I am pleased to share with you this final issue of the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund (UNDG ITF) Newsletter. Since 2004, it has captured and shared stories - initially on a monthly and later quarterly basis - of the progress and challenges of implementation of the multi-sectoral UNDG ITF. It has been one of several tools UNDP used to ensure transparency and accountability in its administration of the UNDG ITF.

Over the years, many lessons about operating in a conflict/post-conflict situation were learnt and documented in the UNDG ITF Annual Progress and Evaluation Reports. One key lesson is the critical importance of forging effective partnership between Iraq, its development partners, the UN and the World Bank. This partnership has guided the common effort to support Iraq’s reconstruction and development efforts and its political stability.

In 2004, the UN and the World Bank established the first two-window Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) - the UNDG ITF and the World Bank ITF of the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI). The UNDG ITF was the first major UN MPTF. It grew to be the largest MPTF globally with over $1.36 billion in contributions from developed and developing countries. It is under the UNDG ITF that the 16 UN agencies operating in Iraq started to ‘Deliver-as-One’ (DaO) based on strategic plans anchored on Iraq’s evolving national development priorities/plans.

The Iraq experience showed the importance of strengthened UN Resident Coordinator leadership, use of a single pooled funding facility and the benefits of coordinated and synergic operations of UN organizations. These factors and the MPTF mechanism were improved and eventually laid the foundation for the formal UN DaO approach. Today we have over 48 UN MPTFs operating in 82 countries including 21 DaO MPTFs.

It is the positive experience with the UNDG ITF that led the Government of Iraq and the UN to establish the new Iraq UNDAF Trust Fund that has already received $15 million partner contributions.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge with gratitude the exceptional commitment of the Government of Iraq and its 25 development partners that contributed generously to the UNDG ITF to make it a most relevant and predictable financing instrument. Particular mention is made of the European Union, Japan, Canada, Italy and Denmark for their strong support and leadership of the UNDG ITF/IRFFI over the years.

Without committed UN leadership the significant progress of the UNDG ITF would not have been possible. Special thanks goes to the chair of the UNDG ITF Steering Committee, DSRSG/RC/HC Christine McNab and her four predecessors as well as the UN organizations and their Iraq counterparts for ensuring the effective utilization of the UNDG ITF.

As the fund administrator, the UNDP MPTF Office will continue to submit UNDG ITF Annual Progress Reports to partners by 31 May of each year until the fund is closed. It will also continue to present additional progress updates through its MPTF Office GATEWAY.

With best wishes for a successful 2012!

*Bisrat Aklilu,*
*Executive Coordinator,*
*MPTF Office, BOM, UNDP*
Government of Iraq Contribution

Prime Minister Advisory Commission  
Government of Iraq  
Contributed by Huda Malik,  
Director General International Cooperation

As Iraq started its transitional period in 2003 to a democratic state with market oriented economic style of management, the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI) was established as part of assistance package rendered by the International Community, witnessing the gradual transformations taking place in Iraq. Generous financial contributions were offered by Iraq’s partners, to address the challenges that it faced then and still faces in the country today.

This package of assistance, provided by Iraq’s development partners, was made through a multilateral arrangement - IRFFI - that implemented projects through the World Bank and the United Nations.

The International Community’s efforts to contribute to Iraq’s reconstruction are highly appreciated, especially assisting the country to bridge the gap, and ending its isolation from the world, and reintegrate Iraq into the world economy.

Although there was some difficulties in implementing programs, IRFFI provided a successful well managed system for partners to channel their financial contributions for Iraq’s reconstruction and development.

The situation in the country was fragile when IRFFI started its operations. It was a mixture of conflict and post-conflict environment that had negative consequences on development efforts whether implemented through government or its partners. It required a balance between immediate reconstruction priorities and long term institutional development needs. However, IRFFI constituted a good compromise for delivering assistance and was considered a good tool for the government to exercise its ownership with the UN and the World Bank. All projects were formulated in consultation with and approval of the government and some were implemented directly through the government.

We have learned many good lessons and we should acknowledge the good performance of the UN though the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund under IRFFI. It was the most appropriate tool to deliver external assistance in a difficult context with weak institutional and absorption capacity.

The Prime Minister Advisory Commission extends its thanks to Iraq’s development partners, all the IRFFI Donor Committee Chairs and UN colleagues who worked hard to enable the success of UNDG ITF in contributing to Iraq’s reconstruction and development.

IRFFI/UNDG ITF Independent evaluation and review findings include:

- MDTFs are a best practice in complex post-crisis situations, offering advantages over bilateral assistance;
- Rapid mobilization of financial and political resources, combining the interests and needs of a broad stakeholder group;
- Impartial platform for engagement in recovery efforts, in politicized environments;
- Reduce the political and implementation risk for donors and Government, through the pooling of efforts;
- Offers a high level of transparency, accountability and reduction of corruption risk;
- For host-Governments, there is evidence that information on MDTFs is more easily accessible that from other sources, improving planning potential;
- Broad scope of operations for addressing recovery issues;
- IRFFI delivers an important political good: participation and inclusiveness in polarized situation.

