

United Nations Development Group UNDAF Trust Fund

Project: 81968: P1-02

Date and Quarter Updated: 1 October to 31 December 2013 – Q4 2013

Participating UN Organisation: UNDP, UNICEF

PWG: Governance and Human Rights

Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Ministry of Interior, Committee Number 80 leads., Ministry of Human Rights, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Women’s Affairs, High Committee of Women in KRG. Child Welfare Commission, Family Protection Directorates, Judiciary and Civil Society.

Title	Family Protection, Support, Justice and Security for Survivors of Domestic and Gender Based Violence				
Geographic Location	Iraq in Baghdad, Erbil and Basrah				
Project Cost	USD 3,967,880				
Duration	36 Months				
Approval Date (SC)	18 Jan. 2012	Starting Date	12 March 2012	Completion Date	12 March 2015
Project Description	UNDP in conjunction with Iraqi stakeholders finalised the development of the Family Protection, Support, Justice and Security Programme to support the Government of Iraq’s efforts in creating a strategy to ensure that victims of domestic and gender based violence are offered refuge, reintegration and access to justice. Over the past two years UNDP has utilised core funds to increase understanding of the issues and implement limited activities to vulnerable women and children. This project will build on these initial activities and provide comprehensive technical and advisory support combined with extensive capacity development interventions for known key stakeholders, enhance capacity of formal and informal institutions to establish family protection systems and facilitate law enforcement and access to justice for the victims of violence. The project additionally looks towards mechanisms to empower victims, target groups and communities and establish mechanisms that assist reintegration back into their communities. This project will cooperate and build synergy with other UN Country Team agencies based on their respective mandates.				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

Relevant NDP Goal(s):

9.1.4 Reform the economic and legal institutions to ensure equality in rights and opportunities for men and women (family laws, protection from violence, property ownership, employment, political rights and inheritance).

Relevant UNDAF Priority Area Outcome:

Priority Area 1: Improved governance, including protection of human rights.

Outcome 1.3: Iraq has an improved legal and operational Rule of Law framework for administration and access to justice.

Priority Area 5: Investment in human capital and empowerment of women, youth and children.

Outcome 5.1: The Iraqi state has improved knowledge, attitude and practices regarding the roles and rights of women, youth and children in line with international conventions, the Iraqi Constitution and legislation.

Outcome 5.5: The Iraqi state has institutionalized preventive and protective mechanisms to combat gender-based violence.

UNDP Country Programme Outcome 2:

Enhanced rule of law, protection and respect for human rights in line with international standards.

Outputs, Key Activities and Procurement

Outputs	Output 1: Policy and legislative reform supported for improved access to justice for gender based violence (GBV) survivors. Output 2: Enhanced law enforcement response to combating GBV and supporting GBV survivors and
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	<p>victims of trafficking. Output 3: National institutions strengthened to undertake social and economic empowerment and protection of GBV survivors.</p>
<p>Activities</p>	<p>Output 1: Policy and legislative reform supported for improved access to justice for GBV survivors.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Central Government and Kurdistan Regional Government are provided with legislative and policy support for improved family protection and law enforcement. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1.1 Specific advice and training for the core working group on how to address violence against women and children and victims of trafficking provided. 1.1.2 Support the promotion and activities of committee 80 to ensure their impact on the legislative reform in moving forward the agenda of family support, justice and security. 1.1.3 Support the core working group in the development of action plans and annual work and budget plans to further strategy on family support, justice and security. 1.1.4 Support awareness raising activities to promote the KRG strategy and to ensure their impact and moving forward the agenda of family support, justice and security. 1.2 Child Welfare Commission is supported with the development of Child Protection Policy. <p>Output 2 Enhanced law enforcement response to combating GBV and supporting GBV survivors and victims of trafficking.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Central Government and Kurdistan Regional government are supported with the referral mechanism for the new Family Protection Directorates, police support units and CSOs . <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1.1 Targeted training for Police from the Central Government and the Kurdistan Region. Training focuses on SOPs on how to run Family Protection Units (including study tours). 2.1.2 Empowerment of female police officers working in the newly established Directorates through targeted training courses and increased awareness. 2.1.3 Support the establishment of victim support units in police stations (Baghdad) to act as referral centres for the established Family Protection Directorates. 2.1.4 Develop/adapt training material on combating violence against women and children for police officers and social workers working in Directorates to ensure continuous training and sustainability. 2.1.5 Linkages developed between the Directorates and the criminal courts in their areas to ensure chain of evidence, i.e. testimony, preservation of physical evidence, necessary for successful prosecution - work with Criminal Court and the Social Research Department staff for capacity building in following up and handling cases. 2.1.6 Develop advocacy strategy highlighting the role of family support, justice and security. 2.1.7 Assess performance and impact of Directorates. 2.1.8 Organize multi-stakeholder workshops to disseminate lessons. 2.1.9 Support the development of an effective data base for newly established Directorates (design and training). 2.2 Relevant service providers have an enhanced capacity to deal with GBV cases. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.2.1 Training for police, in particular female police officers, in interview techniques, investigations, forensics, chain of evidence, and how specifically to process cases of violence against women and children. 2.2.2 Trainings and advocacy for Ministry staff, Parliamentary staff, judges, lawyers and judicial staff on gender sensitive/human rights based approach methodology to addressing violence against women and children in relation to the workings of the Family Protection Directorates.

