented the outbreak of malaria and leishmania and reduced by 40 per cent the number of visceral leishmaniasis cases reported during 2005 in comparison with 2004. As for malaria, Iraq is moving towards the malaria elimination phase. Only 47 cases of malaria were reported in Iraq during 2005 while 155 cases had been reported during 2004 and more than 1,000 cases during 2002. The first draft of the Malaria Elimination Strategy was finalized in November 2005, with participation from all governorates in Iraq – a truly participatory process.

The above-mentioned results have been achieved by supporting the MoH in procuring insecticide and conducting spraying and fogging campaigns during September and October 2005. WHO had also provided bed nets for 193,000 families and supported the distribution to the governorates. Health education activities were conducted to increase community awareness of the personal protective measures

Malaria and Leishmania Outbreaks Have Been Prevented

- 40% reduction in visceral leishmaniasis cases reported during 2005 in comparison with 2004.
- Only 47 cases of malaria reported in Iraq during 2005 compared to 155 cases reported during 2004 and more than 1,000 cases during 2002. It has been agreed during the latest regional meeting that Iraq should move towards malaria elimination.
- The first draft of the Malaria Elimination Strategy was finalized in November 2005, with participation from all governorates in Iraq.

and how to use the bed nets. Health education documents were provided to the Communicable Disease Control Centre in Baghdad as well. Entomological surveillance activities were supported, and vector control activities included rodent control campaigns, training, provision of needed kits and spraying at water collection and dumping sites. Capacity-building activities and advocacy meetings were organized.

• **WHO – D2-10, Health Care Waste Management (Quick-impact Project)**

The rapid assessment of the 19 selected health facilities has been completed and, based on the result of the assessment, the real needs in terms of supplies have been identified. Two courses on training of trainers in health care waste management in health facilities have been conducted in Amman, where 40 professionals from the MoH, the MoEn and the Mayoralty of Baghdad were trained. Eight training courses on health care waste management inside Iraq have been completed by those who received training in Amman; 240 health trainers participated.

Health Care Waste Management Project
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 280 health workers trained in health care waste management methods. • 34,000 posters designed, printed and distributed to 19 health facilities as part of hospital hygiene education campaign. • 20,000 health workers benefited from the hospital hygiene campaigns. • Cleaner, healthier environments now exist within the 19 targeted health facilities.

In the hospital hygiene education campaign within 19 selected health facilities, WHO, in coordination with the MoH, has designed and printed 34,000 copies of posters relating to the best management of health care waste from health facilities.

The process of procuring environmentally friendly equipment for the treatment of the health care waste has been completed and WHO signed the contract worth about \$660,000. The MoH and WHO announced the tenders for the rehabilitation of the existing incinerators within the selected health facilities. In addition, part of the supplies, which will be used in the waste management process (e.g., plastic bags, waste bins, sharp containers, trolleys, gloves and goggles), was shipped to the MoH.

• **WHO – D2-11, Emergency Medical Oxygen Production and Supply in Iraq (Quick-impact Project)**

The assessment of monthly medical oxygen needs for hospitals under the programme has been completed and the results are used as the basis for supplying oxygen in Baghdad. This is contributing to reducing the number of deaths due to lack of anaesthetics. For Kirkuk and Mosul, the selection of the successful contractor is under way.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10,000,000 people benefited from access to medical oxygen supplied in Baghdad, Kirkuk and Mosul Governorates. • Reduced disability and mortality in 57 hospitals covered by the programme. • Level of preparedness to deal with emergencies increased in the 57 hospitals covered by the programme.

As a first step in developing a strategy for oxygen supply, an assessment of the medical gases services has been carried out, covering all hospitals, public health care sectors and first aid services. Analysis of field data is under way.

The identification of sites and soil-bearing capacity relating to the installation of oxygen plants has been completed. However, the procurement of the plants is behind schedule as a result of the time required by suppliers to manufacture and deliver the production equipment. This delay was also compounded by the process of defining technical specifications, which took longer than anticipated. The call for bids is currently posted on the IRFFI web site, and an extension of the project implementation period has been

requested, given the expected positive impact of the project in ensuring a long-term, sustained medical oxygen supply system.

F. Hurdles Encountered and Implementation Constraints

Insecurity and military operations remain paramount issues hampering the delivery of basic health services in Iraq. Restricted movement of national staff in-city and between cities has also been a major constraint to implementation. Mothers are reluctant to go to health facilities for preventive essential health services (immunization, maternal and child health care, antenatal care, etc) and go only when the child is critically ill. There are also incidences of the kidnapping of health staff.

A continual constraint is the high turnover of MoH key focal points, which results in the loss of built capacity and institutional memory. For example, certain plans of action had to be reworked after having been agreed. This compounds an already-lengthy decision-making process. Senior managers have approved original action plans and then some of the decisions taken and plans agreed upon would be overruled after project approval.

In the area of rehabilitation, the MoH engineering department in Baghdad is responsible for the review and the approval of the scope and design layout for rehabilitation works, a process that is frequently time-consuming. Another reason for delay in the rehabilitation activities is the handover of project sites from the MoH authorities to the assigned contractors, a process that does not always happen on time. In the case of maternity wards, this is owing to the lack of alternative obstetric facilities for women.

Another issue faced in the area of rehabilitation is common to all rehabilitation works in Iraq. Owing to increases in costs across the country, the number of buildings to be rehabilitated has had to be scaled back. Only 134 public health care centres/sub-centres can be rehabilitated within the given budget instead of the 274 planned.

A particularly serious constraint is the lack of adequate operational funding in service ministries such as Health. This issue has been raised in successive UNDG ITF Progress Reports (the result is that UNDG ITF projects must cover certain recurrent costs in order to be effective) but has still not been adequately addressed.

In addition, some individual projects have faced specific constraints. The WHO oxygen supply project, for example, has discovered that because of the worldwide demand for oxygen production equipment, suppliers no longer keep oxygen plant units in stock as used to be the case; thus, the suppliers need about five to six months to manufacture the equipment. The delivery and installation of the equipment are expected to take another two to three months. The UNEP hazardous waste disposal project was initially delayed owing to the request of the MoEn to extend the deadline of the bid submission in order to allow six local Iraqi companies to participate in the bidding process. However, despite being offered the opportunity, none of these local companies submitted a bid.

G. Future Work Plan for Ongoing Approved Projects/Programmes

- **WHO – D2-03, Supporting Primary Health Care System**

During the upcoming reporting period, rehabilitation of the PHC centres will be completed and the rehabilitated and constructed facilities will be equipped and furnished. The family medicine practice and the referral system pilot will be implemented. A basic health kit package will be finalized and the training required to implement it will be delivered. Community-based initiatives in designated areas will be implemented as well as the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses in six governorates at the PHC

level. A series of debates will be organized around health-care financing policy options

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

Priority actions planned beyond December 2005 are the installation and commissioning of equipment, including testing and instrument calibration. It is hoped that the security situation will improve, allowing the supplier installation teams to travel to Iraq to install sophisticated laboratory equipment. However, contingency planning has been made to train appropriate personnel outside the country.

Plans to train 32 lab technicians in Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Malaysia continue to be developed and the actual training is expected to take place by the end of April 2006. As previously indicated, the programme will include topics such as management of quality control, densitometers, thin-layer chromatography, dissolution techniques, use of densitometers, infrared absorption and development of standard operating procedures.

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

Activities on the integration of the care of non-communicable diseases into the PHC centres and public clinics will continue. Equipment and lab supplies for the early detection of breast and cervical cancer are being obtained through international procurement. The placement of fellows to be trained in cancer epidemiology, cancer registry and the early detection of cancer is being closely followed up. The preparations to implement the Global Health Professional Survey in medical and allied health profession colleges in Baghdad are ongoing. The national staff in the MoH and other related ministries are working to finalize the national strategy and plan of action for the prevention and control of violence and injuries.

- **UNFPA – D2-02, Emergency Obstetrics Care Programme**

Rehabilitation works will continue at the seven sites where work is ongoing. It is expected that UNFPA will complete the procurement of medical supplies by the second quarter of 2006. Cascade training will continue during the first and second quarters of 2006. In addition, a final evaluation will be carried out by the MoH and UNFPA staff in Iraq to evaluate the trainees.

- **UNICEF - D2-06, Strengthening Immunization Services in Iraq**

The main areas of focus for UNICEF support to the MoH will be on sustaining basic health services, including immunization as well as the rehabilitation of some health service infrastructure in the remote underserved areas. Advocacy for greater resource allocations to the health sector by the Government of Iraq, particularly for a recurrent budget to ensure the sustainability of this project after completion, will also be pursued. Planning and implementation of the Polio National Immunization Days in March/April 2006 will continue in close collaboration with WHO. The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, which will be undertaken during the first quarter of 2006, will provide disaggregated data (by gender/governorate) on immunization coverage.

- **WHO – D2-07, Improving Preparedness Response to Impending Cholera Outbreak (Quick-impact Project)**

The main emphasis in the upcoming reporting period will be on the delivery of procured medical and laboratory supplies (54 line items). These include intravenous fluids, antiseptics and laboratory reagents for the management of up to 5,000 hospitalized people during any future diarrhea outbreak.

- **UNEP – D2-08, Hazardous Waste Chemicals Collection and Storage: Al-Qadissiya Site (Quick-impact Project)**

Based on the request of the MoEn not to include clean-up of the Al-Suwaira site, the Scope of Works was revised to exclude these activities and the single bidder was asked to submit a revised bid. The revised bid amounted to a total of \$992,376, which still exceeds the budgeted amount. The revised bid includes the undertaking of an unexploded ordnance (UXO) survey at Al-Qadissiya (estimated cost: \$190,676). The potential contractor would not accept the UXO survey being undertaken by any external party.

UNEP considers that owing to the fact that the site was heavily bombed by coalition forces, it is absolutely essential to undertake the UXO survey prior to the start of the clean-up activities. Once the survey has been completed, there is a risk that there will be a need for UXO clean-up activities, which will require additional funding. However, the subcontractor, who previously visited the site, believes that it should be possible to clearly demarcate the areas where UXOs are located and to identify safe areas of ingress and egress for the site in conjunction with identifying safe working areas without the need to remove UXOs.

Therefore, in view of these initially unforeseen circumstances, which came to light only after the contractor's site visit during the bidding process, UNEP is seeking the approval of the Cluster and the Steering Committee to finance the UXO survey at a cost of \$190,676. This will enable UNEP to enter into the subcontract with the selected qualified firm and deliver the project, while managing the significant UXO risk, during the next three to four months.

- **WHO D2-09, Malaria and Leishmania Control and Prevention Emergency Programme (Quick-impact Project)**

During the period from January to February 2006, the project distributed bed nets to all governorates, provided insecticides, conducted the second round of vector-control spraying and fogging campaigns, conducted two national seminars (100 participants for 2 days for each seminar); and conducted 10 advocacy meetings (one day each) to raise awareness of malaria and leishmania prevention within the community with a total of 350 participants, including community leaders, religious leaders and teachers. In addition, the project conducted 10 national training workshops (two days each) to raise the awareness of medical and paramedical workers in the government and private sectors regarding different malaria and leishmania control activities; the workshops benefited a total of 250 health professionals. Entomological monitoring surveys have been conducted and 19 rodent control campaigns have been conducted all over Iraq.

The project also worked on finalizing the strategy for eliminating malaria. A meeting was held in Amman in which all malaria focal point staff and WHO Regional Office staff participated. The draft strategy has been circulated for the input of the governorates and a series of working sessions is being held. Supplies needed for malaria elimination are in the process of being procured.

