

Women Health and Social Status Survey
MPTF OFFICE GENERIC FINAL PROGRAMME NARRATIVE REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: FROM March 2010 TO December 2012

<p align="center">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: Woman Health and Social Status Survey MPTF Office Project Reference Number: D2-30 	<p align="center">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results</p> <p><i>Country/Region</i> Iraq/ Nationwide</p>
<p align="center">Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme: N/A 	<p><i>Priority area/ strategic results: Health & Nutrition</i></p>
<p align="center">Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p>	<p align="center">Implementing Partners</p> <p>National counterparts (government, private, NGOs & others) and other International Organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Implementing Partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Statistical Organization (CSO) Kurdistan Regional Statistical Office (KRSO) Regional Partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pan Arab Project for Family Health (PAPFAM)- League of Arab States
<p>Total approved budget as per project document: USD 800,000</p> <p>MPTF /JP Contribution: USD 800,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> by Agency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency Contribution by Agency (if applicable) UNFPA (Core): USD 250,000 WHO (Core): USD100,000 	<p align="center">Programme Duration</p>
<p>Government Contribution USD 106,000</p> <p>Other Contributions (donors) PAPFAM: USD150,000</p> <p>TOTAL: 1,406,000</p>	<p>Overall Duration: 32 Months May 2010- December 2012</p> <p>Start Date <i>23.04.2010</i></p> <p>Original End Date: 23.04.2012</p> <p>Actual End date: <i>31.12.2012</i></p> <p>Have agency(ies) operationally closed the Programme in its(their) system? Yes</p> <p>Expected Financial Closure date: 31 December 2013</p>
<p>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</p> <p>Evaluation Completed No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i></p> <p>Evaluation Report - Attached No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i></p>	<p align="center">Report Submitted By</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name: Haidar Rasheed Title: Programme Officer Participating Organization (Lead): UNFPA Email address: rasheed@unfpa.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As per the project planned components, the project focused and shed the light on a very sensitive issues related to women situations in Iraq. These components in parallel manner and collaboratively approach; enhanced achieve the most substantively results of the project; namely; a. the concentration on the women urgent needs and priorities related to health and social thematic areas, including VAW and women empowerment; b. development of the evidence based database and sensitive indicators for holistic women life cycle; c. prioritizing the women sub national issues and needs according to available evidence based information and data; d. advocated the women issues at the developmental agenda of the government as well as at the legislative agenda for policy options empowerment; e. data accessibility and availability for planners, decision making, researchers and legislative bodies and entities for more evidence based planning and programming; f. policy framework and options were formulated at national and sub national level; and g. women issues and needs were incorporated and integrated within the NDP and sectoral plans and strategies.

I. Purpose

- The project aims at carrying out a field survey on women's health and social status. The survey focuses on the women life cycle (12 years and above) to have a data bank of the social, health, and reproductive health status of women in Iraq that enable identification of the current gaps in order to formulate better development policies and programmes interventions in that regard.
- Main objectives and expected outcomes of the programme in relation to the appropriate **Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) and project document (if applicable) or Annual Work Plans (AWPs) over the duration of the project.**

Outcome:

Improved wellbeing and social and health status of women through providing an enabling information environment for evidence-based policy formulation in regard to family planning, women's social and health status

Outputs:

1. *Capacity of COSIT and partner institutions is enhanced to design, supervise, monitor and evaluate large-scale surveys*
2. *Policy makers and planners at both national and governorate levels are better informed on the status and needs of women and elderly people*
3. *Knowledge and understanding on the dynamics of the status of Iraq women and health status is gained and potential policy options are drawn*

The project is relevant to the following benchmarks as follows:

MDGs: All MDGs (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8)

Iraq NDS: Pillar Three: Improving the Quality of Life

1. Goal (3): Enhancing Gender Equity and Strengthening Women Issues (page 61 of the NDS)
2. Goal (5): Reduce maternity deaths_ (page 62 of the NDS)
3. Goal (6): Full access to water and health services.