	<p>2.2.3 Organize awareness raising workshops on combating violence against women and children and the link with human rights and the rule of law. Encourage target groups to participate in policy reviews and improved legislative frameworks.</p> <p>2.2.4 Trainings for health care workers, i.e. medical staff, counsellors, psychologists, on dealing with victims of violence. This includes developing of referrals protocols that will support the implementation of the CVAW programme and link up with the Directorates.</p> <p>2.2.7 Organize trainings on the revised JTI and Police Academy curricula and train ToTs in the respective rule of law institutions on GBV and role of FPDs.</p> <p>2.3 NGOs working on providing legal aid have an enhanced capacity on family protection and violence prevention.</p> <p>2.3.1 Initial mapping and capacity assessment of NGOs providing legal aid nationwide to victims of violence. This includes the Iraqi Bar Association.</p> <p>2.3.2. Support establishment of an effective referral system linking NGOs with Directorates and prosecution services which includes provision of financial and logistical support to NGOs offering legal aid to victims of all forms of GBV.</p> <p>2.4. Relevant NGOs have an enhanced capacity on child protection issues</p> <p>Output 3: National institutions strengthened to undertake social and economic empowerment and protection of GBV survivors.</p> <p>3.1 Development of shelter policy to the development of shelter policy at central and KRG level supported, participation of civil society ensured.</p> <p>3.1.1 Policy advice and technical support given on shelter policy in both Central Level and the Kurdistan Region and the development of plan of action.</p> <p>3.1.2 Develop a policy framework based on a situational analysis to facilitate the reintegration of shelter clients back into the community.</p> <p>3.2 Female shelters and safe houses supported through institutional strengthening and capacity development.</p> <p>3.2.1 Mapping of NGOs providing shelter or refuges to victims of violence, including advocacy and workshops.</p> <p>3.2.2 Support to existing NGO managed shelters for victims of violence including a national conference for lessons learned.</p> <p>3.2.3 Capacity building provided to shelter staff on management, budgets, resource mobilization, etc.</p> <p>3.2.4 Develop/adapt training material on working with victims of violence for shelter staff (also to GoI).</p> <p>3.2.5 Specialized training provided to shelter staff on dealing with victims of violence.</p> <p>3.3 NGOs offering shelter support to women strengthened to provide referral support.</p> <p>3.3.1 Provision of capacity building, financial and logistical support to NGOs providing support to women and women victim of violence that can act as referral centres.</p> <p>3.3.2 Develop linkages with on-going UNCT economic empowerment/private sector development programs.</p>
Procurement	Too early in the life cycle of the project.

