

**Iraq UNDAF Fund**  
**Joint Programme/Project: 79817/P3-01**  
**Date and Quarter Updated: 1 July – 31 September, 2012 (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2012)**

**Participating UN Organization: UNDP (lead) UNESCO      Priority Area Three: Environment**

**Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: PMAC and Ministry of Environment**

<b>Title of JP/ Project</b>	Development of National Framework for Integrated Drought Risk Management (DRM) in Iraq				
<b>Geo. Location</b>	Nationwide				
<b>JP/Project Cost</b>	UNDAF Trust Fund USD 479,884.0 UNDP USD 264,883.0 UNESCO USD 215,001.0				
<b>Duration</b>	16 months + 7 months extension				
<b>SC Approval Date</b>	14/06/2011	<b>Starting Date</b>	30/08/2011	<b>Completion Date</b>	30/05/2012 extended to 31/12/2012
<b>JP/Project Description</b>	<p>Drought has far-reaching consequences on multiple aspects of Iraq's environment, economy, and social structure. Given its extended occurrence in Iraq and its negative impact thus far, it is viewed as a slow-onset disaster that requires immediate strategic intervention. Recognizing the urgency of this situation, the Government has called on the United Nations to provide support in formulating a framework for national drought risk management.</p> <p>The proposed programme will be jointly implemented by UNDP and UNESCO in close consultation with other UN partners. It will support the Government of Iraq (GoI) to conduct a series of technical assessments of existing Disaster Risk Management (DRM) capacities and vulnerabilities, and carry out a series of consultations and consensus-building activities to build a common understanding of drought impacts and risk management measures. It will also expose the GoI to international good DRM practices.</p> <p>These activities will form the basis for developing a national framework for integrated Drought Risk Management in Iraq that will enable the GoI and its partners to launch a coordinated multidisciplinary, multi-sectoral, and multi-level response to drought.</p> <p>The proposed national DRM framework will be reviewed and discussed by all key stakeholders at a validation workshop to secure programmatic support for drought risk management in Iraq.</p>				

**UNDAF Priority Area Outcome:**

Environmental management and compliance with actions taken on ratified international environmental treaties and obligations

Relevant NDP Goal(s): Section 10.2.5.

Goal 2: Monitoring the Environmental Status

Goal 6: Environmental Awareness

Goal 8: Developing and Building Environmental Capacities

Relevant UNDP Country Programme and CPAP Outcome

1. GoI has the institutional framework to develop and implement MDG-based pro-poor, equitable and inclusive socio-economic and environmental policies and strategies

Comprehensive strategic frameworks at national and sub-national levels for disaster risk reduction developed

**Outputs, Key activities and Procurement**

<b>Outputs</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Government of Iraq and relevant stakeholders have improved knowledge and common understanding on Drought Risk Management.</li> <li>2. Iraq has a participatory, comprehensive, and inclusive national framework for Drought Risk Management in line with international good practice.</li> </ol>
<b>Activities</b>	<p><b>Output 1</b> –<i>Government of Iraq and relevant stakeholders have improved knowledge and common understanding in Drought Risk Management</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1. <b>Research / Study</b> – Mapping of relevant stakeholders and their respective mandates and initiatives; taking stock of existing laws, policies, and programmes; review of Iraq’s progress and status with regard to relevant international and cross border DRM agreements; identifying DRM tools and mechanisms in place; identifying the specific impacts drought has had on multiple sectors in Iraq</li> <li>1.2. <b>Technical Assessments</b> – Undertaking capacity and vulnerability assessments of DRM-relevant institutions in Iraq</li> <li>1.3. <b>Consultation and consensus-building</b> – Continuous efforts to support the development of a consensus on the definition and causal and cross-sectoral linkages of drought, and on appropriate approaches to DRM</li> </ol> <p><b>Output 2</b>–<i>Iraq has a participatory, comprehensive and inclusive national framework for Drought Risk Management in line with international good practice.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1. <b>Consultation and consensus-building</b> – Development of a consensus on the definition, causal and cross-sectoral linkages of drought, and appropriate approaches to DRM by various GoI institutions and bodies, and of the importance of a DRM framework to many development issues in Iraq</li> <li>2.2. <b>Technical Planning Assistance</b> – Provision of guidance by technical specialists on different aspects of DRM framework formulation, including exposing Iraqi partners to international DRM frameworks, tools, and techniques</li> </ol>
<b>Procurement</b>	<p>UNDP: (1) Services of national senior field coordinator;(2) Capacity assessment and preparation of Iraq Case Study in current practices in DRM;(3) vulnerability assessment study;(4) International consultant to draft the DRM framework</p> <p>UNESCO: (1) Contract for preparing a document on international and regional best practices in drought management (prediction, preparedness and mitigation) (2) Desk review and Mapping of agricultural, meteorological, environmental, and economical data.</p>

