WHO in Iraq

Introduction
History

• 1991: Gulf War ends: start of sanctions
• 1995 - 96: Oil for food (and medicines) starts
• 1998: Serious budget shortfall: increased dependence on user charges for health care
• 2000 Onwards:
  - Very high maternal and child mortality
  - Limited capacity for public health functions
  - Lack of systematic planning - and training - of critical health personnel
• 2003 Post War - health system collapse
Health issues: 2002 - 03

- 2002 - 03: UN system-wide contingency planning for conflict, major population displacement and provision of basic needs
- March - April 03: Short war followed by widespread, systematic destruction of government capacity and infrastructure
- April - June 03: Emergency response, with UN efforts to bring infrastructure back to pre-war functioning
WHO immediately post war

- WHO active in governorates with technical capacity in Basrah, Arbil, Kirkuk/Mosul as well as in Baghdad.
- Challenges of insecurity and communications.
- Focus on jump-starting
  - public health functions (disease surveillance and response),
  - essential primary health care and hospital functions
  - urgently required medicines
- Effective communicable disease work in Basra
• July - August 03:
  - a) Iraqi institutions, supported by Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) start to function, and plan for new ways of working
  - b) UN and World Bank initiate 13 sector Situation Assessment in preparation for October “donor meeting”
  - c) Phase out of Oil for Food programme
• Health Sector: Initiation of priority setting process by MOH and CPA - coinciding with benchmarking of situation assessment - at 17 - 19 August Health Workshop.
Priority Setting Workshop 17-19 Aug

A policy discussion on the prioritization of health care issues and desired outcomes in preparation for the UN Donors Conference in October.

Workshop Facilitator: D Nabarro

MOH DGs

Kurdistan

Dr. Faisa Abdel Ahab
Dr. Emad Al Kubaisi

MOH Residents

Jim Haveman
Mohamed Jama

CPA

Goodwin Walker

WHO

Jean Jacques Frere

WB

Hakki Thame

TBD

UNICEF

Dr. Faisa Abdel Ahab
Dr. Batool Ali

MOH

Obeidi Shaker
Nazar N. Said

Two Reps TBD

CPA Strategic Planning

EC

Colonel Gagliano

DFID

Elizabeth Feret

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Peter Tarabula

Iraq Red Crescent

Jamal Karboli

ABT

Dayton Maxwell

Carol DeRoy

TBD

Margaret Hassan/CA RE

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NGO

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Two Reps TBD

One Rep TBD

JTF-7

Elizabet

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Elizabet

Nabarро

Gast
• Health Priorities
  - Reliable Information
  - Accessible, affordable, good quality and equitable care
  - Emphasis on halving maternal and child mortality
  - Action - within the 18 Governorates - supported through grants for “quick-impact” programmes
  - Sustain priority services especially for communicable diseases
  - Build capacity of Ministry of Health for stewardship
  - Back efforts to upgrade health worker training and accreditation, including health care administration
  - Ensure a strong supply pipeline after the November ending of the Oil for Food programme
• Iraqi institutions taking forward sector planning and action
• Need for contact with external groups
• Challenges of
  - general insecurity
  - safety for women
  - moving finance and accounting
• UN in Iraq NOW - issues, options
• The situation assessment: data needs, timing
• Reconstruction conference: organisation, timing....
• Priorities Now
  - Support for the MOH Health Planning steering committee and working groups
  - Joint programming - with CPA and NGOs - to improve functioning of MOH
  - Joint programming to support (a) public health priorities and (b) financing of urgent actions in Governorates
  - Support for health professional training and continuing education (especially nursing)
  - Support with essential medical supplies, equipment etc
19th August: Bomb UN HQ, Baghdad

- 23 Killed
- 116 wounded
- WHO staff killed and wounded
- Examination of options for UN staff security
- Review of Political presence
- Review of Humanitarian response
The main bomb damage - rescue efforts by UN & US personnel at 30 mins
Dr Frere with WHO representative
Dr Ghulam Popal, then in hospital
DN in hospital - thankfully with minimal injury