

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund

Project #:F8-10

Date and Quarter Updated: October to December 2012 (4th Quarter, 2012)

Operationally Closed

Participating UN Organisation: UNICEF (Lead Agency), UNFPA **Priority Area: Human Capital/Sector: Protection**

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

Title	Strengthening Protection and Justice for Children and Young People in Iraq				
Geo. Location	Governorates: Baghdad, Basra, Ninewa, Erbil, Suleymaniya and Dohuk				
Project Cost	3,000,000 - UNICEF US\$ 2,000,000: UNFPA US\$ 1,000,000				
Duration	24 months + 16 months extension				
SC Approval Date	04.06.2009	Starting Date	14.08.2009	Completion Date	14.08.2011 extended to 31.12.2012
Project Description	<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

Outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GoI has reliable information to address needs and gaps in the Juvenile Justice System. 2. Capacities of families and communities in six governorates increased to protect and prevent children from getting into contact with the law. 3. Improved capacities of 100 key duty bearers in managing and monitoring detention facilities and reformatories. 4. Increased capacities of families and communities to provide care, protection and
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	<p>diversion services.</p> <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>
Activities	<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 & MoLSA staff to integrate Life Skills education into their respective educational & vocational activities</p> <p>6.6. Training to medical, social & educational workers to detect, support and report psychological & 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 & 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 & young people after their release from reformatories</p> <p>6.11. Referral system of children & young people released from reformatories to existing educational & vocational services & job opportunities (if above 15yrs old)</p>
Procurement	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

Funds Committed	1,882,400	% of approved	94%
Funds Disbursed	1,882,320*	% of approved	94%
Forecast final date	31.12.2012	Delay (months)	16 months

* This represents Programmable amount only

UNFPA

Funds Committed	971 558	% of approved	97%
Funds Disbursed	772,785	% of approved	77%
Forecast final date	31.12.2012	Delay (months)	16 months

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results

JP Output 1: Gol has reliable information to address needs and gaps in Juvenile Justice system (UNICEF)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly meetings of the federal Juvenile Care Council (JCC) and regional JCC were organized in Baghdad and Erbil respectively in which UNIEF participated. A consultant was selected to finalize the assessment on the juvenile justice system. 	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)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> An institute to conduct the reintegration assessment was identified. A total of 526 people (361 female and 165 males) in juvenile detention centres and schools raised awareness on roles of community police. A total of 574 children (168 girls and 406 boys) in secondary and high schools, youth centres and detention centres in three governorates of the Kurdistan region have an increased understanding of the rights of children in relation to the juvenile justice system. 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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 443 children (31 girls and 412 boys) in contact with the law have/ are being provided with legal assistance in Baghdad, Basra, Ninewa and the Kurdistan region, including 99 new cases for this period. UNICEF continues to monitor the situation of children in 25 detention centres under the authority of MoLSA, MoJ and Mol. 	90%

(UNICEF)		
JP Output 4: Increased capacity of families and communities to provide care, protection and diversion services (UNICEF)	The College of Law has requested the University of Baghdad to establish the Restorative Justice Research and Training Unit within Legal Clinic. The workshop on Restorative Justice will be organized in 2013.	70%
JP Output 5: Enhanced capacity of 400 duty bearers to provide better legal, judicial, rehabilitation and reintegration services to children and young people (UNICEF)	1. 493persons (482 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.	99%
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>1. Twenty-one heads of departments (13 Baghdad, 1 Nienawa, 3 Erbil, 2 Dohuk, 2 Suleymanieh)has participated a training course on Protocols, Procedures and Auditing in Juvenile Reformatories in Iraq in Nov 2012.</p> <p>2. Forty staff (26 Baghdad, 2 Nienawa, 8 Erbil, 2 Dohuk and 2 Suleymanieh participated in two training courses on Life Skills and community participation in rehabilitation process for the Social workers/ trainers and teachers in the reformatories in Iraq.</p> <p>3. Due to lack of the infrastructure for training in the three reformatories in Erbil, Dohuk and Suleymanieh, UNFPA has provided the necessary furniture and needs for one training room for interactive training and another for computer teaching in each of the three juvenile reformatories.</p>	85%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

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

UNICEF participated in the quarterly meetings of the Juvenile Care Council (JCC) at the federal level which was re-activated in 2012, and this meeting was the second quarterly meeting. The federal JCC discussed difficulties for the release of children to be placed in the job market and creating a new facility for children with disabilities who are also in contact with the law.

