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Development of National Framework for Integrated
Drought Risk Management (DRM) in Iraq

**MPTF OFFICE GENERIC ANNUAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2013**

<p align="center">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <p>Programme Title: Development of National Framework for Integrated Drought Risk Management (DRM) in Iraq Programme Number <i>(if applicable)</i> 79801 MPTF Office Project Reference Number:³ P3-01</p>	<p align="center">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results²</p> <p><i>(if applicable)</i> <i>Country/Region: Nationwide</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Priority area/ strategic results:</i> Formulate a national framework to guide Iraq’s Drought Risk Management (DRM), Sand and Dust Storm (SDS), including a Plan of Action and recommendations for the Government and partners to develop necessary policy and undertake programmatic measures for preparedness, mitigation and management</p>
<p align="center">Participating Organization(s)</p> <p>UNDP (lead), UNESCO, UNEP and FAO</p>	<p align="center">Implementing Partners</p> <p>National counterparts (government, NGOs & others) and other International Organizations National Focal Points: Prime Ministers’ Advisory Committee (PMAC), and Ministry of Environment Steering Committee members: PMAC, MOWR, in collaboration with MOST, MoEnv , MOA, MOP, MOAWR (KRG)</p>
<p align="center">Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: US\$759,884 MPTF /JP Contribution⁴: Regular UNDAF TF:</p>	<p align="center">Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration <i>(months)</i>31 months</p>

¹ The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.
² Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;
³ The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)
⁴ The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

UNDP: US\$264,884
UNESCO: US\$ 215,001
UNEP: US\$ 140,000
FAO: US\$ 140,000
Agency Contribution
• UNEP: US \$120,000 (cash & in-kind)
Government Contribution <i>(if applicable)</i>
Other Contributions (donors) <i>(if applicable)</i>
TOTAL:
Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.
Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>
Mid-Term Evaluation Report – <i>if applicable</i> <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>

Start Date ⁵ (<i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>)	<i>August 30, 2011</i>
Original End Date ⁶ (<i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>)	<i>December 31, 2012</i>
Current End date ⁷ (<i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>) ³¹	<i>March 31, 2014</i>
Report Submitted By	
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⁵ The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁶ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

⁷ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities.

LIST OF KEY ACRONYMS

CPAP	Country Programme Action Plan
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DPA	Drought Prone Areas
DRM	Drought Risk Management
DRMF	Drought Risk Management Framework
EPWG	Environmental Priority Working Group
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoE	Ministry of Electricity
MoEn	Ministry of Environment
MoHE	Ministry of Higher Education
MoP	Ministry of Planning
MoST	Ministry of Science and Technology
MoWR	Ministry of Water Resources
NAP	National Action Plan
PMAC	Prime Minister's Advisory Commission
SDS	Sand and Dust Storm
KRG	Kurdistan Regional Government
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework

NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2011, UN agencies (UNDP, UNESCO, UNEP and FAO) jointly have implemented an integrated programme on Drought Risk Management (DRM), Sand and Dust Storm (SDS), and Desertification (DRM/SDS/NAP) funded through the UN Development Assistance Framework. Greater attention on these cross cutting issues has been drawn through consensus building and awareness workshop and outcomes of the study tours successfully gained a momentum to take concrete actions on the risk management. In 2013, UNDP and UNESCO conducted a series of technical assessments to address country's vulnerability on drought which identified drought prone areas as well as those areas most likely to be vulnerable to drought. Based on this assessment, the UN agencies subsequently proposed a DRM framework that captures necessary action plans to further strengthen governance structure, policy and legal framework and knowledge management strategies. Findings clearly emphasized, as agreed by the stakeholders, that the country should develop a drought risk management plan incorporating risk assessment, management, monitoring and early warning systems, of which the government is currently lacking. The framework also included mainstreaming DRM into the national development plan to institutionalize the governance structure to be operationalized. With regard to sand and dust storms (SDS), UNEP and FAO differentiated types of sand and dust storms. Mitigation strategies were presented and the outline of the national SDS Programme to combat sand and dust storms was developed and agreed upon. The proposed Programme will be finalized in later 2014.

