

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION UPDATE

IRAQ

19 January 2009

Cholera subsides but children remain at risk of water-borne disease

- UNICEF and partners interview over 9,000 families in over 40 acutely vulnerable communities to determine major gaps in essential social services
- The crisis of Christian IDPs in Nineveh has eased but remains volatile
- The emergence of gender-based violence as a threat to children and women in Dohuk and Erbil continues to grow
- Increasing reports of violence in schools are a growing concern for parents



1. ISSUES FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN

Cholera

The cholera outbreak of 2008 is considered to have subsided as the gradual decrease in new cases has now reduced to zero cases by mid December. Since cholera is endemic in Iraq, however, cases are expected to be reported sporadically, and monitoring of the situation continues. Up to and including week 49 of 2008, a total of 925 cases of cholera were confirmed, the vast majority of those occurring between weeks 33 to 41. 47% of cases were of children below five years of age. There were a total of 11 deaths (representing a fatality rate of less than 1.2%), 36% of which were children under five.

General

UNICEF humanitarian assessments completed in the reporting period have highlighted the alarming reality of life in Iraq's most neglected communities. In locations visited in Babil, Qadissiyah and Basra, only 31% of households report reliable access to safe drinking water. In those same communities, less than 35% of all surveyed households have functional and sanitary means of excreta disposal, and approximately 60% of families are consistently using safe hygiene practices in the home.

While violence in the family in Iraq goes mostly unreported, existing evidence shows that violence against women and girls is widespread, with 21.2% of women reporting experiencing physical violence in the home. Information on missing and/or separated children, which includes the issue of recruitment of children by extremist groups, is now beginning to trickle in, but remains very challenging to capture.

In the most deprived communities visited in Anbar, Babil and Basra, up to 52% of children under five had experienced a diarrhoeal episode in the two weeks prior to being surveyed, and in neglected pockets of Baghdad, Kerbala and Tamim, as few as 18% of children aged 12-23 months have been adequately immunized against measles. And while figures are still being verified, indications are that the nutritional status of children is equally troubling in these same communities.

Lastly, in communities assessed in Anbar, Babil and Basra, less than 60% of children aged 6-11 have regularly attended school in the past two school months. In Baghdad, Nineveh and Tamim, the figure drops to below 30%, an alarming decline. Moreover, the gap between boys and girls in enrolment and attendance remain significant at all levels. In many of these governorates, over 30% of primary schools are operating two or more shifts per day.

Specific

In locations assessed in Basra, the issue of reliable access to safe drinking water remains of paramount importance to many families. In the sub-district of Shatt al-Arab, a serious shortage of teaching and learning materials was reported by local education authorities.

The most alarming issue emerging from communities assessed in southern governorates is the sense of growing violence against children at school, both by teachers and other students. This issue may indicate a manifestation of the psychological effects of prolonged conflict on children and their duty bearers, as well as a possible increase of acceptance of violence in the home. Ways to address this issue more comprehensively, than is possible through existing programming, are being explored.

In Nineveh, following the displacement of nearly 15,000 people following violence and threats against the Christian population in Mosul, continued access to education and health services, and protection against violence, were the priority issues for children. The most affected parts of Mosul are still largely out of bounds for humanitarian workers, though UNICEF and partners are able to monitor and report on the status of community resources and basic services. The largest issue facing children is the ongoing violence in Mosul and the lack of basic services in outlying areas.

In Baghdad, vulnerabilities of children in the sub-district of Mada'in Qatha Center are found to be acute following the departure of extremists from the area. All basic services were neglected or damaged during the three-year occupation. For example, approximately 5,500 children in this location do not have reliable access to clean water. While some families report treating their water to make it safe, many do nothing to improve it. At least two schools are known to have suffered significant damage during fighting, one being 60% destroyed, with local education authorities having no option but to continue their use. Thankfully, the area is now relatively secure, and children are now able to resume outdoor recreational activities. The one

hospital serving the zone is operating but reports a shortage of supplies, and the only PHC operating is in a poor state.

Still in Baghdad, an assessment conducted in That al-Salasil revealed a mixed picture, with some basic services functioning fairly well and others needing more serious attention. One school in particular is severely overcrowded, with only six classrooms serving over 1,000 students over two shifts. Protection issues remain unclear as access to visit existing facilities was denied to the assessment team, suggesting that there is an opportunity for greater advocacy efforts in that location. The PHC serving this area does not have an effective or safe method of solid waste disposal and is prone to flooding even in light rain.