By following up the issues raised in the last meeting, the main achievements of the federal JCC were 1) setting up a clinic in one of the detention centres and 2) MoH providing psychosocial training to MoLSA social workers. UNICEF also participated in the JCC KRG in which the members discussed the importance of juvenile police officers deployed in remote areas, and also suggests to strengthen aftercare support to children in detention centres. UNICEF in partnership with *Penal Reform International (PRI)* presented the plan to support the Juvenile Care Council in 2013 in order for the Council to be more effective and structured. The PRI experts traveled Baghdad and Erbil to conduct series of interviews with the JCC members and other relevant stakeholders in order to assess the capacity of the council and develop a first draft work plan for the JCC.

The agreement was reached with the Minister of MoLSA KRG to review two existing Child Laws; one submitted by MoLSA to the Council of Ministers and the other by a group of Parliamentarians to the Kurdish Parliament. The latter law was drafted beyond the knowledge of MoLSA KRG nor UNICEF.

UNICEF identified a qualified consultant to finalize the assessment on Justice for Children. The report will be finalized in the early 2013.

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. Based on request from MoLSA, UNICEF reached out several organizations, and identified a national institute to conduct the assessment.

A total of 526 children and their families (361 female and 165 males) have gained more understanding and knowledge on community police in the Kurdistan region. In Sulaimaniya, presentations were done in the reformatory school¹ for the families of the juveniles, in Dildar Preparatory School and in Brayati Preparatory School. In Erbil, presentations were made in the reformatory school, Sarkash Preparatory School and Binaslawwa Preparatory School. In Dohuk, presentations were made in the reformatory school, Amed Preparatory School and Bayan Preparatory School. The presentations were very well received. Attendees commented that they were now more aware of the way police should treat juvenile and some even said they wished this topic was covered in a television show along with other juvenile related topics that both parents and children can benefit from. The families also said they wished that there was somewhere they could turn to for advice when their children start misbehaving or coming into contact with the law.

In the Kurdistan region, a total of 574 children (168 girls and 406 boys) in secondary and high schools, youth centres and detention centres in three governorates of the Kurdistan region have an increased understanding of the rights of children in relation to the juvenile justice system. Juveniles and children attending the presentations responded very positively to these presentations. It was clear that information about legal rights were sorely needed; accordingly, UNICEF's implementing partner, Heartland Alliance, created a brochure explaining the rights of children and has distributed more than 1,000 copies in each of the three governorates.

¹Reformatory school is managed by MoLSA for children with post-trial status. Children at the pre-trial status are accommodated in a facility called "Observation house" which is also managed by MoLSA. If the governorates where MoLSA does not have facilities, children are kept in police station or prison.

In terms of raising public awareness, TV, radio and newspaper have been used to reach out different audiences. One new radio PSA was developed during this quarter which emphasizes the importance of follow up of children in contact with the law upon their release from detention centres. A total of four different type of radio PSAs have been developed so far. In order to reach more people, four PSAs were created in a local dialect of Dohuk governorate, namely Bedini. Fourteen radio stations have received the PSAs.

One TV PSA was developed and broadcasted in this quarter presenting the importance of a strong family unit in ensuring that a child does not come into contact with the law and advocating that a child's wellbeing is the responsibility of the parent's/guardians. A total of three TV PSAs have been developed. All emanating from the International Convention on the Rights of the Child. Twelve TV stations have received the PSAs.

Ten awareness messages was published in newspapers so far, including three this quarter. This was done in three different newspapers covering Kurdistan region, Kirkuk, and Baghdad. The messages aimed to raise awareness on various rights of children in contact with the law, State and family's responsibilities over children, and to promote an alternative to detention.

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, Babil, Wasit, Missan, Muthana, Thi Qar, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Erbil, Dohuk and Suleymaniya – reaching a total of 25 facilities. This represents an increase of the total number of the detention facilities from the last quarter as UNICEF identified a new detention facility where children are kept in Wasit. To support children in detention centres, UNICEF distributed 140 blankets to the three detention centres in Basra. UNICEF will continue to distribute the blankets to other centres in coming months.

