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UNDG Iraq Trust Fund

January 2006 Newsletter



FIGURES:

- 24 DONORS TO DATE
- 16 IMPLEMENTING UN ORGANIZATIONS
- US\$ 903.4 mill TOTAL GROSS DEPOSITS
- US\$ 759.3 mill APPROVED FUNDING FOR A TOTAL OF 83 PROJECTS
- US\$ 135.4 mill AVAILABLE BALANCE ALLOCATED TO CLUSTERS FOR PROJECTS MOSTLY UNDER FORMULATION AND/OR APPROVAL
- US\$ 564.2 mill (74%) OF APPROVED FUNDING CONTRACTUALLY COMMITTED
- US\$ 430.1 mill (57%) OF APPROVED FUNDING DISBURSED
- US\$ 453.0 mill CONTRACT AWARDS POSTED ON THE UNDG ITF PROCUREMENT SECTION OF IRFFI WEBSITE www.irffi.org

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1. LATEST NEWS

Gross Donor Contributions

During December 2005 and January 2006 the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund (ITF) received significant additional contributions:

- **EC:** \$52.4 mill earmarked to Governance & Human Development and Support to the Electoral Process
- **Canada:** \$8.6 mill earmarked to Support of Electoral Process and Governance & Human Development (Human Rights)
- **Korea:** \$4 mill earmarked to Refugees, IDPs & Durable Solutions; Agriculture, Food Security, Environment & Natural Resources (Mine Action); and Support to the Electoral Process
- **Sweden:** \$3.8 mill earmarked to Support for the Electoral Process
- **Denmark:** \$3.2 mill earmarked to Support for the Electoral Process
- **Greece:** €2.4 mill: €0.5 mill earmarked to Governance & Human Development (Constitutional Process) and €1.9 mill earmarked to Mine Action was received early February 2006 and will be reflected in next issue of the UNDG ITF Newsletter

Gross deposited contributions to the UNDG ITF as of end January 2006 increased to \$903.4 mill (an increase of \$72 mill over end November 2005). For details refer to Donor Contributions link on the UNDG ITF section of the IRFFI website (www.irffi.org).

Deputy Special Representation of the Secretary General and Chairman of the UNDG ITF Steering Committee visits Japan

DSRSG Staffan de Mistura visited Japan from 18 to 23 January at the invitation of Japanese authorities and met with 34 Japanese government senior officials in Tokyo including from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Finance, Japanese International Cooperation Agency, Japan Bank of International Cooperation, various members of the Diet, officials of the Red Cross and Japanese Business Association. The DSRSG discussed possible future cooperation

with the UNDG ITF including the Japanese interest in supporting UN agencies in the Muthanna Area in the fields of health, education, water, electricity as well as nation-wide support in the field of education and health and/or follow up activities to constitutional development and governance.

Iraq UN Country Team at retreat 17 to 19 December 2005 identifies strategy for 2006

The Iraq UNCT held its annual retreat at the Dead Sea from 17 to 19 December 2005. The UNCT reviewed lessons learned from 2005 and priorities for 2006. While the delivery of basic services (including through emergency interventions, when required) will continue to be a priority in 2006, the need for longer term regular programming linked to the MDGs was agreed. This will involve support to governance and the constitutional process, humanitarian assistance with focus on durable solutions, the rule of law and human rights, support to the electoral process and donor coordination, among others.

The retreat also agreed to convene three task forces. The first will look at project processes with particular attention to synergy with Iraqi national processes such as "Sector Working Groups". A second task force will examine the structure of the clusters as they stand now and the profile and Terms of Reference of Cluster Coordinators, as well as the best ways to attain efficiency especially in larger clusters. The third task force will focus on the integration of cross cutting themes of: gender; human rights; the environment; employment creation; security; and perhaps a new theme of national dialogue and reconciliation.

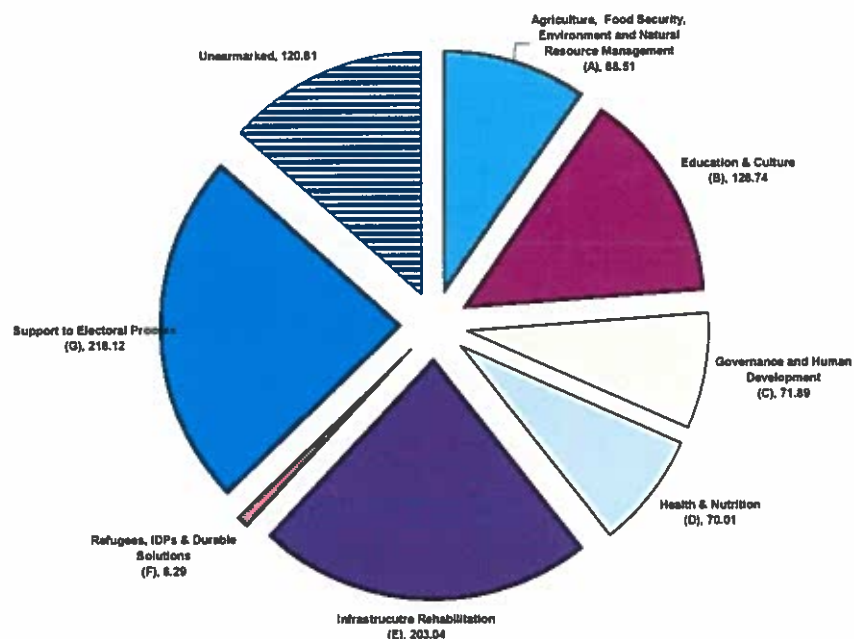
The UNCT will develop a concept paper/strategy for 2006 in consultation with the Iraqi government in preparation for the next IRFFI donor committee meeting.

New Format for UNDG ITF Newsletter

Beginning this month the newsletter will provide a more in depth progress updates of one to two clusters each month, instead of providing project progress highlights from all clusters every month. The January 2006 newsletter features the Support for Electoral Process (Cluster G) highlighting the recent 15 December 2005 elections and the Refugees, IDPs and Durable Solutions (Cluster F). We would welcome your feedback on this new format.

