



Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs  
United Nations Children's Fund



**UNOCHA/UNICEF Disaster Management Workshop, Erbil 7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup>  
October 2008**

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are conducting a three-day workshop on disaster management in Erbil, 7th – 9th October. 26 participants from all over Iraq including 16 representatives from Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) together with representatives of Government Emergency Cells (GEC) in the governorates of Kerbala, Wassit, Missan, Thi Qar, Erbil, Suliemanyah and Dahouk will participate in the workshop.

The main goal of the workshop is to build the capacity of Iraqi NGOs and Government Emergency Cells (GEC) to prepare for and respond to disasters and emergencies. The workshop also offers an opportunity to enhance coordination and cooperation between the United Nations, NGOs and Government agencies specialized in the field of emergency response.

NGOs and GECs participating in the workshop, the first of its kind to be conducted by OCHA and UNICEF inside Iraq, are working in sectors of food, non-food items, water, environmental sanitation, education and health.

During the first day of the workshop, participants will be given an introduction to the UN humanitarian system, the Humanitarian Reform and the UN cluster approach in the field. There will also be an introduction to International Humanitarian Law and humanitarian principles.

On the second day of the workshop, participants will be introduced to basic planning and contingency principles, in preparation of a simulation exercise. During the simulation exercise, the participants will be presented to a fictional emergency scenario, and will be asked to make a response plan.

The workshop will also introduce themes as rapid assessment of humanitarian emergencies, monitoring and evaluation of emergency interventions, the code of conduct for humanitarian workers and the issue of prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in the context of humanitarian emergencies.

### ***About UN OCHA in Iraq:***

The Mission of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors in order to:

- Alleviate human suffering in disasters and emergencies
- Advocate for the rights of people in need
- Promote preparedness and prevention
- Facilitate sustainable solutions

OCHA acts as the secretariat for the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) in the coordination of humanitarian action in Iraq. Prime areas of responsibility are information management, advocacy and resource mobilization, disaster preparedness and response, and protection. The current OCHA Iraq office was established in May 2007.

### ***About UNICEF in Iraq***

UNICEF has been on the ground inside Iraq since 1984, providing children and women with vital humanitarian relief and bringing them the essentials of a better life. Today, programs supported by UNICEF are reaching millions of Iraqi children with a package of critical care - improving basic health services, promoting quality education, rebuilding water and sanitation systems, protecting children from abuse and exploitation, and advocating for their best interests. UNICEF's new humanitarian action network, IMPACT: Iraq, is also delivering rapid emergency responses to children and families in crisis, relieving immediate suffering and promoting early recovery.

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