

Iraq Ministry of Health Weekly Update

MOH-CPA Health Team Current Policies and Initiatives, Vol. 17, October 1, 2003

Highlights for the Week:

- **Ministry of Health (MOH), World Bank, WHO Planning Efforts Continue**
- **MOH Supports Iraqi Red Crescent Efforts Seeking Assistance in Turkey**
- **Kimadia Deliveries Continue to Meet Healthcare Needs**
- **MOH Hosts Congressional Delegation**
- **Rabies Vaccination Delivered**

MOH, World Bank, World Health Organization Continue Planning Efforts

AMMAN JORDAN- A delegation from the Iraqi Ministry of Health, including Mr. Jim Haveman, the Senior Advisor to Interim Minister of Health Dr Khudair Abbas, Mr Robert Goodwin, Mr. Haveman's Chief of Staff and Mr. Ammar al-Saffar, Chief of Staff to Dr Abbas, met with representatives from the World Bank and the World Health Organization in Amman on September 29 and 30. The purpose of the meeting was to review the outcomes of the recent World Bank / International Monetary Fund meetings in Dubai.

The group refined two key documents. The first provides an executive summary of immediate and future needs to further stabilize and rehabilitate Iraq's healthcare system. The second document provides an analysis of Iraq's healthcare system and provides strategic direction for future development using the strategic framework agreed to in August at the MOH-hosted strategic planning conference in Baghdad. Both products are instrumental to the success of the upcoming Donor's Conference in late October in Madrid.

MOH Supports Iraqi Red Crescent Efforts to Seek Assistance from Turkey

ANKARA, TURKEY- The MOH sent a two-person delegation to accompany the president of the Iraqi Red Crescent to meet with Turkey Red Crescent counterparts last week. Colonel David Adams and Dr. Said Hakki, both from the CPA staff, accompanied Dr Jamal N. Al-Karboli, president of the Iraqi Red Crescent, to meet with Turkish Red Crescent officials for three days of discussions. Dr Al-Karboli appealed for assistance for approximately thirty thousand internally displaced person (IDP) families in need throughout Iraq.

Turkey Red Crescent officials agreed to provide support to the maximum extent possible, including the provision of tents, kitchen sets, stoves, heaters, fuel cans and foodstuffs for children. These provisions are needed soonest, particularly in northern Iraq as winter approaches.

Discussions included support for disaster preparedness training, provision of referral healthcare services for patients with conditions beyond current Iraqi capabilities, and training for nurses and other health personnel. Planning continues for a replacement Iraqi Red Crescent hospital in Baghdad.

Kimadia Deliveries Continue to Meet Healthcare Needs

BAGHDAD-Kimadia, Iraq's centralized drug and medical supply/equipment distribution center, continues to deliver essential drugs throughout Iraq. Over the last 120 days, over 12,000 tons of drugs have been distributed, including the first direct shipment of medical supplies (rabies vaccine) directly from the U.S. in recent years (see below).

MOH Hosts Congressional Delegation

Baghdad-Members of a bipartisan U.S. Congressional delegation visited the Al-Yarmouk hospital, among the largest in Iraq, on Sunday. The delegation was headed by Rep. Jerry Lewis, chairman of the Defense Subcommittee on Appropriations. Hosted by the Ministry of Health, the delegation was accompanied by Mr Jim Haveman, the Senior Advisor to the Interim Minister of Health. They met with Dr M. Moosa, Al-Yarmouk's medical director.

Rabies Vaccination Delivered

Baghdad-The Ministry of Health received 2,000 doses of rabies vaccine from the U.S. on Thursday, enough to protect up to 400 people if needed. Additionally, 1,000 vials of rabies immunoglobulin were provided.