

**Iraq UNDAF Fund**  
**Joint Programme/Project: 79817/P3-01**  
**Date and Quarter Updated:**  
**1<sup>st</sup> July 2013–September 2013 (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2013)**

**Participating UN Organization:** UNDP (lead) **Priority Area:** Environment  
UNESCO, UNEP and FAO

**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>Geographic Location</b>	Nationwide				
<b>JP/Project Cost</b>	<b>UNDAF Trust Fund USD 759,884</b> UNDP USD 264,883 UNESCO USD 215,001 UNEP: USD 140,000 FAO: USD 140,000 GoI USD 0 USD 150,000 In kind ‘personnel’ costs from UNDP, UNESCO, FAO and UNEP  <b>Total: USD 909,884</b>				
<b>Duration</b>	9 months + 10 months extension				
<b>Approval Date (SC)</b>	14 June 2011	<b>Starting Date</b>	30 August 2011	<b>Completion Date</b>	30 May 2012 extended to 31 March 2014
<b>JP/Project Description</b>	<p>Recent severe drought has far-reaching impacts on Iraq’s economy, social and environmental conditions. Given its frequent occurrence in Iraq and its negative impact thus far, it is viewed as a slow-onset disaster that requires short, mid and long-term strategic interventions. 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>UNDP and UNESCO are jointly implementing this programme in close consultation with other UN partners. It supports 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. Activities include exposing the GoI to international good DRM practices and mapping exercises.</p> <p>Because of the strong linkages between drought, desertification and dust storms, the need for coherent-integrated approaches were proposed. In June 2012 the Prime Minister Court, the National High-Level Committee for Dust Storms (National DDS Committee) had intensified dialogue with</p>				

	<p>neighboring countries (Iran and Kuwait in particular). In September 2012, the Ministry of Environment and UNEP and FAO came to the conclusion that two additional outputs to develop a national programme to combat sand and dust storms should be integrated into the current DRM programme.</p> <p>These activities will form the foundation of the national framework for integrated Drought Risk Management (DRM) and national programme to combat sand and dust storms in Iraq. This will enable the GoI and its partners to launch a coordinated multidisciplinary, multi-sectoral, and multi-level response to drought, desertification and dust storms.</p> <p>The proposed national DRM framework will be reviewed and discussed by all key stakeholders through 3-day validation workshop scheduled in January 2014 to secure programmatic support for drought risk management in Iraq.</p>
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<b>UNDAF Priority Area Outcome:</b>	
<p>Environmental management and compliance with actions taken on ratified international environmental treaties and obligations</p> <p>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</p> <p>Relevant UNDP Country Programme and CPAP Outcome</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GoI has the institutional framework to develop and implement MDG-based pro-poor, equitable and inclusive socio-economic and environmental policies and strategies.</li> <li>Comprehensive strategic frameworks at national and sub-national levels for disaster risk reduction developed.</li> </ol>	

<b>Outputs, Key activities and Procurement</b>	
<b>Outputs</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government of Iraq and relevant stakeholders have improved knowledge and common understanding on Drought Risk Management.</li> <li>Iraq has a participatory, comprehensive, and inclusive national framework for Drought Risk Management in line with international good practice.</li> <li>National partners have enhanced understanding and knowledge on the causes and trends of sand/dust storm affecting Iraq</li> <li>Development of national programme to monitor, combat and mitigate dust/sand storms and enhance regional cooperation.</li> </ol> <p>UNEP and FAO will implement part of outputs 3 and 4 through Q3 and Q4.</p>

<p><b>Activities</b></p>	<p><b>Output 1</b> –<i>Government of Iraq and relevant stakeholders have improved knowledge and common understanding in Drought Risk Management</i></p> <p>1.1.<b>Research/Study</b>–Mapping of relevant stakeholders and their respective mandates and initiatives; 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 of drought by agricultural, environmental and water sectors.</p> <p>1.2.<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.</p> <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> <p>2.1.<b>Technical Assessment and Consultation</b>–Conducting vulnerability assessment of drought impacts on agriculture, environmental and water sectors, with a focus on gender sensitivity aspects. Plus identifying appropriate risk reduction approaches to DRM by various GoI institutions and bodies, and of the importance and relevance of a DRM framework to many development issues in Iraq.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Output 3</b>–<i>National partners have enhanced understanding and knowledge on the causes and trends of sand and dust storm affecting Iraq.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparing a compendium of land use and agriculture practices</li> <li>• Mapping of areas of highest potential sources for dust/sand storms (hot spots and sensitive areas)</li> <li>• Identify data/information and capacity gaps and recommend appropriate measures</li> <li>• Analyse trends of dust/sand storms based on historical observational data to the extent possible</li> <li>• Cross-reference results of the above in terms of frequency, intensity and transportation paths with results of output</li> <li>• To the extent possible, develop climate models to predict future frequency and intensity of the dust/sand storms</li> <li>• Suggest elements of national early warning system on dust storm, procure small sample of measurement instruments</li> </ul> <p><b>Output 4</b>–<i>Development of national programme to monitor, combat and mitigate dust and sand storms and enhance regional cooperation.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder analysis and institutional mapping</li> <li>• Suggest institutional mechanism to address dust/sand storms</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop the logical framework for the action plan highlighting causes, impacts and responses</li> <li>• Describe the major components of the programme and their ultimate results</li> <li>• Suggest implementation arrangement for the programme with estimation of capacities and resources needed</li> </ul> <p><b>UNEP and FAO will implement Outputs 3 and 4 through Q3 &amp; Q4</b></p>
<b>Procurement (major items)</b>	<p>UNDP: (1) TOR/RFP advertised and awarded ELARD as a Services Provider to conduct;(2) Vulnerability assessment study;(3) Development of draft 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> <p>UNEP: 1) Contract with international and national consultants to undertake the mapping and programme development, 2) contract with collaborating centre to assist with the identification of hot spots and integration of ecosystem-based design of mitigation interventions.</p> <p>FAO: FAO will contract two national consultants to assist with mapping and programme development.</p> <p>NB: no procurement of equipment will take place since GoI will purchase monitoring instruments from its own resources based on WMO-UNEP advice on specifications and standards.</p>

