

United Nations Development Group - Iraq Trust Fund
Project #: D2- 31
Date and Quarter Updated: 1 July – 30 September 2012

Participating UN Organisation: UNFPA (Lead agency), WHO, UNICEF **Priority Area:** Human Capital
(formerly Health and Nutrition Sector)

Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Ministry of Health in Iraq, Ministry of Health-KRG, in collaboration with MoE, MoHE, MoYS, MoLSA (Central & KRG)

Title	Adolescents & youth friendly health services at PHC level				
Geo. Location	Baghdad, Erbil, Missan and Babel				
Project Cost	UNFPA US \$ 1,000,716 WHO US\$ 384,891 UNICEF US\$ 150,052				
Duration	18 months + 12 months extensions				
SC Approval Date	11.04.2010	Starting Date	28.04.2010	Completion Date	28.10.2011 extended to 28.10.2012
Project Description	The main purpose of this project is to create a youth friendly health services package within the PHC setting to better respond to adolescents and youth's health needs; thereby filling the gaps in planning for these services. Being a pilot project, the planned services will build on and develop the existing services at the PHCCs to become more accessible to the Iraqi youth, a service package will be developed in collaboration with The American university of Beirut, using the successful experiences of providing such services in the region; the package will be based on WHO/UNFPA modules. Using the results of the 2004 youth KAP Survey and the 2009 National Youth survey, an in depth research on youth health and psychological needs was conducted. The project will also cover the generation of strategic information on the dynamics of health, seeking behaviours, and the utilization of health services by youths in Iraq, this information will assist in setting the basis for drawing a National Youth Health Strategy, which is currently taking place in Iraq.				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

The Integrated Programme/Project Outcome(s):

Enhanced Capacities of Iraqi Health system to adequately address Youth Health needs and wellbeing challenges

The proposed project will target in and out of school Adolescents and Youth of the age group (12-24); existing within the catchments areas of 20 PHC centres in the following governorates; Baghdad (Karkh and Rusafa) Babel, Missan and Erbil.

The project activities will be implemented as a pilot project at the PHC centres including health clinics within universities at the above mentioned governorates.

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement

Outputs	Output 1: 20 Adolescents & Youth-Friendly Health Services are operational within existing PHC centres in 4 governorates Output 2 : Demand and use of youth friendly health services is increased through community participation
Activities	<p>Key activities for output 1 (UNFPA & WHO)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct In-depth research on youth health and psychological needs, using results of the 2005 youth KAP Survey and the 2009 National Youth Survey, and define a Health service package addressing adolescents/youth health and wellbeing needs to be provided through existing PHC centres, taking into account age and sex of target group, as well as interventions of other actors in this area; Prepare norms, standards and guidelines for Youth Friendly Health services; and develop a training manual for Youth health providers, based on WHO/UNFPA modules Train a gender-balanced/sensitive teams of health providers (medical, psychologist and paramedical staff) in the selected PHC centres, and secure regular monitoring and support to the newly established AYFH services; Setup up an internal monitoring system of Youth Friendly Health services, in close involvement of a group of Youth volunteers