The above-mentioned activities will continue to be priority actions for the rest of the reporting period. In addition, because of savings made in the procurement of supplies by WHO in this project, WHO requested an extension and a change in project scope from the UNDG ITF Steering Committee in order to continue support to Iraq for communicable disease control, specifically for avian influenza. Community awareness campaigns on avian influenza are already ongoing, and supplies, lab kits and reagents for the diagnosis of avian influenza are in the final stage of procurement.

- **WHO – D2-10, Health Care Waste Management (Quick-impact Project)**

This project is now in the final stages of implementation. The main focus from now will be on finalizing the delivery of the supplies and equipment and the rehabilitation of the incinerators. This is a vital area of activity that needs to be continued and implemented in other governorates. The rapid assessment tools will be further improved based on the developed exercise.

Planned priority actions include accelerating the procurement, installation and commissioning of the three plants. The MoH will be part of the bidding analysis process, which is scheduled to take place in Amman. Similarly, skill development and training for the technical staff who will be involved in operating the plant will also have a high priority on the agenda. Another priority will be the preparation of an exit strategy that will guarantee that the plants will continue to be operational once the project has been completed. This includes the MoH planning for staffing and their wages as well as making provision for an adequate budget for recurrent costs.

- **WHO – D2-11, Emergency Medical Oxygen Production and Supply in Iraq (Quick-impact Project)**

This project was initially designed to be implemented within six months. However, given the implementation constraints and the importance of the expected positive impact of this project once completed (a longer-term solution for a medical oxygen supply), a request to extend the project implementation for an additional nine-month period has been submitted. The purpose is to facilitate the smooth delivery and installation of the oxygen plants, allowing for the time required by the supplier to deliver the production equipment and the time needed for the supplier to send installation teams in the current volatile security environment.

H. Draft 2006-2007 UN Assistance Strategy for Iraq

The Health and Nutrition Cluster objective for 2006-2007 is to support the MoH national health strategy. The MoH direction for primary health care will result in substantially reduced mortality and morbidity among pregnant women and children in the shortest possible time. There are several activities/programmes targeting such reductions with a focus on access to and quality of health services¹ to achieve the relevant MDGs.

National and international NGOs are presently working in Iraq, and the Health and Nutrition Cluster will strive to coordinate activities to implement the integrated strategy of the MoH. The MoH will lead the implementation of the Cluster programme and activities that are based on the strategy of the Government of Iraq. The Cluster members will focus on the following areas of action in 2006-2007 in support to the MoH in sustaining basic health services:

- support to the logistics system and the distribution of the country's essential medical supplies, including local procurement, as deemed possible, of essential medicine, medical equipment and vaccines;
- rehabilitation of blood laboratories and provision of technical assistance to ensure blood safety and decrease the spread of hepatitis and HIV/ AIDS;
- targeted technical and financial assistance for the control of communicable and non-communicable diseases through assistance in development of the MoH disease surveillance system. This will involve upgrading telecommunications equipment to support a health

¹ Emergency obstetrics, pre- and post-natal care immunization, control of diarrhoeal disease/acute respiratory infections, anaemia prevention and control, breast feeding promotion and protection, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, other sexually transmitted infections, and integrated medical care for young children and the handicapped.

information system within the MoH;

- technical assistance to enhance maternal and child health services and emergency obstetric services via continued training of existing staff, and improvement of the referral system, including provision of adequate communication equipment and ambulances;
- provision of educational programmes for health care professionals, including nurses, family physicians and health care managers;
- provision of technical assistance for the development of mental health and psycho-social support services at the PHC level;
- partial physical rehabilitation and construction of essential health infrastructures in the areas of poor access. This will include PHC centres, the Public Health Laboratory network, selected hospitals and specialty clinics, and local production facilities, and will necessitate providing basic equipment required for these rehabilitated facilities;
- improvement of the nutritional status of the population through supplementary feeding; vitamin mineral and micronutrient supplementation to vulnerable groups;
- provision of food aid assistance to vulnerable groups (pregnant and lactating women, children under five years of age and tuberculosis patients), including five family members;
- provision of technical support to improve food safety laboratories, and reinstate the food safety laws and quality standards throughout the country;
- provision of technical and material support for micronutrient fortification nationwide, and continuation of support to the school feeding programme;
- health promotion/disease prevention programmes and activities for health service providers and the community with emphasis on vulnerable groups;
- enhancement of reproductive health services, supplies, education and information for health providers and consumers;
- provision of assistance to the MoH to develop a comprehensive plan of action for dealing with HIV/AIDS and to identify all partners (including NGOs, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO and WHO) that have the ability to provide a programmatic/systematic HIV/AIDS response consistent with the MDGs. (The confirmation of avian influenza in Iraq in 2006 has already triggered a concerted response to contain the disease.)

To implement projects in these areas of action, Cluster D has a total net funding requirement for 2006-2007 of \$162.6 million (\$96.2 million for 2006 and \$66.4 million for 2007).

5. Cluster E: Infrastructure Rehabilitation

A. Purpose of Cluster

The objective of the Infrastructure Rehabilitation Cluster is to support the realization of the goals of the National Development Strategy in the infrastructure sector through cooperation and consultation between Cluster members.

After the recent conflict in 2003, the humanitarian situation was alarming: barely half the population had access to safe drinking water and sanitation, only 15 per cent of the population enjoyed a stable electricity supply and half the population was estimated to be without adequate shelter. A 2003 survey revealed that barely 44 per cent of Iraqis over 15 years of age were economically active.

Since 2003, there have been few improvements in basic infrastructure and the delivery of social services. The gap that remains in this sector is of great concern for the longer-term recovery of the country. There is a serious need to address the poor living conditions of many Iraqis, ranging from inadequate and insufficient housing, the consumption of unsafe water and inadequate water use to the poor management of urban space and the rundown condition of urban services, industry and infrastructure.

Seven UN organizations have therefore joined forces to contribute expertise and resources to support Iraqi authorities and stakeholders to rehabilitate damaged infrastructure and revitalize essential public services. The Cluster supports and monitors the progress of Iraq towards attainment of the MDGs.

The Cluster comprises six interrelated components: (a) water and sanitation; (b) electricity; (c) transportation; (d) housing; (e) urban development; and (f) industrial rehabilitation. Improving the availability of these key basic services will impact positively on the day-to-day life of Iraqi citizens. Integral to the Cluster is an important element of income-generation opportunities, supporting means of livelihood with dignity.

Mission Statement

To ensure that key infrastructure is rehabilitated and used efficiently, and to make real progress towards developing the national capacities of Iraq in infrastructure planning, prioritization and management.

B. Programmes/Projects Funded to Date

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

PROJECT	AGENCY	AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2005					AS OF 31 MARCH 2006						
		FUNDED		COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT		FUNDED		COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT	
		US\$ 000s	US\$ 000s	%	US\$ 000s	%	US\$ 000s	US\$ 000s	%	US\$ 000s	US\$ 000s	%	
E3-01	Rehabilitation of Water and Sanitation Systems in Southern Iraq	UNICEF	21,500	17,139	80	10,467	49	21,500	19,208	89	10,760	50	
E3-02	Rehabilitation of Chlorination Plant	UNIDO	7,016	296	4	426	6	7,016	303	4	433	6	
E3-03	Water Quality Control and Surveillance	WHO	6,262	6,211	99	4,816	77	6,262	6,363	102	5,715	91	
E3-04	Emergency Rehabilitation of Karama Water Treatment Plant - Line 1	UNDP	2,956	0	0	0	0	2,956	0	0	0	0	
E3-05	Community-based Integrated WATSAN Rehab and Management Project	UNHABITAT	1,984	1,445	73	67	3	1,984	1,620	82	462	23	
E3-06	Emergency WATSAN and Health Support for the Basra Governorate	UNDP	4,920	0	0	0	0	4,920	3,500	71	294	6	
E3-07	Karbala WTP Rehabilitation of Filter Units	UNOPS	1,251	30	2	18	1	1,251	462	37	115	9	
E4-01	Emergency Power Supply	UNDP	11,999	5,967	50	3,952	33	11,999	6,899	57	4,429	37	
E4-02	National Dispatch Centre	UNDP	11,948	10,000	84	6,715	56	11,948	10,000	84	6,853	57	
E4-04	Strengthening Capacity of Housing Sector	UN-HABITAT	5,966	5,765	97	3,512	59	5,966	5,937	100	3,716	62	
E4-06	Dredging of Umm Qasr Port Approach Channel	UNDP	24,742	24,742	100	23,675	96	24,742	24,742	100	23,675	96	
E4-07	Rehabilitation of Mosul Power Station	UNDP	17,585	17,528	100	3,591	20	17,585	17,603	100	3,611	21	
E4-08	Rehabilitation of Taji Power Station	UNDP	25,892	25,846	100	5,429	21	25,892	25,921	100	5,450	21	
E4-09	Rehabilitation of Hartha Power Station	UNDP	17,789	15,392	87	15,564	87	17,789	15,707	88	15,831	89	
E4-10	Rehabilitation of Mussayib Power Station	UNDP	15,511	15,345	99	7,441	48	15,511	15,535	100	9,713	63	
E4-11	Strengthening Urban Sector through Building Capacities in Municipal Planning and Mgmt.	UNHABITAT	2,550	1,951	77	1,128	44	2,550	2,253	88	1,301	51	
E4-14	Rehabilitation of Community Facilities and Infrastructure	UNHABITAT	16,025	1,346	8	389	2	16,025	4,434	28	743	5	
E4-15	Rehabilitation of Mussayib Thermal Power Station - Stage 2	UNDP	33,000	0	0	0	0	33,000	0	0	0	0	
CLUSTER E TOTAL			228,896	149,003	65	87,192	38	228,896	160,487	70	93,099	41	

As of 31 December 2005, 18 projects totalling about \$229 million had been funded in the Infrastructure Rehabilitation Cluster. Overall Cluster delivery at the end of December 2005 amounted to approximately \$149 million (65 per cent) in commitments and \$87.2 million (38 per cent) in disbursements. This level of disbursement represents a significantly higher level of delivery on the ground – more than a doubling since the end of the last reporting period when disbursements stood at \$40.3 million. By the end of the first quarter of 2006, approximately \$160.5 million (70 per cent) in commitments and \$93.1 million (41 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 will have been assured.

Deliveries have started and capacity-building activities are under way in Japan for the Mosul and Taji power stations. Progress in deliveries at Hartha power station has been particularly noteworthy with five shipments delivered during the reporting period for a value of over \$11 million; for Mussayib power

station, 82 tons of equipment were delivered for a value of \$2.88 million. The 21 site engineers trained under the Mussayib project successfully completed hot and cold assessments of Unit 1 with the assistance of original contractors and UNDP engineers through portable satellite video link.

Rehabilitation of Waterways

The Cluster completed the main work of clearing the access waterways to the port of Um Qasr in August 2005 and the Dredging of Um Qasr Port Approach Channel project (UNDP, E4-06) has now officially been completed. A total of approximately 8 million cubic metres of material was removed from the approach channel and disposed of in the specified spoil areas, resulting in the clearing of a channel 80 kilometres long, 200 metres wide and at least 11 metres deep, thus increasing maritime accessibility and enabling the smooth flow of aid and reconstruction needs into the country.

Rehabilitation of Water and Sanitation

By improving water and sanitation services within Iraq, the Cluster helped to avert outbreaks of water-borne diseases such as cholera and dysentery. Interventions in the sanitation infrastructure led to an improvement in the neighbourhood environment, e.g., by eliminating sewage pools and contributing to the reduction of pollution loads entering the rivers. Several sanitation rehabilitation projects have been completed, providing benefits from the safe disposal of wastewater to some communities. However, progress has been limited by the shortage of available resources and hampered by the prevailing security situation in many areas where the need remains great. The close collaboration between Cluster members and Government counterparts works to ensure that inputs in this sector conform to international standards.