ICI:

4.2: Strengthening Institutions and Improving Governance.

4.4: Human Development and Human Security:

- 4.4.1.4: Improving Health and Nutrition of all Iraqis as a cornerstone of welfare and economic development.

4.4.1.6: Reduce gender discrimination, increase participation of women in public life and labor market.

II. Assessment of Programme Results

i) Narrative reporting on results:

During the project implementation period since 24 of Mar 2010 till 31 of Dec 2012, the project indicated a very solid success related to women status in Iraq from the evidence based lens. At the beginning of the project, the status of women was so vague, sensitive and no specific indications or evidence-based information for policy making level were available, which was a challenge for the project development and maturity of the conceptual framework as an urgent need that should be addressed in Iraq. Within the whole project processes and stages, substantive achievements and results started to be in place and supported decision making and evidence based planning cycle at national and sub national levels and reflected positively as good impact on the women situations within the political, socio-economic and health themes. The project targeted the women needs and priorities at the whole life cycle of women starting from the girl child to the elderly women age groups (Life Cycle Approach). This was followed by development sets of indicators to cover women different needs and issues, such the family planning, reproductive health, violence against women, women empowerment, social status and cultural sensitivity of the Iraqi women issues. Finally all these evidence based indicators and data were utilized for specialized in-depth analysis and very fundamental policy briefs focused on the root causes and deep rooted issues at women status nationally and sub nationally in Iraq. On the other hand, these sensitive indicators were the pool for developing the Public Use File (PUF) of the survey data and results to be used at the research, legislative and decision making level to address women needs in Iraq.

- **Outcome:** *Improved wellbeing and social and health status of women through providing an enabling information environment for evidence-based policy formulation in regard to family planning, women's social and health status.*

This project outcome was fully achieved through different indicators and results that were obtained during the implementation of the project. These results included the development of the PUF package, the increase of awareness at legislative bodies on women status, NGOs involvement in the process of women empowerment and combating VAW, and the in-depth studies made on urgent women's issues. Evidence based planning was also enhanced through the legislative bodies and government line ministries utilizing the evidence based results and information on women's issues and needs identified during this project. Finally, the dissemination of the project results and finding at national, KRG and governorate level was an opportunity to inform all stakeholders, beneficiaries and decision makers on the status of Iraqi women. From another angle, the project helped in addressing gender equality and women empowerment in Iraq related to all MDGs and particularly to MDG3 on women and gender issues, hence, the alignment of the project conceptual framework with the UNDAF clusters and sectors which came as a result to the national needs and priorities.

- **Outputs:**

Outputs1: *Capacity of COSIT and partner institutions is enhanced to design, supervise, monitor and evaluate large-scale surveys*

At this output level, the preset indicator was fully achieved as the capacity of the national partners from Central Statistical Organization (CSO) and Kurdistan Regional Statistical Office (KRSO), in addition to different partners from line ministries as MoH, MoP, MoISA, MoWA at both federal and KRG governments was increased and empowered through multi stage capacity building programme in project management design, questionnaires development, indicators development and monitoring plans, data collecting methods, TOT, data processing, data analysis, in-depth analysis and data Public Use File. The

output indicator of (Number of Trained Staff), according to the capacity building training files and documents, reached to about 350 national trainees, 45% of them were females.

Outputs2: *Policy makers and planners at both national and governorate levels are better informed on the status and needs of women and elderly people.*

This output was fully achieved as the 2 preset indicators: *Number of national and regional workshop participants* and *Number of statistical reports disseminated at national and governorates levels* were totally achieved according to the evidences and results of the planned activities during the project implementation and data dissemination and utilization. 18 workshops on the survey data dissemination were attended by the required targeted participants at national, regional, and governorate levels. Participants included Ministers of line partner ministries, Deputy Ministers, Parliamentarians, policy makers from Prime Ministries Advisory Council (PMAC), researchers, planners, governorates mayors, National Population Commission (NPC) Chairman and the Technical Secretariat Staff, and data analysts from statistical offices. On the other hand, 15 governorates dissemination and advocacy workshops, as well as 2 national workshops were organized, in addition to national forum to discuss the results of the survey from the perspective of women empowerment and gender equality.