<b>Funds Committed</b>	UNDP: USD 225,128.6 UNESCO: USD 141,722 UNEP: \$100,000 FAO:\$100,000	<b>% of approved</b>	UNDP: 85.2% UNESCO: 62.92% UNEP: 70% FAO: 70%
<b>Funds Disbursed</b>	UNDP: USD 69,230.32 UNESCO: USD 126,222 UNEP: \$70,000 FAO: \$90,000	<b>% of approved</b>	UNDP: 26% UNESCO: 58.71% UNEP: 50% FAO: 64.29%
<b>Forecast final date</b>	31 March 2014	<b>Delay (months)</b>	10 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>	
<b>UNDAF Environmental management and compliance with actions taken on ratified international environmental treaties and obligations</b>	
Output 1. Government of Iraq and relevant stakeholders has improved knowledge and common understanding on Drought Risk Management.	UNDP: 100% UNESCO: 90%
Output 2. Iraq has a participatory, comprehensive, and inclusive national framework for Drought Risk Management in line with international good practice.	UNDP: 65% UNESCO: 90%
Output 3. National partners have enhanced understanding and knowledge on the causes and trends of sand/dust storm affecting Iraq.	FAO: 25% UNEP: 50%
Output 4-Development of national programme to monitor, combat and mitigate dust/sand storms and enhance regional cooperation.	FAO: 20% UNEP: 25%

<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.	
<p><b>1.1 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.</p>	<p>During the second quarter, JAU submitted to UNESCO the draft report on the mapping exercise. During this quarter, the UNESCO team reviewed, refined and subsequently approved the DRM report in order to release the final version. This was followed by the preparation of a draft executive summary. Both, the final report plus the executive summary are currently being translated into Arabic.</p>
<p><b>1.2 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.</p>	<p>The capacity assessment study was completed and finalized in May 2013. Outcomes of the report identified the gaps in the existing institutional and technical capacities in response to drought risk reduction measures. The report recommends that drought risk can be mitigated through (1) Rationalization of crops that consume big amount of water and identifying proper cropping patterns, (2) Adoption of alternative farming, and (3) Rationalization of water use and limit it to basic uses (human and agriculture).</p> <p>Several legislative reforms are also recommended in order to support institutional and technical capacities to be effectively implemented. Those include issuance of: 1) the Federal Water Law, 2) the Modern Irrigation Law, and 3) Rangelands Law.</p>

