

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #:A5-31
Date and Quarter Updated: Q2 2012

Participating UN Organisation: WFP

Sector: AFSSOT

Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: MOLSA/MOT

Title	Capacity Building to Reform the Public Distribution System and Strengthen Social Safety Nets for Vulnerable Groups in Iraq				
Geographic Location	Nationwide				
Project Cost	US\$2,500,000				
Duration	24 months + 3 months extension				
Approval Date (SC)	27.06.2010	Starting Date	02.07.2010	Completion Date	02.07.2012 extended to 30.09.2012
Project Description	In support of the GOI priority of reforming the PDS and improving efficiency in social transfers, WFP has signed a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Trade and initiated the development operation “Capacity Building to reform the Public Distribution System and Strengthen Social Safety Net for Vulnerable Groups”. Within the context of the WFP development operation mentioned above, the proposed programme supports the initial activities of the development operation and facilitates the commencement of its implementation and offers immediate support to the government efforts.				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

National priority or goals (NDS 2007- 2010 and ICI):

NDS: Pillar 3: Improving the quality of life

ICI Benchmarks (as per the Joint Monitoring Matrix 2008):

Benchmark 4.3.1.1: Phase out universal subsidies

Benchmark 4.4.1.1: Design and carry out specific policies including reforms and investments toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals

Benchmark 4.4.2.1: Undertake specific measure to strengthen the targeted safety net

Sector Team Outcome:

Outcome 2: GoI has national food assistance and hunger-reduction programmes in place

Integrated Programme/Project Outcome:

GoI has national food assistance and hunger-reduction programmes in place.

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement

Outputs	1. GoI has strengthened capacity to design and implement efficient Social Safety Net programmes 2. MoT has strengthened capacity to support efficient food supply chains management in Iraq
Activities	1. Activities under Output 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Social Safety net Design was conducted in Thailand for two MOLSA Staff followed by 3 more trainings on Social Safety Net impact analysis and design in Amman, Erbil, and Baghdad for 19 MOLSA staff. ○ M&E Training for 7 MOLSA Training was conducted in Erbil. ○ 21 MOLSA Staff received training and participated in workshops on SSN Design ○ SSN M&E system designed and Beneficiary Contact Monitoring questionnaire developed and tested.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assessment of SSN efficiency in poverty reduction completed ○ 10 MOLSA Employees received training in SSN Field Operations ○ The Food Security and Vulnerability Survey conducted. ○ A Food Security and Expenditures tabulation report published. ○ WFP completed the draft report “Food Security and Social Transfer in Iraq” and held a high level discussion with representatives of the Ministry of Planning, Trade, Labour and Agriculture, the Secretary General of the Council of Ministers and members of Parliament. ○ The M&E MIS has been developed and is currently under the testing phase <p>2. Activities under Output 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Procurement Training Curriculum developed ○ Shipping Training Curriculum developed ○ Logistics/Pipeline Mgmt / Commodity Tracking Training Curriculum developed ○ 53 participants from Baghdad and the Governorates received training in Public Sector International Food Procurement and Import ○ 23 participants from Baghdad and the Governorates received training in Logistics, warehouse management and Supply Chain Management ○ 27 participants from Baghdad and the Governorates received training in M&E for the PDS. ○ All training curricula have been translated into Arabic and planning for holding the TOT in early September is underway
Procurement	One armoured car was purchased

Funds Committed	US\$212,500	% of approved	8%
Funds Disbursed	US\$2,287,500	% of approved	92%
Forecast final date	31 Aug 2012	Delay (months)	2

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men	N/A	N/A
Women	N/A	N/A
Children	N/A	N/A
IDPs	N/A	N/A
Others	N/A	N/A
Indirect beneficiaries	N/A	N/A
Employment generation (men/women)	N/A	N/A

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results		
Output 1	GoI has strengthened capacity to design and implement efficient Social Safety Net programmes	80%
Output 2	MoT has strengthened capacity to support efficient food supply chains management in Iraq	60%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results
<p>Activities under output 1 are nearly complete. The Food Security analysis has been completed and shared with relevant Ministries and WFP awaits their comments in order to finalize the report. The M&E MIS has been completed and is currently being tested by WFP. WFP will undertake a training for MOLSA staff on the use of the MIS.</p> <p>Activities under output 2 are also expected to be completed in time. The curricula have been translated into Arabic and the TOT is planned to take place in early September.</p>

Main implementation constrains & challenges (2-3 sentences)

a. The change in the Ministers in the end of 2010 brought about by the formation of the new coalition government following the elections in early 2010 required a significant amount of time for WFP to re-establish links with the top management of both the Ministry of Trade (MOT) and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA). While the process was swift with MOLSA (the Minister was identified in January 2011 and the MOU was signed in March 2011) the Ministry of Trade remained without a Minister until March 2011 and effective engagement with the MOT was on hold until October 2011.

b. Restrictions on access within Iraq due to security measures are found to cause significant delays in the preparation and completion of project activities. While this was foreseen during the project design phase, the time impact of the obstacles to implementation was under estimated.

c. Recruitment of qualified national officers has proven difficult mainly due to the dearth of candidates with sufficient qualifications caused by the systematic brain drain from Iraq. Qualified Iraqi nationals are almost entirely employed in the public sector (which encompasses 40% of all employment in Iraq) and would not forsake the stability of Government employment for short term assignments in WFP.