Families in assessed parts of Anbar remain acutely vulnerable due to lack of access to safe water and sanitation and a lack of child protection services. This was highlighted by the recent cholera outbreak, which impacted children in Anbar quite heavily.

In Tameem, as reported by a national NGO partner, Briar primary school in Arab Koyi village, Daquq district, was destroyed by burning by unknown persons in late November. While only 82 students are directly affected, this is a worrying indicator that targeting of schools by extremist groups is continuing.

As IDPs move back to their places of origin in Diyala, a number of schools have become overcrowded and there is a need for supplementary items such as desks and blackboards. In addition, IDP and returnee students are in need of stationary and text books as they have not been registered with the Directorate of Education (DoE) in order to receive the standard supplies distributed by the school. The UNICEF partner is undertaking assessments of schools in affected locations to better understand the extent of the issue.

In Sulaymaniyah, reports from national NGO partners indicate there may be an increase in child labor, with informal observations in Garmiyan area of greater numbers of children working on the streets and in the markets as vendors. This has the dual effect of placing children at risk of exposure to further exploitation, and damages future opportunities for development as these children are not attending school. Also in Sulimaniyah, the conditions for Arab families who arrived from Baquba and Baghdad two years ago have grown increasingly dire with the winter season. While local organizations are providing some support, vulnerabilities of these families persist. Lastly, local residents and civil society organizations report that drug abuse and addiction among youth is increasing, with the current services available being insufficient to provide proper treatment for drug addiction. Ways that UNICEF and partners can provide support on these issues will be explored in Q1 2009.

2. UNICEF RESPONSE: ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS

In collaboration with partners and government counterparts, UNICEF is currently investing US\$5.2 million in humanitarian interventions in 44 communities across the country. This action is in locations where families are experiencing acute vulnerability as a direct result of conflict, epidemic and/or natural disaster. The 44 communities in which action is ongoing are the first proactive interventions in the 57 sub-districts jointly prioritized by UNICEF, partners and local authorities in August 2008, and have a catchment population of over 1.1 million people. The geographical scope of this action will expand progressively as the assessment-response cycle continues. [A summary of ongoing action may be found on page 6 of this update.](#) Full details of each area-based intervention are available on request.

A selection of the efforts of UNICEF and its partners to reduce the vulnerability of children across Iraq during the reporting period is summarized below:

Anbar.

Humanitarian efforts focused on completing implementation of cholera response for over 3,200 families and beginning the implementation of area-based responses:

- Completion of a 3-month water tankering response to al Angour, Abu Jidea, al Mejear, Naoimiyah and Hitaween villages pending the installation of permanent purification units;
- Water purification units serving 1,000 families in al Angour, Abu Jidea and al Mejear have been repaired and handed over to the local Directorate of Water (DoW).
- Rehabilitation of the water treatment plant at Dafar, which serves 750 families, has been completed and handed over to the (DoW).

- Rehabilitation of classrooms and latrines in schools in Al Angour, Abu Jidea and al Mejeer will commence in January.
- Child Protection, Health and Hygiene Awareness Campaigns are ready for launch in January in communities around Lake Habaniya.
- Support to Mobile Medical Teams serving communities around Lake Habaniya are being prepared in close cooperation with the Directorate of Health (DoH).;
- Testing of the proposed UNICEF Psychosocial Materials for families and caregivers was carried out by conducting twelve interviews in two social institutes (six interviews in Al-Amal institute for handicapped children and six interviews in the local maternity hospital).

Babil.

Humanitarian action in November centred on the follow-up actions to the cholera crisis, including:

- The installation of 33 community water tanks (10,000 litres each) was completed in coordination with the DoW.
- Contracts have been awarded for the rehabilitation of compact units in al Dulab, Abu Sedara, al Baqir and al Haidary capable of serving 40,000 people, in collaboration with the DoW.
- School and PHC rehabilitation projects for al Zobaidi and Somood, Al Hilali and al Baqir and al Haswa are being tendered in preparation for contract awarding and construction to begin in early January;
- Plans for the distribution of hygiene items and awareness campaigns in health, hygiene and protection are in the process of being finalized;
- Implementation of the Child Friendly Space (CFS) approved for al Baqir was delayed when al Baqir Primary School declined to allow the use of its facilities for the CFS. This was overcome by securing the approval of the director of another school to use their facilities;
- Testing of the proposed UNICEF Psychosocial handbook materials was conducted by completing 12 interviews with people of varying vulnerability (children and youth, parents, etc.) during visits to a center for those injured or disabled in conflict.