	<p>UNDP: with other agencies initiated the workshop held during 1-5 July in Amman and discussed the utilization of the capacity assessment study. The results of the study are shared with other UN agencies and synergized with the context of the vulnerability assessment.</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><b>2.1 Technical Assessment and Consultation</b>– Conducting vulnerability assessment of drought impacts by agriculture, environmental and water sectors with a focus on gender sensitivity aspects and identifying appropriate risk reduction 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>UNESCO: The best practices report has been developed and is currently under review and subsequent refinement by UNESCO team. It is expected that the report will be finalized during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2013.</p> <p>UNDP: with other agencies initiated the preparatory workshop held during 1-5 July in Amman. Scope of the vulnerability assessment and its methodologies to develop the DRM framework were discussed during the meeting. The results of the consultation are as followed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Stocktaking and stakeholders mapping to be updated with a focus on agricultural, environmental and social importance, vulnerable to drought such as commodities like wheat, rangeland, palm trees, rice and fisheries, natural resource assets (i.e. soil, wetland and ecosystem), and vulnerable groups (i.e. farmers’ groups and women);</li> <li>2) Vulnerability assessment to be conducted in Jazeera and marshlands areas, aiming to identify Drought Prone Areas (DPAs) with specific indicators identified above; risk management alternatives to be proposed in DPAs, suggesting mitigation measures in line with identified gaps to be filled; and</li> <li>3) Draft Drought Risk Management Framework (DRMF) to be outlined, which includes organizational, methodological and operational components. The DRMF shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote POLITICAL MOMENTUM at the highest government level to ensure that executive decisions are taken, including proper financial allocations and stakeholder motivation;</li> <li>• Have a TASK FORCE to supervise Plan Development, Coordinate implementation of all operations, &amp; Make Policy Recommendations;</li> <li>• Assign concerned DROUGHT-CITIZEN GROUPS (geographic/districts advisory councils) to facilitate planning, implementation &amp; involvement of different stakeholders representing all of Iraq &amp; its drought-related problem sectors;</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Devise a DROUGHT PLAN clearly reflecting two major operations; MONITORING &amp; EARLY WARNING RISK ASSESSMENT &amp; MANAGEMENT</li> </ul> <p>Outcomes of the preparatory workshop meeting aimed to identify vulnerable regions in Iraq with specific indicators. Stakeholders agreed to select two agro-ecological zones with distinguished agriculture including rangeland areas:, a) one in the North Al Jazira area, to the north of Tharthar lake, in Kirkuk and Ruthbah and b) one in the South, lower Mesopotamian plains, in Basra and Dujail.</p>
<p><b>2.2. 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.</p>	<p>UN agencies discussed the revised work plan and proposed the following schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drought Vulnerability Assessment completed, September 30, 2013</li> <li>• Workshop in Amman, Jordan (three days), October 6-8, 2013</li> <li>• Foundation of the national DRM framework developed, December 13, 2013</li> <li>• Final Validation Workshop in Amman, Jordan, January 17-19, 2014</li> <li>• Submission of the final report, February 2014.</li> </ul>
<p>Output 3. National partners have enhanced understanding and knowledge on the causes and trends of sand/dust storm affecting Iraq</p>	
<p><b>Output 3.1:</b> National partners are able to map-out sources and locations of dust and sand storms based on assessment of land degradation, drought and associated practices.</p>	<p>FAO has discussed assessment parameters at the inception workshop that was jointly held with UNEP in Amman in July. The inception workshop identified key indicators that FAO will scope to identify such as rangeland degradation, unsustainable crop rotation and deforestation that will help with insight on potential SDS hotspots throughout Iraq. FAO, with the help of its national consultant, has currently compiled a variety of maps highlighting the indicators selected.</p>
<p><b>Output 3.2:</b> National partners able to undertake assessment of dust and sand storms transportation paths and dynamics within Iraq.</p>	<p>UNEP conducted the inception workshop on the SDS Programme on 3-4 July 2013 in Amman with the participation of the national Task Force members who are also serving as the Team of Experts established by the Government. The inception workshop reviewed the on-going activities that need to be linked and built upon in formulating the SDS programme. It also discusses in details the methodology and the inputs needed in terms of expertise, data, knowledge and national and regional processes. The outline for the SDS programme was also discussed. Participants in the workshop</p>

	<p>agreed on a tight work plan to prepare the SDS programme. Three inter-ministerial and multidisciplinary expert sub-groups (EGs) were formulated to lead the three aspects of the Programme:</p> <p>EG-1: Climatology of SDS  EG-2: Land Resources  EG-3: Institutional Issues and Drafting Team</p> <p>UNEP recruited two international consultants to help the EGs. The EG on Climatology already advanced their work. Climatic Observed data were collected and now being analysed and modelled. A closer collaboration with the Spanish Meteorological Authority (AEMET) and its research centre in Tenerife (well-known dust observation and modelling centre) and the Barcelona Supercomputing Centre. A scientific visit of the EG team under preparation by UNEP.</p>
<p>Output 4-Development of national programme to monitor, combat and mitigate dust/sand storms and enhance regional cooperation.</p>	
<p><b>Output 4.1:</b>National partners are able to undertake institutional and stakeholder mapping on the integrated approaches to monitoring and combatingsandstorms.</p>	<p>FAO collated background studies and research material from previous studies that have been conducted. FAO has also compiled relevant approaches from other similar SDS monitoring projects in order to highlight best practices for future implementation.</p>
<p><b>Output 4.2:</b></p> <p>Iraq able to develop national programme (with medium and long- term plan of action) to combat sand storms including prevention, monitoring, mitigation and early warning system.</p>	<p>More specific requirements for the report were included into the TORs of the EGs and the international consultants recruited for the programme.</p>

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

1. It is expected that data collection process may delay the progress of vulnerability assessment due to data and information needed is fragmented among ministries. In addition, responsibilities were found to be fragmented and inconsistently administered. This applies to almost all sectors under consideration for UNDP DRM-assessment
2. Timing of inputs from the three SDS Expert Groups may not adhere to the work plan because of different timing of their formal establishment were not the same.