

## **Fact Sheet**

### **Special Update Centres**

1. In compliance with the Election Law and to prevent opportunities for disenfranchisement, IHEC has decided to open Special Update Centres on March 7. These polling centres will be opened for eligible Iraqis missing from the Final Voters List or who changed their governorate of registration with the Ministry of Trade (MoT) since July 2007 but did not participate in the last IHEC Voter Registration Updates. IHEC has prepared special voters lists for these categories of voters which contain 796,266 Iraqis who may vote only in one of 557 specially assigned centres (containing 1,417 polling stations) on March 7. These polling centres correspond with the areas covered by the MoT Food Distribution Centres.
2. At the entrance to these polling centres there will be a list of eligible voters for that polling centre. Only voters named on the list will be allowed to enter the centre and cast a ballot. If a voter is not found on the list of the Special Update Centre s/he will be offered the assistance of an IHEC staff member who will call the local IHEC Help Desk to determine the proper polling centre location where the voter can cast his/her ballot.
3. All voters must present their Ration Card issued for the Food Distribution Centre that corresponds with the Special Update Polling Centre in order to vote in that Centre.
4. All voters found on the Special Update Polling Centre list will then vote by conditional ballots. Their information will be recorded on a blank voter list in addition to the conditional ballot envelope. After marking a ballot the voter will place his/her ballot in a secrecy envelope. The secrecy envelope is then placed in the conditional ballot envelope with voter's information and then cast in the ballot box.
5. When the polling stations close all ballot boxes will be sealed and together with other sensitive materials transferred to the Governorate Count Centres in the presence of IHEC staff with security escorts. Political agents and observers may follow the ballot boxes to the Count Centres and observe the entire process.
6. The ballot boxes from the Special Update Centres will be opened in the Count Centres and double checked against reconciliation forms. After the reconciliation, voter information on each conditional ballot envelope will be verified against the special update list of voters eligible in that governorate. Envelopes with ballots of voters found on the list will be passed for further batching and count. Before the ballots are batched and counted conditional ballot envelopes will be separated from secrecy envelopes in order to preserve secrecy of vote. Envelopes with ballots of those not found on the list will be discarded and not counted.
7. If multiple votes are discovered during the verification process, those will be discarded and not counted. The final tabulation of all these ballots will then take place at the IHEC Data Entry Centre in Baghdad.