Sixteen water and sanitation rehabilitation activities in the eight southern governorates have been completed while 25 such activities are being implemented and are expected to benefit approximately 1.8 million people. Unfortunately, owing to the lack of available Iraqi counterpart financing, the rehabilitation of the Basrah chlorination plant had to be discontinued. The stopgap supply of chlorination, at present by UNICEF, will therefore have to continue indefinitely.

Water quality surveillance is the other key area of Cluster intervention. Following the rehabilitation of the central laboratory and the provision of equipment and training, the number of water samples being analysed has risen by 80 per cent, contributing to a clean water supply.

Training and Capacity Development

The Cluster continued to emphasize the provision of capacity-building support to address the shortcomings in institutional and technical capacities of its Iraqi counterparts. A total of 228 person-weeks of training was provided during the reporting period to officials of the Ministry of Construction and Housing. Twenty site engineers from the Ministry of Electricity (MoEI) are undergoing training in Japan, to participate in rehabilitation of Mosul and Taji thermal power stations. Extensive training programmes were organized for government staff in the southern governorates as an integral part of water and sanitation projects. Areas covered included integrated water resource management and design of sanitary landfills.

Making a Difference – Reaching Out with Basic Services and Critical Infrastructure

- 300 MW of electricity generation capacity added.
- 1.8 million Iraqis provided access to clean water and sanitation.
- Outbreaks of cholera averted.
- 80% improvement in water testing capacity.
- Nearly 10,000 Iraqis provided with improved shelter.
- 80 km of approach waterway to port of Um Qasr cleared.
- More than half a million IDPs supported with safe water and sanitation facilities.

Policy Development

Policy development during the reporting period has been particularly significant in the area of housing and urban policy. Building on the previously adopted comprehensive Slum Upgrading Strategy, comprehensive slum surveys have been undertaken in six cities and the Government is putting aside a sizeable financial allocation from its budget for 2005 and 2006 for slum upgrading in select cities. Urban and land management policies and programmes have been reviewed and an action plan for their reform has been prepared in line with best practices in urban and land management from other countries. Similarly, municipal financial management and budgeting have been reviewed and an action plan has been prepared. A “State of Iraqi Cities Report” involving a detailed analysis of development conditions in 6 cities and general urban profile reports for an additional 12 cities will be ready in April 2006.

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 and Second Progress Reports, all the agencies active in this area work closely together. In Iraq, all parts of the Cluster work extremely closely with engineering counterparts at every stage. Implementation mechanisms have remained much as discussed in the First and Second Progress Reports. However, with the adoption of three quick-impact projects in the Cluster, renewed emphasis has been placed on community-level approaches and local employment generation. For example, UN-HABITAT, in its project on Community-based Water and Sanitation Rehabilitation, is cooperating with the international NGO, LIFE, on community development and communications aspects of the project. The involvement of the client community in aspects of planning the rehabilitation works is central to the project approach to improving the delivery of basic services.

Rehabilitation works are often packaged into small contracts – typically valued from \$50,000 to \$200,000 – facilitating participation of local contractors. This has helped to generate nearly 5 million person-days of employment locally. Technical assistance is provided through the twinning of international consultants of Iraqi origin and local Iraqi professionals. Regular information exchange between agencies on prices of construction materials and labour helps to ensure cost-effectiveness in rehabilitation works. Progress is monitored through the hiring of local monitors/consultants, taking time-series photographs, videos, and test reports from approved agencies, and conducting interviews with local authority staff and beneficiaries.

Making a Difference – Contributing to Sector Reforms through Technical Assistance and Capacity-building.

- Slum upgrading strategy prepared and detailed slum surveys carried out in 6 cities.
- Action plans prepared for the reform of urban land management, city development and municipal finance.
- Close to 300 person-weeks of training delivered in the housing, municipal and power sectors. More than 1,000 Iraqi officials trained.
- Process ongoing for generation of comprehensive urban information in six major cities and housing market information across Iraq.

E. Specific Agency Implementation

Electricity

- **UNDP – E4-01, Emergency Power Supply**

The project is progressing well in providing emergency electricity through targeted equipment delivery and repair works, facilitating the access of local municipalities to the national grid; providing an emergency power supply to critical water, health, education and port facilities; and facilitating refresher training for engineers and technicians of the MoEI.

- Proper installation of 43 generators at key humanitarian facilities.
- 440 distribution transformers delivered.
- 90 technicians and engineers trained.

The first shipment of 360 units of 400 kilovolt-ampere (kVA) and 80 units of 250 kVA distribution transformers and associated low voltage boards has been delivered to Baghdad and Basrah. Three formal training programmes – basic software training, system planning software application training by software vendor, and GIS software application training by software vendor – have now been fully completed for ten electrical engineers from six distribution directorates of the MoEI.

Eight licences of a CYMEDIST software package for system simulation/analysis and two licences of ArcGIS Software for establishing a geographic database of the Iraqi electricity system were procured together with the required computers and peripherals. Two pilot projects using real network data from Karkh and Rasafa distribution directorates have been implemented. Software was handed over to the MoEI for the continuation of the system studies, the establishment of the network databases and formulation of a distribution master plan. The contracts for rehabilitation of the Um Qasr distribution network and installation of small diesel generators were awarded in October 2005, and the materials and equipment for implementation were received by November.

- **UNDP – E4-02, National Dispatch Centre**

The National Dispatch Centre that monitors and controls the electricity grid nationwide was totally looted during and after the recent conflict. The ability to maintain network stability is a key issue in the present situation of low generation and poor condition of the transmission and distribution network. Under this project, all equipment has been delivered and most has been installed (installation was at 43 per cent at the end of December 2005), but final connections have been delayed owing to the unavailability of communication links that need to be established by parties outside the project. Training for 10 maintenance engineers and technicians from the MoEI has been conducted in Mannheim, Germany and Vasteras, Sweden.

- Physical infrastructure of the National Dispatch Centre building rehabilitated.
- 42 Remote Transmission Units delivered throughout Iraq.
- 10 engineers and technicians trained.

Power Station Rehabilitation

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

With an output of some 40 megawatts, the entire population of Mosul, exceeding one million, depends on the Mosul Gas Power Station. The rehabilitation contract worth \$15 million with Hitachi is under implementation for the rehabilitation of selected gas turbine units and the provision of specific spare parts necessary for at least two to three years of plant operation. Capacity-building activities for six site engineers is under way in Japan. Upon completion, which is scheduled for mid-2007, rehabilitation is expected to add up to 10 megawatts to the electricity grid.

- Rehabilitation upon completion will concern a total of 100 megawatts.
- 20 engineers trained by the turbine manufacturer.

The Taji, Baghdad, project had to deal with deteriorated conditions at the plant, particularly on unit 4, and successfully adapt the rehabilitation scope for optimal unit output. Deliveries have started and the capacity-building of 14 site engineers has been initiated at the Hitachi facility in Japan. Upon completion, scheduled for mid-2007, rehabilitation is expected to add up to 30 megawatts to the electricity grid.

For both projects, critical analyses of the agreed scope of work, including negotiations regarding contract amendments, were undertaken by all contracting parties. The desired intention was to match the technical scope of rehabilitation activity to the progressively deteriorating conditions of the plants. The modern advanced video technology equipment that can provide continuous audio/video connection to active rehabilitation sites in Iraq and the MoEI in Baghdad from UNDP Iraq country offices in Jordan and Cyprus was progressively installed (as described in part one of the Second Progress Report). Implementation of the entire system is scheduled to be completed in mid-2006.

- **UNDP – E4-09, Rehabilitation of Hartha Power Station**

Under the scope of this project, essential spare parts were supplied, and drawings, operation manuals and test certificates that were missing from the power plant were provided. Six engineers were trained in Japan in industry best practices to guarantee the sustainable operation of the plant, and four engineers were deputed for pre-shipment inspecting of the equipment and spare parts to expose them to the international practices of inspection. Spare parts were delivered throughout 2005. Five shipments of Lot 2 were delivered during the reporting period for a value of over \$11 million. Final shipment is expected to be completed in April 2006.

The project is operating well within schedule. The rehabilitation of the units improves operational stability, makes the units capable of producing 180-190 megawatts with fewer interruptions and reduces the outage time in case of breakdown maintenance because of readily available spare parts. Following the shutdown of Unit 1 for major rehabilitation in July 2005, stability has increased dramatically: the unit has tripped only twice since then and this was on account of a transmission line fault.

- 180 to 190 megawatts produced for longer electricity supply with fewer and shorter interruptions.
- 4 engineers trained in specific plant maintenance.

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

Mussayib Unit 1 currently represents about 4.5 per cent of the available electricity generating capacity in Iraq and requires rehabilitation to improve the provision of electricity to the Iraqi people. Urgently needed parts and equipment were identified, procured and delivered in four shipments. Twenty-one site engineers were trained at industrial manufacturing plants in Japan and the Republic of Korea in skills relating to the maintenance and assessment of thermal power stations.

- An estimated 60 megawatts of electrical power will be restored to the grid.
- 21 site engineers trained to perform hot and cold assessments.

These trainees completed cold and hot assessments of Unit 1 with the assistance of original contractors and UNDP engineers through portable satellite video link. Cold assessment of Unit 1 (examination of equipment with unit on outage) started on 15 August 2005 as a result of the unexpected outage of Unit 1 (due to turbine malfunction) and lasted two weeks. The MoEI stated that some 200 Ministry staff and Iraqi contractors were involved in work at peak assessment time. Hot assessment of Unit 1 (calibration of operational data while unit is operating) was conducted on 14 September 2005. The outstanding cold assessment tasks (remaining from the cold assessment period) were completed with the Unit back in operation.

Stage II of this crucial electricity generation project was approved in mid-2005. With this funding, the satellite-linked communications system with Iraq is being expanded. Additional parts and equipment for Mussayib have been selected based on the assessment results (plus follow-up detailed discussions with Mussayib Plant management and engineers) and will be procured and implemented. Contract negotiations with the original equipment manufacturer and contractor are currently ongoing. Erection work for Mussayib rehabilitation is expected to start in October 2007, with completion in time for the 2008 peak demand season. An estimated 60 megawatts of electrical power will be restored to the grid together with the blue prints for rehabilitation of other units at Mussayib Power Station.

Waterways - Dredging

UNDP – E4-06, Dredging of Um Qasr Port Approach Channel (Completed)

As described in the February 2006 UNDG ITF Newsletter, the project was completed in August 2005. Approximately eight million cubic metres of material were removed from the approach channel and disposed of in prescribed spoil areas, resulting in a channel 80 km long, 200 metres wide and at least 11 metres deep. The project was completed within the set time frame and budget. A final report, with maps and data, was shared with the Ministry of Transport and the General Company for the Ports of Iraq.

With dredging and removal of priority wrecks, a larger flow of port traffic was observed in 2005 over that of 2004. The increased traffic to Um Qasr port facilities resulted in estimated savings to the Iraqi economy of \$69 million per annum. Considering that these improvements were achieved with a relatively lower budget and that they will provide benefits for years, the cost-benefit ratio of this investment in the channel is regarded as very positive.

- 8 million cubic metres of material removed from the approach channel.
- A channel 80km long, 200m wide and at least 11m deep dredged.
- Official Admiralty Chart maps also being updated.

Housing

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

This project has helped to put the housing sector at the centre of the National Development Agenda of Iraq. It has also undertaken a large programme of training, capacity-building and policy dialogue.