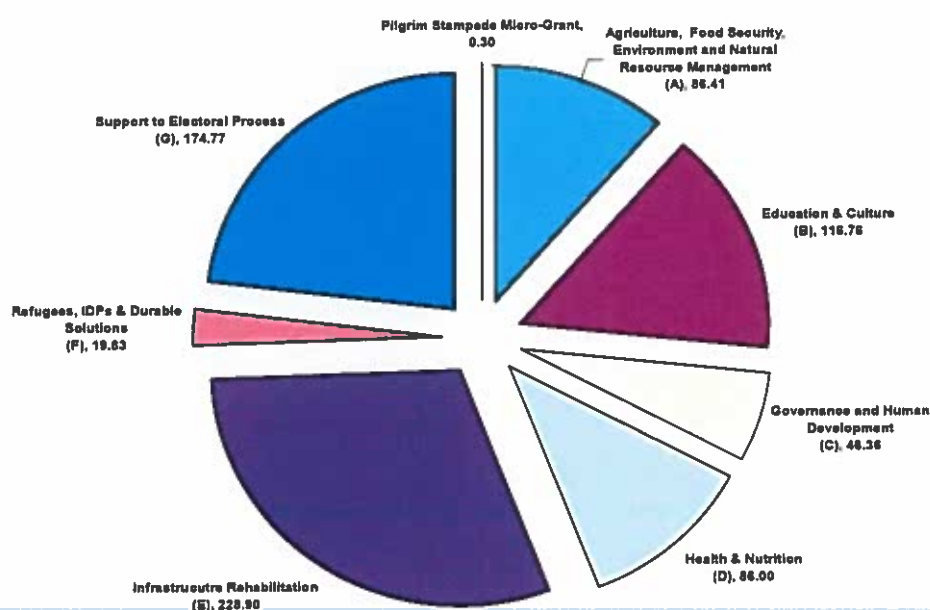
2. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2.1 Donor Deposits, breakdown by Cluster and Donor (\$US mill)



Donor	Gross Deposit (US\$ mill)
Japan	360.95
EC/EC RRM	297.13
UK	55.54
Canada	46.40
Italy	29.78
Spain	20.00
Australia	16.75
Korea	11.00
Sweden	10.62
Denmark	7.69
Norway	7.01
Netherlands	6.70
Finland	6.23
India	5.00
Kuwait	5.00
Qatar	5.00
US	5.00
New Zealand	2.36
Belgium	1.32
Luxembourg	1.24
Ireland	1.23
Greece	0.76
Iceland	0.50
Turkey	0.20
TOTAL	903.41

2.2 Approved Funding, breakdown by Cluster and Implementing UN Organization (\$US mill)



Agency	Approved Funding (US\$ mill)	No. of Projects
UNDP	255.53	22
UNOPS	137.43	10
UNICEF	92.78	5
WHO	70.85	8
UNHABITAT	49.38	6
FAO	49.14	5
UNESCO	31.57	11
UNEP	16.61	3
UNIDO	14.97	3
UNFPA	12.60	1
UNHCR	10.09	2
ESCWA	7.48	3
WFP	7.00	1
UNIFEM	3.57	2
ILO	0.32	1
TOTAL	759.32	83

3. Cluster G: Support to Electoral Process

CLUSTER G FIGURES TO DATE

- Deposits: \$218 mill by 16 donors
- Approved Funding: \$174 mill for 8 projects
- Implementing agencies: UNESCO, UNDP, UNOPS, UNIFEM, UN EAD
- Contract Commitments: \$180 mill
- Disbursements: \$153 mill

Projects:

- G11-02 "Support to Electoral Process –Phase 2" (UNDP—11.3 mill)
- G11-03 "Support to Electoral Process –Phase 3" (UNDP—39.1 mill)
- G11-04 "Technical Assistance to IECI" (UNDP—7.8 mill)
- G11-06 "Support to Observer Groups –Phase 1" (UNOPS—3.4 mill)
- G11-07 "Support for fair, safe and professional media coverage" (UNESCO—0.6 mill)
- G11-08 "Logistics Support to IECI –Phase 1" (UNOPS—45.3 mill)
- G11-09 "Logistics Support to IECI –Phase 2" (UNOPS—61.3 mill)
- G11-10 "Support to Observer Groups –Phase 2" (UNOPS—6.0 mill)

Results of Iraqi election published

Following the report of the International Mission for Iraqi Elections Assessment mission (IMIE) on 19 January 2006 the uncertified results of the elections were published by the Independent Electoral Commission for Iraq (IECI) on 20 January 2006. Final certified results have just been announced (10 February 2006) after completing the requirements for allocation of national and compensatory seats. (please refer to the web site of IECI: www.ieciraq.org for the press release)

The Electoral Law was adopted by the broad majority of Transitional National Administration members on 12 September 2005. In it, the electoral system includes 230 seats elected in the governorates, awarded to entities through a Hare Quota and largest remainders and 45 to either entities that did not win governorate seats but meet a threshold ('the natural threshold' calculated by dividing the total voter turnout into 275) and to the parties that got governorate seats proportionally to their results nationwide. The system was described in IMIE's Preliminary report as an attempt "to achieve a balance between majority and minority interests".

The UNDG ITF received generous support from IRFFI donors and provided significant support to the 15 December electoral process.

Provision of Logistical and GEO Support - UNOPS

UNOPS provided key logistical support in a number of areas to the IECI and Governorate Electoral Offices (GEO) for the 15 December elections both planned ahead of time and in response to last minute requests from the IECI.

The logistics hub—the central handling, storage and distribution point for the December Elections for The National Assembly in Iraq was located at Sharjah Airport in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Materials required a substantial amount of handling and preparation at a central hub prior to being distributed to Governorate Warehouses. The decision to base the logistics hub in the UAE rather

than in Iraq was taken as a result of the following factors:

- The difficulties in maintaining safe and secure warehouse and handling facilities throughout many parts of Iraq;
- The volatile nature of the security situation in Iraq meant that it was critical to minimize the exposure of materials where possible;

Due to the security situation the movement of materials from the logistics hub via the Governorate warehouses to the Polling Centers had to be achieved in the shortest time and as close to Polling Day as possible. The main focus of the out of Iraq Logistics Operation was to ensure that Election materials procured outside Iraq were:

- Produced to specification and in a manner that would allow them to be securely transported from production source to the Governorate Warehouses in Iraq
- To monitor and supervise the movement of Election materials from the point of production to the required airfield in Iraq prior to onward distribution to the Governorate Warehouses
- To ensure that all relevant information was disseminated to the Election Logistics Teams both in and out of Iraq
- To conduct training for the IECI Governorate Warehouse Managers (five day training in UAE)



Arrival of election materials in Iraq

Summary of election materials transported into Iraq

Materials (procured directly by the IECI using Iraqi government budget) required for the December elections in Iraq fell into two categories:

Item	Supplier	Production Source	Quantity in Storage
Polling Station Kits	Danish Camp Supply	China	33,500
Polling Centre Kits	Danish Camp Supply	China	6,500
Security Seals	Code Inc	Canada	460,000
Ballot Boxes & Lids	Code Inc	Canada	15,000

3. Cluster G update (continued)

Materials produced and transported to UAE following the start of the December Election Logistics Operation:

Item	Supplier	Production Source	Quantity Procured
Governorate Ballot Papers	Code Inc	Canada	20,620,200
National Ballot Papers	Code Inc	Canada	300,000
Voter Lists	Code Inc	Canada	45,253
Presiding Officer Envelopes	Austrian Media Group	Austria	32,460
Bottles of Indelible Ink	Danish Camp Supply	India	68,000

Transportation of Election Materials

Following a competitive tender process Kuehne and Nagel (K&N) were awarded the contract to transport materials for both the October Referendum and the December Elections from the point of production to the Governorate warehouses in Iraq via the UAE logistics hub.

