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Schoolchildren at the Al-Farazdaq Primary School in Baghdad receive their new school bags and equipment, provided as part of UNICEF's Back-to-School initiative in Iraq.

V - CHILD PROTECTION IN EMERGENCIES

Procurement for emergencies: \$60 million¹

As part of UNICEF's emergency preparedness and response activities, Supply Division has committed itself to ensuring an immediate turnaround for emergency orders. To strengthen its response capacity, the Division established a new Emergency Coordination Unit in 2004, to streamline cooperation within UNICEF and provide 24 hour emergency coverage every day of the year. The Unit also addresses emergency logistics and develops inter-agency relations. Strengthening UNICEF's global capacity within supply and logistics is essential to meeting the organization's goals and core commitments for children in emergencies.

The emergency logistics function provides expertise and guidance on the clearance, warehousing and end-user distribution of supplies. In addition, it builds capacity within the organization and consolidates inter-agency collaboration, especially with the UN Joint Logistics Centre (UNJLC), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). In 2004, the Unit deployed its own logistics officers to Chad and South-East Asia, for example, and supervised the deployment of external logistics staff to Sudan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Uganda.

Supply Division also hosted a workshop organized by the UNJLC in September, to build inter-agency human resource logistics capacity in response to large-scale emergencies. The Emergency Coordination Unit manages the roster of logistics staff that can be rapidly deployed, and will develop European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO)-funded emergency preparedness tools in 2005.

Another outcome of UNICEF's commitment to strengthening its emergency preparedness and response capacity is the establishment of a network of strategic regional emergency hubs to complement the main warehouse operation in Copenhagen. These hubs contain emergency supplies that are ready for dispatch within 48 hours. The first emergency hub opened in 2003 in Johannesburg, South Africa. In June 2004, the second warehouse began operations in Dubai. These facilities are already proving their value. In 2004, the Dubai and the Johannesburg Hubs shipped \$6.5 million worth of emergency supplies, enabling UNICEF to respond faster and for less. Another hub will be established in Panama in the course of 2005, providing UNICEF with global reach in emergency response, and with sufficient supplies to cover the needs of 320,000 children and their families for three weeks.

¹ - This figure includes offshore and warehouse procurement. It is part of the total value of supplies provided for each organizational priority.