Tranche funding for the project through the UNDAF Trust Fund

UNDP

Funds Committed	USD \$2,314,027	% of approved	93.8%
Funds Disbursed	USD\$2,089,074	% of approved	84.7%
Forecast final date	12 March 2015	Delay (months)	0

UNICEF

Funds Utilized	USD \$ 311273.71	% of approved	56.79%
Forecast final date	12 March 2015	Delay (months)	0

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results

Output 1 Policy and legislative reform supported for improved access to justice for GBV survivors	<p>UNDP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuous follow up on the status of the Domestic Violence Bill at federal level took place. - Followed up with the uploading of the database within the MOI IT system. - Draft shelter policy is completed and shared with MOWA, MOLSA and MOI. 	80%
Output 2 Enhanced law enforcement response to combating GBV and supporting GBV survivors and victims of trafficking.	<p>UNDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuous and regular support to strengthen the capacity of the FPUs at central and regional level. - Total of 1414 cases have been reported to FPUs in Basra and KRG. - Total of 244 persons provided with free legal assistance during the Q4. (123 Female – 121 Male received legal consultations. 13 Female – 15 Male received free legal representation). - Total of 25 attended trainings and workshops on Domestic and Gender-based violence. - Support to the establishment of the training units within the Directorate for Combating Violence Against Women. - Advocacy support to include investigation of DGBV within the mandate of the FPU. <p>UNICEF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to MoLSA on the development of the national child protection policy is on going - A total of 589 children provided with legal assistance during the project 	<p>UNDP 75%</p> <p>UNICEF 67.5%</p>
Output 3 National institutions strengthened to undertake social and economic empowerment and protection of GBV survivors.	<p>UNDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional legal aid helpdesk established in Anbar Governorate to provide free legal assistance to vulnerable groups, with special focus on women and victims of DV and GBV. - Continuous consultation and technical advisory support provided to MOLSA towards facilitating the adoption of shelter policy in KRG. - Consultations and technical advisory support to adopt shelter policy in Basra. 	65%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

<p>The summary below outlines the key achievements during the reporting period:</p> <p>UNDP</p>

Family Protection Units at both federal and regional level constitute the main Government reporting mechanism for domestic and gender-based violence in Iraq. Significant increases in the number of reported cases have been observed during the reporting period. UNDP continues to provide the technical advisory support to ensure these units have the required support from the Ministry of Interior to meet the demands on ground. In doing so UNDP facilitated series of meetings in KRG advocating for Directorate for Combating Violence Against Women to retrieve the investigation power of domestic and gender-based violence, which was not part of the DfCVAW mandate. This is considered as major step to position the Directorate as a fully mandated entity to combat violence against women. This constitutes a major achievement as this is first time since the establishment of the Directorate that female police officers have investigated domestic violence cases. From December 10th to 12th a comprehensive training was provided to the technical staff of DFCVAW that work in the statistic unit as well as IT staff. During these three days, the staff reviewed the database and minor changes were applied where additional reporting modules have been added. It is expected that the final uploading of the data will be completed during the Q1 of the year 2014. At the federal level, UNDP continues to follow up with MOI on the database, MOI will identify a service provider prior to the uploading of the database in their system.

Similarly, Legal aid helpdesks continued to provide free legal assistance to vulnerable group, with special focus on women and girls who are victims of Domestic violence. UNDP continued to enhance the capacity of the Kurdistan Bar Association to create and establish a project management unit. This will assist and advance the institutionalization of the provision of the free legal aid services. At federal level, on 25 December UNDP signed an agreement with local civil society organisations to establish an additional legal aid helpdesk in Anbar. This office will provide free legal assistance to vulnerable groups, including women and children, while also working closely with civil society and the Governorate Council to promote an agenda for combating violence against women. The Iraq Bar association represents a major challenge for the work of the legal aid helpdesks, as there is limited understanding of the legal aid concept within the IBA. This has resulted in limited cooperation between CSOs and IBA lawyers. In Basra, lawyers limited their role to provision of legal advice. In that regards, UNDP held meetings with IBA to provide more clarification on the future role of the IBA as a technical lead for the provision of legal aid. It is anticipated that a MoU will be signed between UNDP and IBA during the first quarter of the year 2014 to define a strategic partnership on legal assistance in Iraq.

At the policy level, on October 2013 UNDP held a consultative meeting with members of Regional Parliament, Kurdistan Judicial Council, CSOs, and DfCVAW to discuss the revision of the Domestic Violence Bill (DVB) that is currently applicable in Kurdistan. The DVB has been enforced over the last two years, but gaps have been identified during the application of the law. UNDP will provide technical advisory support to the DfCVAW and the regional Parliament to review the law in line with the international standards.