Baghdad.

- In Meshahdah area, rehabilitation of latrines in 5 out of 6 schools has begun;
- Health, hygiene and child protection awareness campaigns will commence as soon as work on the latrines in Meshahdah schools is complete;
- Two schools in Meshahdah are to be supplied with pupils' desks and black boards in coordination with the DoE;
- Supply of medical consumable items to the Meshahdah PHC will commence pending security improvements;
- In Latifiya, the repair of al-Haq & al-Dayra water purification plants has commenced. The BoQs are to be endorsed by the local authorities. This is in addition to implement hygiene awareness campaign, for which preparations are nearing completion;
- Rehabilitation of latrines in 3 schools in Latifiya has commenced. This will be followed by an awareness campaign and teacher training for the child rights, as well as the distribution of Grades 1-6 student kits as well as teachers' kits;
- Preparations for the distribution of medical consumables to Al-Dayra PHC are nearly complete;
- CFS materials had been moved to al-Rafideen Youth Centre in Sadr City sector 57 (formerly referred to as al Hakeem Youth Center). The project is dependent on the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA) to officially open the facility before activities may begin;
- Preparations are complete to distribute adult hygiene kits to a further 2,500 families in still-vulnerable communities in Sadr City;
- In the al-Jisr area of al-Mada'in district, rehabilitation of latrines in 2 schools has commenced and will be complemented by hygiene awareness campaigns in the affected schools;

- Distribution of hygiene materials (jerry cans and water purification tablets with primary water purification instructions and education about safe water usage) was completed for 17 primary schools in Yousefia. By the end of this distribution, 8,050 jerry cans had been distributed along with 201,250 “sheets” of water purification tablets (each providing up to 5 liters).

UNICEF partners report that the overall security situation in locations where interventions are being implemented in Baghdad seems tenser than before. This is attributed to the impending handover of security for the International Zone to Iraqi Security Forces and the provincial elections scheduled for the end of January. Changes in the security profile are being monitored, and planned humanitarian action will need to remain flexible.

Nineveh.

Humanitarian action in December centered on providing solutions to the strains placed on IDP host communities in Tel Kef and Tel Usqof, including:

- Commencement of repair of a delivery unit at the Tel Usqof PHC in collaboration with the DoH.
- Commencement of rehabilitation of Tel Usqof School for Girls, serving over 600 students, in collaboration with DoE (in conjunction with distribution of school and teacher kits).
- Establishment of a Child Friendly Space – location selection underway as plans for curriculum and supplies needed are being planned.
- Conducting interviews for the testing of UNICEF psychosocial materials.

3. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS

As outlined in the CAP 2008, UNICEF Iraq required \$36.83 million to respond to immediate humanitarian needs in Iraq in 2008. By 31 December 2008, UNICEF Iraq had received \$37.4 million, equivalent to 101.65% of the total required amount.

Table 1: Funds Received Against CAP/HAR* as of 31 December 2008

UNICEF Iraq Humanitarian Funding Received by Sector (US\$)			
Sector	Funding Requirements*	Funding received**	% funded
Health and Nutrition	9,513,682	9,546,938	100.35%
WASH	13,869,026	14,039,615	101.23%
Education	8,740,356	8,985,354	102.80%
Protection	4,708,158	4,867,066	103.38%
Total***	36,831,222	37,438,973	101.65%

* UNICEF Iraq’s CAP requirements for 2008 are the same as the Mid-Year Review HAR requirements.

** Funding of \$3,072,200 was received from DFID in December 2008 against CAP 2009. However, this amount, to be programmed exclusively in 2009, has been included in the table below as it was received within the financial year 2008.