Outputs3: *Knowledge and understanding on the dynamics of the status of Iraq women and health status is gained and potential policy options are drawn.*

Although this output indicator was tailored and modified to have new target of four in-depth studies on women issues and themes, it was fully achieved as the indicator completed and its target was achieved (*Number of national In-depth analysis studies*). Four in-depth and specialized thematic studies and researches on fertility, family planning, women empowerment and VAW were implemented and were discussed and disseminated for policy makers, concerned NGOs, institutions and planners at a very specialized National Population Conference launched at federal government in order to draw policy options and framework on women life cycle and dynamics regarding the most urgent needs of the Iraqi women.

Finally; according to the achievements of these three outputs through their related preset indicators, the contribution at the achievement of the whole project outcome was highly targeted in providing evidence based data related to women issues. This is visible in the availability of evidence based information, results and indicators, and the accessibility to the data by other concerned specialists, planners and decision makers for improving and developing the health and social status of women to be integrated and incorporated in the new National Development Plan (NDP 2013-2017) and in the sectoral strategies and plans.

- **Qualitative assessment:**

At the qualitative achievements level, the project merged many highly professional areas of work during the planning and implementation stages. These achievements concentrated on the following:

1. Partnership: partnership with all concerned counterparts was very professional among UNCT, national, regional and international partners who worked together and mobilized most of their expertise, knowledge and skills on women issues. An example on this partnership is the development of survey modules and areas based on the needs and priority women issues in Iraq.
2. Capacity Building programme: this programme resulted in having a professional national team specialized in the households' surveys techniques and approaches. This was due to the set of trainings the project have facilitated that resulted in developing the capacities of CSO and KRSO staff in the in-depth analysis and thematic studies approaches and methodologies.
3. New methods and approaches: this could be sought from the development of the first Iraqi data Public Use File (PUF) of this specialized nationwide survey. This new approach followed

facilitated the documentation of data and evidence based information accessibility and availability to decision makers, planners, researchers and experts to formulate related women policy options and framework in the NDP and other sectoral plans to address women empowerment, gender equality and social protection of VAW.

4. The most major qualitative achievement was to design and develop a very specialized households survey based on life cycle approach which covered females in all age groups, including girl child, single, married and ever married and old women, in addition to have a module on men perception on women issues and needs. This innovative approach allowed the planners, researchers and decision makers to draw a holistic view and picture on the women status inside Iraq at national, sub national and KRG levels.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

