

United Nations Development Group UNDAF Trust Fund

Project: 81968: P1-02

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Q3 2013

Participating UN Organisation: UNDP, UNICEF Sector: 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)	9 February 2012	Starting Date	9 March 2012	Completion Date	30 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.

Outputs, Key Activities and Procurement

Outputs	<p>Output 1: Policy and legislative reform supported for improved access to justice for gender based violence (GBV) survivors.</p> <p>Output 2: Enhanced law enforcement response to combating GBV and supporting GBV survivors and victims of trafficking.</p> <p>Output 3: National institutions strengthened to undertake social and economic empowerment and protection of GBV survivors.</p>
Activities	<p>Output 1: Policy and legislative reform supported for improved access to justice for GBV survivors.</p> <p>1.1 Central Government and Kurdistan Regional Government are provided with legislative and policy support for improved family protection and law enforcement.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>1.2 Child Welfare Commission is supported with the development of Child Protection Policy.</p> <p>Output 2 Enhanced law enforcement response to combating GBV and supporting GBV survivors and victims of trafficking.</p> <p>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 .</p> <p>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).</p> <p>2.1.2 Empowerment of female police officers working in the newly established Directorates through targeted training courses and increased awareness.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>2.1.6 Develop advocacy strategy highlighting the role of family support, justice and security.</p>

- 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.

- 2.3 NGOs working on providing legal aid have an enhanced capacity on family protection and violence prevention.
 - 2.3.1 Initial mapping and capacity assessment of NGOs providing legal aid nationwide to victims of violence. This includes the Iraqi Bar Association.
 - 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.

- 2.4. Relevant NGOs have an enhanced capacity on child protection issues

Output 3: National institutions strengthened to undertake social and economic empowerment and protection of GBV survivors.

- 3.1 Development of shelter policy to the development of shelter policy at central and KRG level supported, participation of civil society ensured.
 - 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.
 - 3.1.2 Develop a policy framework based on a situational analysis to facilitate the reintegration of shelter clients back into the community.

- 3.2 Female shelters and safe houses supported through institutional strengthening and capacity development.
 - 3.2.1 Mapping of NGOs providing shelter or refuges to victims of violence, including advocacy and workshops.
 - 3.2.2 Support to existing NGO managed shelters for victims of violence including a national conference for lessons learned.

	<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 (major items)	Too early in the life cycle of the project.

**Tranche funding for the project through the UNDAF Trust Fund
UNDP**

Funds Committed	USD \$1,149,600.4	% of approved	46.6%
Funds Disbursed	USD \$1,701,207.5	% of approved	68.9%
Forecast final date	30 March 2015	Delay (months)	0

UNICEF

Funds Utilized	USD 375,108	% of approved	57%
Forecast final date	30 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. To be shared with MOWA, MOLSA and MOI during the fourth quarter. 	% of planned	75%
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"> - Training of trainers for Directors of FPU's and FPD's at Federal and Regional level took place in Erbil from 15th - 27th of September 2013. Trainings targeted 11 managers and directors from nation-wide. -Coordination meeting is organised on 30 Sep in Dahouk between the FPD, KBA and NGOs to discuss referral system of cases. <p>UNICEF</p>	% of planned	UNDP 65%

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuous support to the MoLSA on the development of the Child Protection Policy is on going - A total of a total of 584 children provided with legal assistance over the project life - An evaluation of Social Work Degree programme at Salahaddin University has been completed. - A regional workshop on Justice for Children organized and participated by a representative of the Directorate of Combating Violence against Women - 104 incidents of grave violations of children's rights have been reported 		
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"> - Four legal aid helpdesks in Erbil, Sulymaniah, Dahouk and Basra continue 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. 	% of planned	50%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

The summary below outlines the key achievements during the reporting period: =

UNDP

Family protection Units at both federal and regional level continue to play major role as an effective Government reporting mechanism for domestic and gender-based violence in Iraq. Coupled with increased number of reported cases, UNDP intensified its support to this important institution through a series of training on investigation, forensic, and interviewing techniques. Within the framework of UNDP support to the GOI to combat domestic and gender-based violence, a two weeks training course of trainers on management skills was organized on 15 September. The training targeted eleven managers of FPUs from all Governorates in Iraq and the KRG. This training came as a result of an assessment conducted by UNDP, in which management's limited capacity was identified as a gap hindering the work of the FPUs and the Directorate for Combating Violence Against Women.

The management training focused on various models, namely, projects management, tools and approaches that should be adopted during the implementation of strategic action plans, risk and conflict management and team building.

This training will contribute to the enhancement of the management skills of the FPU's Directors, as well as creating a pool of national trainers to ensure the sustainability of the trainings within the Ministry of Interior. UNDP will continue to provide support to the national trainers to plan and conduct a series of trainings targeting all FPU's staff. This training is conducted in partnership with the Government of Denmark and the Danish Police Commission.