As part of capacity-building, 250 officials from the Ministry of Construction and Housing have been trained and supported with \$1.4 million worth of electronic equipment for data processing. This exceeds by far the original target of 120 persons. In total, 228 person-weeks of training were provided during the reporting period and a total of 455 person-weeks of training have been provided to date. The project has also trained NGOs to support housing development. Furthermore, it has provided more than 40 person-months of technical advice. Reflecting the priority of the Iraqi Government, 10 out of 17 planned international training activities and 3 special GIS events were implemented inside Iraq.

Senior Ministry of Construction and Housing officials, including the Minister, participated in a UN-HABITAT-organized study tour of public-private partnerships in planning and implementing housing projects.

During the reporting period, comprehensive slum surveys were undertaken in six cities, building on the comprehensive Slum Upgrading Strategy. The Government is putting aside a sizeable financial allocation from its budget for 2005 and 2006 for slum upgrading in select cities to address the 30 per cent of housing that can be classified as slums.

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

The existing systems of urban planning and management cannot cope with the critical problems now affecting the urban sector. Powers and responsibilities between governorates and municipalities are not clearly defined and are often in conflict. National laws and policies regarding urban and land management and municipal finance are in need of reform. This project has therefore provided technical advice to the MoMPW on the reform of laws, policies and programmes in the areas of urban and land management and municipal finance. It has also strengthened the planning and service delivery capabilities of the cities of Basrah and Erbil.

Urban and land management policies and programmes have been reviewed and an action plan for their reform has been prepared in line with best practices in urban and land management from other countries. Similarly, municipal financial management and budgeting have been reviewed and an action plan has been prepared. A “State of Iraqi Cities Report”, involving a detailed analysis of development conditions in 6 cities and general urban profile reports for an additional 12 cities, will be ready in April 2006. MoMPW staff have been trained in current urban planning methods and GIS. Related hardware and software have been procured for planners and mapping specialists at the national and the municipal level.

Sixty selected staff from Basrah and Erbil have been trained in municipal management and urban planning. Existing municipal financial management and budgeting systems, and planning and development control systems in Basrah and Erbil have been documented, and recommendations have been developed for their improvement. Feasibility studies have been completed for establishing demonstration projects in Basrah and Erbil in order to illustrate the benefits of using public-private partnerships to deliver municipal services.

- **Water and Sanitation**

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

The project aims to rejuvenate water and sanitation systems through the rehabilitation process and in turn contribute to the reduction of child mortality and morbidity attributed to lack of water and sanitation.

The project continues to adopt a two-pronged approach: working with private contractors and with NGOs who undertake rehabilitation works as well as related software components such as training of operators, hygiene promotion, etc. Sixteen of the 41 contracts covering rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities in the eight southern governorates have been completed (against only six completed at the end of the previous reporting period), while the others will have been completed by June 2006. Commitment of funds increased from \$8,925,827 in June 2005 to \$16,466,215 by 31 December 2005.

The projects consist of the rehabilitation of 37 water treatment plants/compact units, 200 kilometres of water network, 40 kilometres of sewer network and seven sewage pumping stations; construction of 375 family latrines; transformation of nine sewage-filled ponds into play areas, including the setting up of 140 community waste receptacles in the neighbourhood; and the installation of two reverse osmosis units in Al-Talimi Hospital in Basrah (these two had already been completed at the end of the previous reporting period). More than 2.3 million people are expected to benefit as a result. Refurbishment of the reverse osmosis plant in Basrah will cater to the potable water needs of an additional 100,000 people. Emergency water and sanitation family kits responding to the needs of approximately 450,000 displaced people were procured and pre-positioned for immediate deployment.

Capacity-building initiatives included training of a large number of Government staff representing the eight southern governorates on a variety of themes: operation and maintenance of water treatment plants/compact units and reverse osmosis units, unaccounted for water, proper pipe-laying techniques, monitoring of water quality, integrated water resource management, design of sanitary landfills, public-private-partnerships and hygiene promotion. Survey equipment and water-quality laboratory testing equipment and supplies were provided to the eight southern governorates. During the reporting period, another 1,500 people were gainfully employed through contractors as well as NGOs.

UNIDO – E3-02, Rehabilitation of Chlorination Plant (Terminated and remaining resources returned to the UNDG ITF)

Modern membrane technology was agreed upon with project counterparts in June 2005 since the upgrade of the existing diaphragm technology was not considered to be feasible, particularly for environmental reasons. A supplier was selected to undertake the basic engineering services required to define the rehabilitation work ahead. The basic engineering package was prepared in draft form. It was then determined that the current funding available under the project would be insufficient to acquire all the ancillaries and equipment for the new installation as well as to provide the required training to plant personnel. The existing project budget could supply only the electrolyser.

In August 2005, it had been agreed by the Government that the ancillaries and equipment would be supplied by national counterparts. By the end of February 2006, the bidding process for the electrolyser had been finalized. However, in February, the project had to be terminated owing to the absence of any confirmation from the Government that it would supply the ancillaries and equipment and in the absence of significant additional resources available to the Cluster.

- **WHO- E3-03, Water Quality Control and Surveillance in Iraq**

This project contributes to the design of a comprehensive water quality monitoring system in Iraq and includes establishment of water quality control laboratories in 15 governorates, 30 districts and 220 water treatment plants. Project scope includes essential supplies/equipment and training of laboratory technicians and sanitation professionals. More than 20 million Iraqis will benefit from this project since safe water is an essential component for maintaining healthy lives.

Following the rehabilitation of the Central Water Quality Control Laboratory in Baghdad, the laboratory is now fully functioning and is conducting analyses of water quality and effective diagnoses for the sources of water pollution. A total of 796 technicians benefited from 46 training courses in Iraq and Amman and acquired skills and knowledge to monitor water quality regularly. They also have access to reference books and publications. This has all helped to increase the number of water samples being tested by about 80 per cent.

A series of hygiene education campaigns was conducted with a focus on the slum and high-risk areas to reduce the incidence of water-borne diseases. A total of 360 school teachers and community leaders participated in the campaigns.

- **UNDP E3-04, Emergency Rehabilitation of Karama Water Treatment Plant - Line 1**

The project, which began in November 2005, aims at resuming the supply of safe water to a large fraction of the population of Baghdad. Design of the required works is being carried out. Completion is expected by April 2007.

- **UN HABITAT E3-05, Community-based Integrated Water and Sanitation Rehabilitation and Management (Quick-impact Project)**

The project aims to quickly improve the living conditions and reduce health risks of the community in the 14th Ramadan neighbourhood in Diwaniya city through the rehabilitation of community-based infrastructure and management of water supply and sanitation services.

The project scope includes improved water supply and sanitation, resurfacing of access roads, upgrading of houses and creation of open spaces. Slated for completion in May 2006, about 25 per cent of the works have been completed. The capacities of the local authorities, community-based organizations (CBOs) and community representatives will be strengthened through a learning-by-doing approach. A significant volume of local employment is generated through the rehabilitation and capital works.

An international NGO leads the process of community development, public outreach on environmental health, and capacity-building of local CBOs while collaborating with the local authorities. The implementation experience of this project is expected to provide important lessons for formulating slum-upgrading projects. The project has already leveraged a budgetary allocation of \$1.5 million from the Ministry of Construction and Housing to be spent on housing improvements in the neighbourhood.

- **UNDP E3-06, Emergency Water, Sanitation and Health Support for Southern Iraq (Quick-impact Project)**

Funds were received only in December 2005 for this project, following extensive discussions on the earmarked funding to be used. The project targets four localities in southern Iraq to bring rapid improvement in the water supply, sanitation and employment. Seven sub-projects to install water distribution networks in Khor Zubair and Shuaiba towns were completed and employment opportunities

were made available for 1,646 labourers, resulting in the creation of 48,690 work days of employment. Delivery is ongoing for long-lead-time project equipment (i.e., reverse osmosis plants, tanks, water tankers, sewage tankers, solid waste containers and solid waste trucks).

- Employment opportunities were made available for 1,646 labourers.
- Creation of 48,690 work days of employment.

- **UNOPS - E3-07, Kerbala WTP: Rehabilitation of Filter Units (Quick-impact Project)**

The main objective of the project is to establish a sustainable, cost-effective and financially viable option by restoring the existing filter units at the water treatment facility to ensure a secure water supply for the city population. The project, through improvements to the quality and increasing quantity of water supplied, will help to prevent the spread of water-related diseases and ensure the security of potable water supplies during the summer for the more than 400,000 residents of Kerbala and up to one million pilgrims during holy/festival periods.

Despite significant security and technical difficulties as well as delays due to suspension of works during festival periods, project progress is on track at 90 per cent, with the structural stabilization part of the works fully completed and filter refurbishment works nearing completion. With over 150 unskilled persons and 10 engineers/technicians deployed, the project generates employment opportunities for local people. UNOPS staff and contractors' expertise have been instrumental in enhancing the technical knowledge and capacity of the water authority staff in carrying out such works while providing hands-on operator training. The project is implemented in collaboration with the local authorities.

- **UN-HABITAT – E4-14, Rehabilitation of Community Facilities**

Implementation of this project commenced in October 2005. The project will improve the living conditions of over 650,000 people living in the most rundown areas in five Iraqi cities: Baghdad, Basrah, Erbil, Najaf and Samawah. The project will improve access to basic services in eight urban areas, promote community-based approaches to the operation and maintenance of infrastructure services, and help to reduce unemployment by expanding employment opportunities.

Housing rehabilitation work is in progress aimed at rehabilitating 328 houses to improve housing conditions for 328 vulnerable families (2,362 persons). Contracts are under process for another 540 houses. Over 30,000 people are already benefiting from the rehabilitation of two water treatment plants whereas work is in progress on the four water treatment plants in Basrah. Sewer line replacement for the Al-Faw residential complex and the rehabilitation of the Samawah water treatment plant have also been completed. Contracts for the rehabilitation of two water treatment plants, including the Al-Rumanitha Water Treatment Plant, which is one of the main water treatment plants in Muthanna Governorate, are being awarded. The ongoing works are creating about 350 jobs per day and this number will increase as more contracts are awarded.

F. Hurdles Encountered and Implementation Constraints

The hurdles and constraints remained similar to those present in previous reporting periods. Despite the difficulties, particularly relating to the worsening security environment, implementation rates remained solid.

In the area of electricity rehabilitation, at Mussayib power station, where there were difficulties in obtaining access to the unit for cold assessment (i.e., condition assessment while the unit is not operating), access became possible in mid-August due to an unexpected outage caused by a turbine

malfunction. To address the particularly severe communication difficulties at the Taji and Mosul power stations, the gradual installation of the satellite audio-visual equipment described in part one of the Second Progress Report is improving the situation.

At the Hartha Power Plant, contact by mobile telephone has become comparatively easier and communication problems have been largely overcome by the appointment of a consultancy company, as indicated previously. The response is fast and transfer of information and advice has become comparatively easier. The documentation necessary for imports to Iraq remains an issue, but the situation is being regularized by the Government. The completion of the National Dispatch Centre project has had to be postponed as a result of delays in establishing communication links, which are external to the project. In this case as in that of the Basrah chlorination project, the UNDG ITF projects have been constrained by limitations in the Iraqi Government contribution.

Water and sanitation projects also suffered under constraints, particularly the lack of adequate security and the other constraints listed in the two previous reports. Other constraints particularly relevant during the present reporting period were the sporadic rise in prices of raw materials, fuel, oil and other basic commodities, which had an unfavourable impact on the value of contracts and contributed to several re-bidding exercises, adding to the delay in the awarding of contracts and subsequent implementation. Progress on all the rehabilitation works have been affected owing to the elections in December 2005 and the subsequent religious festivals. Protracted negotiations with contractors and local authorities to execute the projects within the available budgets delayed the awarding of contracts by over six weeks in the case of UNOPS.