	<p>e. Prepare a draft Adolescents & Youth Health Strategy, reflecting MoH contribution to the multi-sectoral/multi-dimensional National Youth Strategy.</p> <p>f. Conduct training of YFHS and PHCCs managers on operational guidelines developed by AUB with the support of MoH and UNFPA.</p> <p>g. Ongoing trainings on YFHS manuals for MOH's medical and paramedical staff.</p> <p>h. During the reporting phase, UNFPA had been working on the preparation of an action plan with peer educators networks, in collaboration with the MOH and the Iraqi Reproductive Health and Family Planning Association. This action plan aims at the implementation of the AYFHS at the designated PHCCs and IRHFPA clinics.</p> <p>i. The Projects Directorate at MoH had agreed to provide minor rehabilitation for selected PHCCs.</p> <p>Key activities for output2 :(UNFPA,WHO,UNICEF)</p> <p>a. Conduct sensitization meetings with families, community leaders, community volunteers with in the Community Based Initiative District (CBI), schools teachers, local NGOs on the importance of having youth friendly services, and Set up network of partners, including community centres, schools, parent-teachers associations (PTA), NGOs and others;</p> <p>b. Review existing IEC materials, manuals, including those used in other countries in the region, develop and produce adapted versions, and conduct outreach activities for youth through existing youth peer volunteer's programme.</p> <p>c. Create a healthy psycho-social environment to help teachers, students and parents to develop a positive psycho-social climate through implementing school-based interventions to raise awareness of teachers on their role in providing proper emotional development of students, provide psychosocial support to students and to develop positive relations between the schools, community and PHC centre.</p> <p>d. Enhance self-esteem of youth and decrease the negative impact of living in war situation.</p> <p>e. Create community youth network to mobilize youths towards utilization of youth friendly health services, and build their capacity in peer education.</p> <p>f. UNFPA had approved a request to print and disseminate IEC materials for the training of MOH health promotion staff on YFHS, the training toolkits had been edited and finalized.</p>
Procurement	NA

WHO

Funds Committed	367,556	% of approved	95.4%
Funds Disbursed	297,310	% of approved	77.2%
Forecast final date	October 28, 2012	Delay (months)	12

UNFPA

Funds Committed	952,381	% of approved	95%
Funds Disbursed	668,034	% of approved	67%
Forecast final date	October 28, 2012	Delay (months)	12

UNICEF

Funds Committed	67,425.00	% of approved	45%
Funds Disbursed	0	% of approved	0%
Forecast final date	October 28, 2012	Delay (months)	12

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results

Output 1.1: PHC mangers and providers have improved capacities to provide Youth-Friendly Health Services in targeted governorates