Independent evaluation by PWC (2006); Independent evaluation by Scanteam, Norway (2004-06)
The UNDG ITF has enabled 16 UN funds, programmes and agencies to respond to the humanitarian, reconstruction and development needs of a war torn country. The fund mechanism encouraged joint programming across the wide range of activities that needed urgent attention when Iraq emerged from the aftermath of the sanctions period and the devastation of wars and conflicts stretching back decades.

Many UN agencies had a long term presence in Iraq prior to 2003, but not only did they need to rethink their priorities, but they also needed to radically adjust their way of working to enable progress in a still violent country with deep and widespread humanitarian and development needs.

The UNDG ITF mechanism, with overwhelmingly generous contributions from the donor community, allowed the UN funds, programmes and agencies to concentrate on substance, and on the new dialogue with government on how to reach out and carry out the work. The range of work has been impressive, from supporting IDP communities, to infrastructure for schools, clinics, hospitals and public utilities such as water and electricity, to cultural conservation and restoration, to governance and electoral support, public sector modernization and private sector development.

Much has been achieved, but much remains to be done. Iraq still needs its donor and United Nations partners. Although a middle income country in terms of its oil wealth, the country is still struggling with violence and terrorism, and nearly a quarter of the population live in poverty. The isolation of the sanctions periods means that there are extensive needs not only for physical reconstruction, but also for capacity building and exposure to new ways of doing things.

The UNDG ITF has enabled us to focus on the substance and draw on the strengths of the diverse UN family. It enabled us to work together, gave the government great insight into the humanitarian and development programmes, and established a genuine partnership between the UN and the donors. It is definitely a mechanism which should be used elsewhere, particularly when a strong, concerted effort is needed to give people back their basic dignity and put them back on the path to sustainable human development.
Partners’ Contributions

Japan
Contributed by Gotaro Ogawa, Former Ambassador in Charge of Reconstruction Assistance to Iraq

On the occasion of the final stage of activities of the International Reconstruction Fund Facility of Iraq (IRFFI), I would like to congratulate the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund for having played a unique and important role in supporting the reconstruction of Iraq by overcoming many difficulties in professional ways. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the strenuous efforts exerted on the part of all those who were involved in this undertaking.

Japan has contributed to IRFFI as a major donor. I am pleased with the pivotal role played by UNDP in coordinating efforts with the World Bank-ITF and the member countries. I believe that the Fund is a unique mechanism which has enabled various nations and organizations to participate in the reconstruction effort for Iraq. I sincerely hope that the lessons learned from our experiences will be utilized in a new framework for other international reconstruction efforts in the future.

Canada ranked among the lead donors to IRFFI and we were honoured to serve as a Chair of its Donor Committee for the 2005-2007 period. We also actively supported the "Multi-donor Stocktaking Review" that looked at results achieved by both Trust Funds, and started to draw lessons from the IRFFI experience. We were pleased to participate in the IRFFI Steering Committee that was established to improve the transparency and responsiveness of the IRFFI to Iraqi development priorities.

As the IRFFI reaches its operational conclusion, we need to remain mindful of the Iraq experience. At the Fourth Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, in December 2011, donor countries and fragile states endorsed "The New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States", which affirms the centrality of country leadership and ownership. Lessons drawn from the IRFFI may prove to be of enduring relevance to other transitions to democracy, stability and economic growth.

Canada
Contributed by Bob Johnston
Director General for Europe, Middle East, Maghreb, Afghanistan and Pakistan, CIDA

As the IRFFI is drawing to a close, it provides an opportunity to reflect on its origin and the road travelled since then. IRFFI served as a crucial development policy and programming instrument encouraging a broad participation in post-war reconstruction. Canada was able to leverage a broader international effort in delivering much of its contribution through IRFFI.

Among its many creative and original features, IRFFI broke new grounds in two ways in particular:

- It allowed the UN to pilot the "Delivering as One" approach that is at the heart of UN reform. This approach has since shaped UN response to many complex emergencies around the world, where donors have sought to coordinate their contributions through multi-donor Trust Funds;

- With the creation of a single facility to oversee two Trust Funds, one for the World Bank and one for the UN, IRFFI also set a model of coordination for both institutions in post-conflict reconstruction, where each was focusing on its comparative advantages, overlaps were resolved and synergies optimized, and where the development ownership of a new government was affirmed.
UN-HABITAT: Eight Years of Collaboration with UNDG ITF

For eight years, the UNDG ITF has supported numerous reconstruction and development assistance efforts in Iraq. The establishment of the UNDG ITF allowed the UN to effectively channel donor resources and coordinate activities in Iraq to address a wide range of national priorities. Since 2003, the UN-HABITAT Iraq Programme has played an active role in Iraq’s recovery by implementing several programmes funded largely through the UNDG ITF.

As of June 2011, UN-HABITAT Iraq’s overall portfolio was valued at around USD $90 million, distributed over 21 projects and programmes that focus on urbanisation, urban planning and local governance; land management and administration; pro-poor housing; and urban infrastructure and basic services.