Similarly, many of the lessons that had been learned during the previous reporting period remain valid and are not repeated here. An expanded database of competent contractors has been established through collaboration between UN-HABITAT, UNICEF and UNOPS, which has enabled better and a wide selection of contractors for rehabilitation works. UNICEF is also conducting a comprehensive market survey, which is updated periodically. This has helped in making more realistic estimates of the rehabilitation projects and consequently reduced re-bidding exercises.

Community development aspects of projects have been particularly constrained by the fact that community involvement in the planning of municipal services is still a little-known concept in Iraq, which has historically been served by highly centralized State-led service provision. It is particularly difficult to find suitably qualified and available Iraqi consultants in municipal finance, urban management and city planning.

A further issue is the deep-seated conflicts and problems of coordination between municipalities and governorates in the delivery of local government services. These can be resolved only through a clear allocation of powers and responsibilities between the two levels of government. A particular difficulty faced by municipalities is that they are almost totally financed by the central government. There are no systems for raising revenue at the local level through taxes, user and licensing fees, etc. although the available funding is far from adequate to meet local needs.

G. Future Work Plan for Ongoing Approved Projects/Programmes

Electricity

- **UNDP – E4-01, Emergency Power Supply**

The last shipment of transformers and low voltage boards was dispatched in late March 2006. Installation

of 43 small diesel generators will have been completed by 30 June 2006 in water and sanitation facilities, medical clinics, hospitals and workshops and will benefit a large population in southern Iraq. Ten electrical engineers from six distribution directorates of the MoEI have been trained in Jordan. Two training courses, one for 40 and the other for 30 engineers of the MoEI, have been organized for April and May 2006 – in Egypt and Jordan for security reasons. Completion of activities is expected by July 2006.

- **UNDP – E4-02, National Dispatch Centre**

The project is expected to be suspended for an unknown period until external delays are overcome. Remote Terminal Unit installation will be completed as far as possible during March and April 2006. Further progress will depend on the availability of data and external communications links. UNDP will continue discussions with the contractor and the MoEI about readjusting the project timetable and/or temporarily suspending the project until communication links become available. UNDP will arrange with the MoEI to supply alternative personnel to assist with data collection and entry – one of the identified bottlenecks.

Power Station Rehabilitation

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

During the first quarter of 2006, contract amendment negotiations were finalized, and the professional training courses for MoEI personnel in Japan were completed in April. The training in the advanced video technology network for MoEI personnel was conducted in Cyprus towards the end of March.

A reputable inspection company for witnessing factory acceptance tests of new equipment in Japan on behalf of the UNDP Iraq country office will be contracted. The first lot of equipment to be shipped to site is scheduled for the end of April and the beginning of May 2006. Local consultants in Iraq will then be assigned to oversee the progress of site implementation activity in May 2006. Activities relating to site possession and further site preparation are scheduled to take place in June and July 2006. The start-up of site activity is scheduled for mid-June for Taji and mid-July for Mosul.

- **UNDP – E4-09, Rehabilitation of Hartha Power Station**

Spare parts and equipment that had sailed in mid-December 2005 arrived in January 2006 in two batches. Multinational force escorts were not available and the transport to Hartha was postponed twice. Arrangements were therefore made for engaging private security escorts. Mitsubishi was requested to arrange escorts through its transporters with a view to smooth handling without coordination problems. The material that arrived in January was transported to Hartha in February 2006 under private security escorts.

Shipping documents were received for the final consignment, which sailed from Japan in mid-February 2006 and subsequently arrived at the end of March. All documentation regarding waiver from custom duty and release from port was completed and arrangements were made for a private security company recommended by Mitsubishi transporters. Material was transported to Hartha immediately after clearance from customs. Arrangements were also made to use the military crossing in view of the fact that the instruction regarding UN material having waiver has not been communicated to the customs authorities at the border. The monitoring of installation will continue through an Iraqi consultancy company.

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

In February 2006, UNDP held meetings with the MoEl in Amman to confirm the priorities for parts to be supplied in Stage 2. During the upcoming reporting period, the conclusion of contractor negotiations for both the long- and short- term items is planned.

Housing

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

The project will be completed by mid-2006. In addition, comprehensive collection of critical baseline data to inform the housing and housing finance sectors (the Housing Market Study) will be completed by October 2006.

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

Another international municipal finance consultant has been engaged to replace the original consultant, who met an untimely death. He will complete draft reports on the reform of national-level municipal finance-related laws and policies and financial management and budgeting in Basrah and Erbil in collaboration with local stakeholders by the end of April 2006. A report on the feasibility of establishing demonstration projects to illustrate the benefits of public-private partnerships in delivering municipal services in Erbil will also be completed. All draft consulting reports submitted at the end of 2005 will have been completed in final draft form, edited, translated and printed by the end of April 2006.

A major consultation event for MoMPW and Basrah and Erbil officials will be organized in May 2006 to present the project's final reports on urban and land management and municipal finance reform and improvements to municipal organization, financial management and planning. A draft of the "State of Iraqi Cities Report" and the 12 urban profiles will be completed in May 2006. The findings and conclusions of these reports will be presented by Iraqi officials and UN-HABITAT staff at the World Urban Forum in Vancouver, Canada, in June 2006.

Water and Sanitation

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

A significant number of projects are ongoing in the eight southern governorates of Iraq. While the first training course for the solid waste sector was conducted in December 2005, three more courses took place from January to March 2006. Training in the design of sanitary landfills was organized in February. Work on the projects on participatory rehabilitation and raising public awareness through the three international NGO implementing partners had been concluded by the end of March 2006. It is planned that the 25 remaining contracts for the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities will have been completed by the end of June.

- **UNIDO – E3-02, Rehabilitation of Chlorination Plant**

The project was terminated in February 2006.

- **WHO – E3-03, Water Quality Control and Surveillance**

The project is in the final stage and the main area of focus will be on finalizing the delivery of the items in the delivery pipeline and monitoring the other project components to ensure the sustainability of the water quality monitoring programme. In order to effectively finalize the project, the end date has been extended to June 2006.

- **UNDP – E3-04, Emergency Rehabilitation of Karama Water Treatment Plant**

During the upcoming reporting period, the project-related studies, scope of work, designs and bidding documents will be partially completed.

- **UN-HABITAT – E3-05, Community-based Integrated Water and Sanitation Rehabilitation and Management (Quick-impact Project)**

The project is now likely to meet its targets by May 2006, that is, two to three months behind schedule. This will include not only an upgraded neighbourhood with enhanced local and community capacity for maintaining basic services but also a tried and tested approach to neighbourhood upgrading works elsewhere in the country. The project outputs will be visible only at the end of the implementation period. The procurement of essential equipment for solid waste management will have been completed by April 2006.

Two rounds of public campaigns on environmental health will be undertaken in March 2006 and May 2006, respectively. The active involvement of the local CBO and the two primary schools in these campaigns is envisaged. Key officials of the local authorities will be included in the relevant training in the planning and management of housing and basic services delivery under the UN-HABITAT projects in the housing and municipal sectors.

- **UNDP E3-06, Emergency Water, Sanitation and Health Support for Southern Iraq (Quick-impact Project)**

Local contracts for construction of 63 water distribution points will be finalized soon. By the end of June 2006, an intensive series of actions is expected to have been completed. Two groundwater wells producing some 5,400 cubic metres per day (cum/d) of raw water will be drilled. Two reverse osmosis plants producing 3,600 cum/d of potable water together with spare parts will be supplied. Two elevated water storage tanks accommodating 1,000 cubic metres of water will be constructed and four water tankers, six sewage tankers, four solid waste trucks and 200 solid waste containers will be supplied. The project targets the towns of Umm Qasr, Safwan, Khor Al-Zubair, Shouaiba, Al Zubair and Abu Al Khaseeb in Basrah Governorate.

- **UNOPS - E3-07, Kerbala WTP: Rehabilitation of Filter Units (Quick-impact Project)**

Backfilling following completion of structural stabilization works was completed at the end of March 2006 as were the refurbishment of the filters and replacement of the filter media. The scope and extent of feasible additional works will be established in April 2006. Subsequently, the contract will be awarded and additional works will be undertaken. The re-commissioning of filter units will take place at the end June 2006.

- **UN-HABITAT – E4-14, Rehabilitation of Community Facilities**

As of March 2006, 640 houses for vulnerable families are under rehabilitation in Basrah, Baghdad and Samawah, with 28 houses already completed in Baghdad. Contracts are being issued for the rehabilitation of 432 houses in Baghdad, Basrah, Najaf and Samawah and construction of an orphanage in Samawah. During the next reporting period, the emphasis will be on the award of over 50 water and sanitation rehabilitation contracts, over half of which will have been completed by the end of the next reporting period.

H. Draft 2006-2007 UN Assistance Strategy for Iraq

The overall objective of the Cluster is to assist the government in providing basic services to Iraqi citizens with rapid delivery of well designed, low-cost, high-impact projects targeting badly affected areas of Iraq. As the situation normalizes, area-based planning and programming will be adapted. The Cluster will continue to support capacity-building, advocacy for policy changes, increasing the efficiency of systems, and community participation.

The Cluster recognizes the important link between the need to strengthen the institutions of governance of Iraq in tandem with rehabilitating infrastructure. The recovery of services and infrastructure will strengthen new government bodies and increase perceptions of the effectiveness and legitimacy of these institutions while highlighting the benefit of participation in and contributions to planning, management and development from all of the communities of Iraq.

The main strategies will continue to be institutional/policy reform, capacity-building, and the provision of services needed to rehabilitate and develop the infrastructure of human settlements, including water, sanitation, housing, electricity and waste disposal.

The areas of action by the Cluster in 2006 and 2007 will be:

Water and Sanitation:

- support for rehabilitation of water and sanitation infrastructure to increase efficiency, rejuvenate systematic operations and maintenance;
- capacity-building for water quality monitoring;
- promotion of community and area-based approaches; and
- solid waste management at both the national and community levels.

Housing:

- support for consolidation and institutionalization of information collection, analysis and use;
- promotion of stakeholder involvement in the sectors, and support for pilot initiatives in effective housing delivery and housing finance;
- continuation of slum upgrading efforts to help to build capacity through demonstration projects as well as through refinement of strategies based on the experiences from these projects.

Electricity:

- facilitation of the assessment of needs while supporting procurement and rehabilitation of facilities and electrical infrastructure and the technical monitoring of ongoing interventions.

Urban Development:

- additional technical training and capacity development activities for municipal officials;
- preparation of city development strategies using participatory approaches to guide future government investment decisions; and
- development of an area-based approach that will target local planning capacities and link to national strategies and sectoral plans. N

Transportation:

- improvements focused on guaranteeing the efficiency and the safety of shipping to Um Qasr and thereby the confidence of the shipping world.

Industry:

- assessment and proposal of reforms regarding the regulatory environment, the financing and insurance instruments, logistics, construction material standards, and building research in order to contribute to building a sound, modern and competitive local construction sector.

Information and Communication Technology:

- ICT strategy; and
- support to capacity-building in modern management skills.

To implement projects in these areas of action, Cluster E has a total net funding requirement for 2006-2007 of \$242.8 million (\$118.4 million for 2006 and \$124.4 million for 2007).