*** The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7%. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF’s Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

Further information on UNICEF Iraq’s humanitarian programme can be obtained from:

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IMPACT Proposal Summary Quarter 4 2008

No.	Partner	Governorate	District	Sub-District	Town / Village	WESH Action	Education Action	Protection Action	Health Action	Supply Investment	Hardware Investment	Software Investment	Total Investment	Catchment Population	Cost per Beneficiary
1	IMC	Babil	Al Mahawil	Al Kawther	Al Zobaidi, Al Somood	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ 10,000	\$ 48,000	\$ 5,500	\$ 63,500	34,000	\$ 1.87
2	IMC	Babil	Al Mahawil	Al Kawther	Al Hilali, Al Baqir	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ 2,000	\$ 48,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 70,000	14,853	\$ 4.71
3	IMC	Baghdad	Mahmoudiya	Al Latifiya	Al Haq, Al Dayrah, Al Zuhoor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ 39,650	\$ 58,600	\$ 1,000	\$ 99,250	30,000	\$ 3.31
4	IMC	Baghdad	Tarmiya	Tarmiya Qatha	Meshahdah	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ 36,600	\$ 192,300	\$ 2,000	\$ 230,900	22,000	\$ 10.50
5	IMC	Baghdad	Al Sadr	Al Sadr 2	Sectors 57 & 58	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ 136,250	\$ 40,000	\$ 500	\$ 176,750	30,000	\$ 5.89
6	IMC	Nineveh	Hamdaniyah, Telkeif	Hamdaniyah, Telkeif	8 villages	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ 183,000	\$ 252,000	\$ 23,500	\$ 458,500	13,800	\$ 33.22
7	IMC	Baghdad	Al Sadr	Al Sadr 2	Sectors 10 & 11	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ 136,250	\$ 40,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 177,250	30,000	\$ 5.91
8	IMC	Babil	Al Mussayab	Al Iskandaria	Al Haswa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ -	\$ 175,000	\$ 22,000	\$ 197,000	24,000	\$ 8.21
9	IMC	Anbar	Al Ramadi	Al Habaniya	Angour, Budjea, Mejear	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ -	\$ 45,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 73,000	21,200	\$ 3.44
10	IMC	Baghdad	Al Mada'in	Al Jisr	4 villages	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	\$ 4,000	\$ 32,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 39,000	22,000	\$ 1.77
11	Intersos	Thiqar	Chibayish	Chibayish Nahiah	Al Sherqiya Zone	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	\$ 18,300	\$ 51,000	\$ 3,870	\$ 73,170	35,000	\$ 2.09
12	Intersos	Qadisiya	Diwaniya	Shafiea	Shafiea Center	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ -	\$ 51,100	\$ 4,930	\$ 56,030	16,250	\$ 3.45
13	Intersos	Muthanna	Al Rumiatha	Al Najmi	First Zone	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ -	\$ 116,324	\$ 12,915	\$ 129,239	26,650	\$ 4.85
14	Intersos	Najaf	Kufa	Kufa Qatha	Zone 1 (7 villages)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ 213,500	\$ 33,000	\$ 8,600	\$ 255,100	20,000	\$ 12.76
15	Intersos	Basra	Shatt Al Arab	Al Fayhaa	Zone 1 (5 villages)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ 140	\$ 43,300	\$ 14,000	\$ 57,440	11,000	\$ 5.22
16	Intersos	Qadisiya	Hamza	All	All	Yes	No	No	Yes	\$ 13,200	\$ -	\$ 24,000	\$ 37,200	50,000	\$ 0.74
17	Intersos	Muthanna	Al Rumaitha	Al Najmi	Zone 2	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	\$ -	\$ 87,000	\$ 3,510	\$ 90,510	30,250	\$ 2.99
18	Intersos	Qadisiya	Diwaniya	Shafiea	Al Qesm, Al Sharqi	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	\$ 6,322	\$ 172,000	\$ 3,300	\$ 181,622	24,050	\$ 7.55
19	Intersos	Thiqar	Chibayash	Chibayish Qatha	Al Gherbiya	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ -	\$ 46,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 54,000	20,000	\$ 2.70
20	Relief International	Karbala	Karbala Center	Al Husseinia	Aon	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	\$ 16,000	\$ 23,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 48,000	20,000	\$ 2.40