Throughout the evolution of this portfolio, UN-HABITAT Iraq has played an active role in strengthening the Iraqi housing, urban, and community infrastructure sectors, and in building Iraqi capacity to formulate and implement vital policies, strategies, and programmes.

In the early stages, UN-HABITAT contributed to Iraq’s recovery process by rehabilitating community infrastructure including educational facilities, water supply systems, sewage networks, youth centres, public green parks and health facilities. Key achievements include the rehabilitation of 370 community based facilities, including hospitals, public health centres, youth facilities, and technical and vocational education facilities; the rehabilitation of 2,460 housing units and reconstruction of 300 houses, benefiting 19,300 people; and upgrading 23 water systems and 6 networks, benefitting 25,000 people. Capacity enhancement in this sector has included the training of 620 unemployed youth in construction related vocations, and 160 small contractors in improved business management and improved coordination with the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works (MMPW) on modern legal and institutional frameworks to reform the solid waste management sector.

In line with continuous changing needs in Iraq, UN-HABITAT in agreement with the UN Country Team (UNCT) is shifting its emphasis from direct intervention in infrastructure rehabilitation, to providing technical assistance and capacity building of GoI and local authorities, in order to improve service delivery, improve municipal financial management, and prepare local and national investments plans.

Since 2005, UN-HABITAT has continuously provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Construction and Housing (MoCH), to build on recommendations of previous studies and prepare detailed analyses of Iraq’s housing market. This assistance culminated the development of a National Housing Policy, which was endorsed by the Council of Ministers in 2010. The policy seeks to streamline the provision of housing - which it recognizes a human right.

Recently, UN-HABITAT signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the MoCH in the presence of the Iraqi Prime Minister. The MoU outlines key areas of collaboration in the implementation of Iraq’s National Housing Policy, especially in implementing the pro-poor aspects of the policy, which include informal settlement. The MoU also addresses the need to strengthen the capacities of housing and planning institutions within the framework of the National Housing Policy and current urban challenges.
UNICEF: Rights of millions of Iraqi children in Iraq protected from UNDG ITF-funded projects

Since its creation in 2003, the UNDG ITF has provided $123 million in support of UNICEF’s humanitarian, reconstruction and development efforts in Iraq. In total, 30 projects have been implemented, which have been instrumental in ensuring the rights of millions of children in Iraq to a quality education, adequate health care, water and sanitation and protection services.

The UNDG ITF’s largest contribution to UNICEF has been to projects targeting Iraq’s education sector. Nine projects totaling $66 million, implemented predominantly during the emergency from 2004-2007, have strengthened the Government of Iraq’s capacity to provide quality education for its children. These projects have provided the necessary school materials to over 11 million Iraqi children to effectively start their school years, essential teaching and learning materials to tens of thousands of schools, and rehabilitated dozens of schools increasing access to a quality education for nearly 200,000 students.

In the water and sanitation sector, ten projects valued over $36 million have been funded by the UNDG ITF. From 2004-2007, emergency water supplies were delivered to over one million vulnerable people, including internally displaced persons. After 2007, UNICEF ITF-supported projects to rehabilitated water and sewage networks in the most deprived communities of Karbala, Kirkuk and Wasit governorates as well as supported the government to ensure better water quality for the Iraqi population. Most recently in September 2011, the $3 million UNDG ITF-funded Basra Solid Waste Management Master Plan project establishing a vision and action plan to address the solid waste needs within the Basra Governorate over the next 20 years was completed.

In the health sector, UNDG ITF contributions to UNICEF/WHO projects with the Ministry of Health have ensured that Iraq has remained polio-free since 2000. Since 2005, through the provision of immunization and health care supplies, over five million under-five children have been vaccinated against both polio and measles every year and around three million people, 1.5 million of whom are children, have had improved access to primary health services via the rehabilitation of dozens of primary health care centers, and maternal and child health units in deprived communities across Iraq.

The UNDG ITF is also strengthening protection and justice for children and young people in Iraq. Via a joint $3 million UNICEF/UNFPA project, a juvenile justice strategy is being developed, restorative justice promoted, and at least 1500 children and young people caught up in the justice system are being provided with adequate care and protection services.
UNDP: Responding to Iraq’s Priorities

UNDP has been the largest (US$ 413 million - 28% to total resources) recipient of funds from the UNDG TF since it was established in 2004. Over the last 8 years UNDP has been able to use these funds to build local capacities to address a range of Iraqi’s most pressing humanitarian and development challenges.

Promoting Democratic Governance

UNDP supported the Iraq High Electoral Commission (IHEC), which led the successful implementation of the 2009 Provincial and 2010 Parliamentary Elections. It is also supporting the establishment of a new High Commission for Human Rights and has promoted the enforcement of International Human Rights in all Government functions. UNDP has also helped establish and strengthen key institutions to support Iraq’s Constitutional process, including the National Centre for Consultancy & Management Development, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice.

To foster quality independent and public media in Iraq, UNDP has provided technical assistance and legal advice to Iraq’s media regulatory bodies and supported the establishment of Aswat al-Iraq, Iraq’s first independent news agency.