The Election Operation fell into the broad phases indicated in the table to the right.

UNOPS monitored and supervised all activities of K&N during the handling and storage operations at the Logistics Hub, including: Inspection and count of all incoming materials; Management of the storage of all election materials; Allocation and labeling of materials by Governorate; Repalletising of materials for onward shipment according to the type of aircraft being used; Quality Control at each stage of the handling and storage operation.

For the transport of materials from UAE Hub to four Airfields in Iraq (Basrah, Baghdad, Erbil and Anbar) the UN Logistics Team monitored the loading process; advised on the unique transport requirements for election materials and ensured that the correct materials were loaded onto the correct flights.

The UN Logistics Team in UAE also ensured that up to date information was disseminated to the relevant individuals and groups. Daily updates were provided on operations and materials movement. Material allocation and estimated weights and volumes per Governorate were provided on an as needed basis.

The movement of material from UAE Logistics Hub to Iraq had to be planned to fit in with the receipt of Ballot Papers, Voter Lists and Presiding Officer Envelopes from the suppliers. K&N planned to transport all materials for a specific Governorate into Iraq at the same time and on as few flights as possible in order to allow for materials to be transported from the airfield to the Governorate Warehouse in a single secure convoy. Therefore flights into Iraq could not commence until all materials arrived from the suppliers. The first date at which all materials for every Governorate were in UAE was 2 December 2005. In addition K&N could not commence flights into Iraq prior to 2 December as ma-

Phase	K&N Coordination	UN Coordination	Period of Activity
Transport from production source to the UAE Logistics Hub	K&N Copenhagen	Out of Iraq Logistics Team	25 Nov. to 2 Dec.
Preparation and planning for the Election Logistics Operation	K&N Dubai	Out of Iraq Logistics Team	1 Nov. to 12 Nov.
Storage of Materials between Referendum Operation and Election Operation	K&N Dubai	Out of Iraq Logistics Team	8 Oct. to 12 Nov.
Handling Operation in UAE Logistics Hub	K&N Dubai	Out of Iraq Logistics Team	12 Nov. to 7 Dec.
Transport from UAE to Airports in Iraq (x4)	K&N Dubai	Out of Iraq Logistics Team	2 Dec. to 8 Dec.
Transport (incl. convoy security) from Airport to Governorate Warehouses (x19)	K&N Amman	In and Out of Iraq Logistics Team	3 Dec. to 9 Dec.

terials could not be delivered to the Governorate Warehouses before adequate security for the warehouses would be in place on 3 December 2005.

23 flights carried election materials from the regional hub in Sharjah to the designated airfields in Iraq -Baghdad, Basrah, Erbil and al Taqqadum (in al Anbar province). Following offload at the Iraqi air-hubs onward transport of the election materials to GEO Warehouses was by road (truck convoys accompanied by security details). The delivery to the warehouses was accomplished on time and without major reported incident.

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 authorised to stand down following retrieval of the tally sheets.

3. Cluster G update (continued)

Daily reports document both presence of personnel and any reported incidents. All security teams were relieved of duty by 29 December 2005.

Governorate Electoral Office Support Unit

Field Officers, deployed in six locations in Iraq during the referendum and election, provided key support to Governorate Electoral Offices through to 10 January 2006.

Retrieval of Tally Sheets

Following a request from IECI, the UN was asked to include the retrieval of Tally Sheets as a second objective in the Logistics Extension Project. A plan was prepared to ensure the collection, securing and delivery of the tally sheets to the IECI HQ. The tally sheets were duly gathered from the GEOs. During the entire operation staff from the UNOPS contractor were accompanied by IECI staff, who then handed over the tally sheets at IECI HQ in Baghdad.

Transport of Polling Workers

Following receipt of an urgent request from the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq (IECI) to the United Nations, reviewed by UNEAD in Baghdad, UNOPS was requested to incorporate the movement of 800 election workers from BIAP to al-Anbar province. Charter flights to al-Anbar were arranged (in-bound on 7-9 December, out-bound on 17, 18 December) for the staff who were transferred from other locales to man the polling centres in al-Anbar.

Assistance to Observer Groups and the Institutional Memory Project - UNOPS

Assistance to Observer Groups

As part of UNDG ITF assistance to the elections UNOPS provided support to domestic electoral observers within Iraq. To avoid any perception of conflict of interest, the IECI was unable to contact domestic observer groups directly. Instead partnering agreements were signed between UNEAD, UNOPS and three partner organisations – Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS), NDI/EIN and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Foundation (FES). IECI accredited observer groups were provided through the partner organisations with limited financial support to assist them in carrying out their tasks. Funds were provided to groups and organizations who in the opinion of UNOPS were credible groups undertaking objective observation.

20,000 Iraqi observers were trained through implementing partners in Iraq. In addition, financial support was granted to the main network of observers (EIN). EIN has 152 NGO partners and a volunteer base of 10,000 registered monitors of which 8,134 observed on the day of election. 10 additional observer groups were provided with limited financial support to carry out the activity on referendum and election days.

Institutional Memory Project – Ongoing

The objective of this component of the project is to gather, categorise and make accessible documents relating to the January 2005 elections. The core team started in early October. National assistants were recruited in November and essential equipment

was purchased or loaned from existing stores. The project will be extended after the initial period ending mid-February, with the planned outputs being a database hosting materials and documents pertaining to the October Referendum as well as the January 2005 elections, and a website to make the database accessible to individuals and institutions wishing to avail themselves of the materials.