UNFPA input

Conduct research on youth health/psychological needs and perceptions among in and out-of-schools youth, and determinants of youth health seeking behaviour.	<p>In preparation for the launching of the Adolescents Youth friendly Health services, UNFPA has entered into agreement with the American University of Beirut – Regional External Programs Unit (AUB-REP) in December 2009, to identify a culturally sensitive model, and a suitable modality for AYFHS in Iraq, in addition to writing a report on the youth needs and analysing the situation of Iraqi health facilities, where the AYFHS will be put into action.</p> <p>- UNFPA with MOH and 3 national consultants have conducted a research in both Bagdad and Erbil, on perceptions and needs of the Iraqi youth; the report</p>	100%
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	<p>on the findings of the study was finalized in close coordination between the implementing parties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The results of the study were presented in a workshop that was held in Beirut – Lebanon from 4 to 7 March 2010 with the participation of UNFPA, MOH, AUB, representatives from 3 countries (Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt) with experiences on AYFHS, and participants from UNFPA Lebanon and Palestine Offices. - During the 3-days workshop, the participants identified the essential package of services to be delivered and presented an adequate model commensurate with the situation and the cultural context of Iraq. <p>The above mentioned activities took place before the final approval of the project and the transfer of funds. UNFPA along with its partners had taken the necessary steps to set grounds in preparation for the project’s start.</p>	
Organize workshop to define an Iraqi adapted Health service package addressing adolescent/Youth health and wellbeing needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A workshop in Beirut took place in July 2010 to Prepare norms, standards and guidelines for Youth Friendly Health services, including list of drugs provided to PHCCs level, based on WHO/UNFPA modules, in the workshop the titles and chapters of the modules were identified. - A questionnaire was developed in the same workshop to be used to collect information from youth inside Iraq. 	100%
Select 20 PHC centres in designated 4 governorates based on defined criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visits were conducted by MOH (Baghdad and KRG) to PHC centres using an assessment tool that was agreed upon. - The assessment resulted in identifying a list of PHC centres to implement the project’s activities. 7 of these PHCCs will be considered as pilot YFHS centers. 	100%
Prepare norms, standards and guidelines for Youth Friendly Health services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A validation workshop was held in Beirut in collaboration with the American University in Beirut (AUB) on October 20-22 with participation of the MOH Baghdad and KRG representatives of youth programs and all future trainers from AUB. - Between October and end of December AUB team had worked on the same activity (Part 2) 	100%
Develop a training manual for Youth health providers, based on WHO/UNFPA modules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At the end of the last quarter of 2010, all norms, standards and manuals were developed and are ready to be utilized for the upcoming TOT. - 2 days workshop held at Erbil to discuss and develop operational guidelines and topics discussed in details(mission, organization, route, horary, responsible, registration, M&E, integration and communication) - Operational guideline draft sent to MoH and waiting for final comments for finalization. - All modules designed and edited in preparation for printing, the Logo for YFHS designed and tested by a group of youth. - Youth committee at MoH designed a cover page for modules and agreed on final design of operational and training manuals. 	100%
Conduct a training of trainers on norms, standards and guidelines for Youth Friendly Health services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A 7-day workshop was conducted to create a core of trainers at the central and the KRG levels. - With MOHE participation through a team of academicians of Iraqi universities and technical assistants from the AUB, a high quality workshop was conduct on YFHS modules, communication skills, facilitation, and guidelines for both managers and health providers - Training on operational guidelines had taken place during the reporting phase 	100%
Select 6 PHC centres in selected 4 governorates based on defined Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Several visits were conducted, through which the following objectives were achieved: - Depending on the design criteria, 6 PHCCs were selected to implement YFHS: two in Erbil and one for each DOH in Baghdad-Kharh, Baghdad-Rusafa, Babil and Missan. - At the same time minor rehabilitation plan for these PHCCs was designed. - Budget estimated and process is on-going - New PHCC was selected at Baghdad Al-Khark to implement YFHS, budget estimated and process ongoing, total number will be 7 PHCCs. - The MOH had approved the rehabilitation to be undertaken by UNFPA, the selection of the suppliers is taking place in collaboration with the Director of projects at the MOH, and in accordance with the MOH’s rules and regulations. 	100%

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional 11 PHCCs were selected under the same criteria, the logistical and administrative issues had been settled with the MoH to facilitate the bidding process, to delegate this task to an independent third party. 	
Identify a team of health providers from each selected PHC centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All partners agreed to train all health providers at selected PHCCs on YFHS services which will lead to an increase in the utilization of services - A Technical meeting was held at UNFPA office to plan for the next steps in project implementation. - All training modules were agreed upon, and a final version is ready for editing. - Several consensus meetings with PCD direct general and IRHFPA manager to explore YFHS implementation at 5 PC centres and 3 IRHFPA clinics. - All measures had been defined to implement YFHS at the clinics of the Iraqi Reproductive Health and Family Planning Association, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed to this effect, and a plan of action was agreed upon. - The Staff responsible for mental health promotion at schools were trained over 5 days on YFHS manuals, they had been nominated from areas surrounding the YFHS units in order to enhance their skills and increase the service visibility. - Currently, all 18 PHCCs are well connected with their communities and youth residing at the catchment areas; this is being achieved by defining focal points from both sides; the MoH and youth groups who are already trained on partnerships and communication. 	90%
Conduct training of providers teams (medical, psychologist and paramedical staff)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Six training courses for health providers were conducted at Erbil and Baghdad and another two courses for managers were planned. - Operational guideline training for managers was conducted. - A 10 days training course for doctors from PCD and IRHFPA staff on YFHS manuals had taken place. 	85%
Conduct follow-up sessions for trained providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tools for M&E of training courses was developed and used during courses. (Pre and post-test, trainer evaluation and courses evaluation). - Fund transferred to conduct orientation course for health promotion managers at DoH with YFHS. - IEC material for YFHS marketing developed and quotation in process after design approval from youth committee at MoH 	80%
Monitoring system of quality of care is defined and operational, with youth participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth participation mechanisms were discussed during a 2 day “Operational guidelines” work shop that was held in Erbil. - A 5 day study tour took place in Morocco for 12 providers and managers from MoH (Baghdad and Erbil), the aim of this study tour is to expose the Iraqi participants to successful practices to similar experiences in a country with shared similarities, and as part of a south-south cooperation. - 2 focal points “male and female” for each YFHS unit were nominated, reaching the total of 40. The selection of the nominees was based on structured criteria; their role will liaising between the health units and the communities, this will be achieved by social mobilization and in collaboration with resource persons from health-youth centres and schools in the catchment areas. 	80%
Develop a data collection tools for YFHS and support its utilization within established 20 YFHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Client registration Form was developed and agreed on with MoH. - Several technical meetings were conducted to match the data collected from YFHS to the Health Information System that is already being used by MoH. - Develop Youth participation action plan in collaboration of MoH, MoE, MoY and local NGOs. - A panel for youth participation was defined by members from MoH, MoE, MoYS, Y-peers, NGOs and UNFPA coordinator. - An action plan for youth participation was developed throughout technical meetings between all concerned partners. - A final version of youth participation (YHAP) program was sent to the MoH for endorsement. 	80%
Identify a group of Youth volunteers and train them on administrative Tasks and health education techniques.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group of youth volunteers identified and an orientation meeting conducted. - A plan was developed and a meeting was held with youth volunteers to discuss the modality of implementation. - A technical meeting was conducted and a focal person for each PHCC was nominated, to carry out the role of a coordinator between PHCC and the catchment areas’ local communities. 	80%