Supporting Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth

UNDP’s economic recovery and poverty alleviation efforts have focused on a range of reconstruction and emergency response initiatives. UNDP managed the rehabilitation of three power stations; the provision of generators to hospitals, health centres, and water pumping stations; the dredging of the Umm Qasr Port channel to allow food aid delivery; the provision of potable water to over 1 million Iraqis; and completing the construction of Basrah Children’s Hospital. These initiatives, along with building the capacities of local NGOs, generated thousands of jobs and also built government capacity. Further livelihood activities were restored through mine clearance.
**FAO: Supporting Agriculture & Food Security in Iraq through UNDG ITF**

As the lead agency in the food security and agriculture sectors, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has been active in helping the Government of Iraq with building a modern and efficient agriculture and food security sectors with a primary focus on agriculture policy; livestock and veterinary services; water resources; agro-industries; food safety; fisheries and seeds.

During the UNDG-ITF period, FAO has initiated 19 projects valued at nearly USD $115 million. These FAO programmes in Iraq have benefited over 713,000 men, women and children. The programmes have included the rehabilitation of water pumping stations to provide clean access to water, training in cottage industries, post-harvest industries and improved fish farming, dairy cattle reproduction technologies; and developing home-gardens through seeds, fertilizer, and agro chemical inputs.

FAO has also been strengthening the capacity of the Iraqi technical staff especially in the fields of horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries, poultry and beekeeping. Throughout the UNDG-ITF period, FAO has trained Iraqis to a combined 75,336 man days, which amounts to nearly 6.37 days per trainee.

Despite the persistent level of insecurity in Iraq, FAO has supported the development of income-generation activities for vulnerable Iraqis and the rehabilitation and maintenance of traditional irrigation schemes for resettled displaced households in the country.

The Organization has been able to implement the latest technological advances in the seed, fish and livestock sectors across Iraq; while contributing to the national response to the emerging food insecurity in the country by supporting the development of a comprehensive food security analysis. This requires an innovative integrated approach, focused on improving farming systems through the transfer of technology and the promotion of participatory community projects for agricultural development.

With Iraq shifting from an emergency state to that of a developing one, FAO has adapted its programming policies to better suit the needs of the Iraq people in the future. Over the duration of the UNDG-ITF, FAO has also made the shift from an emergency development body to more recently, as a technical and policy support role, as this is more effective for sustainable development of the agricultural sector of Iraq.

At present, FAO-Iraq is working on several key initiatives to reflect this shift, including the Iraq Agricultural Growth and Employment Generation Support Programme. The project is led by Iraqi partners and designed to increase economic growth, expand the agricultural sector’s share of Gross Domestic Product and generate employment, in line with the Government’s priorities.
UNESCO: Supporting Iraq achieves numerous successes through eight years of UNDG-ITF Funding

In partnership with the Government of Iraq and the United Nations Country Team, UNESCO has implemented 29 projects funded by the UNDG-ITF for an amount of about US$ 71.0 million. This places the UNESCO among the top five UN Agencies implementing UNDG-ITF funded projects within the UN Country Team.

Education

UNESCO Iraq’s Education sector has implemented 17 projects valued at US$ 48.2 million with UNDG-ITF funding since 2004. UNESCO is assisting the Ministries of Education and Higher Education in their push towards decentralization and improved delivery of services, within the framework of the larger UN project to modernize the Iraqi public sector. UNESCO is also working to identify the main factors affecting access to and quality of education in Iraq through a comprehensive needs assessment, which will provide valuable information and research to assist future programming and planning. A vital part of UNESCO’s assistance to the Ministries is the development of a National Education Strategy for Iraq, which will guide the development of this area.

Sciences

UNESCO Iraq has implemented three important projects totaling US$ 5.7 million in the field of water resource management.

Culture

UNESCO Iraq is continuing to work to safeguard, restore and rehabilitate significant Iraqi cultural sites damaged during and after the war. Projects in this sector funded by the Trust Fund totaled US$ 9.4 million.

The most prominent project was the restoration of the holy site of the Askari Shrine in Samara - a site of worship for Muslims that once attracted millions of pilgrims every year prior to its two bombings in 2006 and 2007. With its focus on such an important religious and political symbol, the project has promoted peace and reconciliation in the region while providing significant employment opportunities to the people of Samara.

Communication and Information

UNESCO Iraq is supporting the Government to build an enabling environment within the media industry through sustainable local initiatives in defense of freedom of expression and press freedom. US$ 7.2 million from the UNDG-ITF has allowed UNESCO Iraq to implement several projects in this area. UNESCO is also working to support media professionals, human rights defenders and the academic community, who are faced with violence and threats regularly.

Under the Organization’s mandate for education, science, culture, communication and information, the projects funded by the UNDG ITF have allowed UNESCO Iraq to continue contributing to peace building, poverty reduction, sustainable development and reconciliation in the country.
**UNEP: Assisting Iraq to address environmental challenges:**

Since 2004, UNEP, supported by the UNDG ITF, initiated a number of projects in the area of environmental management.

