WHO-Baghdad
Daily Situation Report for Tuesday, 20th May, 2003

Baghdad

WR Iraq left today Baghdad for a trip to Amman with a plan to continue to continue to Kuwait, Basrah and Cairo.

A meeting of the National Co-ordination with NGOs, was held in UNOCHI. Topics covered included security, national humanitarian update, NGOs update on their respective activities and the importance of human rights over the coming months. UNHCHR has two focal points in the country at present (Basra and Baghdad) and are waiting for another five who should arrive in the near future. The WR described the programmes to rehabilitate the MoH (Baghdad) and kick start the drug distribution system. He also announced that one representative of the NGO community would be able to attend the International Aid Committee as from 21.5.03. Agencies were requested to revise their flash appeal proposal, which was based on contingency plans and may no longer be applicable to the present reality and needs.

WHO purchased two computers with their accessories in addition to two extra monitors, keyboards for use in Kimadia Central Al-Dabash Warehouse No. 13 (for medical equipment medical supplies and spare parts). This is part of WHO assistance to enable the warehouse staff to resume the drug distribution.

Three reports were added to the Rapid Assessment Form System. A WHO database team visited Kimadia central warehouses computer departments to assess their needs to restart working with the computerized stock management system (MicroDrug) which was used countrywide before the crisis. Some key modules of the programmes were installed (i.e. “Inventory System Backup”, “Chrono In-Out Documents System”) and the staff started to use them.

WHO engineers accompanied with the contractor selected by WHO to rehabilitate MOH’s main building met today with MOH engineers, in the presence of Mr. Gouchi of ORHA, for the purpose of handing over the building to the contractor as the rehabilitation works on the building is scheduled to start tomorrow.

Documents for the bid for the rehabilitation of Polio and Communicable diseases Center are being prepared.
A visit was paid to CDC to discuss the issue of distribution of Icon insecticide as well as the proposal to assess the epidemiological situation of Malaria and Leishmaniasis in Iraq. Also the issue of assigning guards to protect the properties of CDC was discussed.

The assessment report and list of items needed by the Radiation Protection Centre and Occupational Centre were received through the process of rapid assessment. A visit was paid to the CDC Centre to collect data/information regarding Screw Worms in Iraq. The visiting team was informed that 18 cases of screw worm but with no deaths associated were reported during the years 1996-1998. These cases had been registered in Baghdad, Babylon and Diyala governorates where the Veterinary Departments had taken appropriate measures.

The report of the Assessment of Health Facilities (hospitals) in Baghdad was completed. Electronic as well as hard copies were handed over to the Head, Public Health Department. This report includes a list of needs for all hospitals was finalized and copies were given out as in above. Along with Dr. Gilda, the UNOHCI Medical Officer, visits were paid to the Al-Wasity and Ibin Al-Nafees hospitals, where their directors were met. The purpose of the visits was to discuss/arrange for referral of cases from the UN Health centre to them. The Al-Wasity Hospital Director agreed to receive cold cases and the cases that need physiotherapy. However, he advised that emergency cases should be referred to Al-Kindi Hospital.

A meeting was held at WHO office between WHO and the management of the National Blood Transfusion Center, accompanied by representatives of a French company ACT (Action Chimique Therapeutique). Discussions focused on the assistance to promote safe blood transfusion and capacity building needed and explore possibility of WHO technical assistance.

A meeting with management of Kimadia central warehouses was held to discuss on modalities of implementation of the proposal to kick start the drug distribution system. WHO requested to obtain an updated list with names of Kimadia central warehouse staff in order to prepare list of staff who could received allowance for their involvement in the drug distribution activities.

WHO is working closely with the Baghdad HIC team to update the Health Coordination Group web page as well as to share information on schedules of meetings in Baghdad.

**Suleymaniyyah**

Regular visits to health facilities to monitor the use of medicines and medical supplies continued and items valued at US$ 40,125 which were distributed as emergency kits before the crisis have been returned to the warehouses for redistribution.

Urgently needed items valued at $ 5,180 were delivered to the Blood Bank to the three hospitals in Suleymaniya (Maternity, General and Pediatrics hospitals).
Water samples for quality control continue to be taken and the results were within the WHO standards.

**Diyala governates**

Discussions with DOH DG in Diyala governorate reveals that there is a total of 8 hospitals, 2 specialized centers, 38 Helath centers with doctors and 30 health centers without doctors. Visit to Diyala General Hospital indicate that the main building of Diyala General Hospital is in urgent need of maintenance of the sewage draining system and repair of broken windows Visit to DOH warehouse reveals that the warehouse does not have vehicles and no cold chain system. Also the building is an urgent need of minor renovation works. The warehouse reports also shortage of medicines and medical supplies.

In the town, the fuel is available but expensive. The municipality services are very poor and there is no collection of garbage. The power supply remains erratic. Also, there are still security and looting incidents, particularly on the main road between Baquba and Baghdad.

**Kirkuk governorate**

Visit to Kirkuk DOH warehouse reveals that the storage capacity us about 500 sq meters but with no ventilation. It is estimated that 50 ventilators would be urgently needed. Also the warehouse does not have shelves for drug storing and a forklift of 1,5 ton capacity is required. The 100 KVA generator available is not sufficient to meet the power supply demand.

In the governorate, there are still perceptible tensions between some groups of Kurds with groups of Arab origin. However the roads Kirkuk-Suleiymaniyah as well as Kirkuk-Erbil are opened to civilian movement.