



United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)
بعثة الأمم المتحدة لمساعدة العراق (يونامي)

Public Information Office
Press Release

UNAMI Celebrates with Iraq the World Statistics Day

20 October 2010-The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) celebrates today with Iraq the first World Statistics Day (WSD), an occasion designated by the United Nations General Assembly's resolution 64/267. The UN Statistical Commission, during its 41st Session held in February 2010, selected 20 October as the day to celebrate WSD under the theme of 'Celebrating the Many Achievements of Statistics: Service, Professionalism and Integrity'.

In Iraq, statistics are of particular significance, and the role of the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) and the Kurdistan Region Statistics Office (KRSO) are vital. New baseline data needs to be established to support sound policy making and development planning and to enable the monitoring and tracking of progress, including that made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The UN family is celebrating with Iraq the WSD to acknowledge the outstanding achievements made in the field of official statistics and to congratulate the country for the accomplishments of the last few years. The UN also confirms its willingness to continue supporting Iraq in developing an integrated and effective statistical system in line with the fundamental principles of official statistics endorsed by the UN Statistics Committee, in accordance with international professional codes and best practices.

On the WSD, the UN family believes that the upcoming population and housing census is an important opportunity to provide a vital set of indicators, which will underpin development planning in Iraq. Furthermore, while the supply of official statistics was important in the past years, additional statistics are still required for the national and international agenda to track progress by the Government of Iraq and the UN planned programmes over the next four years. The additional statistics will also contribute to the implementation of the National Development Plan, which requires an enabling environment for the CSO and the KRSO to fulfill their duties in a professional manner.

*For more information, please contact: Ms. Radhia Achouri, Director of Public Information/Spokesperson,
UNAMI, Mobile Baghdad: +964 79 0193 12 81, Mobile Jordan: +962 777 619 739,
Office Baghdad: +390 831 232 640, Email: achouri@un.org*