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Another technical meeting was held with the aforementioned coordinators to identify the responsibilities and outline the coordination mechanism with the MoH. - 3 training sessions were conducted in Erbil, the objectives of which were to enhance the communication and outreach skills, events management, and IEC materials' design. Groups from youth and MoH staff joined together in a participatory "youth-adult partnership" manner. 	
WHO input		
20 Adolescents & Youth-Friendly Health Services are operational within existing PHC centres in 4 governorates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 days technical committee meeting to discuss the workplan for the programme implementation at the selected governorates. A plan of action was developed which included capacity building activities for teachers and students. - Training courses in Erbil, Baghdad, Missan and Babel on Adolescents and Youth friendly services for doctors and Paramedicals working at the selected PHC centers. - one training course for 35 teachers at secondary school on mental health issue and psycho social support for students with behaviour changes 	90%
Demand and use of youth friendly health services is increased through community participation	<p>The MoH in collaboration with WHO organized four-day workshop to outline the main activities, and expected outcomes of the health communication and the importance of electronic media. The workshop was held in Amman from 13-16 September 2012. It focused on the importance of planning for day-to-day work, as well as planning for emergencies. This workshop is the first of its kind bringing together all the media personnel working in the field.</p> <p>It involved a network of 30 participants from health communication and media units from the Iraqi Ministry of Health. It was facilitated by WHO regional experts in addition to the assistant vice president of the Lebanese American University.</p> <p>The participants highlighted their priorities and challenges in dealing with media crisis. The importance of collaboration with the health promotion unit was brought into focus. The importance of media and communication having a special budget was highlighted as well as electronic media e.g Facebook. Another challenge was the use of a qualified person to transmit messages to the public, and finally, the importance of communication between the ministries underlined.</p> <p>Earlier this year, the MoH established the First National Association for Health Journalists on the occasion of World Health Day 2012 to ensure its commitment towards the importance of media.</p>	90%
UNICEF input		
Community leaders, families, and teachers, are better able to promote utilization of youth friendly health services	Based on the researches/studies that have been done on youth health/psychological needs and perceptions among in and out-of-schools youth, and determinants of youth health seeking behaviour and subsequent workshops and meetings with MOH focal points, as well as, the selected governorates and PHCs to implement the - pilot project – as a first step; the essential package of services to be delivered and presented have been identified in line with the cultural context of Iraq. UNICEF initiated the discussion with the youth focal point in collaboration with health promotion department; the first proposal submitted in July on supporting training of peer educators at youth and PHC centres level and the second one submitted in October for peer educators at school level.	15 %
	UNICEF negotiated with MOH the development /adoption of training and IEC materials and toolkits for youth peer educators including the number per module per governorate, the material content were developed and UNICEF assist MOH in designation of the of it, printing will be finished very soon.	70%
	UNICEF will implement training sessions for the peer educators at the youth and vocational training centres level in the third quarter of 2011(awaiting receiving government proposal very soon).	5%
	As UNICEF is traditionally the lead in social mobilization activities, hence, it support MOH to create community youth network to mobilize youth / advocate for utilization of the available services through conducting outreach activities targeting out-of-school youths, as well as in monitoring the implementation, the proposal delayed due to busyness of MOH with other competing priorities.	5%