**Strengthening Environmental Governance in Iraq through Environmental Assessment and Capacity Building**

This project was initiated to address the twin environmental challenges faced by Iraq in 2003. To start with, the environmental administration in Iraq had been cut off from the international community (and modern technology) for more than two decades due to sanctions. On the other hand, there were number of locations which were severely contaminated by industrial activity, some of which were linked to military industrialization.

The objective of UNEP’s project was to re-connect Iraq’s environmental experts with the international community and to the latest analytical approaches. This was achieved partly by training them abroad and also engaging in detailed field assessment work within Iraq under the guidance of expert international teams. The key outputs from the project were:

- 50 Iraqi experts were trained on contaminated site assessment;
- Five contaminated industrial sites were assessed by the trained Iraqi experts;
- 30 Iraqi experts were trained on modern laboratory practices;
- A modern environmental laboratory was established at the Ministry of Environment in Iraq; and
- 25 Iraqi experts were trained on Environmental Impact Assessment,

The project was operationally closed in September 2007.

**Support for Environmental Management of the Iraqi Marshlands**

The Iraqi Marshland, which has historic and ecological significance of global scale became stressed due to reduction in water flow and increase in construction activity during the last quarter century. The UNEP, in close cooperation with various Iraqi ministries, as well as governorate, local, and academic institutions developed a project to support the rehabilitation of Iraqi Marshlands. The UNDG ITF provided USD 11 million and the project was completed in December 2007. Subsequent bilateral funding was then secured for Phase II & III.

The project supported the application of Environmentally Sound Technology (EST) options in the sustainable management and restoration of the Iraqi Marshlands. It facilitated strategy formulation, monitoring marsh conditions, strengthening capacity of Iraqi decision makers, and providing water, sanitation, and wetland management options on a pilot basis in a six marshland communities. An independent review of the pilots indicated that the pilot greatly improved the access to safe water in targeted communities, and improvement of living and health conditions.

**Hazardous Waste Chemicals Collection and Storage: Al Qadissiya site**

The field based environmental assessment conducted by the Iraqi experts and UNEP demonstrated that while all the five sites were impacted, two of the sites posed significant hazards. The summary and findings of the monitoring and evaluation work as well as overall information about the project can be can be accessed through the following link: [http://marshlands.unep.or.jp/](http://marshlands.unep.or.jp/)
**IOM: Partnering with Ministry of Displacement and Migration to develop new competencies.**

The Iraqi Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) was formed in 2003 to track internal displacement, facilitate and coordinate the provision of assistance to IDPs and returnees. Since 2003, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Iraq mission has continued to provide guidance and assistance to MoDM through its Capacity Building Programme. As part of the UN Country Team, IOM has trained 1,620 MoDM staff through a total of 128 trainings. In July 2010, the Capacity Building Programme received funding, together with UNHCR, from the UNDG ITF to continue its efforts with the Ministry.

The UNDG ITF project “Capacitating and Strengthening Protection Networks with the Government of Iraq” brought together Ministry Officials, IOM staff and external trainers through a series of sixteen participatory and tailored trainings. In addition, consultative workshops in Baghdad, Beirut, and Amman brought together key MoDM personnel, and on occasion, members of the Iraqi Council of Ministers to understand current legislation and trends related to displacement and to formulate appropriate implementation arrangements.

The training topics ranged from Advanced Statistical Package for Social Sciences, to Customer Service and targeted nominees from all sixteen branches of the Ministry in Iraq. The trainings required the attendance of senior Ministry officials, as well as workers from MoDM’s four Returnee Assistance Centres, including receptionists and data entry staff. Over 263 staff were trained by the end of the project (including around 10% female staff).

His Excellency Dindar Najman, Minister of Displacement and Migration, recently reported in his address to the Prime Minister’s office and members of the parliament that due to the IOM implemented UNDG ITF training in customer services and communication skills, MoDM had reorganized their reception areas within Returnee Assistance Centres. In addition, the Staff Affairs office unofficially reported that, thanks to the knowledge gained during trainings, front-desk staff had reduced the number of requested transfers to other positions.

As a result of the project, MoDM has been able to facilitate the participation of the inter-ministerial task forces and members the Iraqi council of ministers in a planning workshop, as well as liaise with IOM in regards to joint monitoring activities for internally displaced persons. As explained by the Chief of the IOM Iraq mission, Michael Pillinger, “IOM could not do the work we do without MoDM’s sustained cooperation and assistance. The UNDG ITF project in particular has increased our ability to effectively continue our capacity building efforts with the Ministry, our key counterpart, and we hope that in the future MoDM will carry on its advancement through new initiatives.”