<b>Funds Committed UNDP</b>	US\$ 119,130	<b>% of approved</b>	45%
<b>Funds Committed UNESCO</b>	US\$ 57,720		27%
<b>Funds Disbursed UNDP</b>	US\$ 20,646	<b>% of approved</b>	7.8%
	US\$ 40,365		18.77%
<b>Forecast final date</b>	31 December 2012	<b>Delay (months)</b>	7 months

<b>Direct Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Number of Beneficiaries</b>	<b>% of planned (current status)</b>
Men	Total population	
Women	Total population	
Children	Total population	
IDPs	Total population	
Others	Total population	
Indirect beneficiaries	Total population	
Employment generation (men/women)	n/a	

<b>Quantitative achievements against JP outputs/ UN Organization outputs</b>	
UNDAF Environmental management and compliance with actions taken on ratified international environmental treaties and obligations	
Output 1: Government of Iraq and relevant stakeholders have improved knowledge and common understanding on Drought Risk Management.	UNDP: 66% UNESCO: 20%
Output 2: Iraq has a participatory, comprehensive, and inclusive national framework for Drought Risk Management in line with international good practice.	UNDP: 35% UNESCO: 30%

<b>Qualitative achievements against JP outputs/ UN Organization outputs</b>	
Output 1. Government of Iraq and relevant stakeholders have improved knowledge and common understanding on Drought Risk Management.	
1.1 <b>Research / Study</b> – Mapping of relevant stakeholders and their respective mandates and initiatives; taking stock of existing laws, policies, and programmes; review of Iraq’s progress and status with regard to relevant international and cross border DRM agreements; identifying DRM tools and mechanisms in place; identifying the specific impacts drought has had	UNDP capacity assessment consultant Interdisciplinary Research Consultants ( <i>IdRC</i> ) completed the capacity assessment report which includes a comprehensive mapping of institutions with role(s) in DRM and current practices in DRM in Iraq. <i>IdRC</i> prepared the report in cooperation and coordination with the 18 relevant stakeholders that have a role(s) in DRM. This enabled the stakeholders to understand and know who is responsible for what; the coordination mechanism in and within the different institutions and who announces the drought at the national level. The consultant prepared the draft reports that included the mapping of relevant stakeholders and their respective mandates and initiatives, presented the current policies, laws, and programs. The consultant submitted the draft main report, mapping of Institutions draft report and the current practices in DRM in Iraq Draft report in May 2012. The draft reports have been shared with the 18 institutions and EPWG members for their comments.  Upon the request of Steering Committee in their meeting in Baghdad in

<p>on multiple sectors in Iraq</p>	<p>May 2012, a workshop to discuss the capacity assessment, mapping of institutions and current DRM practices in Iraq reports was held for two days in Amman on 6-7 August, 2012 instead of holding it in Erbil in July 2012. The workshop was followed immediately by a joint meeting for SC and TF on August 8, 2012. During the joint meeting of SC and TF, UNEP and FAO presented the new project concept on sandstorms and the linkages with drought and the way forward to utilise the existing DRM SC and TF to implement the project.</p>
<p>1.2 Technical Assessments – Undertaking capacity and vulnerability assessments of DRM-relevant institutions in Iraq</p>	<p>The findings and recommendations of the mapping of institutions, capacity assessment and current practices in DRM in Iraq draft reports will be incorporated and used to develop Iraq national framework for Integrated Drought Risk Management”.</p> <p>The draft reports reported the current practices in DRM in Iraq and the capacity assessment which identified the gaps in the current capacities and equipment. Comments raised in the workshop mentioned in activity 1.1 are inserted in the draft version of the report which was submitted by the consultant end of August 2012. The workshop’s discussions have been documented and shared with the 18 institutions representatives.</p> <p>UNDP used existing LTA with ICARDA to submit technical and financial offers to carry out the vulnerability assessment study and to develop the National Framework for Drought Risk Management in Iraq. The cost estimate reached USD 203,160. The deficit in the available funds to carry out the study is around USD 98,000. UNDP assessed different options to bridge the funding gap. UNESCO was unable to contribute to the cost of the study.</p> <p>The cost sharing proposal submitted to the GOI by the programme requested the amount of USD 250,000 from the government to cover the expenses of the vulnerability assessment which couldn’t be fulfilled.</p> <p>UNDP provided the GOI representatives in the workshop held in August 2012, with an English version of the list of data to be collected from different involved institutions to be able to carry out the vulnerability assessment study. UNDP also provided the Ministry of Environment with the same list in Arabic.</p> <p>Preparations are on-going by UNESCO to conduct the Study tour to Specialized Drought monitoring and management entities in Kenya. As well, the data collection of Drought impact on various socio-economic sector is on-going. The Terms of Reference has been completed for drafting an agreement with UNCT- Interagency Information and Analysis Unit to produce a Desk Review and Mapping Report about Drought Impact on Various Socio- Economic Sector.</p>
<p>1.3 Consultation and consensus-building – Continuous efforts to</p>	<p>During the workshop that was held in August 2012 to discuss the capacity assessment report, intensive discussion on drought definitions (conceptual and detailed) took place.</p>

