

**United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund**  
**Project #:F8-10**  
**Date and Quarter Updated: July to September 2012 (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, 2012)**

**Participating UN Organisation: UNICEF (Lead), UNFPA** **Priority Area: Human Capital**

**Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA)**  
(federal and regional)

<b>Title</b>	Strengthening Protection and Justice for Children and Young People in Iraq				
<b>Geo. Location</b>	Governorates: Baghdad, Basra, Ninewa, Erbil, Suleymaniya and Dohuk				
<b>Project Cost</b>	3,000,000 - UNICEF US\$ 2,000,000: UNFPA US\$ 1,000,000				
<b>Duration</b>	24 months + 16 months time extension				
<b>Approval Date</b>	04.06.2012	<b>Starting Date</b>	14.08.2009	<b>Completion Date</b>	14.08.2011 extended to 31.12.2012
<b>Project Description</b>	<p>This project is designed to provide technical support to the Government of Iraq (GoI) to strengthen the Juvenile Justice System and increase children and young people's access to justice and protection. The project uses a three pronged approach to alleviate the plight of children currently caught up in the judicial system, promote restorative justice, and develop strategic direction for juvenile justice in Iraq. First, at the national level the project works with the High Judicial Council and government ministries involved in the administration of juvenile justice on advocacy for legislative reform, reduction of pre-trial detention, introduction of diversion and alternative measures, on improvement of systems for data collection, monitoring and tracking of children who are in contact with the law. Secondly, at the community level the project focuses on actions that prevent children from coming into contact with the law, diversion projects and provides reintegration assistance to children released from detention centres and reformatories. Lastly, the project also heavily invests in developing the capacities of key duty bearers in the juvenile justice system in Iraq.</p>				

**Development Goal and Immediate Objectives**

The developmental goal is to strengthen the GoI's capacity to improve the Juvenile Justice System and increase children and young people's access to justice and protection.

Key immediate objectives are:

- Improved functioning of the Juvenile Justice System in Iraq.
- Increased capacities of families and communities in six governorates to protect and prevent children from getting into contact with the law.
- Increased capacities of key duty bearers to provide legal, judicial and reintegration services to children and young people in contact with the law.

**Outputs, Key Activities and Procurement**

<b>Outputs</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. GoI has reliable information to address needs and gaps in the Juvenile Justice System.</li> <li>2. Capacities of families and communities in six governorates increased to protect and prevent children from getting into contact with the law.</li> <li>3. Improved capacities of 100 key duty bearers in managing and monitoring detention facilities and reformatories.</li> <li>4. Increased capacities of families and communities to provide care, protection and diversion services.</li> </ol>
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	<p>5. Enhanced capacity of 400 duty bearers to provide better legal, judicial, rehabilitation and reintegration services to children and young people.</p> <p>6. Three hundred staff working in reformatories have enhanced capacity to provide follow up services and reintegration assistance to children and adolescents.</p>
<b>Activities</b>	<p>1.1. Assessment of the Juvenile Justice System in Iraq</p> <p>1.2. Review of the Juvenile Care Law and another three laws related to children</p> <p>2.1. Identification of factors that push children at risk into contact with the law</p> <p>2.2. Awareness raising activities in communities, schools and religious institutions focusing on guidance to children, young people and their families</p> <p>2.3. Educational support for out of school children and young people</p> <p>2.4. Media campaigns and advocacy for awareness-raising of care providers and families on prevention, care, and protection for children</p> <p>3.1. Setting up systems for providing quality care services including arrangements for case management</p> <p>3.2. Setting up of information management systems and training of MoLSA and detention centres' staff</p> <p>3.3. Setting up of five multi-disciplinary teams and training</p> <p>3.4. Legal assistance to children and young people in detention</p> <p>3.5. Life skills training to children and young people in detention</p> <p>3.6. Protection and basic services to children and young people in detention</p> <p>3.7. Regular monitoring of detention centres</p> <p>3.8. Setting up complaint systems in the detention centres and reformatories</p> <p>4.1. Setting up of community-based aftercare services for protection and diversion services in selected project governorates</p> <p>4.2. Training to community members and care providers on provision of diversion services in six governorates</p> <p>5.1. Training of duty bearers (juvenile judges, legal prosecutors, JTI instructors, juvenile police, staff of detention and reformatory centres, social workers, and care providers) on international standards, juvenile justice, psychosocial support etc</p> <p>5.2. Module development for integration of juvenile justice in judges training curriculum</p> <p>5.3. Training of reformatory managers and staff on rehabilitation and reintegration services</p> <p>5.4. Provision of psychosocial, medical, educational, and basic services in reformatories</p> <p>5.5. Improvement of vocational training provision with capacity development and equipment support</p> <p>6.1. Develop a national multidimensional package for caring/integration of children and young people in reformatories and after release</p> <p>6.2. Training provision for reformatory staff, NGO partners and community members to provide rehabilitation and reintegration services</p> <p>6.3. Provision of educational, recreational, vocational and life skills development inside reformatories</p> <p>6.4. Inter-ministerial/CSOs coordination and monitoring mechanism for after care services mechanisms</p> <p>6.5. Support MoE &amp; MoLSA staff to integrate Life Skills education into their respective educational &amp; vocational activities</p> <p>6.6. Training to medical, social &amp; educational workers to detect, support and report psychological &amp; physical disorders /abuse among children and young people inside reformatories</p> <p>6.7. Develop and operationalize sectoral data collection/ reporting tools to monitor developmental status &amp; rights of children and young people inside reformatories</p>