Technical Assistance and electoral experts in Iraq and Jordan – UNDP Ongoing

The United Nations project of Technical Assistance provided the IECI with 25 international electoral experts in Baghdad starting from the International Commissioner who is a non-voting member of the Board of Commissioners and provides technical advice to the board assuring international standards are applied. In addition, other members of the team provided essential support to the electoral administration in the areas of Finance, Operations, Logistics, Public Outreach, Legal support, Security and communications.

Additionally UNDP contracted security services for the IECI Commissioners.

Contribution of UNIFEM

Women's participation in voting events is generally of concern and particularly so in Iraq, due to the difficult security situation. However, through the media campaign and in collaboration with its local partners, UNIFEM 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 materials, 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 TV roundtable discussion and radio call-in programmes.

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 modifications to the constitution to protect women's rights.



Ongoing activities in 2006

Cluster G received a request from IECI to transport the pre-positioned "Strategic Reserve" materials from the January 2005 elections currently stored in three Military Bases in Tilil,

3. Cluster G update (continued)



Balad and Mosul to the nearest GEO warehouse. In addition it was requested that contingency stocks for the 15 December election currently stored in the contractor's warehouse in Baghdad be moved to the most convenient IECI Warehouse. The UN will initiate a competitive bidding process to find a contractor to transport these election materials; however this is still pending due to some delay in provision of precise details of the quantities and condition of the materials to be transported.

There has been a protracted discussion on how best to

dispose of the almost 14 tons of un-used Presiding Officer envelopes stored in the warehouse facilities in UAE. 47 pallets of material is waiting to be delivered to the IECI in Baghdad.

Movement of Out of Country Voting (OCV) Assets

Based on a request from IECI on 14 January the UN was asked to convey the remaining assets used in the Amman OCV offices. Specifications (weight, volume and inventory) were received on 17 January and based on this a competitive bidding process has been initiated, which also takes into account the degree of urgency, given that the IECI team must now vacate their local offices.

Cluster G Strategy for 2006

The transitional period in Iraq will end with the formation of the new Parliament and Government. According to the Transitional Administrative Law, the mandate of the current IECI will lapse at the end of the transitional period. The Constitution (article 99) calls for the creation by law of an Independent Electoral High Commission (IEHC). In the absence of a law creating the permanent election commission, the IECI mandate will extend for three months beyond the end of the transitional period.

There are two possible electoral events in 2006 – local elections (governorate council and district elections) and a referendum on any changes to the Constitution which may occur as a result of the Constitutional review process.

The Transitional National Assembly, prior to its dissolution, passed a law requiring governorate elections two months from the date of the formation of the new government. The law stated that the IECI should conduct these elections. However, the draft law was not approved by the Presidency Council. Thus the decision will fall to the new parliament.

As part of UN EAD's Standard procedures, a lessons learned exercise will take place late March 2006 to include participants from IECI, EAD and implementing agencies. This exercise will

help IECI plan for immediate, mid-term and long term tasks.

Cluster G has received two requests from IECI after the December elections. The first was to extend the current security services provided to the board of commissioners in view of the continuous high level of risk in Iraq. The second request deals with identifying an international auditing firm to audit IECI's OCV operation.

2006 Key Tasks

Governorate council and local elections, and a constitutional referendum, could take place in the second half of the year. It is likely that any scheduled electoral events will be held at the same time. A date of mid-October will be used for planning purposes.

Assistance will cover the following areas:

- Support and advice to National Assembly in creating a legal framework.
- Assist voter register initiatives, including updates of the existing and/or partial registrations in preparation for an electoral event, and advice and support on a permanent voter role.
- Support and advice in conducting electoral events. A tentative list of activities includes: Operations, Logistics, Field Support, International procurement, Training and procedures in particular for permanent administration in HQ and GEOs, Legal advice on transition to permanent Electoral Commission, Support to new Board, Public Outreach, translations, IT, Coordination of donors and international assistance to Electoral Commission.
- Indirect support to the electoral process such as support to women and youth participation

Timing

UN staff required to support an electoral event should be in place 60-90 days in advance of the event (Mid-July to mid-August assuming mid-October electoral event)



4. Cluster F: Refugees, IDPs and Durable Solutions

CLUSTER F FIGURES TO DATE

- Deposits: \$8 mill from Australia and Korea
- Approved Funding: \$20 mill (\$6 mill earmarked and \$14 mill unearmarked) for 3 projects
- Implementing agencies: UNHCR and UNOPS
- Contract commitments: \$19 mill
- Disbursements: \$18 mill

Projects:

- F8-01 "Return and Reintegration of IDPs in Northern Iraq" (UNOPS—9.7 mil)
- F8-02 "Return and Reintegration of Iraqis and other of concern in Southern Iraq" (UNHCR—7.1 mil)
- F8-03 "Return and Reintegration of Iraqis and other of concern in Northern Iraq" (UNHCR—2.9 mil)

Introduction

Displacement in and from Iraq remains one of the nation's most pressing concerns. Approximately 2.5 million Iraqis are still displaced within or outside Iraq, out of a national population of 26 million.

Cluster F (previously 8) is led by UNHCR as Cluster Coordinator and IOM as Deputy Cluster Coordinator, and includes the following cluster partners: UNAMI, UNOPS, UN-Habitat, WHO, UNICEF, UNEP, WFP, UNDP, OHCHR, FAO, ILO and UNIDO. Cluster F supports the Iraqi authorities in providing effective assistance and protection to uprooted populations in Iraq, preventing new displacement and the achievement of durable solutions in line with the National Development Strategy. The Cluster's principal objectives comprise support for developing and implementing national strategies addressing displacement, strengthening of national capacity and enhancing application of international protection standards for all populations. Cluster F utilizes multi-sectoral programming, funded by both UNDG-ITF donors and other bilateral sources, to assist Iraq in ending displacement.

Major Developments in UNDG ITF Project Activities

a. Impact of UNDG ITF Projects in 2005

F8-03: Return and Reintegration in Northern Iraq (UNHCR)

The project supported the promotion and facilitation of socio-economic reintegration of returning IDPs and refugee returnee families in Erbil Governorate. Several new villages were constructed, and water, sanitation and transportation infrastructure was extended. All 182 beneficiary families had effectively completed construction of their self-built homes by year-end.

The livelihood portion of the project has been postponed until 2006, in order to provide fully-dedicated resources for income-generation. Following delivery of skills training and income-

generation grants, beneficiaries will also take the lead in community management. Community-based organizations formed in the early stage of the project serve as an essential conduit for resolution of construction problems and achievement of project objectives. Once the aid community is no longer present in Iraq, these local bodies will continue to assist the community and advocate forcefully for returnees. Return and reintegration activities will continue in Northern Iraq with additional support for this project provided by the Republic of Korea.