<p>support the development of a consensus on the definition and causal and cross-sectoral linkages of drought, and on appropriate approaches to DRM</p>	<p>UNESCO contributed to the discussions of the workshop. During the SC meeting held on 8th of August, UNESCO briefed the participants on the current, completed, and proposed activities by the Science Sector which is responsible of the study tour, best practices report, and the desk review and mapping exercise.</p> <p>UNESCO presented the specialized drought management entities in the world that were listed and contacted by UNESCO and each one's roles and achievements. In addition they were informed about the proposal received by the Regional Integrated Multi Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) in Thailand.</p> <p>UNESCO presented the drought status in Iraq including various definitions of the phenomenon, types of the drought, water resources facts, analysis of the impact on Iraq, minimizing its effect, workshops conducted, and the current UNCT role.</p>
<p>Output 2. Iraq has a participatory, comprehensive, and inclusive national framework for Drought Risk Management in line with international good practice.</p>	
<p>2.1. Consultation and consensus-building – Development of a consensus on the definition, causal and cross-sectoral linkages of drought, and appropriate approaches to DRM by various GoI institutions and bodies, and of the importance of a DRM framework to many development issues in Iraq</p>	<p>In the joint SC and TF meeting in August 2012, the different government representatives succeeded to reach to a consensus on drought definition in Iraq (conceptual definition).</p> <p>The second consensus building workshop which was expected to take place in November 2011 and particularly after reaching to a significant progress in achieving the project activities will not be achieved within the current completion timeframe of the project. It will be shifted to 2013 due to the need to extend the project activities for another seven months. This decision is associated with comprehensive work and coordination with all stakeholders to ensure quality of the activities and real positive impact on the beneficiaries. Due to limited budget the workshop will be planned to include sessions for presenting the result and findings of the activities in addition to validate the produced reports which can be expected to take place a month before the completion of the project.</p>
<p>2.2. Technical Planning Assistance – Provision of guidance by technical specialists on different aspects of DRM framework formulation, including exposing Iraqi partners to international DRM frameworks, tools, and techniques</p>	<p>UNDP secured US\$ 80,000 to bridge the funding gap to develop the National Framework for DRM in Iraq to be carried out by ICARDA as mentioned in activity 1.2.</p> <p>UNESCO collected significant number of documents that need to be reviewed and categorize what can be embedded in UNESCO's new report. Considerable time to be dedicated to prepare the structure of the report and find the specialized entity that can be partnered to produce it. So far the National Drought Mitigation Center in Nebraska University was contacted and they apologized due to being overloaded with other tasks.</p>

### **Key implementation constraints and challenges (2-3 sentences)**

- 1- There are difficulties in arranging the meetings and workshops on time inside Iraq (Baghdad or Erbil) due to reluctance from the decision makers in both KRG and the Central Government to attend in the others region. This is considered a continuous challenge that keeps confronting the UN staff in charge and is leading towards none cost effective options to arrange events outside Iraq.
2. The project is underfunded and the limitations in funds delayed the contract with ICARDA.
3. The data to be collected to conduct the vulnerability assessment and the mapping and desk review is comprehensive and scattered in more than 20 institutions and needs considerable effort to be collected, classified and analysed and generate additional data to provide a clear picture of the situation in Iraq. The available data is not ready in the requested format and need additional time to be collected.
4. Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Transportation/ Meteorological Department representatives were unable to attend meetings outside Baghdad. Their involvement is crucial for the project.
5. The assignment of preparing a best practices report on drought prediction, preparedness and mitigation, needs thorough review of publications including reports, case studies and documents produced on various drought management issues with specific intention to those practiced in the regional countries to ensure their applicability in Iraq.
6. The desk review and mapping exercise is essential and integral part of the capacity and vulnerability assessments. This activity as standalone one is also interpreted. For the later, UNESCO and UNDP reached to a common agreement on the ToR of the standalone desk review and mapping exercise assignment and the targeted areas. The different interpretations imposed additional delay on implementing this activity.
7. The data collection process is associated with considerable delay due to the fact that the database systems in most of the ministries are inefficient and understaff.
8. Visa issuance to Nairobi normally take one month as per the Kenyan Migration authority which might affect the study tour schedule
9. There remains a lack in clarity on the mechanism for cost sharing within the Iraqi institutions