	<p>6.8. Support MoLSA staff to provide continuous contact and support to families of children and young people residing in reformatories, and facilitate regular family visits</p> <p>6.9. Setup multidimensional day care centres to support and follow up children and young people in contact with law after their release from reformatories including visits to their homes and families</p> <p>6.10. Psychosocial /rehabilitation and follow up activities (counselling, group support, life skills education) to children &amp; young people after their release from reformatories</p> <p>6.11. Referral system of children &amp; young people released from reformatories to existing educational &amp; vocational services &amp; job opportunities (if above 15yrs old)</p>
<b>Procurement</b>	Psychosocial and recreational kits for use in the detentions centres and reformatories. Based on the assessment of the existing centres, equipment and furniture will be bought to be used in the Multidimensional Day Care centres i.e. chairs, tables, computers, TVs, DVD players, LCDs etc.

### UNICEF

<b>Funds Committed</b>	1,882,400.00	<b>% of approved</b>	99%
<b>Funds Disbursed</b>	1,873,733.00	<b>% of approved</b>	99%
<b>Forecast final date</b>	31.12.2012	<b>Delay (months)</b>	16

### UNFPA

<b>Funds Committed</b>	597,601	<b>% of approved</b>	59.8%
<b>Funds Disbursed</b>	555,714	<b>% of approved</b>	55.6%
<b>Forecast final date</b>	31.12.2012	<b>Delay (months)</b>	16

<b>Quantitative achievements against objectives and results</b>		
JP Output 1: Gol has reliable information to address needs and gaps in Juvenile Justice system (UNICEF)	1. The development of a draft regional Child Law is being technically supported by UNICEF. The third draft incorporating inputs from institutional and non-governmental partners as well as inputs from children and youth was submitted to the Child Rights Protection and Promotion Committee (CRPPC). The latest draft document is now being reviewed by the Shura Council and will be commented by UNICEF.	90 %
JP Output 2: Capacities of families and communities in 6 governorates increased to protect and prevent children from getting into contact with the law (UNICEF)	1. Based on latest discussions with MoLSA, UNICEF and MoLSA will extend the call for a proposal to research institutes for conducting the reintegration assessment. 2. A total of 494 children (131 girls and 363 boys) in secondary and high schools, youth centres and one centre for working children in the Kurdistan region have an increased understanding of the rights of children in relation to the juvenile justice system. 3. As part of public awareness campaigns, messages on issues related to Justice for Children are broadcasted and published through TV, radio and newspaper since June 2012 in the Kurdistan region.	90 %
JP Output 3: Improved capacities of 100 key duty bearers in managing and monitoring detention facilities & reformatories (UNICEF)	1. 344 children (20 girls and 324 boys) in contact with the law are being provided with legal assistance in Baghdad, Basra, Ninewa and the Kurdistan region, including 107 new cases for this period. 2. UNICEF continues to monitor the situation of children in 24 detention centres under the authority of MoLSA, MoJ and MoI.	85 %

