

This week's briefs:

- Kamadia pharmaceutical deliveries up 116% since last issue; 1,300 tons delivered in 37 days!
- NGO-MOH bi-monthly meetings will be held every other Thursday at 11:00 a.m. at the MOH Building
- The National Nursing Conference will bring management and floor nurses from across Iraq on July 15-16, 2003 to discuss the future of nursing.
- The next vaccination campaign day will be held on July 22. All vaccinations will once again be provided free of charge.

Ministry Of Health approved for \$1.75M Renovations

The Coalition Provisional Authority approved \$1.75 million funding to renovate Ministry of Health buildings. Funds will go toward refurbishing the main administrative building and other MOH facilities.

The good news comes at a critical time as Mr. James Haveman, Senior Advisor to the Ministry of Health, intends to move his advisory team into the ministry building as soon as possible.

According to Haveman, "It's no longer acceptable for people to simply be aware that the ministry is functioning. We're going to integrate our advisory team within the ministry and conduct ministry business from the premises."

Reconstruction and repairs will upgrade the electrical and air conditioning systems and repair damage from arson and looting.

The ministry will soon put out a request for proposal to several Iraqi companies and expects an award and work to begin in the near future.

Pharmaceuticals on the move to hospitals and clinics in Iraq

Bagdad, Iraq July 2, 2003 – The Ministry of Health (MOH) and Kamadia deliveries have more than doubled since last week in an all out effort to push sufficient quantities of drugs and medical supplies to the Iraqi population in a timely fashion.

In the past two weeks, emergency shipments have totaled more than 1,300 tons at values approaching one billion dollars.

The effort "is just the tip of the iceberg," according to Jim Haveman. The ongoing distribution of "push packages" of essential core pharmaceuticals to all governorates will continue until all governorates are covered," he said.

Muthana, Anbar, Najaf, Basrah and Kerbala governorates are top priority. Shipments will also be sent to the three northern governorates.

Distribution of drugs to the semi-private and private sector has started. "This is a positive development as these drugs will include drugs for chronic diseases, which are distributed through pharmacies," Haveman said.

Kimadia agreed to receive up to 50 trucks weekly from Amman, Jordan to keep up warehouse inventories.

"We are relieved that the [pharmaceutical] pipeline is flowing again in Iraq. As a result, the international community is now able to better respond to the medical needs of the Iraqi population," said Dr. Kees Rietveld, Chair of the International Medical Aid Committee (IMAC).

MOH, CPA, WHO and Kimadia staff hold regular meetings to discuss priority issues, identify gaps and develop interim solutions necessary to keep medicines, equipment and supplies flowing.

NGO-MOH Meeting on Health

Mr. James Haveman, is energizing operations at the MOH building. "I'm going to be there (at the MOH building) and hold meetings there because that is the Ministry of Health," Haveman said.

He is convinced that the best way to develop the strategic plan is to work side by side with the MOH staff.

"The concept all along has been to help Iraq re-build the healthcare system and empower them to make it successful," he said.

Adopt-a-Hospital Program: Iraq

The MOH and CPA have developed "Adopt-a-Hospital" to maximize reconstruction efforts at health-care facilities and programs throughout Iraq.

The program enlists donors to address documented needs, both immediate and long-term. The focus is on re-building the capacity of Iraq's health system rather than developing parallel and competing structures.

Iraqi health professionals are involved in needs assessments and program administration and work in concert with the IMAC to identify immediate and long term requirements.

The IMAC includes representatives from the Iraqi MOH, WHO, UNICEF, ICRC, NGOs as well as representatives from humanitarian organizations.

Even though the program is titled "Adopt-a-Hospital", other facilities such as Laboratories, Primary Health Centers, Nutrition Centers, and other health-related facilities are also "adoption" candidates.

Public health

Incidents of cholera slowed markedly over the past few weeks, as treatment plants are back working resulting in an increase in chlorine levels in the water.

The total number of persons with cholera in Iraq is 84 with the largest concentration (76 cases) is in the Basrah area the remaining eight cases are scattered between Missan, Babil, Wasit, Muthanna, and one in Baghdad.

To deal with malaria, a campaign is being developed to spray trouble areas to reduce the numbers of mosquitoes and eliminate further local transmission in the areas between Kirkuk and Erbil.

Dr. Bill Kirkup returns to his home in England today. Bill was leading our public health effort for prevention and control of water- and food-borne diseases. Dr. Mike McGovern just arrived and will continue on with his work with Dr Diane Simpson.

Military medicine: Iraq disabled veterans to receive healthcare

Medical screening began Tuesday for 137 disabled veterans and their families at the Al Thura Disabled Veterans Community Tuesday.



A former Iraqi military doctor interviews a disabled veteran at Al Thura Veterans Community (Photo by: Maj. Dan Irrazarry)

This abandoned community was discovered by coalition forces nestled behind a wall, deep in the heart of Al Rasheed District in southern Baghdad.

Mr. James Haveman, Senior Advisor to the Ministry of Health directed ten of the former-military doctors, now working in the ministry, to perform physical exams on all 137 patients.

"We need to identify their health care needs and to reconstitute medical records destroyed during the war," Haveman said.

Thanks also to the Iraq Ministry of Health, Caritas, Islamic Relief, Food for the Hungry International (FHI), former Iraqi military physicians and coalition forces, these individuals will soon receive the health care they need

National Nurses Group Meeting, July 15 & 16, 2003

A national conference of Iraqi nurses will bring together management and floor nurses from across Iraq on July 15-16, 2003 to discuss the future of nursing careers in the country.

Facilities protective service training and equipping

Sunday's graduation brought the MOH facilities protective service

agents up to ten percent of 3,000 protective agents needed to support security at facilities across the country.

Some uniforms have arrived; we expect the remaining order to be here on Saturday.

Ministry reps return from NY. Donor conference

Dr. Emmad and Dr. Said returned from presenting Iraq health care needs to donors in Ny. Donor nations finalize their contributions reconstruction effort in October.

Dr. Emmad was recently elected to represent other residents in the MOH and is one of the first Iraqis to represent his country on the international stage since 1990.

Events Calendar:

July 3rd -- 11:00 a.m. NGO-MOH Meeting on Health at the MOH building

July 15-16th -- National Nurses Group Conference in Arabic at the Convention Center

July 17th -- Governorates Director Generals Meeting at the MOH Bldg.

July 17th -- 11:00 a.m. NGO-MOH Meeting on Health at the MOH building

July 22nd -- National Vaccination Day

July 31st -- 11:00 a.m. NGO-MOH Meeting on Health at the MOH building

Please e-mail your questions or comments/calendar input to:
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