Throughout the project, IOM coordinated with UNHCR, through joint reporting, referrals and coordination meetings. The project has ended, but IOM continues to provide support through its sub-offices that are co-located with MoDM branches.
Schistosomiasis, also known as bilharziasis or snail fever, is a parasitic disease resulting from trematodes flatworms of the genus Schistosoma. The parasite transmission occurs in fresh water with snails penetrating the skin of those in contact with infected water, causing a chronic inflammatory disorder associated with disabling anaemia and under-nutrition as well as poor performance in school and at work. Although the disease has a low mortality rate, it is the second most socioeconomically devastating parasitic disease after malaria. More than 207 million of the world’s most vulnerable people who live in poor communities without access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation are currently infected with schistosomiasis and more than 700 million people worldwide are at risk of infection in 74 endemic countries services.

In Iraq, thanks to the combined efforts of the Ministry of Health and other partners, Schistosomiasis incidence rate has declined during the last few years. It has dropped from an estimated number of reported Schistosomiasis cases of 1,469 in early 90s to 5 cases in 2010 and zero case during the first six months of 2011. Part of this success is attributed to sustained schistosomiasis prevention and control programme and activities implemented with the technical support of WHO, under the UNDG ITF funded projects “Malaria and Leishmania Control and Prevention Emergency Programme” and ‘Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Programme”.

**WHO: Developing a ten year (2012-21) National Nutrition Strategy for Iraq**

Most recent national surveys to assess the health status of the population have shown an alarming high prevalence of anaemia in children, adolescents and pregnant women in Iraq and a steady increase in the rate of malnutrition among under five years old children which reached 4.7 % in 2008. Also, it was found that 9.1% of newly born children are underweight, 21.8 % of under five children are stunted and around 38% of pregnant women are anaemic. On other hand, only 25% of mother breastfeed their less than six-months old infants indicating an obvious poor infant and young child feeding practices.

To improve the nutrition situation of the population, the Ministry of Health (MoH) requested the technical support of WHO and UNICEF to facilitate the process of developing a comprehensive ten-year National Nutrition Strategy and Plan of Action covering various nutrition related areas such as policies, maternal nutrition, obesity control, school feeding, people with special needs, food security and safety. Through the UNDG ITF funded project, ‘Addressing Micronutrient deficiencies in Iraq: Assessment and response”, an initial draft has been developed and is being circulated among key stakeholders for discussions and comments.

**WHO: Improved access to quality assured vaccines & other pharmaceutical and food products.**

Up to 2007 Iraq was dependent on WHO and UNICEF for the procurement of vaccines; auto-disabled syringes and cold chain equipment to carry out Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) that protects the targeted population against the vaccine preventable diseases. Through advocacy among policy makers of MoH, Ministry of Planning (MoP) and Ministry of Finance (MoF) as well as through sustained capacity building of the procurement section in EPI and KIMADIA, the State Company for Drugs and Medical Appliances is now using its own resources for procuring all vaccines; syringes and almost all cold chain equipment for a total of USD 70 million for 2010.

The increased technical and operational capacity was rendered possible through the $14 million WHO and UNICEF implemented UNDG ITF project in three projects which include: strengthening immunization services in Iraq; disease eradication, elimination and introduction of new vaccines and support to national measles and polio campaigns.

The first two programmes were completed in June 2008 and June 2009, respectively, while the third will be completed in June 2012. During the period 2006 - 2011, through these projects, the MoH was able to strengthen EPI and conduct national immunization campaigns and assisted in maintaining polio free status and control measles outbreaks.
FINANCIAL SUMMARY (as of 30 June 2011)**

Donor Deposits & Earned Interest, breakdown by Sector and Donor ($US mill)

- **Economic Reform & Diversification**, $253.75, 18%
- **Governance**, $383.45, 27%
- **Food Security, Agriculture, Food Assistance**, $171.15, 8%
- **Housing & Shelter**, $19.12, 1%
- **Health**, $147.96, 10%
- **Protection**, $60.17, 4%
- **Unearmarked**, $158.96, 11%
- **Un-spent Interest to refund/refunded to Donor**, $3.50, 0%
- **PwC and Pilgrim Stampede**, $0.55, 0%

- **Education**, $209.66, 15%
- **Water & Sanitation**, $78.43, 6%
- **Health**, $147.96, 10%
- **Housing & Shelter**, $19.12, 1%
- **Protection**, $60.17, 4%
- **Unearmarked**, $158.96, 11%
- **Un-spent Interest to refund/refunded to Donor**, $3.50, 0%
- **PwC and Pilgrim Stampede**, $0.55, 0%

Funding by Sector and Participating UN Organization ($US mill)

- **Economic Reform & Diversification** - 26 projects, $273.17, 20%
- **Governance** - 43 projects, $337.92, 25%
- **Food Security, Agriculture, Food Assistance** - 28 projects, $159.15, 12%
- **Housing & Shelter** - 5 projects, $28.28, 2%
- **Health** - 30 projects, $186.34, 14%
- **Protection** - 18 projects, $75.52, 6%
- **PwC and Pilgrim Stampede** - 1 project, $0.29, 0%
- **Education** - 30 projects, $206.83, 15%
- **Water & Sanitation** - 19 projects, $85.85, 6%

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<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>14.98</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>182.27</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIDO</td>
<td>53.41</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNWOMEN</td>
<td>9.54</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNOPS</td>
<td>229.44</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFP</td>
<td>18.89</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>128.02</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL** 1,353.35 274