The support to the development of shelter policy targeting the victims of the domestic and gender-based violence continues to constitute a major challenge. Due to cultural barriers, the progress of the GOI in this particular area of work is expected to take longer than expected. Within this context, UNDP continues to provide a platform for constructive discussions between COR, MOLSA, MOWA and CSOs to ensure a common agreed understanding to the establishment of shelters in Iraq. In that regard, UNDP finalized the development of a draft shelter policy which will be shared with GOI and CSOs. This draft policy will facilitate a broader discussion on shelter policy during a conference that will be organised early in 2014.

In the KRG, shelter policy is shared with MOLSA for internal review and approval, due to the regional elections and the 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 4th quarter.

Legal aid helpdesks continue to play an instrumental role as a free legal assistance mechanism. In addition to the three legal aid helpdesks in Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dahouk, UNDP established the first legal aid helpdesk in Basra. The Bar Association in Basra and Baghdad constitute a major challenge hindering the work of the legal aid helpdesk, lack of understanding of the free legal assistance, coupled with the BA perceived the NGOs which provide free legal assistance as competitors, resulted in conflict between UNDP implementation partner in Basra and BA. In that regard, UNDP is planning a workshop on 22 October in Erbil with the Bar Association, the Kurdistan Bar Association, the High Judicial Council and CSOs to discuss the provision of free legal aid and to examine the KBA experience.

UNICEF

Child Protection Policy

UNICEF called for an expression of interest to undertake the development of Child Protection Policy. Four organizations sent an expression of interest. UNICEF selected the American University of Beirut (AUB) to undertake this task based on their experience in other countries and knowledge on child protection system building. A policy advisor has also been identified after a number of advertisements to seek a candidate.

Legal Assistance

In the Kurdistan region, the programme cooperation agreement with Heartland Alliance International (HAI) has been completed. UNICEF and HAI are currently negotiating the second phase of the programme cooperation. Therefore, there is no legal assistance provided in the Kurdistan region during this reporting period.

UNICEF has entered a new programme cooperation agreement with War Child to expand its legal assistance in Basra, Thi Qar and Missan. During the reporting period, 70 children (1 girl and 69 boys) have been provided with legal assistance (23 in Basra, 9 in Missan, and 38 in Thi Qar) which adds up to a total of 584 children since 2012 in the Kurdistan region and Southern Iraq. Charges of 10 cases have been dropped and diverted from detention due to legal assistance provided by War Child. Legal

assistance was also provided to three cases alleged of sexual abuse (prostitution or immoral charge).

Capacity building

UNICEF supported Salahaddin University, Erbil to develop a University degree programme on social work, operational since 2009. UNICEF supported the University to conduct an evaluation of the current degree programme on social work by external researchers. The data collection was completed, and the findings of the evaluation were presented on the 15th September 2013. A total of 110 people (55 female and 55 male) from the staff of the university, current students, graduates as well as civil society were interviewed. The preliminary findings revealed that people confirmed that the programme is indeed necessary to enhance social services. It was highlighted pros and cons of the current programme since it weighs a lot on the western value. Another point was to have a better system for employment of graduate students in which they can utilize their knowledge and skills. To note, one of the graduate students has been recruited by the Directorate of Combating Violence against Women (DVAW).

UNICEF conducted an awareness session on Child Protection and Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on grave violations of children's rights in the context of armed conflict to all the FPU and DVAW Directors during the management skill training mentioned above.

UNICEF entered a new Programme Cooperation Agreement with the International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR) to support the KRG MoI in developing a child rights module. The workshop launching the project and setting up a Steering Committee and a Reference Group was conducted in August 2013. An international expert from IBCR visited the Kurdistan region, and conducted a gap analysis in September 2013 through interviews with the relevant stakeholders and visiting the police colleges. The report is expected in November 2013.

UNICEF invited representatives from the DVAW and FPU to participate in the regional workshop to support Justice for Children in the Middle East and North African Region, especially the Family and Child Protection Units, organized by UNICEF regional office and IBCR. Unfortunately FPU did not nominate a representative for this workshop. Some 30 representatives from the Ministries of Interior, Juvenile Police, family protection units from Sudan, Morocco, Jordan, oPt, Libya, Tunisia, Yemen, Lebanon, and Iraq,. The main purposes of this workshop were as followed; 1) To review existing police/gendarmerie child and family protection units, 2) to analyze UNICEF's past engagement and future opportunities in this field and 3) to develop region/country specific guidance on strengthening/scaling up these mechanisms that will inform future programming in terms of priorities and approaches at country level. The participants have shared their experience and developed action plans to strengthen this specialised unit in each country.

Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on the grave violations of children's rights

During the reporting period, MRM Country Task Force (co-chaired by UNICEF and UNAMI) reported 104 incidents related to killing and maiming of children and attacks on schools and hospitals as well as the personnel. The verification process is still underway at the time of reporting. No GBV related cases were reported.

UNICEF conducted one day meeting with the network organizations located in the central Iraq to discuss challenges and good practices on monitoring and reporting on the grave violations of children's rights. The representatives from the network organizations reported that due to deterioration of the security situation in Baghdad and surrounding governorates, it has been very challenging for them to reach to the locations where the violations are reported and to verify information.