Output 2.1 : Community leaders, families, teachers, and peer educators are better able to promote utilization of youth friendly health services		
UNFPA input		
Youth mobilization and psychosocial support is intensified in Intermediate and secondary schools in catchment areas of established 20 YFHS		
1- Select three (3) Intermediate and secondary schools within catchment area of the selected 20 PHC centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The work plan on YHAP included the activity of mapping the catchment areas, a task to be carried out by the assigned coordinators. - 2 schools were selected and linked to PHCCs, school focal points were identified and orientation sessions were conducted jointly with the MoH and youth groups. 	50%
2- Support intermediate and secondary schools to establish Youth /Health clubs in each selected schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A dialogue with resource persons from both MoH and MoE had taken place, to establish and construct such clubs, which in turn is dependent on the existence on certain health and environment committees. - Resources options were explored in close collaboration with MoH and full support of MoE to initiate such clubs. 	30%
3- Develop and print IEC materials for youth peer educators, based on those used in other countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IEC materials from both Morocco and Lebanon had been received, and are under consideration for modifications to be in agreement with the Iraqi culture. - In collaboration with UNICEF materials were tested and are ready for printing out. 	50%
Community-based Youth mobilization is intensified in catchment areas of 20 YFHS		
1- Create community youth network to mobilize youth for utilization of YFHS and build their capacity in peer education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An announcement on Peer educator training was disseminated between the relevant partners, to build and construct a Y-Peer network at the PHCCs catchment areas. 	20%
2- Conduct outreach activities targeting out-of-school youths, through existing youth-peer volunteers programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many channels were established to advocate for youth participation through the involvement of youth in project implementation, including sharing the design and planning of outreach activities. 	10%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Close coordination with MoH/ Department of Primary Health care/Maternal ,child and Reproductive Health to discuss the health education messages and IEC materials for the project in relation to youth and Adolescents ▪ Identify group of Peer educators and volunteers to elaborate youth participation through community mobilization. ▪ Capacity building of teachers and paramedicals on youth friendly services ▪ Advocacy meeting for religious and community leaders ▪ YHFS services were launched in Baghdad, attended by officials from MoH, MoE, MoY&S, local NGOs and community leaders. ▪ A package of 12 manuals + operational guideline including training materials is in the final step of dissemination. ▪ YFHS booklet development targeting youth visualize youth concerns.

Main implementation constrains & challenges (2-3 sentences)
<p>UNFPA:</p> <p>The main challenges at this stage are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The coordination between different partners for following up on the project implementation. The difficulty arises mostly at the ministerial level, due to the different rules and distinguished system of work at each ministry. - In addition, the participation of youth is a new practice, which faces difficulties in its introduction, especially the peer education component. - The Minor rehabilitation process is still moving slowly, although intensive efforts were to accelerate the process. <p>WHO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Main challenge is to complete the remaining activities by the end of the project through active involvement of all stakeholders(MoH and MoE)