The support to the development of shelter policy targeting the victims of domestic and gender-based violence continues to constitute a major challenge. Due to cultural barriers, little progress has been achieved through discussion and meetings with the GOI. To assist in advancing the work on shelter, UNDP, during the reporting period, organised a meeting with Basra's Governor and the Provincial Council seeking his support to pilot the Governorate. As a result of this meeting, the Governor approved allocations of shelter under the management of the Governorate Council. Based on this mutual agreement, on 17 November UNDP organised a one day workshop in Basra to propose shelter policy and strategy. The workshop resulted in the approval of the Governor to allocate buildings for shelters in the Governorate. At the federal level, discussions on shelter policy strategy are still ongoing.

In the KRG, shelter policy has been shared with MOLSA for internal review and approval. Due to the regional elections and the late formation of the new Regional Parliament, this discussion will take longer than anticipated. UNDP plans to advocate for adoption of the shelter policy in the KRG by the Q1 of the year 2014.

Development of national child protection policy

UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in developing the national child protection policy. UNICEF finalised contracting the American University of Beirut in November 2013 and is arranging meetings and workshop with the Child Welfare Commission to complete the Ministry's child protection situation analysis, capacity building of government counterparts and drafting of policy option papers that propose various alternatives of comprehensive child protection systems, providing the basis well-informed deliberations, engagement, advocacy and policy development.

Legal Assistance

Heartland Alliance International (HAI) has successfully completed the programme co-operation agreement for the Kurdistan region (KR). The second phase of programme co-operation will start shortly and has the objective of providing legal services to 200 juveniles in contact with the law in the four following districts in the KRG: Zakho, Kusangiq, Kalar and Suran.

UNICEF has also entered a new programme co-operation agreement with War Child to expand its legal assistance in Basra, Thi-Qar and Missan. During the reporting period, 75 children (3 girls and 72 boys) were provided with legal assistance (25 in Basra, 10 in Missan, and 40 in Thi-Qar), cumulatively adding to a total of 589 children since 2013. Charges of 10 cases have been dropped and diverted from detention on the basis of legal assistance provided. Legal assistance was also provided in three cases of alleged sexual abuse (prostitution or charge of immorality) which are among the most sensitive and demanding cases in legal assistance.

Capacity building

UNICEF supported Salahaddin University (Erbil) in developing a university degree programme in social work, which has been operational since 2009. UNICEF supported the university in conducting an evaluation of the degree programme by external/independent researchers. The assessment included interviews of a total of 110 people (equal gender representation) from university staff, current students, graduates, as well as civil society. The findings presented 15th September 2013, revealed the importance of the programme in improving social services in the KR. It highlighted the advantages and disadvantages of the current programme, including its contextual emphasis on western values. Another issue showed the necessity of improving the employment system for graduates, enabling them to utilise their knowledge and skills. The Government of Iraq and the KRG is keen in recruiting social worker graduates for employment in the social sector ministries and directorates.

UNICEF conducted an awareness session on child protection and the monitoring and reporting mechanism (MRM) on grave violations of child rights in the context of armed conflict to all Family Protection Unit (FPU) staff and DVAW directors in December 2013.

UNICEF and its partner arranged a four-day workshop in December 2013 to develop the curriculum for the police academy in the KR with technical inputs from the Steering Committee (for the ministries in the KR). The workshop resulted in an action plan and work schedule for the development of an initial training toolkit that provides information, including violence against children/women, how to interview minors, the CRC, child rights etc.

Monitoring and reporting mechanism on the grave violations of children's rights

During the reporting period, the MRM Country Task Force (co-chaired by UNICEF and UNAMI) reported 124 incidents related to the killing and maiming of children and attacks on schools/hospitals, as well as personnel. The verification process is still underway at the time of reporting. Surprisingly, no GBV related cases were reported.

UNICEF conducted a second meeting with its network organisations located in central Iraq to discuss challenges and good practices in monitoring and reporting on the grave violations of child rights. Network representatives reported that the deteriorating security situation in Baghdad and surrounding governorates, has

resulted in increasing challenges in reaching incident locations in order to verify the information.

Main implementation constraints & challenges

The progressively deteriorating security situation in Iraq has been posing challenges in the monitoring of grave violations of child right. The monitors themselves have become the survivors and witnesses of the violations. Road blocks and tighter security checks made it difficult for monitors to reach incident locations. Furthermore, when asking for more incident information, suspicion against the monitors increased in relation to the terrorist acts.