

## **UN Signs 2011-14 Programme Action Plans with Iraqi Govt**

The **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**, **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** have signed their Country Programme Action Plans for their respective 2011-2014 Programmes of Cooperation with the Government of Iraq. The signings endorse the key results the agencies will deliver over the next four years in support of the Government of Iraq's development agenda.

"These signings ensure the United Nations' support in many critical areas of the Government of Iraq's National Development Plan, including the attainment of its Millennium Development Goal targets by 2015 to improve the well-being of the Iraqi population" said Christine McNab, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Iraq. "Activities will be undertaken to build the Government of Iraq's capacity to deliver essential services to those most in need, create employment opportunities, and strengthen mechanisms to improve governance and protect the fundamental rights of all citizens."

Via a robust Public Sector Modernization program, the three United Nations organizations will contribute to creating a public sector that delivers high quality and equitable services, especially in the areas of education, water and sanitation, and health services. Additionally, assistance will be given to the rehabilitation of existing run-down power stations as well as the building of new power stations, clearance of mines and other remnants of war will continue and environmental programmes will be started together with the government and local communities.

Children and young adults up to 35 years of age, who represent 80% of the Iraqi population, need quality education and meaningful economic opportunities that enable them to become the drivers of a future stable and prosperous Iraq. Education and health programmes are essential and through a Private Sector Development Programme, the private sector will be stimulated to create more jobs in a more diversified economy. By promoting equal opportunities for men and women in terms of education and employment, a more gender-balanced workforce will be created in which women and men alike will participate in the political, economic and social recovery of Iraq

The UN will intensify efforts to strengthen the capacity of key institutions, such as the Council of Representatives and Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC), to promote inclusive and participatory governance. To accelerate efforts to tackle corruption, the UN will build the capacity of the Commission of Integrity. A youth strategy that creates mechanisms for 15-24 year olds to be active in the country's development will be launched. The UN will also support the establishment of the

Human Rights Commission. The Rule of Law, independence of the judiciary and access to justice for all, including women and children, will be promoted.

The three organizations' Country Programme Action Plans are costed at over \$600 million over a four year period, which represents more than one-third of the total resources required for the United Nations programme in Iraq as agreed with the Government for 2011-2014.

### **About UNICEF Iraq**

UNICEF has been on the ground in Iraq since 1983 working to ensure Iraqi children survive and realize their full potential. UNICEF is supporting the Government of Iraq to develop child friendly policies, build the capacity of institutions that deliver essential services to children, and convene all duty bearers to realize the full rights of Iraqi children. Via a network of staff and partners, UNICEF's programmes continue to improve basic health services, safeguard a quality education, rebuild water and sanitation systems, protect children from abuse, violence, and exploitation, and meet the needs of the most vulnerable in crisis situations.

### **About UNDP Iraq**

Celebrating 35 years in Iraq in 2011, UNDP has been in Iraq since 1976, working with the Government of Iraq to promote: transparent, accountable and participatory governance; pro-poor, equitable and inclusive socio-economic and environmental policies and development; and diversified growth and public sector development as the foundations of human security and development. The value of UNDP's CPAP (2011-2014) is \$378 million of which \$18 million will come from UNDP's core resources. UNDP works in all governorates in Iraq. Currently there are 40 staff in Iraq (6 internationals), which by the end of 2011 will increase to 60 staff (including 10 internationals).

### **About UNFPA Iraq**

UNFPA Iraq focuses on women and youth issues through four components: 1. Reproductive and women's health 2. Youth 3. Gender equality 4. Population and development (support census, statistical system modernization and population surveys)

In all components UNFPA is working in close collaboration with the line ministries, NGOs, UN agencies and other partners to advocate and support with a high level and specific technical expertise.

*(Source: UNAMI)*