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 31 DECEMBER 2005						AS OF 31 MARCH 2006					
		FUNDED		COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT		FUNDED		COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT	
		US\$ 000s	US\$ 000s	%	US\$ 000s	%	US\$ 000s	%	US\$ 000s	US\$ 000s	%	US\$ 000s	%
F8-01	Return and Reintegration of IDPs and Iraqi Refugees in the Northern Governorates	UNOPS	9,741	9,669	99	8,750	90	9,741	9,689	99	9,098	93	
F8-02	Return and Reintegration of Iraqis and Others of Concern in Southern Iraq	UNHCR	7,126	7,126	100	7,126	100	7,126	7,126	100	7,126	100	
F8-03	Return and Reintegration of Iraqis and Others of Concern in Northern Iraq	UNHCR	990	990	100	924	93	2,962	2,962	100	990	33	
CLUSTER F TOTAL			17,858	17,785	100	16,801	94	19,830	19,777	100	17,215	87	

As of 31 December 2005, three projects totalling approximately \$17.9 million had been funded in the Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Durable Solutions Cluster. Overall Cluster delivery at the end of December 2005 amounted to approximately \$17.8 million in terms of commitments (almost 100 per cent) and about \$16.8 million (94 per cent) in terms of disbursements. Compared to the conclusion of the previous reporting period at the end of June 2005, this represents a significant increase in disbursements (\$8.7 million as of 30 June 2005), denoting real impact on final beneficiaries. By 31 March 2006, additional funding of \$1.97 million was provided to project F8-03 (UNHCR) and the commitments increased to \$19.8 million (almost 100 per cent) and disbursements to \$17.2 million (87 per cent).

C. Key Accomplishments

In total in the south of Iraq, the Cluster has constructed and delivered to the most vulnerable returnee families 152 cement block shelter units and rehabilitated 14 schools. In addition, numerous employment

initiatives have been supported, including support to agricultural business training and construction of 152 poultry houses.

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 for 2,713 houses was received in the warehouse and 37 per cent of it (representing 1,000 houses) has now been distributed fully to construction sites managed by UNOPS. Another 9 per cent (representing 233 houses) has been distributed to two UNHCR implementing partners. Some 600-700 beneficiaries have been identified and lists have been prepared for delivery of material to those beneficiaries in Kalar and Sarsink for the upgrading of their existing 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, 560 have been completed (against only 25 completed at the end of the previous reporting period) and 440 are at various stages of construction. Of these 440, 255 are at the finishing stage, hence almost completed. Nine water projects have been completed.

Under the UNHCR project implemented through Shelter for Life, within four months an additional 70 beneficiary families were living in their homes, with many families who had stopped work restarting through encouragement and re-sourcing of finances.

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, CBOs, 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.

The implementation mechanisms for projects F8-01 and F8-02 were described in the previous report. Therefore, emphasis is given here to project F8-03, which is implemented by the international NGO, Shelter for Life. This NGO is responsible for all aspects of the implementation process. These comprise the initial needs assessment; identification of permanent locations with legal land allocation; design and formulation of the various project components; identification of beneficiaries; hiring of local contractors; procurement of the necessary supplies, material and equipment, and technical expertise; monitoring and quality control of the works performed; regular reporting to UNHCR; and evaluation.

Shelter for Life works in close consultation and coordination with UNHCR and Kurdistan Regional Government authorities and involves the beneficiary communities in the development and implementation of activities. In the selection of beneficiaries, it observes the UNHCR vulnerability criteria and effects all procurement in accordance with the standard rules and procedures of UNHCR (e.g., competitive bidding).

Construction materials for the houses and other facilities were provided by UNOPS from the stock of material that UNHCR had procured internationally in 2003 and also the material that UNOPS had

procured locally with UNHCR funds in 2004. UNOPS had the responsibility for warehousing, transportation and delivery of the material to Shelter for Life upon request.

E. Specific Agency Implementation

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

The project continues to be considered a flagship for the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) as well as for 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.

At the end of the reporting period, the project had almost been completed, with all resources committed and a few minor outstanding expenditures for the period from 1 January to 31 March 2006, when the project was closed.

All internationally procured material for 2,713 houses had been received in the warehouse and 37 per cent of it (representing 1,000 houses) has now been distributed fully to construction sites managed by UNOPS. Another 9 per cent (representing 233 houses) has been distributed to two UNHCR implementing partners. Some 600 to 700 beneficiaries have been identified and lists have been prepared for delivery of material to those beneficiaries in Kalar and Sarsink for the upgrading of their existing shelters. No suitable list of beneficiaries could be prepared for Erbil Governorate. UNHCR is currently evaluating alternative distribution schemes, and at the end of the project, 54 per cent of internationally procured material, representing some 1,480 houses, is still stored in the warehouse for later distribution.

At all housing construction sites where UNOPS has provided guidance, land allocation has been completed and all internationally and locally procured material has been distributed but construction is still ongoing. Of a total of 1,000 houses at all sites, 560 have been completed and 440 are at various stages of construction, of which 255 are at the finishing stage, hence almost completed. For a variety of reasons, particularly the desire of beneficiaries to construct larger houses than originally planned, implementation is running late and construction that had been scheduled for completion by 30 September 2005 will in fact be completed during 2006. On the other hand, locally procured material has been delivered to three UNHCR implementing partners for the construction of 500 houses.

With respect to basic communal services, 16 sub-projects have been identified, consisting of 9 water projects, 3 schools and 4 health centres. All nine water projects have now been completed. One school has been completed, but the other two are still in progress. Of the four planned health centres, one has been cancelled and the others are still in progress, not yet completed.

Four vocational training programmes have been completed for a total of 205 trainees. Certificates and toolkits have been distributed to all graduates.

UNHCR – F8-02, Return and Reintegration of Iraqis and Others of Concern in Southern Iraq (Completed)

This UNHCR project, designed to implement multisectoral, community-based assistance to promote reintegration of returning IDPs and refugees in southern Iraq, has been completed. Through its 2005 project activities, UNHCR attempted to provide both protection and material assistance to persons of concern through incorporating individual and community-based assistance. Multisectoral interventions aimed at enhancing the water, health and educational services in the selected villages have benefited the whole community while individual assistance targeted the selected most vulnerable persons with shelter assistance, giving priority to single female heads of household, elderly individuals and the disabled.

In the Governorates of Missan and Wassit, UNHCR provided the construction/rehabilitation of 14 schools; construction of one health centre, one community centre and a marketplace; the digging of a water well; and installation of one water pumping station. In exchange for this community-based assistance, community leaders were encouraged to extend grass-roots protection to returnees, which has led to stronger and more durable integration.

Relief International worked with local authorities and the MoEd to identify the locations for the needed schools in accordance with UNHCR criteria for the selection of rural returnee host communities. The construction of 13 schools was completed by Relief International by the end of the reporting period and the Salvation Army completed the construction of one school.

The Salvation Army identified two rural returnee villages for its shelter activities, including Badra in Wassit Governorate and Al-Hartha in Basrah Governorate. The implementation in Wassit was completed without significant problems; however, considerable problems relating to property were identified in Basrah Governorate. The Salvation Army, therefore, following UNHCR instruction, constructed the planned 76 houses in the village in Wassit Governorate instead. Owing to cost savings achieved through this location change, a further 12 houses were built. Under the project, a total of 152 cement block shelter units were constructed and delivered to the most vulnerable returnee families.

In support of employment creation activities for returnees, one farm shop, one mechanics shop and one dipping station were completed by the Salvation Army. In addition, a para-veterinarian completed training and began operation and one semi-skilled mechanic completed Salvation Army training and commenced operation. Also, a mechanical repair workshop was constructed and equipped, and 152 poultry houses (12 more than originally planned) were constructed and 8 chickens were distributed to each beneficiary. In addition, agricultural business training was provided to some 100 farmers.

- **UNHCR – F8-03, Return and Reintegration of IDPs and Iraqi Refugees in Northern Iraq.**

Under this project, which was approved by the UNDG ITF Steering Committee at the end of August 2005, 70 beneficiary families were already living in their homes at the end of December 2005, with many families who had stopped work re-starting through encouragement and re-sourcing of finances. Each returnee family has gained a floor space that meets Iraqi standards. Legal ownership of the house and a minimum 200 m² of land are provided for each family. Land around each shelter is available for normal rural activities.

Progress slowed considerably in December 2005 as rain affected construction projects. However, certain families were encouraged to continue their house, finishing as the colder weather threatened.

In community services, with all the internal roads completed, work concentrated on the development of the water networks. The pump house for Sardaw water network was almost completed and the submersible pump installed. Work on the Khishkal water project has been a little slower although the submersible pump has been installed, trenches dug and pump house layout prepared. The Jundian 3 Water Project has almost been completed, with technical issues in laying a major 6-inch pipe causing most of the delays. Again, the rain has prevented further construction work. Electricity connections and gypsum and cement plastering were completed in the Khishkal village school.

The community development workers started their major assessment efforts, which will be compared with the baseline data of the original proposal. Plans made in November 2005 to plant fruit trees have been shelved until 2006, following further meetings with the Erbil Agricultural Department on the provision of seedlings and optimal time for planting.

With the completion of the retaining walls in Sardaw and Mazneh, further support for individual houses was requested. The work of the Community Development Team in 2006 to encourage these families to become self-reliant will be intensive. Negotiations with the local municipality to provide inputs for long-term sustainability are also a necessity. In many of the locations, further plots of land will be sold, meaning that the communities will have to plan for new returnees. Simple measures such as planning the direction of grey water run-off will form the basis of work in 2006 and will encourage the families to communicate, plan and become long-term viable communities.

F. Hurdles Encountered and Implementation Constraints

The deteriorating, 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.

Land ownership issues and coordination with local authorities have also been sources of challenges, delays and extra costs. No reintegration housing project should be initiated prior to final and formal resolution of land ownership issues, and the concomitant delays need to be built into work plans. In the south, the inability to resolve land ownership issues led to the reorientation of shelter activities away from Basrah Governorate to Wassit Governorate.

In northern Iraq, UNOPS faced steep price increases for 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 number of shelters that could be built with the available 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.

Major activities in construction became almost impossible through January and February 2006 in the northern governorates as temperatures dropped to freezing and heavy rain continued for several days at a time. Rain damaged several of the water projects implemented by UNHCR; remedial work will be required for them in early spring. The intensity of the building work has made it difficult for beneficiaries to participate in community organization meetings as much as desired, while at the same time, various problems encountered in the new locations must be solved. Considerable progress has been made thanks to the persistence and creativity of the Community Development Team. Consequently, issues of income-generation plus wider community activities will be a focus in 2006.

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 (Completed)

During the first three months of 2006, this project was completed (an extension of three months). The key expenditures for the remaining resources in 2006 were for improvement in basic communal services consisting of five construction contracts not yet completed for primary schools and health centres. One project was not completed and responsibility was handed over to the local authority. Throughout the three months, internationally procured material continued to be distributed to beneficiaries, in particular as required by the international NGO, Shelter for Life, the implementing partner for UNHCR project F8-03. At the end of the project, some of the housing units still needed to be completed. Responsibility for supervision was handed over to local authorities upon the phasing out of the project. UNOPS agreed to provide administrative support for the additional three months of the project from its own resources.

UNHCR– F8-02, Return and Reintegration of Iraqis and Others of Concern in Southern Iraq (Completed)

UNHCR completed this project during the reporting period under review. Therefore, there are no future activities to report.

• UNHCR - F8-03, Return and Reintegration of IDPs and Iraqi Refugees in Northern Iraq

Community development initiatives, such as distribution of saplings of popular fruit trees, took place in the last two weeks of February 2006. Selection of beneficiaries for income-generation projects also took place in February with extensive surveys, and work continued in order to resolve ownership and community issues in areas intended for 2006 development of CBOs.

By the end of February, most of the major water network in New Jundian had been completed, with testing being required to ensure that repairs could be made to any leakages. The water project for Khishkal had suffered serious erosion, with three major breakages to the pipe network, which had not been buried in order to ensure testing before the trenches were backfilled. The generator required to pump water from the Mazneh borehole was installed but required some repair before the connection to the submersible pump could be completed.