F8-01: Return and Reintegration in Northern Iraq (UNOPS)

Under this project, UNOPS, with cash and in-kind contribution from UNHCR, provided shelter and services to more than 2,000 families. This included construction of 1,000 new self-built houses and the rehabilitation of an additional 1,000. Construction materials have been procured for another 500 homes.

The self-built nature of the homes was an important factor contributing to the project's success and ability to benefit so many on a limited project budget. UNOPS' inclusive collaboration on construction particularly enriched beneficiaries, imparting not only practical knowledge of construction and maintenance but also developing a sense of ownership, thereby enabling sustainable return and reintegration.

Furthermore, 730 IDP families and 1,800 families of host and surrounding communities benefited from the construction of 40 new social infrastructure projects, including schools, health centres and water systems. In addition to creating short term jobs for more than 400 people, access to clean water, health services and education were greatly improved. UNOPS provided vocational and psychosocial training to 379 beneficiaries and agricultural production kits to 75 vulnerable families.

C8-02: Reintegration of Returnees in Southern Iraq (UNHCR)

Using UNDG ITF funding in Wassit and Missan Governorates, UNHCR provided for the construction or rehabilitation of 14 schools, construction of health and community centres and a marketplace, the drilling of a water well and installation of a water purification unit. In exchange for this community-based assistance, group leaders were encouraged to extend grass-roots protection to returnees, which can lead to more durable integration. These activities have also enabled individual assistance for the most vulnerable persons of concern without generating local resentment.



A returnee widow and her children prepare to enjoy their new, self-built home.

4. Cluster F update (continued)

UNHCR was able to provide 152 houses, 152 income-generation grants (poultry houses, chickens and livestock) to the most vulnerable returnees and various vocational trainings such as chicken rearing, mechanics, para-veterinarian and livestock rearing. By providing shelter, small business opportunities and skills training to some of the most vulnerable individuals of concern, UNHCR also appropriate skills training UNHCR has been able to significantly contribute to enhancing the livelihoods of these individuals and increasing the possibility of their lasting reintegration. UNHCR has also supported training of local NGOs in 2005 with the objective that support of local NGOs and civil society will enhance grass-roots contribution to assistance to returnee communities.

b. Highlights of Other Major Cluster F Initiatives

Emergency Relief and Community Assistance: Cluster agencies – particularly IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO – support emergency aid to displaced persons within the framework of the UNAMI-led Emergency Working Group.

In January 2006, UNHCR, WHO and UNDP responded rapidly when some 100 families were displaced by severe flooding in the southern city of Safwan. Assistance included tents, mattresses, winterization needs, other NFIs, as well as a tented primary health care facility and funding to support the draining of flood water in the affected area. *Policy on Displacement* will be developed, implemented and pursued.



Emergency distributions in Safwan rapidly reached the beneficiaries.

Throughout 2005, Cluster F agencies collaborated closely to address emergency needs in Fallujah, Al Qaim, Rawa, Rutba, Heet, Al-Khaliday, Tal Afar and Malik Shah Camp in Khanaqin. UNHCR distributed tents to several hundred families displaced from Al-Qaim and Tal Afar, NFIs among 1,250 displaced families in Malik Shah Camp and provided comprehensive assistance to 4,907 families throughout Al-Anbar Governorate displaced by fighting. IOM provided emergency food to over 8,500 families displaced from Anbar, Diyala and Tal Afar and NFIs and winterization needs to numerous others. WHO worked with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to provide drugs, water hygiene kits and medical supplies to groups temporarily displaced by fighting. Throughout 2005 and in January 2006, UNICEF closely collaborated with Cluster F and local partners to meet the needs of displaced

women and children, benefiting about 354,000 people. Key assistance included the provision of tankered water and purification supplies and mass distributions of household cleaning supplies, soap and other sanitary needs. UNICEF also distributed 149 Basic Health Kits – each of which supports the needs of 1,000 people for three months – to MoH and other partners. In addition, UNICEF contributed blankets, children's winter clothing and lined plastic boots to complement the IDP winterization efforts of sister agencies.

Through community rehabilitation projects in Baghdad, Diwaneya and Samawa, UN-Habitat improved housing conditions for 8,100 Iraqi households, including displaced persons. UN-Habitat also improved water, sanitation and schools impacted by conflict. UNICEF rehabilitated 20 schools which had been badly damaged during heavy fighting in Fallujah, and resumed its advocacy with the Ministry of Education to ensure displaced children's continued access to schools. In 2005 IOM implemented 22 community assistance projects in nine governorates. These projects assisted in the areas of school and health centre rehabilitation, water sanitation, training and education, and reached tens of thousands directly in need. WHO supported MoH in planning for the displaced through health campaigns and education, immunization, infectious disease control, disease surveillance and technical expertise on water and sanitation.

Monitoring, Assessment and Responses:

Assessments and mapping for improved understanding of beneficiaries (IDPs and returnees), their locations and their protection and assistance needs and gaps are vital to developing response strategies. Such activities have been carried out within the UN Integrated Monitoring Framework, which is currently being revised to reflect how to best address identified gaps and needs. Since 2003, IOM monitored IDP populations in the 15 Central and Southern Governorates to identify IDP locations, priority needs and intentions, while UNOPS monitored the three Northern Governorates. Both UNOPS and IOM used the data to create IDP profiles at governorate level and to implement emergency and community assistance projects. Complementary to this, UNHCR produced returnee monitoring reports. To provide refugees and IDPs with objective information on the situation in the return area, thereby allowing them to make an informed choice, UNHCR broadened its approach to gather information and set up structures for the drafting of Governorate Assessment Reports. These reports set forth overall conditions in each Governorate and situations faced by persons of concern and their communities, including the security, political, economic and social conditions. Reports are underway for the Governorates of Basrah, Diyala, Missan, Sulaymaniyah and Thi-Qar. Further, to assist host governments, UNHCR issued country of origin reports, eligibility guidelines and return advisories.

Addressing Displacement Challenges: The Strategic Plan on Assistance and Durable Solutions for IDPs in Iraq

First developed in July 2004 by the UNCT, led by Cluster 8 (now Cluster F) in cooperation with the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM), the purpose of the Strategic Plan is to ensure that sufficient importance is placed on the plight of

4. Cluster F update (continued)

IDPs in Iraq and that future projects are planned and conducted in a way that fully accounts for displacement. Furthermore, one of the cornerstones of the Strategic Plan is articulation and implementation of the *National Policy on Displacement Challenges and Durable Solutions*, in a process led by governmental authorities and extensively informed by affected populations. To effectively translate the idea into action, the IDP Working Group/Cluster F together with MoDM and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) developed a framework on the process, detailing in six steps how the *National*

Policy on Displacement will be developed and implemented. A *National Conference*, scheduled for October 2006, will be used as a vehicle to reach agreement on the policy.