<p>JP Output 4: Increased capacity of families and communities to provide care, protection and diversion services (UNICEF)</p>	<p>No progress was made during this quarter. The University of Baghdad has not formally yet established the Restorative Justice Research and Training Unit. A proposed Concept Note is being reviewed by the University's counterparts. Other community based activities are planned in the next quarter.</p>	<p>70 %</p>
<p>JP Output 5: Enhanced capacity of 400 duty bearers to provide better legal, judicial , rehabilitation and reintegration services to children and young people (UNICEF)</p>	<p>1. The total number of people reached through the cascade training was wrongly reported last time and should be read as 394 persons: 136 female and 258 male. In order to reach the planned number of beneficiaries, UNICEF plans to extend the Cascade Training to the Technical Departments in the Kurdistan region and in Kirkuk governorate in this last quarter. 2. 402 persons (391 children; as well as 11 parents (two fathers and nine mothers) are currently receiving or have received reintegration assistance in Baghdad, Basra, Ninewa, Erbil Suleymaniya and Dohuk.</p>	<p>90 %</p>
<p>JP Output 6: Enhanced capacity of 400 duty bearers to provide better legal, judicial, rehabilitation and reintegration services to children and young people (UNFPA)</p>	<p>1. A multi-dimensional package on psycho-social and health support for youth in the reformatories was developed and reviewed by MoLSA in October 2012. 2. A comprehensive training programme for 26 youths in Erbil detention centre started in MoLSA vocational training centre (located outside the detention centre). The training covers aspects related to vocational training, life skills and knowledge about business. 3. A detailed training programme for all reformatories staff was developed in coordination with the American University of Beirut and endorsed by MoLSA. Seven workshops will be organized for the staff, three in 2012 and four during the first quarter of 2013 as requested by MoLSA. 150 staff will participate in these workshops. 4. Consultation sessions were conducted with youth in reformatories as part of the process for developing a National Youth Strategy.</p>	<p>60 %</p>

## **Qualitative achievements against objectives and results**

### **Output 1. GoI has reliable information to address needs and gaps in the Juvenile Justice System (UNICEF)**

The third draft of the regional Child Law submitted to the CRPPC was in turn shared with the Shura Council in Kurdistan. UNICEF is advocating with the MoLSA Regional Minister to conduct further consultations to ensure the mobilization of professionals and key opinion leaders who will be key to having a draft that meets minimum international standards. The latest draft will be commented by UNICEF as part of its commitment to promote the adoption of a Law that meets international standards.

UNICEF is looking for a qualified consultant to finalize the assessment on Justice for Children.

### **Output 2. Capacities of families and communities in six governorates increased to protect and prevent children from getting into contact with the law (UNICEF)**

The planned assessment on reintegration services in detention centres has been delayed. UNICEF raised its concerns with MoLSA for this hold-up. Following working meetings with MoLSA's Deputy Minister, the call for proposals will be extended to research institutes and include a survey on beneficiaries' satisfaction about the reintegration assistance children have received.

In the Kurdistan region, sessions conducted for a total of 494 children (131 girls and 363 boys) in secondary and high schools in Erbil and Dohuk, youth centres in Erbil, a centre for working children in Suleymaniya contributed to their increased knowledge and understanding of the rights of children within the juvenile justice system, focusing on legal rights provided in the Juvenile Care Law (1983) and the Penal Code (1969).