Khishkal school was almost complete, with only finishing and the cement floor required, which depended on dry weather. The shelter construction project reached the 95.06 per cent completion stage although most shelter work had slowed as families could not finish work in the cold and damp.

During the upcoming reporting period, construction activities, especially in water projects, will be resumed in/continued well until late March and April. As soon as weather conditions permit, activities will be carried out in full force under intensive monitoring by the partner. In parallel, community development works, under way since January-February 2006, will continue to complete procurement and livelihood grants will be distributed.

With the additional resources provided in March 2006, two sub-projects will be funded. The first covers community development works in the same locations, including educational activities, vocational skills training and income-generating activities for the 182 beneficiary families. These are the activities that could not be implemented in the time frame of the 2005 agreement and that had to be shifted to 2006. The savings thus gained were reallocated mostly to the water projects that in September-October 2005 had

been redesigned and expanded for the interest of the larger communities. It is interesting to note that Shelter for Life, at its own cost, sent several members of its staff to Tajikistan to attend a community development training workshop in February 2006. With this formally trained and already experienced staff, UNHCR and Shelter for Life expect to significantly augment the impact of the planned 2006 community-based activities.

The second sub-project covers a new reintegration project, including construction of houses and communal facilities for 51 returnee/IDP families in Dahuk Governorate. In this respect, Shelter for Life has held preliminary meetings with the members of Dahuk Governorate in order to plan efficiently for the 2006 Dahuk Reintegration project. The Governor of Dahuk has given verbal support for compensating for the deficit of about \$280,000 needed to complete the project.

H. Draft 2006-2007 UN Assistance Strategy for Iraq

The principal objectives of the Cluster consist of support for developing and implementing national strategies addressing displacement, strengthening national capacity and enhancing the application of international protection standards for all populations.

Assisting the Iraqi authorities to discharge their displacement responsibilities remains a challenge. In so doing, Cluster F will focus on the following areas of action in 2006-2007:

- Supporting its key counterparts to enhance their human and institutional capacities in order to draw up policies, strategies and relevant legal frameworks as well as to assume responsibilities and roles to protect, assist and facilitate durable solutions for refugees, IDPs, returnees and stateless persons;
- Providing assistance and protection to refugees, IDPs, returnees and stateless persons, including the provision of emergency assistance to newly displaced;
- Assisting the authorities to create improved conditions for return or settlement areas through community-based assistance, complemented by individual assistance (shelter, non-food items, vocational training, income-generation projects and reconciliation projects);
- Achieving improved understanding of beneficiaries, their intentions, needs/gaps and locations through IDP and refugee intention surveys, IDP and returnee monitoring, IDP and Governorate Assessment Reports and mapping of needs/gaps, coupled with improved information management tools; and
- Enhancing Iraqi acceptance of the various persons of concern, particularly of refugees in Iraq.

To implement projects in these areas of action, Cluster F has a total net funding requirement for 2006-2007 of \$69.8 million (\$31.3 million for 2006 and \$38.5 million for 2007).

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. For the present reporting period, the transitional period included the 15 October 2005 referendum and the 15 December 2005 elections.

Following the certification of the election results on 10 February 2006, the transitional period officially came to an end. However, the Cluster has been requested to continue to assist IECI and its successor, the new Independent Electoral High Commission (IEHC), to fulfil institutional and operational requirements while transferring skills to Iraqi counterparts, ensuring the future sustainability of the organization.

Mission Statement

To provide technical support and capacity-building to IECI and its successor, the new Independent Electoral High Commission (IEHC), to support IECI with the 15 October 2005 referendum and 15 December elections as well as the IEHC with the preparation of 2006 electoral events, including a referendum on constitutional amendments and governorate elections.

Electoral events in 2006 will include:

- Another national referendum will be held, 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 Constitutional 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 the transitional arrangements of Iraq. A new law has already been introduced that would mandate governorate elections early in 2006.

B. Programmes/Projects Funded to Date

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

PROJECT	AGENCY	AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2005						AS OF 31 MARCH 2006					
		FUNDED		COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT		FUNDED		COMMITMENT		DISBURSEMENT	
		US\$ 000s	US\$ 000s	%	US\$ 000s	%	US\$ 000s	%	US\$ 000s	US\$ 000s	%	US\$ 000s	%
G11-02	Support to Electoral Process - Phase 2	UNDP/EAD	11,246	11,255	100	10,188	91	11,246	11,255	100	10,188	91	
G11-03	Support to Elections - Phase 3	UNDP/EAD	39,057	34,501	88	34,823	89	39,057	34,501	88	35,969	92	
G11-04	Technical Assistance to IECI	UNDP/EAD	7,802	5,251	67	3,851	49	7,802	5,372	69	3,972	51	
G11-06	Provision of Electoral Support to Observer Groups in Iraqi Elections	UNOPS/EAD	3,416	3,332	98	3,309	97	3,416	3,332	98	3,309	97	
G11-07	Support for Fair, Safe and Professional Media Coverage	UNESCO	555	396	71	396	71	397	396	100	396	100	
G11-08	Logistics Support to IECI - Phase 1	UNOPS/EAD	45,344	45,130	100	44,835	99	45,344	45,156	100	45,155	100	
G11-09	Logistics Support to IECI - Phase 2	UNOPS/EAD	61,310	53,140	87	38,480	63	61,310	54,755	89	51,527	84	
G11-10	Provision of Electoral Support to Observer Groups - Phase 2	UNOPS/EAD	6,042	5,617	93	4,501	74	6,042	5,838	97	4,770	79	
CLUSTER G TOTAL			174,771	158,623	91	140,384	80	174,613	160,606	92	155,286	89	

As of 31 December 2005, eight projects with a budget (including additional resources to existing projects) totalling \$174.8 million had been funded in the Support to Electoral Process Cluster. Two projects were closed following the first election in January 2005: UNDP G11-02, Support to Elections – Phase 2, and G11-07, Support for Fair, Safe and Professional Media Coverage. Remaining funds from the UNOPS G11-08 project were transferred to G11-09, Logistics Support to IECI – Phase 2.

At the end of December 2005, the level of commitments for all projects was approximately \$158.6 million (91 per cent) and disbursements totalled about \$140.4 million (80 per cent). Reflecting the delivery of assistance for the October referendum and December elections, these figures represent a \$50 million increase in disbursements since the end of June 2005, when they stood at \$90 million. As of 31 March 2006, commitments were at approximately \$160.6 million (92 per cent) and disbursements totalled \$155.3 million (89 per cent). At its meeting on 16 March 2006, the Steering Committee approved a further indirect support project, UNOPS G11-13, Women and Youth in Elections.

C. Key Accomplishments

On 10 February 2006, the official certified results of the 15 December 2005 elections were announced by IECI. In response, the Secretary-General paid tribute to the “courageous commitment of the Iraqi people to the democratic process”, citing the participation of millions of voters of all communities as well as hundreds of thousands of observers, agents and poll workers in the electoral process. The UN, which provided support to the process, remains fully committed to assisting the Iraqi people in the forthcoming electoral programme in 2006.

The UN role in the October referendum and the December 2005 elections built upon its groundbreaking role in the January 2005 elections. The Cluster continued essential institution-building for the new Iraqi national electoral body that succeeded in conducting a nationwide referendum and elections during the reporting period in an operational landscape characterized by a precarious security situation. The relationship between the Board of Commissioners and the Electoral Administration was clarified and electoral administration capacities were further reinforced.

From July to September 2005, 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 in October 2005.

The updating of the voter registers was completed at the end of August 2005 with over one million names added to the voter register.

The planning for the referendum and elections was carried out simultaneously. In addition to its role in providing institutional and security support to IECI, the Cluster again provided key logistical support to the electoral operations, such as 20 international flights bringing, inter alia, 21 million ballot papers each for both electoral events, and provided indirect support to observer groups, resulting in over 300,000 observers being active.

The referendum was an entirely new process in Iraq that required a major effort at public outreach and civic and voter education. The election also contained significant new elements about which the public and political entities had to be effectively informed beyond standard electoral information such as the date, time and places of voting.

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 worked closely with IECI, the International Foundation for Election Systems, the European Union and other donors and partners such as the National Democratic Institute.

For the highly complex logistical operations in support of IECI, UNOPS both contracted highly specialized logistical companies and provided key support and supervisory staff to ensure that all referendum and election materials were delivered on time. The UNDP support project provided over 20 UN international election experts in place in Baghdad and eight in Amman, dedicated to providing assistance to IECI. They included experts in election law, election procedures, election operations, administration, logistics, information technology, finance, election security and public outreach. Although key election decisions were entirely within the purview of the Iraqis, IECI is a relatively new institution and the advice of these experts was invaluable for the success of the two electoral processes.

E. Specific Agency Implementation

The main implementing partners of UN DPA/EAD for the October 15 referendum and December 15 elections were UNDP and UNOPS.

Electoral Administration and Operations

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

Under project G11-03, the provision of security to the eight Electoral Commissioners continued and was extended through to March 2006 by a project amendment agreed in October 2005 providing an additional \$4,555,887 in resources (all other aspects of the project had been completed). Security was provided for eight Electoral Commissioners predominantly in Baghdad but also for field trips to Basrah, Erbil, Kirkuk and Mosul. Twenty-seven security staff (of which 14 were Iraqi nationals) were employed to provide this security. There was considerable skills transfer from the international to the Iraqi staff. The project will have been completed at the end of March 2006.

Project G11-04 was also extended and further resources of \$4,759,453 were provided in September 2005. The project consists solely of human resource support to the electoral process. Between July and December 2005, 34 UN DPA/EAD officers were employed under UNDP contracts to provide support and advice to IECI in Baghdad and from Amman. These staff members provided important advice on a diverse range of issues, which assisted IECI in preparing for the referendum and elections. The project covered the recruitment and payment of 34 electoral staff working in Baghdad, Amman and New York to support the electoral process as follows:

- 8 Operations Officers; 2 Logistics Officer; 2 Public Outreach Officers; 2 Electoral Consultants; 1 Security Officer; 1 Warehouse Officer; 1 International Commissioner, 1 Finance Officer and 2 Information Technology Officers working in Baghdad to provide advice and training to the IECI Secretariat (total = 20);
- 1 Illustrator; 1 Media and Outreach Officer; 4 Operations Officer; 1 Procedures Officer and 1 Team Leader in Amman to provide support and advice to the electoral team in Baghdad (total = 8);

- 5 support staff (2 drivers, 1 warehouse clerk, 1 administrative assistant and 1 secretary) to support the Amman based Electoral Team; and
- 1 Senior Political Affairs Adviser based in New York.

Five of these staff members completed their contracts by November 2005, and two finished at the end of December 2005. The remaining 27 have had their contracts extended until later in 2006, depending on their posts and future needs for DPA/EAD personnel in Iraq.

- **UNOPS – G11-08, Logistics Support to IECI (Completed) and G11-09 Logistics Support – Phase 2**

The remaining funds from project G11-08 were transferred to project G11-09, Logistics Support – Phase 2, for the referendum and December elections.

UNOPS provided key logistical support in a number of areas to IECI and governorate electoral offices for the October referendum and December elections, both support planned ahead of time and that in response to last-minute requests from IECI.

UNOPS contracted a freight forwarder, Kuhne and Nagel, to assist its experts in this operation. The first flight left from China on 26 September 2005, and by the end of December 2005, 20 international flights had transported materials for the referendum and the general elections into Sharjah, designated as the international hub. A total of 12 flights came from two locations in China with polling station kits and polling centre kits; 3 flights were from Europe (Slovenia/Austria) with ballots and voter lists for the referendum; 5 flights came from Canada with ballot boxes, lids and seals for the referendum and the ballots and voter lists for the general elections; and 2 flights from Jordan were added to carry voter screens produced in the Syrian Arab Republic.