A local community speaks out on displacement at a consultation at Al-Karkh in Baghdad Governorate.

Activities are underway to implement the components of the first step, including consultations at grassroots level and determining the needs and intentions of IDPs throughout Iraq. These findings will govern the formulation of the *National Policy*.

Return of Displaced Persons and Refugees and Reintegration Support

As of end-2005, UNHCR had facilitated some 25,000 returns to Iraq, and an estimated 280,000 others had spontaneously returned from abroad. In addition, an estimated half a million IDPs returned since March 2003. Returnee monitoring data obtained during 2004/2005 has shown that about 80% of the returnees in Northern Iraq and more than 35% in the Lower South of Iraq end up in internal displacement upon return, mainly due to the lack of housing, employment and social services (e.g. health, education), but also due to the presence of landmines, UXOs and property disputes. Those who manage to return compete with local communities in accessing public services and benefiting from already scarce and inadequate local resources. The Cluster seeks to alleviate these resource constraints through community-based projects and targeted assistance. While seeking additional funding for reintegration projects, Cluster F will actively liaise with other Clusters to provide employment programmes, skills training, income-generation, housing and other livelihood support

during 2006.

During 2005, UNHCR was actively engaged in community support, including reconciliation promotion in Kirkuk, mine risk education in the Centre, vocational trainings and quick impact infrastructure projects. UNOPS provided basic services in diverse communal projects, social awareness promotion, skills training and distribution of micro-grants.

Housing shortages are endemic in Iraq as a result of former regime policy, and the combination of shortages with widespread property disputes may present approximately half of all returnees with accommodation problems. In addition to reconstruction assistance by Cluster F agencies, UN-Habitat provided technical assistance to the Ministries of Housing and Municipality by developing a strategy for upgrading of slums as well as producing Housing Markets Studies and State of Iraqi Cities Analyses. These initiatives will lead to the inclusion of new shelter needs, land allocation requirements and services into revised housing and urban development policies, and allocation of resources to address vulnerable group needs.

Legal Aid and Information

It is vital that persons of concern have proper information on their rights and the means to secure them. Therefore, UNHCR established eight independent Legal Aid and Information Centres (LAICs) throughout Iraq, which provide free, objective and professional legal aid and information, as well as legal representation in select cases. In addition, UNHCR provided capacity-building support to three advice centres in relevant KRG ministries in Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk. These centres provided information and legal assistance to 20,000 beneficiaries, many of them women, mainly in obtaining documentation, accessing public services and advising on property restitution claims. Advice Centres established by IOM have assisted 1,206 IDPs in 2005 and 2,518 beneficiaries since their founding. All of the centres are integral to the Cluster F programme and support rule of law, access to justice and strengthening of civil society in Iraq.

Refugee Protection and Assistance

UNHCR has registered 47,728 refugees throughout the country. With security conditions deteriorating, these populations were subject to increasing threats, physical attacks and random killings. Certain populations of Arab origin were unfairly accused of collaboration with the former regime and support of the insurgency, particularly Palestinians and Syrians in Baghdad.

Due to significant degradation of security conditions, UNHCR decided to close Al-Tash Camp and relocate the refugees residing therein to territories controlled by the KRG. As of January 2006, only an estimated 352 individuals out of a population of 3,600 (as of mid-2005) remained in the camp. UNHCR has committed itself to fully assisting in closure, relocation and meeting the populations' immediate and long-term needs.

Other UNHCR assistance efforts included relocation grants and emergency assistance to Iranian Kurds at Al-Tash, Sulaymaniyah and Erbil, preparation of a tented site at Kawa, service delivery to Turkish Kurdish refugees in the Makhmour

4. Cluster F update (continued)

camp, medical assistance to the Turkish Kurdish refugees housed in Dohuk, housing assistance for Palestinian families in the Baghdad area, aid to Darfuri Sudanese at K70 camp and documentation, rental and transportation assistance for Syrian refugees. All populations were provided documentation assistance on an as-needed basis. In addition, UNHCR conducted an extensive registration and needs assessment among Iranian Arabs in the Southern Governorates, and identified many protection needs and gaps. These problems are common to most refugees, and insecurity in both the locations of origin and of present settlement continue to limit the achievement of durable solutions.

Building National Capacity

Following numerous administrative transitions and decades of suppression of civil society, rebuilding national capacity to address displacement remains an enormous undertaking. MoDM and IPCC as new institutions, regional and local authorities as well as Iraqi civil society actors must be well-positioned and IPCC as new institutions, regional and local authorities as well as Iraqi civil society actors must be well positioned and capacitated to provide protection to persons of concern and independently develop durable solutions.

To ensure that MoDM turns into a robust institution protecting and assisting its persons of concern, IOM and UNHCR embarked on a comprehensive capacity-building project, supported by a commissioned consultancy. Outcomes from this project include a draft basic law, mission statement and functional statements for each department, together with job functions and descriptions and an institutional framework brief. Currently, a series of workshops are underway to walk MoDM staff through their role and responsibilities based on real-life examples (e.g. development of the *National Policy on Displacement*), paving the way for gradual handover of some of the Cluster F key activities to MoDM. In addition, the two organizations provided training on protection, management and technical aspects, reaching some 104 staff members in 2004 and some 257 in 2005, and strengthened MoDM's response capacities to deal with emergencies. In 2006, the Cluster will develop standard operating procedures and skills-enhancement trainings and methods for MoDM staff in diverse areas.

The Cluster has also improved institutional capacity and facilities for regional and local authorities through office equipment, computer training and coursework in English, first aid, planning and management.

Property disputes are one of the main hurdles toward peaceful and sustainable return, and a solid and functional IPCC (Iraq Property Claims Commission) is fundamental to the success of Cluster F initiatives, particularly in shelter and livelihood. In order to contribute to these issues being addressed in a systemic manner, Cluster F (particularly IOM and UNHCR) has been providing technical advice and assistance to the IPCC since 2004. UNHCR and IOM are contributing to the intake and resolution of the claims by advising on methods to further the fair and efficient resolution of claims, monitoring progress, providing input on legal and other issues common to claims programmes, developing an IPCC claims database and related computer applications and procuring office equipment and IT infrastructure for IPCC institutions. Cluster F is also advising the IPCC on public information campaigns and voluntary dispute resolution mechanisms, and supporting the

national authorities in establishing an out-of-country filing programme for Iraqis abroad. As of January 2006, the IPCC had opened 30 regional offices, which have collected 129,630 claims, and established 36 regional commissions and one appellate division. So far, 16% of the claims received have been decided.

