The World Health Organization works in partnership with the Ministry of Health in fulfilling the Ministry’s vision of the provision of accessible, affordable and available, safe and comprehensive quality health services. The four main areas of work which encompass all WHO activities are: (1) Access to quality health services (2) Prevention and control of diseases (communicable and non-communicable) (3) Mother, child and reproductive health and (4) Environmental health. These areas of work, which are consistent with the Ministry’s strategy and the UN Health Cluster’s strategic outcomes, are used within this Bulletin to present activities undertaken in the reporting period. For additional information on WHO activities in Iraq please consult our website below.

**JOINT GOVERNMENT - WHO PROGRAMME REVIEW AND PLANNING MISSION**

This week, WHO and the representatives from the Government of Iraq met in Amman, Jordan for the Joint Government - WHO Programme Review and Planning Mission. This Mission forms an integral part of WHO’s regular programme management process, in which they review with Iraq the outcome of the current collaboration in light of the overall social and economic development of the Iraq and the existing strategic plans and decide on the joint collaborative programme for the next biennium. This important activity was attended by senior representatives of the Ministries of Health, Planning, Environment and Higher Education, the WHO-Regional Office and the WHO-Iraq Country Office. The outcome of the mission was the detailed operational plan for the coming biennium.

**PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF DISEASES**

WHO has provided technical and logistic support to the Ninewa DOH in conducting five meetings on water and food born diseases, from the 7th – 11th August 2005. The 200 participants (averaging 40 per meeting) were attended from the following directorates:

1. DoH – Food inspectors, water quality supervisors and health educators in the PHC centers;
2. Directorate of Water- water plants and water quality supervisors;
3. Directorate of Environment - technical supervisors;
4. Directorate of Sewage - technical supervisors.

WHO has provided technical and logistical support to the Basra DOH in conducting a training workshop for paramedic staff, on water born diseases and proper case management. The workshop was conducted in Directorate of Health building in Basra, from the 7th – 9th August 2005 and had 20 paramedics attend.
First Sector Working Group Meeting

This week, a major step forward in donor coordination in Iraq took place – with the holding of the first Sector Working Group Meeting in Baghdad. The first Sector to meet was health, highlighting the priority the Iraqi Government vests in health. WHO attended this meeting via video link from Amman and actually in the MOH in Baghdad, along with representatives from UNAMI, EU, France, Turkey, USAID, US Embassy, World Bank, Italy, WHO, UNICEF, WFP, IOM, UNIDO, UNOPS, UNEP. Those present, under the chairmanship of Mr Ammar Al-Saffar (Deputy Minister of Health) discussed how donors can best support the Ministry of Health and agreed upon a number of action points, including that WHO will jointly carry the role of secretariat for the Sector Working Group.