Through the visits, UNICEF identified a case which requires special care. This child is blind due to an explosion which also killed both of his parents. He has been convicted and has been kept to MoLSA reformatory school. However, there are no special and quality services available for blind children in the centre (nor any appropriate services for children with disabilities), and the manager of the reformatory school has requested to transfer the child to a MoLSA state home. UNICEF also raised this issue in the Juvenile Care Council in order for the child to receive appropriate services and care. MoLSA agreed to look into this case urgently.

Four hundred forty three (443) children (31 girls and 412 boys), in contact with the law are being provided with legal assistance in Baghdad, Basra, Ninewa and the Kurdistan region, including 99 new cases for this period. Currently 30 cases are open and followed up by the lawyers.

UNICEF and UNAMI HRO jointly advocated to stay an execution of a Yemenis juvenile. The juvenile was arrested in Iraq when he was still under 18 years old. Under the Juvenile Care Law, there is no death penalty for juveniles. However, his case was trailed in an adult criminal court, and he was sentenced for death penalty. UNICEF Yemen office also provided documentation to prove his age. UNICEF and UNAMI HRO requested High Judicial Council to review the case and re-open the case under Juvenile court authority. The execution was halted; however, the charge has not been dropped. UNICEF will continue to follow up this case and advocate for re-opening the case.

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

The College of Law (CoL) informed UNICEF that CoL has requested to establish the Restorative Justice Training and Research Unit within Legal Clinic since it has been challenging for the CoL to establish a

Unit independently. UNICEF agrees the decision and to provide technical support in organizing an upcoming conference on the Restorative Justice which CoL and University of Baghdad will organize in 2013.

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

Four hundred ninety three(493) persons (482 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. During this quarter, assistance continued only in the Kurdistan region, focusing on educational support (to re-enroll children who were released from detention centres into school)and home visits. Home visits have two objectives; for family members to assist in normalizing relations with their child as well as provide them with information and advice regarding how to support their child through reintegration, and for following up with children who were released from detention centres. As for Baghdad and Ninewa, MoLSA agreed to partner with IOM to implement the reintegration assistance for children. UNICEF and IOM will start the programme in 2013, which also covers Kirkuk.

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

Twenty-one persons consisting of warden, general administrator, medical clinic directors, and heads of departments (13 Baghdad, 1 Nienawa, 3 Erbil, 2 Dohuk, 2 Suleymanieh) has participated in a training course on Protocols, Procedures and Auditing in Juvenile Reformatories in Iraq in Nov 2012.

All the doctors and paramedics (25 persons) of Erbil Juvenile reformatory school have been trained on the Adolescence and Youth Friendly Health Services. The course aimed at enhancing the capacity of the medical staff in dealing with adolescent and youth health issues such as: mental health, sexual and reproductive health (youth and puberty physiology, prenatal care, HIV, STD), family planning, substance abuse, nutrition and eating disorders and violence among youth.

Forty staff (26 Baghdad, 2 Nienawa, 8 Erbil, 2 Dohuk and 2 Suleymanieh) participated in two training courses on life skills and community participation in rehabilitation process for the social workers/trainers and teachers in the reformatories. The training aimed at increasing skills of social workers to deal with juveniles and to engage families and community members in reintegration.

Due to lack of the infrastructure for training in the three reformatories in Erbil, Dohuk and Suleymanieh, UNFPA has provided the necessary furniture and needs for one training room for interactive training and another for computer teaching in each of the three juvenile reformatories.

Main implementation constraints and challenges (2-3 sentences)

The collaboration with the Ministry of Interior has shown challenge. In the Kurdistan region, training was conducted for 30 police officers; however, the idea was to establish Victim Support Unit equipped with those trained police officers and establish Juvenile Police stations at the district levelwas not supported by the Ministry of Interior KRG. As partner organizations reported, there are several cases which juveniles received ill treatment from police officers, which demonstrates urgent needs in reaching out to police officers and increase their capacity in dealing with children and respecting the Juvenile Care Law.

It has been still challenging to find qualified national organizations to partner in the Justice for Children sector, especially in the greater Iraq. Additional time was spent to identify a suitable organization. Moreover, experts on child protection are also lacking in Iraq. The government continue to show resistance in bringing external expertise to Iraq, which required additional advocacy and time to convince the Gol. Subsequently it has caused delay in the implementation of the project.