Challenges Faced

Cluster F strongly prioritizes Iraqi ownership and the development of Iraq's potential, which frequently requires extensive negotiation at the expense of achieving rapid solutions. Iraq's fluid political environment and frequent changes in ministerial staff present substantial challenges to, and require flexibility in, capacity-building and skills enhancement programming.

Security and resource constraints remain ongoing concerns. Insecurity, particularly in Central and Southern Iraq, limits both the execution of vital humanitarian projects inside Iraq and safe and dignified return or settlement. Security concerns have necessitated remote management of humanitarian operations, with severe constraints on local staff and implementing partners and extremely limited access to beneficiaries by both agencies and their partners. Cluster F agencies are continually developing inventive processes and partnerships to overcome these operational constraints.

Partnerships

Cluster F has developed strong partnerships at various levels in order to effectively implement its programme objectives. Close and ongoing collaboration was advanced with key national and regional institutions, including MoDM, IPCC and KRG, a network of international and national NGOs as well as community-based organizations.

Future Plans and Resource Needs

Cluster F will expand its multi-sectoral and durable impact programming in 2006. The Cluster will continue emergency response, capacity-building of MoDM, IPCC, local authorities and civil society and supporting the development and implementation of the *National Policy on Displacement*. The Cluster will continue aid in (re)integration support, infrastructure and livelihood, expansion of the LAIC network and provision of protection and individual assistance to refugees and other persons of concern in the absence of full national capacity. The Cluster will also maintain its monitoring activities and issuance of reports, together with updates of 2005 reports.

Needs have grown considerably, and Cluster F is deeply concerned that existing UNDG ITF and bilateral support is insufficient to meet 2006 requirements. Cluster F currently seeks USD 50 million to achieve programme objectives. The Cluster has identified acute under funding for emergency assistance and (re) integration projects in 2006. In addition, funding is very much needed in support of Cluster F's implementation of Iraqi-identified long-term solutions in capacity-building, development of the *National Policy*, streamlined and equitable resolution of claims and disputes, particularly to establish out-of-country structures, and greater access to legal aid and information.

5. PROJECT COMMITMENTS & DISBURSEMENTS

Implementing UN agencies have to date legally committed \$ 564 million and disbursed \$ 430 million of total approved funding (which amounts to \$ 759 mill for the implementation of ongoing projects). Tables 5.1 and 5.2 provide a summary of project commitments and disbursements by UN Cluster and Participating UN Organization, respectively. Figures for the period July 2005—January 2006 are based on latest available information from various operational units of the Iraq UN Country Team and provide updates on the progress made in 2005 and the first month of 2006. 2005 figures are still unofficial and will be shortly reconciled with official accounts of Participating UN Organizations following normal UN end-year financial closure procedures. UN Agencies' average commitment and disbursement rates amount to 74% and 57% of approved funding, respectively.

Table 5.1 CLUSTER COMMITMENTS AND DISBURSEMENTS SUMMARY, US\$

CLUSTER	APPROVED FUNDING	2004		2005		2006		2004-2006	
		July 2004-End December 2004 ACTUALS		Jan 2005-End December 2005 ACTUALS		Jan 2006 ACTUALS		July 2004-End January 2006 ACTUALS	
		COM ^A	DISB ^B	COM ^C	DISB ^D	COM ^E	DISB ^F	COM	DISB
A Agriculture, Food Security, Environment and Natural Resource Management	86,406,625	23,967,922	10,176,688	35,736,046	27,446,476	2,364,069	987,496	62,068,036	38,608,660
								72%	48%
B Education and Culture	116,763,153	33,481,430	22,612,652	47,617,174	44,462,914	5,712,073	4,096,706	86,710,677	71,061,272
								74%	61%
C Governance and Human Development	46,362,804	2,997,130	1,447,941	18,880,666	18,243,686	493,764	416,396	22,371,460	21,107,922
								48%	46%
D Health and Nutrition	86,996,174	19,720,260	7,406,117	41,318,022	31,999,241	2,202,138	887,006	63,238,420	40,291,364
								74%	47%
E Infrastructure Rehabilitation	228,896,302	56,446,748	11,784,879	93,666,329	76,406,667	2,323,386	460,320	161,326,463	87,661,866
								66%	38%
F Refugees, IDPs and Durable Solutions	19,629,616	9,012,090	6,634,071	8,772,693	11,166,758	998,840	1,188,548	18,783,623	17,989,377
								95%	91%
G Support to Electoral Process	174,771,470	46,967,606	37,238,961	111,666,193	103,146,236	900,363	12,796,284	159,623,162	153,180,481
								91%	88%
Emergency Response Pilgrim Stampede Micro-Grant	300,000	0	0	220,423	192,337	0	4,197	220,423	196,534
								73%	66%
TOTAL	759,325,943	191,593,186	96,199,309	357,654,436	313,052,214	14,984,623	20,835,954	664,232,243	430,087,478
								74%	57%

NOTES:

A/ Legally binding contracts signed in 2004 (including multi-year commitments which may be disbursed in future years)

B/ Disbursements made in 2004

C/ New legally binding contracts signed in 2005

D/ Disbursements made in 2005 (including disbursements made against outstanding 2004 commitments)

E/ New legally binding contracts signed in 2006

F/ All new disbursements made in 2006 (including any disbursements made against outstanding prior years' commitments)

