

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP
53rd MEETING**

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**UNHCR Headquarters, Geneva
Room MBT04A (Basement)**

Iraq: Key Challenges and Constraints to the UN Humanitarian Activities

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- Security
 - UN staff, particularly in Baghdad, are operating in an active combat zone with increasing number of attacks upon coalition targets that could easily affect us.
 - Lack of law and order lead to looting and damage of infrastructures. Looting/sabotage of rehabilitated infrastructures create frustrations
 - Assessment and delivery capacity affected.
 - “Service” crisis (lack of power, water, garbage collection, etc) may lead to social unrest, especially in urban areas.

- Dealing with the CPA
 - CPA lacks capacity to properly deal with all the issues of concern to humanitarian agencies at this moment in time – due to the wide variety of functions that each Ministry Senior Adviser has to deal with.
 - SRSRG and HCI are urging, where necessary, the CPA to put more attention in certain sectors and areas (such as DDR).

- Coordination
 - Difficulties in identifying players and counterparts in the ministries, CPA and amongst NGOs for each sector.
 - Sectoral Coordination needs to be strengthened at the national level from Baghdad.
 - Coordination at Area / Governorate level proceeding very well – both in coordinating with the humanitarian community and in liaising with the Authority/Military. The Area Offices operate differently in different areas to adapt themselves to the realities on the ground.
 - Difficulty in communications affecting the organisation of meetings between Iraqi technocrats, CPA and UN Agencies to effectively coordinate.

- Demobilization of an estimated 4-500,000 ex-military personnel
 - Important to continue pressing the CPA to have a comprehensive DDR plan and to base UN plans around it.