21	Relief International	Karbala	Karbala Center	Al Hurr	Al Askary	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	\$ 40,750	\$ 18,000	\$ 10,700	\$ 69,450	20,000	\$ 3.47
22	Relief International	Wassit	Badra	Jassan	6 villages	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	\$ 133,590	\$ 37,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 195,590	20,000	\$ 9.78
23	Relief International	Karbala	Karbala Center	Al Hurr	Al Taka	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	\$ 103,700	\$ 32,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 152,700	20,000	\$ 7.64
24	Relief International	Missan	Kalat Salih	Kalat Salih Center	Al Bo Zaid	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	\$ 31,602	\$ 45,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 84,602	19,600	\$ 4.32
25	Relief International	Wassit	Al Hai	Al Bashaer	Al Bashaer Center (4 villages)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ 162,375	\$ -	\$ 58,000	\$ 220,375	43,000	\$ 5.13
26	Mercy Corps	Kirkuk	Kirkuk Center	Qara	Hanjeer	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ 61,000	\$ -	\$ 22,500	\$ 83,500	7,647	\$ 10.92
27	Mercy Corps	Kirkuk	Kirkuk Center	Um Al Maarik	Um Al Maarik	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ 62,000	\$ -	\$ 24,500	\$ 86,500	11,555	\$ 7.49
28	Mercy Corps	Kirkuk	Haweeja	Abassia	Abassia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ 62,000	\$ 53,000	\$ 24,500	\$ 139,500	30,673	\$ 4.55
29	Mercy Corps	Kirkuk	Daquq	Shwan	Shwan	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ 61,000	\$ -	\$ 25,500	\$ 86,500	29,000	\$ 2.98
30	Mercy Corps	Kirkuk	Kirkuk Center	Yaychi	Al Ton Kopri	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ 61,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ 86,000	21,000	\$ 4.10
31	Mercy Corps	Salah Al-Din	Beiji	Al Seenia	Al Seenia	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ 65,000	\$ -	\$ 34,755	\$ 99,755	31,500	\$ 3.17
32	Mercy Corps	Salah Al-Din	Balad	Dhoulia	Dhoulia	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ 130,000	\$ 17,632	\$ 71,000	\$ 218,632	48,450	\$ 4.51
33	Mercy Corps	Salah Al-Din	Samara	Mutassim	Mutassim	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ 62,000	\$ -	\$ 34,775	\$ 96,775	22,100	\$ 4.38
34	Mercy Corps	Diyala	Muqdadiya	Abu Saida	Abu Saida	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ 130,000	\$ 49,891	\$ 60,000	\$ 239,891	40,400	\$ 5.94
35	Mercy Corps	Diyala	Baladriz	Mandali	Mandali	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ 65,000	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ 95,000	22,100	\$ 4.30
36	Mercy Corps	Diyala	Khanaquin	Sadiya	Sadiya	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ 65,000	\$ -	\$ 29,920	\$ 94,920	40,000	\$ 2.37
37	Mercy Corps	Diyala	Muqdadiya	Wajaheia	Wajaheia	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ 65,000	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ 95,000	27,430	\$ 3.46
38	Mercy Corps	Dohuk	Al Amedi	Deraluk	Sheladiza	No	Yes	Yes	No	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 18,215	\$ 28,215	26,500	\$ 1.06
39	Mercy Corps	Dohuk	Al Amedi	Deraluk	Deraluk Center	No	Yes	Yes	No	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 18,215	\$ 28,215	20,000	\$ 1.41
40	Mercy Corps	Sulaymaniyah	Halabja	Khurmali	Khurmali	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ 20,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 135,000	20,000	\$ 6.75
41	Mercy Corps	Erbil	Makhmur	Makhmur Qatha	Makhmur Qatha	Yes	No	No	Yes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	25,000	\$ 0.80
42	Mercy Corps	Erbil	Makhmur	Qarach	Qarach Qatha	Yes	No	No	Yes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	13,400	\$ 1.49
43	Mercy Corps	Sulaymaniyah	Qalar	Rizgary	Rizgary Center	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ 32,700	\$ 120,000	\$ 54,000	\$ 206,700	30,000	\$ 6.89
44	Mercy Corps	Kirkuk	Kirkuk Center	Yaychi	Yaychi	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$ 65,000	\$ -	\$ 24,371	\$ 89,371	20,604	\$ 4.34
										\$ 2,313,929	\$ 1,991,147	\$ 934,576	\$ 5,239,652	1,105,012	\$ 4.74
										44%	38%	18%			