General Highlights:

- WHO Team visited as planned the Czech Field Hospital to assess the utilization of their Laboratory unit. The summary of their findings is under communicable disease section.

- WHO, UNO HCI and JLC had a discussion on the provision of Medical services to the UN Staff at the Czech Field Hospital as there is neither designated hospital nor physician for UN staff in Basra. The representative of the hospital agreed to provide medical services for emergency and non emergency cases to UN personnel.

- Health sector coordination meeting presided over by WHO took place. The main points discussed are as contained in annex 1.

Personnel:

Mr. Mohammad Ben Slamma Admin and Finance officer for WHO Kuwait liaison office left Basra to Kuwait.

Medical Supplies and Equipments:

- See Annex 1

Communicable Diseases:

- Visit of WHO to the Czech Field Hospital on Tuesday, 15 July 2003. The findings are summarised below:
  - Capt. Osterreilher received and escorted the team to different wards and facilities of the hospital; ICU, X-ray unit, surgery unit and pharmacy.
  - The laboratories which were main area of interest has:
i. They had capacity to perform blood biochemistry and microbiological assays for the diagnosis of a wide array of clinically relevant microorganisms, including enteric bacteria, *Vibrio cholerae*, Streptococci, and meningitis-associated pathogens. However, the lab cannot identify *Bordetella pertussis*, the causative agent of whooping cough and no viral assays were available.

ii. The lab also had capacity to analyze water samples for salts, minerals and bacteria and could identify smears for leishmaniasis and malaria.

iii. In collaboration with MOH, Iraq and WHO, Capt. Osterreilher welcomed the receipt and analysis of about 10 clinical samples per day; an appreciated offer for consideration at this time.

**Meetings:**

See annex 1

**Admin and Finance:** NSTR

**Resource mobilisation:** NSTR

**Media:** NSTR
Annex 1

Health sector coordination meeting presided over by WHO.

The following points were discussed:

CPA

- The CPA informed the meeting that the medical doctors in Basra governorate had elected Dr. Raad Dawood Salman – ENT specialist with Al Tahreer General Hospital as Director General of Basra DOH.
- National Conference on Health for all directors of hospitals in Iraq will take place in Baghdad on 19 July 2003.

Situation of Drugs and Medical supply.

- On medical drugs and medical supplies, WHO announced the receipt of Pentostam injection ordered by WHO headquarters to the Kimadia warehouse in Basra. The pentostam inj will be distributed to all the lower south area office in accordance with the advice of WHO and MOH communicable disease experts.

- In contrast to the situation last week, the situation of drugs and medical supplies in Thiqar, Missan and Muthana governorates are improving as the warehouses in these governorates had started receiving their shares from Kimadia. WHO Basra is in regular touch with WR Office in Baghdad which in turn is facilitating with Kimadia on this regard.

Revitalization of laboratories

Based on pilot site visits and meetings of WHO Public Health Coordinator with MOH lab personnel, the following tasks need to be started immediately:

1. Establishment and support of laboratory capacity at the interim CPHL.
2. Coordination with UN agencies and NGO’s to improve power supply to the hospitals (presents a problem in reading microscope slides, conducting spectrophotometry, culture incubation, ELISA reading, etc).
3. Coordination with NGO’s to rehabilitate and rebuild laboratory capacity by providing the necessary equipment and sustainable supplies.
4. Improvement of sampling referral system.
5. Development of standardized laboratory forms.
6. Development and implementation of standardized laboratory procedures for priority diseases.
7. Development of a complete QC program. Current QC testing is limited to screening unknown serum samples.
8. Training and implementation of safe laboratory practices.
9. Development and implementation of a suitable laboratory information system.
10. Providing laboratory updates, periodicals and publications.
11. Launch a program for standardized antibiotic sensitivity testing (no standard method is in use, test is performed infrequently because of supply shortage, antibiotics are dispensed empirically and the majority of *Klebsiella* isolates and nosocomial pathogens recovered from urine cultures were resistant to commonly prescribed drugs).

**Heath facilities Information system**

- Brief update was given and the latest health facility status form was distributed to the group for further data collection for all the stake holders in lower south area.