I. Purpose

The main objectives of the programme during the said reporting period were to draft a national framework to guide Iraq's Drought Risk Management (DRM) and to develop Programme on Sand and Dust Storms (SDS), including a Plan of Action and recommendations for the Government and partners to develop necessary policy and undertake programmatic measures for preparedness, mitigation and risk management that furthermore addresses Iraq's commitment to the MD/MDGs.

The project is aligned with both international and nationally established development objectives for Iraq:

Relevant MDG(s): Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability.

Target 1: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.

Target 7c: Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

Relevant Iraq National Development (NDP) Goals

Goal 2: Monitoring the Environmental Status

Goal 6: Environmental Awareness

Goal 8: Developing and Building Environmental Capacities

UNDAF Priority Area: Priority Area 3 and Outcome 3.4—Environmental management and compliance with actions taken on ratified international environmental treaties and obligations.

This outcome relates primarily to reducing the risks of disasters, and drought has been defined within this framework as a slow on-setting disaster with severe impact. For this reason the Priority Working Group (WG) on Environment has placed great emphasis on drought risk preparedness, mitigation and management.

Project contributes to the following outcomes of the UNDP Country Programme Document 2011-2014 (CPD):

Outcome 1. Government of Iraq has institutionalized improved mechanisms to prevent, mitigate and respond to natural and manmade disasters.

Relevant UNDAF Priority Area Outcome:

Environmental management and compliance with actions taken on ratified international environmental treaties and obligations

II. Results

Narrative Results

In January 2013, UNDP initiated the no cost extension until end of July 2013 for the current DRM along with UNESCO. The request included to expand the scope of the existing programme to integrate new outputs (3&4) and activities that addresses the issue of sand and dust storms. SDS project let by UNEP and FAO was intended to implement the end of December 2013, however UNDP (on behalf of all Participating Organizations) requested the third time extension of 8 months for four agencies (until 31 March 2014) in order to complete all remaining activities under the Programme. This was because of the strong linkages between drought, desertification and dust storms and the need for coherent and integrated approaches to address these issues. Stakeholders agreed that integrating dust storms into the existing DRM to be the most cost-effective approach to ensure delivery of outputs.

The UN agencies provided the international technical expertise and facilitated analytical studies and stakeholders consultations on 1) drought risk management, 2) sand and dust storm, and 3) combat to desertification (NAP) necessitated to reinforce the close linkages and to converge technical issues. This joint programme was a collective UNDAF Environment Priority Working Group (EPWG) initiative, of which UNDP was responsible for coordinating overall management. With the coordination of other line Ministries through the Ministry of Environment, a Task Force (DRM), a Team of Experts (SDS) and a Joint Working Group (NAP) called for their active participation to implement proposed activities.

UNDP (lead agency) along with UNESCO, UNEP and FAO conducted joint technical consultation meetings together with stakeholders to achieve the said objectives. The first consultation meeting held in July 2013 was to define methodologies and work plans to create synergy with combined thematic areas, which are 1) drought risk, 2) sand and dust storm, and 3) combat to desertification (NAP) necessitated to reinforce the close linkages and to converge technical issues under one national expert group.

Iraqi stakeholders along with UNDP and ELARD (UNDP consultants) teams have finalized the scope of this consultancy, taking into consideration methodologies, timeframe, data availability and other international projects relevant to the context of drought. The consultancy process comprised stocktaking and updating stakeholders mapping through the use of the UNDP/IdRC report finalized in May 2013 and defined type of drought's impacts in Iraqi context, focusing on agricultural, environmental and social importance.

With regards to the SDS analytical framework, via a consultation process, the final shape of the national programme to combat sand dust storms was agreed. Three national expert teams were established, supported by three international consultants, their TORs, deliverables and work plans were also agreed.

The second meeting held in December 2013 was to report results from technical assessment and outline the DRM framework and SDS the Programme. Stakeholders reviewed and confirmed conclusions of the various components of the three Programmes with broader participation of government and no-government stakeholders.