Donor Deposits & Earned Interest, breakdown by Sector and Donor ($US mill)

- **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**, $594.21
- **JAPAN**, $360.95
- **SPAIN**, $93.17
- **CANADA**, $63.79
- **UK**, $55.54
- **ITALY**, $39.23
- **AUSTRALIA**, $31.66
- **KOREA**, $21.00
- **SWEDEN**, $13.66
- **DENMARK**, $12.41
- **GERMANY**, $10.00
- **TURKEY**, $9.00
- **FINLAND**, $7.70
- **NORWAY**, $7.01
- **NETHERLANDS**, $6.70
- **INDIA**, $5.00
- **KUWAIT**, $5.00
- **QATAR**, $5.00
- **USA**, $5.00
- **GREECE**, $3.63
- **NEW ZEALAND**, $3.36
- **LUXEMBOURG**, $2.32
- **BELGIUM**, $1.32
- **IRELAND**, $1.23
- **ICELAND**, $0.50

**TOTAL Deposits** 1,358.39

**EARNED INTEREST** 74.31

**TOTAL Deposits + Interest** 1,432.71

**Official certified financial data for the period ending 31 December 2011 will be issued on 31 May 2012 in the 2011 UNDG ITF Annual Consolidated Progress Report**
PROJECT COMMITMENTS & DISBURSEMENTS

Implementing UN Organizations to date have legally committed $1.13 billion and disbursed $1.1 billion of total approved funding (which amounts to $1.35 billion for the implementation of 274 individual projects and joint programmes). Tables 4.1 and 4.2 provide a summary of project commitments and disbursements by Sector and Participating UN Organization, respectively. Figures for the period ending 30 June 2011 are based on the latest available information received from the operational units of the Participating UN Organizations and provide informal financial updates. As of 30 June 2011, the average commitment and disbursement rates amount to 83% and 81% of approved funding, respectively.

Commitments and Disbursements Summary by Sector, as of 30 June 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Group</th>
<th>Sector Outcome Team</th>
<th>Sub-sector</th>
<th>2004 - 2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Funded Amount (US$000s)</td>
<td>Refunds on Unspent Balances (US$000s)</td>
<td>Funded less Refunds on Unspent Balances (US$000s)</td>
<td>July 2004 - End December 2010 ACTUALS</td>
<td>January 2011 - End June 2011 ACTUALS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>COMD</td>
<td>DISB</td>
<td>COMD</td>
<td>DISB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Social Services</td>
<td>675,693</td>
<td>(9,245)</td>
<td>666,448</td>
<td>586,198</td>
<td>532,878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>207,578</td>
<td>(1,152)</td>
<td>206,826</td>
<td>188,776</td>
<td>166,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water and Sanitation</td>
<td>92,998</td>
<td>(7,146)</td>
<td>85,852</td>
<td>70,343</td>
<td>60,405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>186,553</td>
<td>(214)</td>
<td>186,340</td>
<td>166,381</td>
<td>154,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing &amp; Shelter</td>
<td>28,278</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>28,277</td>
<td>25,382</td>
<td>25,601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Security, Agriculture, Food Assistance</td>
<td>159,886</td>
<td>(733)</td>
<td>159,153</td>
<td>135,317</td>
<td>125,387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture &amp; Water Resources</td>
<td>101,876</td>
<td>(733)</td>
<td>101,143</td>
<td>84,845</td>
<td>79,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Development</td>
<td>47,792</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>47,792</td>
<td>40,255</td>
<td>35,305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Security</td>
<td>10,217</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10,217</td>
<td>10,217</td>
<td>10,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>75,758</td>
<td>(243)</td>
<td>75,515</td>
<td>41,071</td>
<td>51,472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>62,075</td>
<td>(243)</td>
<td>61,832</td>
<td>32,402</td>
<td>39,581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mine Action</td>
<td>13,683</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13,683</td>
<td>8,670</td>
<td>11,891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance</td>
<td>345,886</td>
<td>(7,968)</td>
<td>337,918</td>
<td>259,051</td>
<td>276,074</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Process (National Reconciliation / Rule of Law)</td>
<td>87,043</td>
<td>(312)</td>
<td>86,731</td>
<td>56,137</td>
<td>67,924</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture</td>
<td>2,092</td>
<td>(132)</td>
<td>2,160</td>
<td>1,960</td>
<td>1,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Sector Reform</td>
<td>16,015</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>16,015</td>
<td>14,040</td>
<td>1,739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development Programmes</td>
<td>6,119</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,119</td>
<td>1,739</td>
<td>1,739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to Electoral Process</td>
<td>237,032</td>
<td>(7,524)</td>
<td>229,509</td>
<td>198,802</td>
<td>201,634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Development</td>
<td>273,740</td>
<td>(565)</td>
<td>273,175</td>
<td>206,177</td>
<td>204,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Development</td>
<td>27,715</td>
<td>(6)</td>
<td>27,709</td>
<td>27,627</td>
<td>25,962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure Electricity</td>
<td>137,962</td>
<td>(0)</td>
<td>137,962</td>
<td>114,929</td>
<td>107,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Reform &amp; Diversification</td>
<td>92,363</td>
<td>(559)</td>
<td>91,804</td>
<td>47,607</td>
<td>55,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Reduction &amp; Human Development</td>
<td>15,700</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15,700</td>
<td>16,015</td>
<td>15,509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Response Project*</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>(5)</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1,371,377</td>
<td>-18,027</td>
<td>1,353,351</td>
<td>1,092,792</td>
<td>1,064,998</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Humanitarian Emergency Project funded from Fund Earned Interest