	<u>Achieved Indicator Targets</u>	<u>Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)</u>	<u>Source of Verification</u>
<p>Outcome 1¹ Improved wellbeing and social and health status of women through providing an enabling information environment for evidence-based policy formulation in regard to family planning, women's social and health status.</p> <p>Indicator: Women needs on the national development agenda (through availability of evidence based information available on women issues in Iraq)</p> <p>Baseline: yes (but limited)</p> <p>Planned Target: Yes (at wide national & sub national levels)</p>	Fully achieved regarding having all evidence based portals and data which were utilized and used in the formulation of the women policy options and developmental agenda	NA	New NDP 2013-2017 includes gender and RH components. PUF disseminated and published in a wide range for decision making, planning and policy planners assignments and functions
<p>Output 1.1 Capacity of COSIT and partner institutions is enhanced to design, supervise, monitor and evaluate large-scale health surveys</p> <p>Indicator 1.1.1 Number of Trained Staff</p> <p>Baseline:0</p> <p>Planned Target: 220</p>	200 national staff inside Iraq 150 nationals out Iraq	The capacity building included more than what was originally planned to have in the workshops as KRG and governorates had more participation in these workshops	Capacity building reports and workshops evaluation documents.
<p>Output 1.2 2 Policy makers and planners at both national and governorate levels are better informed on the status and needs of women and elderly people</p> <p>Indicator 1.2.1</p> <p>Baseline: NO</p> <p>Planned Target: Yes</p>	All related required participants at different positions and levels attended and participated in the project advocacy, orientation, dissemination and capacity building workshops	NA	Dissemination and orientation workshops reports and documents which were attended by all national partners including decision makers, planners, Media and parliamentary committees at national, KRG and governorates level in collaboration with UNFPA, to discuss all women status evidence based results and information
<p>Output 1.3 Knowledge and understanding on the dynamics of the status of Iraqi women and elderly health status is gained and potential policy options are drawn</p> <p>Indicator 1.2.1</p> <p>Baseline: No</p> <p>Planned Target: Yes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women issues on the legislative agenda, development agenda and decision making level agenda - In depth studies elaborated the whole women life cycle and prioritized the related needs and issues of women - Policy options drafted and formulated 	NA	NDP 2013-2017 chapters on Gender & RH. NPC workshops on women issues regarding I-WISH evidence based information and indicators

¹ Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be as outlines in the Project Document so that you report on your actual achievements against planned targets. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc.

iii) Evaluation, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

1. Till present, no evaluation was undertaken, but four in-depth studies were implemented in collaboration with American University in Cairo and Iraqi experts which clarified the holistic picture on women issues inside Iraq at national and sub-national levels.
2. UNFPA in collaboration with national and regional partners innovated the life cycle approach to cover the whole life cycle of the Iraqi women, which highly appreciated by national counterparts and partners at national and regional level as a good practice.
3. The highly professional partnership among all involved counterparts during the period of the project is considered as a best practice.

The most important challenges faced during this programme implementation were:

1. Political disparities in Iraq that affected the national census counting by the CSO and KRSO have delayed the project implementation according to approved and endorsed timeline.
2. Security Situations, especially in the disputed areas in Kirkuk and Nenva governorates, and in other districts have delayed some fieldwork for data collection.
3. The sensitivity of addressing women issues in a very conservative and oriental culture society.

The key lessons learned from the programme implementation are:

1. Professional coordination among counterparts at national, regional, UNCT and international level have facilitated experience mobilization and best practices adoption as well as the knowledge sharing and teamwork spirit.
2. Adoption of new life cycle approach to address the very sensitive issues of Iraqi women was a key to draw a holistic picture on these issues to facilitate the process of enhancing decision making, prioritizing and addressing needed policy options for women empowerment and protection
3. Smoothly accessibility and availability of the needed evidence based information and indicators on the women issues and urgent priorities.
4. Developing the PUF package enhanced and facilitated planners work and studies.

iv) **Specific Story (Optional):**N.A at this project level

v) Abbreviations and Acronyms:

Abbreviations and Acronyms:	
MoP: Ministry of Planning	LAS/PAPFAM: League of Arab States/ Pan Arab Project of Family Health
RC: Resident Coordinator	NPC: National population Commission
GoI: Government of Iraq	PUF: Public Use File
CSO: Central Statistical Organization	MoH: Ministry of Health
KRSO: Kurdistan Regional Statistical Office	MoISA: Ministry of labor & Social Affairs
NDS: National Development Strategy	MoWA: Ministry of Women Affairs
NDP: National Development Plan	TOT: Training Of Trainers
NTAs: National Technical Advisors	UNCT: United Nations Country Team
MDGs: Millennium Development Goals	PMAC: Prime Ministries Advisory Council
ICI: International Compact with Iraq	VAW: Violence Against Women
KRG: Kurdistan Regional Government	RH: Reproductive Health
CCA: Common Country Assessment	