In terms of raising public awareness, a media campaign through TV, radio and newspaper was launched in June 2012. Three Radio Public Service Announcements (PSAs) were developed and broadcasted in this quarter presenting the rights of juveniles upon arrest, alternatives to detention and the importance of strong family cohesion to deter children from committing offenses and crimes, based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Two TV PSAs were developed and broadcasted in this quarter presenting the rights of children upon arrest and alternatives to detention. Please also refer to the following link (<http://www.facebook.com/RightsOfJuvenilesInIraq?fref=ts>) regarding these PSAs.

The seven awareness messages published so far in newspapers have concentrated on (a) the responsibility of both parents to promote the rights and the development of their children; (b) the presumption of innocence until found guilty and the right to be informed promptly and directly about the charges against any suspect; (c) the right of arrested children to a lawyer and to challenge the arrest; (d) the rights not to be subjected to torture or any other cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment; (e) the right to for children to be separated from adults while in detention; (f) the right for children not to be deprived of his or her liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily; (g) the rights to appropriate measures to be taken by the State to promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of a child victim.

### **Output 3. Improved capacities of 100 key duty bearers in managing and monitoring detention facilities and reformatories (UNICEF)**

Regular visits to juveniles in detention centres under the authority of MoLSA, Mol and MoJ were conducted by UNICEF and its partners in Baghdad, Basra, Najaf, Karbala, Missan, Muthana, Thi Qar, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Erbil, Dohuk and Suleymaniya – reaching a total of 24 facilities. The amnesty granted to children in detention centres in the Kurdistan region contributed to the reduction of the total number of children detained.

UNICEF and UNAMI HRO further responded to the issues related to children of incarcerated mothers in a women prison in Babil where about six children between three to five years are reportedly kept

with their mothers without basic support. According to the Iraqi law, children aged up to three years old can stay with their mothers. After three years, he or she would need to be taken care by their father or alternative care giver. In Babil, children do not have fathers accepting responsibility over them or are illegitimate children. Therefore, fathers and relatives refuse to take responsibility over children who are then compelled to remain with the incarcerated mothers. At times, those children are also treated as offenders. UNICEF and UNAMI Human Rights Office have raised concerns with the Ministry of Justice and MoLSA. However, to date, no action was taken by MoLSA to identify and to provide alternative care for those children. UNICEF and its partners will continue to monitor the situation of children in women's prisons and follow-up with concerned authorities.

Twenty-five (25) detention centre staff (six female and 19 male) from Erbil detention centre have participated in a three-day training. The module was developed by UNICEF and its implementing partner, Heartland Alliance. The contents of the training are as followed; international and national legal framework including UN guidelines related to children in contact with the law and child rights in general, child and adolescence development, communication with children and reintegration assistance.

Three hundred forty Four (344) children, (20 girls and 324 boys), in contact with the law are being provided with legal assistance in Baghdad, Basra, Ninewa and the Kurdistan region, including 107 new cases for this period. Of those cases, 230 cases with 17 girls and 213 boys aged mostly from 14 to 16 years old were released; charges were either dropped or children were released on bail.

#### Story of a successful diversion

A young boy became at risk to coming into contact with the law when his parents were imprisoned for killing their daughter. The father died in prison and the mother is still detained while his younger brother is in an orphanage. The boy had no one to look after him; as a result, he survived by stealing for income. He was arrested at a checkpoint because he did not have an Ida and late charged for theft. Consistent with principles of restorative justice, UNICEF's partner discussed with the victim of the theft, explained the boy's situation. As a result, the victim dropped charges and the juvenile was removed from detention.

#### **Output 4. Increased capacities of families and communities to provide care, protection and diversion services (UNICEF)**

Even though UNICEF supported the University to develop a Terms of Reference to establish the Unit, the establishment of the Restorative Justice Training and Research Unit has been on hold. The University informed that it might require an approval from the Ministry of Higher Education for the establishment of the Unit within the College of Law, which has caused additional delays in the process.

