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PRESS RELEASE
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Basic Development Needs Meeting

[ihtiajat altanmia al assasia]

On June 2, the IFF cosponsored the first meeting of the Basic Development Needs Working Group. Working Group members include representatives from the Ministries of Health (MoH), Education, Agriculture, Environment, Planning and Youth, as well as the Iraqi Future Foundation. The meeting was held at the Ministry of Health - Baghdad, Iraq.

The objective of this Working Group is to assess the conditions facing Iraq's poorest communities and identify more immediate solutions to improve living conditions. During this first session, the Working Group reached two key conclusions:

1. Residents in small cities and villages must be involved in determining the needs of their communities versus centralized plans.
2. Many factors affecting health are out of the control of the MOH (i.e. purified water, proper sewage system, jobs, education levels, agriculture & irrigation]

Program activities will be test piloted in seven communities and evaluated over a period of three years before rolling out nationally. The project will be launched in July with the training of those who will implement this effort.

Following are the neighborhood selected from various provinces: Al Sader City - Baghdad; Nahiyat Ar Rashdia - Baghdad; Hayet Aj Jamaheer - Falluja [West]; Hayet Al Musharah - Al A'ama Province [South]; Qadah Al Shatra - An Nassriyah Province [South]; Qadah Al Rumaitha - As Samawa [South]; Qadah Al Hira - An Nejef [South]; Qadah Halapcha - Suleimania [North]

A local committee for each of the above cities will be formed by electing one representative for each 50 houses. These POCs will liaison with Working Group program coordinators. The MoH and IFF will be the organizers of the Working Group with input and support from other participating ministries.

Next the communities will be surveyed to assess the problems and identify the priorities for the residents. A detailed



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questionnaire was developed by the Working Group; consisting of 10 categories and 30 questions that address household demographics, income, health, conditions, education.

Helping to improve the nation's health system, including support for training young medical professionals, is one of the pillars of the Iraqi Future Foundation.

For more information about this topic or the IFF, please send your questions to: info@iraqifuturefoundation.org