UNDP and ELARD conducted vulnerability assessment to look further into drought sensitive commodities and vulnerable groups. The result identified Drought Prone Areas (DPAs) with specific indicators and proposed risk management alternatives in DPAs, suggesting mitigation measures in line with identified gaps to be filled. The proposed Drought Risk Management Framework (DRMF) was built on the findings of the vulnerability assessment, which included organizational, methodological and operational components. UNDP jointly specified the significant measures needed to reduce and mitigate drought risks, and agreed on the basic institutional and legal requirements for preparing the DRMF. More specifically, the workshop aimed at validating the drought indicators and confirmed the findings of the vulnerability assessment addressing economic, social and environmental impacts along with root causes of drought impacts, barriers to overcome these causes and the institutional vulnerability. Stakeholders provided their feedback on findings, which will be reflected into the final DRMF together with prioritized mitigation measures. Intensive technical consultation is expected to facilitate the ownership of the process by the government.

UNESCO and UNDP have jointly implemented this programme in close consultation with other UN partners. It supported 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 included - inter alia - exposing the GoI to international good DRM practices and results of UNESCO's mapping and data survey on drought relevant sector information available through the respective institutions and government entities of Iraq. Central deliverables under these activities were the DRM Analysis report and the conceptual development of a guideline. Toolbox for DRM to support the identification and prioritization towards an effective action planning and respective activities serving to combat drought impacts in its entire dimensions and particular sector context.

The results of the assessment of the climate dynamics of sand and dust storms were presented and consensus reached on sources, causes and pathways for dust storms using satellite and observation data combined with the rich knowledge of national experts on this issue. Six primary dust source areas (hot spots) in Iraq were identified. Differentiations between types of sand and dust storms were debated. Mitigation strategies were initially listed. UNEP brought international expertise from the Spanish Meteorological Agency (AEMET) and the International Ecosystem Management Partnership (IEMP) in China to share knowledge and good practices in monitoring and combating sand and dust storms. The outline of the national programme to combat sand and dust storms was suggested and agreed upon. Further analytical studies and consultations with relevant ministries and stakeholders have been conducted to prepare for the validation workshop that was planned to be held in February 2014 but was delayed by one month.

Narrative Project Outcomes

Since late 2009, UNDP and UNESCO have been working on drought risk management project along with DRM Task Force. Back then there was little attention drawn to drought risk in Iraq, however, following a study tour in Nairobi in 2012, an Iraqi delegation was exposed to internationally best practiced approach to drought risk management and gained understanding on the risk mitigation measures along with required infrastructure arrangement equipped with the modern monitoring systems in place. The government has gradually improved understanding of the responsibility of each institution and come to realize that Ministries have to work in the field of drought risk management. Their knowledge on drought risk has been strengthened through the course of consecutive stakeholder consultations, addressing climatic, hydrological,

environmental and socioeconomic impacts of drought risk, needed to be integrated with weather forecast applications, hydrological modelling and advanced satellite based mapping, as well as prediction and early warning systems. Tangible outcomes or impacts of the project have yet to be seen, but there is clear indication that some Ministries have considered the knowledge mainstreaming into their sector planning and development although there is yet greater attention needed to be emphasized at national and local levels. The government of Iraq has acknowledged that the Ministry of Water Resources has been building necessary infrastructure in response to recent climatic variation while other Ministries have realized that there is a lack of attention paid to agricultural, environmental and socioeconomic impacts of drought and attracted greater attention to risk reduction and mitigation measures in these contexts. UN agencies anticipate that the GOI will put more emphasis on awareness rising and campaign at local level, primarily farmers and vulnerable group to take indicatives on drought risk management and mainstream DRM into their national development plans supported by necessary legal framework to be in place and facilitate coordination mechanism among key counterparts along with CSOs involvement in decision making process. UNDP and UNESCO along with Task Force and key stakeholders will develop exist strategy for the outputs of the DRM framework and prioritize the next action plans to be followed.

FAO has been involved in the Sand and Dust Storm component of the DRM Project. FAO has sought to chart land use and agriculture practices and areas of highest potential sources for dust/sand storms (hot spots and sensitive areas). As such, the analysis attempted to discover trends of dust and sand storms based on historical observational data and then cross reference those results of the above in terms of frequency, intensity and transportation paths. This proved to be rather challenging due to the lack of recent data that was available but nonetheless the analysis did shed light on future potential areas of intervention to mitigate the human component of what leads to sand and dust storms, with special emphasis on the impacts of them on agricultural processes in Iraq.