#### **Output 5. Enhanced capacity of 400 duty bearers to provide better legal, judicial, rehabilitation and reintegration services to children and young people (UNICEF)**

A correction must be made about the total number of people reached through the cascade training that was wrongly reported in the last quarterly report. Instead of 414, the total number should be read as 394 persons: 136 female and 258 male. In order to reach the initial target and as per requests from Iraqi counterparts, UNICEF will extend the Cascade Training to the Technical Departments in the Kurdistan region and Kirkuk governorate in the coming quarter.

Despite the agreement we had with the Ministry of Interior when developing the proposal, the Mol is no longer favoring the creation of formal Victim Support Units. Mol rather indicated that police officers and social workers trained to work with juveniles could continue that regular activities. Therefore, rather than referring to "Victim Support Units", Mol will refer to "Juvenile Support Services Providers" (JSSP) now comprising of 30 police officers and 16 social workers.

Four hundred and two (402) persons (391 children and 11 parents - two fathers and nine mothers) are currently receiving or have received reintegration assistance in Baghdad, Basra, Ninewa, Erbil Suleymaniya and Dohuk; this did apply to children are in detention centres and after release. In the

Kurdistan region, reintegration services provided to juveniles released/discharged from detention focuses on educational support services including: (1) counseling on the importance of education for children and their families during home visits; (2) counseling on how to re-enter school; (3) reaching out to head-teachers and school social workers; (4) performance of procedures necessary for children to re-enter school, such as acquiring official approval for school re-entry from the ministry of education. UNICEF also requested its implementing partners to collaborate with other organizations providing livelihood and income generating opportunities for the most vulnerable children and their families.

**Output 6. 300 Reformatory staff have an enhanced capacity to provide follow up services and reintegration assistance to children and adolescents (UNFPA)**

UNFPA conducted a vocational training needs' assessment for the youth detained in Erbil and Baghdad. Based on the results, a vocational training programme for 26 youth in the detention centres started in Erbil, in a MoLSA vocational training center located outside the detention centre, give the limited space available for vocational training inside of the facility. This programme has been very well received by MoLSA and could be replicated to other detention centres as a good practice. All youth will be given a certificate from the Directorate of Labour (and not from the detention centres) to facilitate their smooth entry into the labour market. Reintegration assistance will be further supported by MoLSA's own scheme of micro loans for youth who participated in this vocational training. Vocational training programme for two detention facilities in Baghdad will be conducted in November 2012.

A multi-dimensional package on psycho-social and health support to youth in detention was developed by the American University in Beirut (AUB). A validation workshop was organized in Erbil inviting MoLSA staff from federal and regional governments in October. During the validation workshop a detailed training programme was developed and approved by MoLSA. The following topics will be covered in a series of workshops, which are: 1) rehabilitation and reintegration programme, 2) life skills, 3) risky behaviour, and 4) interviewing skills.

**Main implementation constraints and challenges (2-3 sentences)**

UNICEF organized a programme review meeting in which the participants consisting of both government and non-governmental organizations stated that skills and knowledge of service providers in the field of Justice for Children are still limited. Partner organizations also reported that professionals working with children in contact with the law had weak understanding of child development and inadequate skills and knowledge on how to deal with delinquent youth. There is still need for further capacity building of professionals in this area.

As mentioned earlier, the reintegration assessment has been overly delayed. UNICEF and MoLSA will expedite the process and finalize the assessment in order to understand the current reintegration support provided to children and to support MoLSA and other ministries for better future programming.

UNICEF requested its implementing partners to increase the involvement of social workers from MoLSA Aftercare Department while performing activities in post-detention rehabilitation and reintegration. This involves joint interventions together with the implementing partners or independent follow-up of juveniles who previously received services from UNICEF programme while in detention. While this technical support is requested by the authorities, government social workers of the Aftercare Department in Suleymaniya have declined the opportunity to work together with the UNICEF partner, including for joint home visits. UNICEF will raise this issue with MoLSA and identify best collaboration practices, aftercare being key to ensuring a successful reintegration of children. This specific aspect was also one of the priority area identified by MoLSA for UNICEF's technical support.