The following materials were transported:

Item	Supplier	Production Source	Referendum and/or Election	Quantity
Governorate ballot papers	Code Inc.	Canada	Election	20,620,200
National ballot papers	Code Inc.	Canada	Election	300,000
Voter lists	Code Inc.	Canada	Election	45,253
Presiding Officer envelopes	Austrian media Group (AMG)	Austria	Elections	32,460
Extra election Ink	Danish camp Supply (DCS)	India	Elections	68,000
Ballot papers	CETIS	Slovenia	Referendum	21,600,000
Voter lists	AMG	Austria	Referendum	56,250
Polling station kits	DCS	China	Ref./Election	67,000
Polling centre kits	DCS	China	Ref./Election	13,000
Ziplock bags	DCS	China	Referendum	80,000
Security seals	Code Inc.	Canada	Referendum	100,000
Ballot boxes and lids	Code Inc.	Canada	Referendum	15,000

UNOPS contracted two companies – Baltic Control for materials from Canada and Europe, and CCIC for materials from China – to inspect the goods procured under IECI direction in terms of quantity and packing. In spite of some difficulties due to the tight time frame, all shipments were duly inspected prior to air transport to the international hub in the United Arab Emirates.

On arrival in Sharjah, the UNOPS/UN DPA/EAD logistics team re-palletized the referendum/election materials for air transport into Iraq. The aim was to facilitate easy offloading in the Iraqi air hubs – Baghdad, Basrah, Erbil and Al-Taqqadum (in Al-Anbar province) – and onward transport by road convoy to the governorate electoral office warehouses by having materials prepared by governorate allocations. Regular updates on progress were provided, and the delivery to the warehouses was accomplished on time and without major reported incident.

UNOPS also assisted in providing warehouse security. International staff and their local national teams were present at duty posts to receive the election materials and to guarantee their integrity until collected for onward delivery by IECI convoys. The teams remained, forming the inner security cordon for the warehouses, during the crucial election period and until authorized to stand down following retrieval of the tally sheets. In addition, Field Officers, deployed in six locations in Iraq during the referendum and elections, provided key support to governorate electoral offices through to 10 January 2006.

Following a request from IECI, the UN was asked to include the retrieval of tally sheets as a second objective of project G11-09, Logistics Support to IECI – Phase 2. A plan was prepared to ensure the collection, securing and delivery of the tally sheets to IECI headquarters. The tally sheets were duly gathered from the governorate electoral offices. During the entire operation, staff from the UNOPS contractor were accompanied by IECI staff, who then handed over the tally sheets at IECI headquarters in Baghdad.

Following receipt of an urgent request from IECI to the UN, reviewed by UN DPA/EAD in Baghdad, UNOPS was requested to incorporate the movement of 800 election workers from Baghdad International Airport to Al-Anbar province. Charter flights to Al-Anbar were arranged (inbound on 7-9 December and outbound on 17 and 18 December 2005) for the staff who were transferred from other locales to man the polling centres in Al-Anbar.

In addition, the project extended the communications and information technology support provided to IECI for the first election in January 2005 for a period that would cover both electoral processes in October and December. The system provided was based on the installation of 20 VSAT dishes and the necessary equipment to connect to a Cisco Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) network. The dishes were located at 18 governorate electoral offices and at IECI headquarters.

Indirect Electoral Activities

- **UNOPS – G11-06, Provision of Electoral Support to Observer Groups in Iraqi Elections (Completed), and G11-10, Provision of Electoral Support to Observer Groups – Phase 2**

Project G11-06 provided support to capacity-building activities, including logistics training and four sessions of specialist information technology training for four participants each. The remaining funds from G11-06 were then transferred to Phase 2 of project G11-10, Provision of Electoral Support to Observer Groups.

To provide financial assistance to observer groups in Iraq, partnering agreements were signed between UN DPA/EAD, UNOPS and three partner organizations: the Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies, the National Democratic Institute/Electoral Information Network and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES).

The Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies provided two training sessions in Amman for a total of 50 trainers prior to the referendum, a training session in Amman for a total of 25 trainers following the referendum, and cascade training sessions in Iraq for a total of 5,200 national observers. It also provided

communications and information technology equipment to observer groups and coordinators in Iraq. One hundred additional one-day training sessions were organized in Iraq for domestic observers over the period from 8 to 13 December 2005. The estimated number of participants attending these workshops is 2,720, and training took place in 14 out of the 18 governorates.

The National Democratic Institute/Electoral Information Network also assisted independent observer groups for both the referendum and the general elections. Training of 200 trainers was conducted in Baghdad and Erbil, and around 12,000 observers received in-country training. (A total of 2,000 additional observers assisted without receiving an allowance.) Observers benefiting from the Electoral Information Network training monitored the referendum at 4,720 polling centres

Agreement with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation was arrived at only for the elections (agreement signed on 5 December 2005). There were 195 training sessions organized for an average of 20 participants each (3,900 observers trained). Assistance of \$40 was provided to 7,500 observers to facilitate their participation on 15 December 2005.

During the elections, there were some 300,000 observers – mostly Iraqi entities – active, with some 700 Iraq observers working for international watch groups.

Institutional Memory

The objective of this component of the project is to gather, categorize and make accessible documents relating to the January 2005 elections. The core team was recruited in September 2005 and started working from early October. National assistants to help in the task were recruited in November and essential equipment was purchased or loaned from existing stores.

The project will be extended after the initial period ending in mid-February 2006, with the planned outputs being a database hosting materials and documents pertaining to the October 2005 referendum and the January 2005 elections as well as a web site to make the database accessible to individuals and institutions wishing to avail themselves of the materials.

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

This project was closed at the end of the previous reporting period. The remaining resources available to the project, \$158,611 were reimbursed to UNDG ITF cluster G in November 2005.

F. Hurdles Encountered and Implementation Constraints

Organizing every referendum or general election is a major challenge, involving enormous logistical and substantive tasks. In Iraq, the challenges are compounded by inexperience in democratic practices, a continually updated election system and a dangerous security situation.

The main constraints were outlined in the Second Progress Report. The most severe challenge was posed by the new electoral system adopted at the last minute, which increased logistical problems and expenses. For example, 18 ballots had to be implemented – one for each governorate – instead of a single national ballot.

Given that IECI was a new organization continually facing new challenges, a number of constraints were inevitable. In particular, the process of decision-making within the Board of Commissioners was often

arduous and sometimes fractious. The vagueness of the new electoral law was an added complication for IECI, which was left with insufficient legal guidance on how to deal with difficult and sensitive political issues. The certification process of the elections also proved particularly difficult, reflecting the high level of intercommunal tension. While the UN team has been able to provide invaluable expertise, international experts generally remain within the Baghdad Green Zone, leaving IECI to deal with the many difficult challenges of operating throughout the country.

G. Future Work Plan for Ongoing Approved Projects/Programmes

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

Security was provided to the IECI Commissioner through to the end of March 2006. Technical assistance to IECI continues: 27 experts have had their contracts extended until later in 2006, depending on their posts and future needs for UN DPA/EAD personnel in Iraq.

- **UNOPS- G11-09, Logistics Support – Phase 2**

A number of activities are still under way. Transportation of the pre-positioned strategic reserve materials from the January 2005 elections that are currently stored on three military bases in Balad, Mosul and Ta'alil to the nearest governorate electoral office warehouse was requested on 20 December 2005. Once details about quantities and the condition of the materials to be moved are received, UNOPS will initiate a competitive bidding process to identify a company to transport these reserve supplies.

The inventory/audit of the equipment purchased for the warehouse security contract and subsequent centralization of this equipment in one secure location are ongoing. An audit of the Governorate Electoral Office Support Unit – a review of the costs incurred through the invoices and supporting documentation received – is being undertaken.

Amendment(s) to the freight forwarding contract between UNOPS and Kuhne and Nagel to ensure the inclusion of all additional services are being finalized. Final payments are being made to a number of contractors.

- **UNOPS-G11-10, Electoral Support to Observer Groups – Phase 2**

The institutional-memory aspect of this project is ongoing, encapsulating lessons learned from 2005 electoral exercises.

At its meeting on 16 March 2006, the Steering Committee approved a further indirect support project: UNOPS – G11-13, Women and Youth in Elections.

- **UNOPS – G11-13, Women and Youth in Elections.**

This \$2.8 million project will offer technical support through the provision of guidance, coordination and close monitoring to 69 specially selected NGOs/CSOs working to promote and increase the participation and presence of women and youth in the Iraqi political process. The aim is to consolidate the role of women in the National Assembly, increase the free and open participation of women and youth in the electoral process, strengthen the role of youth in the National Assembly, and assist young men and women to devise and lead advocacy strategies to improve their position in the Iraq electoral process. These activities will focus on raising the overall understanding of electoral processes among women and

youth and increasing their active participation and involvement in future elections, such as the forthcoming governorate elections and the second constitutional referendum in 2006.

H. Draft 2006-2007 UN Assistance Strategy for Iraq

Cluster G will continue to play a leading role in providing advice and support to IECI and Independent Electoral High Commission (IEHC) on the process for holding elections in Iraq at the national, regional and governorate levels.

The Parliament needs to decide on the formation of a new electoral commission or on extending the mandate of the current IECI. On 10 May 2006, the Parliament decided to extend the executive mandate of IECI for three months. Discussion with the Parliament or the new electoral commission will be required to design the electoral assistance programme. The Parliament will also decide on any electoral events and dates in the current year.

The following areas of action are under consideration:

- **Technical assistance to electoral events:** In support of the anticipated electoral events for 2006-2007 – (a) governorate and regional council elections, (b) constitutional referendum, and (c) municipal council elections – assistance on:
 - **Election planning:** Under the leadership of IECI/IEHC, the Cluster could support the development of an operational concept for the conduct of governorate and municipal elections.
 - **Voter registration:** The Cluster could provide assistance to IECI/IEHC in the planning and implementation of a voter registration process and registry. It is advised that the current voter registration database be upgraded – via an Iraq-wide update and/or a partial re-registration – before any electoral event in 2006/2007.
- **Capacity-building:** The plan for capacity-building will be developed in consultation with IECI/IEHC and focus on the following areas:
 - **IECI/IEHC Secretariat:** In support of the establishment of a permanent secretariat, assist with the development of Board meeting facilitation and agenda development, establishment of an archive of Board decisions, liaison with the international community, and communications with other Election Management Bodies.
 - **IECI/IEHC Headquarters:** Headquarters capacity-building will focus on coordinating topical workshops relating to strengthening specific electoral skill sets, coordinating election study missions, and the development of the IECI library and resource centre.
- **Executive and administrative transition:** The Cluster will lend support to commissioners and administrative staff during the transition of the institution from current IECI to permanent IEHC.
- **Donor coordination:** Assist with the coordination of donor groups and international assistance to the Electoral Commission in the furtherance of its objectives.

- **Electoral Administration training needs:**

The Cluster will conduct training sessions for IECI staff at both the headquarters and governorate levels. This will include the areas of financial management, human resources, administration, information technology, communication and public outreach.

- **Additional Needs**

Other areas include assistance for the security of the Commissioners, for a communication network at the governorate level, assistance in developing the legal framework for a permanent Commission and support to the development of proposals for electoral improvements/reforms.

IRFFI donors 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 may take place in 2006, which will require additional funding through Cluster G. Since the timing and specifics of these events will be determined by the permanent government, which has as yet not been established, it is not yet possible to provide exact estimates of the amount required. The budget requirement for each activity will also depend on the mechanisms adopted for implementation. For example, if the new Electoral Commission decides to update the current Voter Register, the funding requirement will be different from establishing a totally new Voter List with new registration. It is expected that the available funding in the Cluster could be adequate to meet these needs.