Table 5.2 AGENCY COMMITMENTS AND DISBURSEMENT SUMMARY, US\$

AGENCY	APPROVED FUNDING	2004		2005		2006		2004-2006	
		July 2004 End December 2004 ACTUALS		Jan 2005 End December 2005 ACTUALS		Jan 2006 ACTUALS		July 2004 End January 2006 ACTUALS	
		COM ^A	DISB ^B	COM ^C	DISB ^D	COM ^E	DISB ^F	COM	DISB
ESCWA	7,483,202	418,341	129,092	668,959	403,441	182,660	8,243	1,269,960	540,778
								17%	7%
FAO	49,139,813	12,613,066	8,885,514	19,180,181	7,714,194	-50,101	525,586	31,743,146	17,125,294
								65%	35%
ILO	321,000	286,447	84,306	15,000	202,141	0	0	301,447	286,447
								94%	89%
UNDP	255,533,796	97,560,242	47,704,090	79,513,840	78,765,708	2,161,661	515,758	179,235,743	126,985,556
								70%	50%
UNEP	16,606,005	10,904,317	1,127,214	3,298,230	7,267,784	1,490,857	30,865	15,693,404	8,445,873
								95%	51%
UNESCO	31,572,444	5,529,295	499,561	13,916,963	10,796,800	733,096	3,453,188	20,178,344	14,749,549
								64%	47%
UNFPA	12,603,477	6,228,507	2,707,770	6,134,439	5,406,774	240,532	27,422	12,603,477	8,141,966
								100%	65%
UNHABITAT	49,375,192	10,866,349	2,092,868	20,773,269	21,992,833	382,124	850,562	32,021,742	24,936,283
								65%	51%
UNHCR	10,088,200	5,224,562	5,224,562	2,891,638	2,825,851	990,000	967,924	9,106,200	9,018,337
								90%	89%
UNICEF	92,783,964	21,508,820	21,508,820	43,129,137	30,128,367	5,347,671	232,985	69,985,628	51,870,172
								75%	56%
UNIDO	14,966,680	133,425	23,383	2,973,688	2,593,473	1,432,541	327,720	4,539,654	2,944,576
								30%	20%
UNIFEM	3,574,626	715,747	715,747	1,709,583	1,709,583	-220,532	2,468	2,204,798	2,427,798
								62%	68%
UNOPS	137,428,558	5,436,499	616,127	121,079,258	108,257,933	1,023,671	12,937,244	127,539,428	121,810,304
								93%	89%
WFP	7,000,000	0	0	4,822,675	4,822,675	99,623	78,626	4,722,298	4,701,301
								67%	67%
WHO	70,849,786	14,167,569	4,681,256	37,747,585	30,344,648	1,170,820	877,362	53,085,974	36,103,266
								75%	51%
TOTAL	759,325,943	191,593,186	96,199,309	357,654,435	313,052,214	14,984,623	20,835,954	564,232,243	430,087,478
								74%	57%

NOTES:

A/ Legally binding contracts signed in 2004 (including multi-year commitments which may be disbursed in future years)

B/ Disbursements made in 2004

C/ New legally binding contracts signed in 2005

D/ Disbursements made in 2005 (including disbursements made against outstanding 2004 commitments)

E/ New legally binding contracts signed in 2006

F/ All new disbursements made in 2006 (including any disbursements made against outstanding prior years' commitments)

6. UNDG ITF CONTRACT AWARDS POSTED ON IRFFI WEBSITE

Table 6.1 Value and Number of Awards by Country (US\$)

Country	July- Dec 2004		Jan-June 2005		July-Dec 2005		January 2006		Total 2004 - 2006	
	Awards	Amount	Awards	Amount	Awards	Amount	Awards	Amount	Awards	Amount
Australia	1	15,664	1	8,372	1	464,850			3	488,886
Austria	4	641,557	7	442,491	3	4,004,294			14	5,088,342
Bahrain			4	124,781	3	2,212,895			7	2,337,666
Belgium	1	22,500,000							1	22,500,000
Canada			1	50,840	2	122,388			3	173,228
China	23	41,048,054	8	13,441,611	2	118,226			33	54,607,891
Croatia			1	11,780					1	11,780
Cyprus			2	137,835	1	82,000			3	219,835
Czech Republic	1	287,522			2	5,980,425			3	6,267,947
Denmark	9	11,138,094	6	660,069	9	20,618,375	6	233,486	30	32,648,026
Egypt	11	210,364	4	107,430	17	590,889			32	908,483
Finland					2	211,154			2	211,154
France	4	210,377	18	1,152,996	5	1,345,020			25	2,708,393
Germany	7	1,459,996	37	4,668,481	18	1,217,891			62	7,346,368
Hong Kong					1	44,632			1	44,632
India	1	26,496	5	427,071	2	1,130,552	1	26,800	9	1,612,719
Indonesia					1	112,000			1	112,000
Iran	1	56,980			3	35,635			4	92,615
Iraq	67	8,115,724	200	20,486,127	251	27,677,896	6	2,241,310	524	56,721,067
Ireland			1	51,400	1	26,296			2	79,696
Italy	4	1,456,711	17	2,618,064	11	4,765,873	1	27,515	33	8,866,163
Japan	8	17,317,159	13	51,837,206	5	205,562			26	69,359,927
Jordan	50	6,273,292	48	5,884,506	71	5,977,645	1	16,000	170	17,951,443
Kenya			1	284,457					1	284,457
Kuwait	1	304,750	11	2,163,528	2	1,459,475			14	3,927,753
Lebanon	3	2,637,565	9	1,234,821	4	1,028,385			16	4,900,771
Liechtenstein	1	22,700,000							1	22,700,000
Morocco					1	16,400			1	16,400
Netherlands	8	1,776,126	9	2,497,626	9	1,302,368			26	5,576,122
New Zealand	1	160,997							1	160,997
Norway	1	41,000							1	41,000
Oman	4	493,485	2	18,776	1	38,500			7	548,761
Pakistan			1	15,062					1	15,062
Saudi Arabia			2	247,385	1	13,084			3	260,469
South Africa			1	1,288	1	34,900			2	36,188
Slovenia					2	380,980			2	380,980
Spain			1	133,899					1	133,899
Sudan					1	78,975			1	78,975
Sweden	2	12,680,046	1	552	2	106,179			5	12,786,777
Switzerland	5	184,332	18	1,410,782	6	627,660			29	2,222,964
Syria					2	86,400			2	86,400
Thailand	1	8,221			1	43,836			2	52,057
Tunisia	2	38,650	1	12,900	1	34,440			4	86,990
Turkey	6	2,446,956			2	905,000			8	3,351,956
United Arab Emirates	1	32,500	4	41,209,589	2	90,386			7	41,332,476
United Kingdom	23	14,596,065	38	4,029,726	13	33,036,856	1	562,705	75	52,226,362
United States	8	1,562,414	12	1,276,107	6	6,543,655	1	84,400	27	9,468,576
Total	259	170,419,097	462	156,447,520	368	122,993,977	17	3,194,018	1226	453,054,612

**1,226 contracts
for a total value
of \$ 453 mill
awarded to 47
countries**

**Contract award
details:
procurement
method, for what,
to whom, when
and for how
much posted on
the UNDG ITF
Procurement Sec-
tion of the IRFFI
website
(www.irffi.org)**