NOTES:


c) New legally binding contracts signed in 2011


d) Commitment and Disbursement Rates calculated as a percentage of Funded (less Refunds on Unspent Balances). Some Agencies/Participating UN Organizations have included refunds as part of expenditure and disbursement hence the Commitments and Disbursement Rates will show an excess by Refunded Amounts.
### Commitments and Disbursements Summary by Participating UN Organization (US$ 000s), as of 30 June 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participating UN Organization</th>
<th>Funded Amount</th>
<th>Refunds on Unspent Balances</th>
<th>Funded less Refunds on Unspent Balances</th>
<th>July 2004-End December 2010 ACTUALS COM&lt;sup&gt;C&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>DISB&lt;sup&gt;D&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>January 2011-End June 2011 ACTUALS COM&lt;sup&gt;C&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>DISB&lt;sup&gt;D&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>July 2004-End June 2011 ACTUALS COM&lt;sup&gt;C&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>DISB&lt;sup&gt;D&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESCWA</td>
<td>11,827</td>
<td>(798)</td>
<td>11,029</td>
<td>9,672</td>
<td>9,266</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>9,931</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>114,965</td>
<td>(645)</td>
<td>114,320</td>
<td>99,775</td>
<td>91,050</td>
<td>3,400</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>103,175</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>8,695</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8,695</td>
<td>5,380</td>
<td>5,386</td>
<td>1,112</td>
<td>667</td>
<td>6,492</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOM</td>
<td>518</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>518</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>374,349</td>
<td>(51)</td>
<td>374,298</td>
<td>243,711</td>
<td>287,444</td>
<td>1,947</td>
<td>9,395</td>
<td>245,657</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN DPA/EAD</td>
<td>7,802</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7,802</td>
<td>7,427</td>
<td>7,691</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7,427</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNEP</td>
<td>16,605</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>16,605</td>
<td>16,920</td>
<td>16,404</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>16,920</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>70,533</td>
<td>(1,244)</td>
<td>69,289</td>
<td>59,911</td>
<td>57,421</td>
<td>2,361</td>
<td>2,920</td>
<td>62,272</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>24,606</td>
<td>(57)</td>
<td>24,548</td>
<td>14,639</td>
<td>16,189</td>
<td>475</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>15,114</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHABITAT</td>
<td>89,777</td>
<td>(80)</td>
<td>89,697</td>
<td>80,556</td>
<td>74,894</td>
<td>5,567</td>
<td>4,743</td>
<td>86,123</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>14,978</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14,978</td>
<td>14,978</td>
<td>14,246</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>732</td>
<td>14,978</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>182,371</td>
<td>(105)</td>
<td>182,266</td>
<td>156,580</td>
<td>125,654</td>
<td>6,354</td>
<td>1,391</td>
<td>162,934</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIDO</td>
<td>59,656</td>
<td>(6,245)</td>
<td>53,411</td>
<td>34,947</td>
<td>29,446</td>
<td>1,845</td>
<td>1,035</td>
<td>36,792</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNOPS</td>
<td>238,097</td>
<td>(8,659)</td>
<td>229,439</td>
<td>207,617</td>
<td>193,315</td>
<td>7,974</td>
<td>4,601</td>
<td>215,591</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNWOMEN</td>
<td>9,548</td>
<td>(7)</td>
<td>9,541</td>
<td>6,921</td>
<td>6,780</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>7,212</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFP</td>
<td>18,890</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>18,890</td>
<td>16,367</td>
<td>16,670</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>838</td>
<td>16,694</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>128,160</td>
<td>(136)</td>
<td>128,023</td>
<td>117,392</td>
<td>113,091</td>
<td>5,050</td>
<td>5,169</td>
<td>122,442</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,371,377</strong></td>
<td><strong>(18,027)</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,353,351</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,092,792</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,064,998</strong></td>
<td><strong>37,031</strong></td>
<td><strong>33,474</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,129,823</strong></td>
<td><strong>81%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
C/ New legally binding contracts signed in 2011
* Commitment and Disbursement Rates calculated as a percentage of Funded (less Refunds on Unspent Balances). Some Agencies/Participating UN Organizations have included refunds as part of expenditure and disbursement hence the Commitments and Disbursement Rates will show an excess by Refunded Amounts.
Regular updates on activities and progress of the UNDG ITF as well as annual progress reports will continue to be available through the MPTF Office GATEWAY.