Narrative Project Outputs

Output 1. Government of Iraq and relevant stakeholders have improved knowledge and common understanding on Drought Risk Management (UNDP: 100% UNESCO: 90% completed)

1.1 Research / Study – 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.

UNESCO started the data collection to prepare a desk review and mapping study. This activity is still ongoing in coordination with line ministries and the relevant directorates in Baghdad and in other governorates including KRG. During the second quarter of 2013, UNESCO received data from Meteorological Department, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Electricity, Ministry of Water Resources, and Ministry of Industries. Data screening and classification is still ongoing to ensure its adequacy and to identify data gaps to facilitate its collection. An additional two months to collect data and information from other entities is anticipated. UNESCO signed a contract with the Inter Agency Information Analysis Unit (IAU) in November to carry out the Desk Review and Mapping study to be completed by end of May 2013.

The primary analysis started with the meteorological data relevant to 28 synoptic stations in Baghdad and other 14 governorates. The information of KRG stations was in progress and additional data was required. Collected information included the levels in the observation wells in 15 governorates and springs and screening is started. Other collected information includes: Quantitative and Qualitative Statistics for the surface water resources and water supply utilities; Water Monitoring Stations at all surface water resources; Surface Water Quality for 2010 & 2011; Environmental Survey for Iraq for 2010; Map of Hydrological

Gauging Stations; Tables of Water Flow rate income in the Tigris & Euphrates rivers and in the tributaries for the years 2007 -2012; Hydropower production (Megawatt) in the seven main dams for the years 2007-2012; average Rainfall rates (in mm) in 17 hydro- meteorological station in all Iraq for 2007 -2012. IAU started to prepare the maps for vegetation coverage and production of maps from internet based satellite images, was expected to be finalized by the end of March 2013.

The data collection has been discussed thoroughly during the SC and TF joint meeting held in Baghdad December 2012 to accelerate the data collection process. To complete this task, UNESCO requested time extension for the project until end of July 2013.

UNESCO has managed to overcome inherent difficulties which have been continuously faced while extracting sector data from the respective GoI institutions, and successfully completed the data collection process by the quarter. All relevant output derived from UNESCO's involvement in this joint undertaking with GoI was then directed towards the final compilation of product of the desk review and mapping exercise (to be implemented by JAPU). Subsequent in-depth screening and verification of data however, exceeded the anticipated time required to achieve a solid and sound basis for the analysis report, and ended slightly delayed by June 2013, since a huge proportion of data officially received from GoI was found inconsistent and in a number of cases insufficiently documented (e.g. missing meta-data descriptions et cetera). Apart from that, GoI procedures to administer and provide the respective data were not in all cases conducive to stay in the time-line reported previously.

JAPU provided UNESCO with a first draft of the final analysis report by the end of the reporting period, upon which UNESCO has started the review process.

During the second quarter, JAU submitted to UNESCO the draft report on the mapping exercise. 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 translated into Arabic.

UNESCO finalized report. The official launching took place in November 2013 in Baghdad in presence of all relevant stakeholders. The executive summary and a version of the full report are currently being translated into Arabic.

1.2 Consultation and Consensus-Building – 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.

The capacity assessment study was completed and finalized in May 2013. Outputs 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). 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.

Output 2. Iraq has a participatory, comprehensive, and inclusive national framework for Drought Risk Management in line with international good practice (UNDP: 90% UNESCO: 95% completed)

2.1 Technical Assessment and Consultation – 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

UNDP requested RFP to invite proposals from service providers by mid-April. UNDP initiated technical and financial evaluations in accordance of the procurement rules. UNDP selected Earth Link and Advanced Resource Development (ELARD) as a service provider to conduct vulnerability assessment and support the development of the drought risk management framework. The CAP meeting was held in late May. UNDP with other agencies initiated the preparatory workshop for the DRM framework development scheduled from July 1st and 5th 2013.

UNDP and ELARD conducted a Vulnerability Assessment to identify, quantify, and prioritize (or score) the vulnerabilities to drought. In order to assess the threats from potential drought hazards to various sectors across social, economic, environmental, and political fields, the service provider/contractor will perform the following steps: 1) Outline assets and resources across water, agriculture and environmental sectors in Ira, 2) Identify the vulnerabilities or potential threats to each resource, and 3) Propose mitigation prevention/preparedness measures for the most serious vulnerabilities for the most valuable sectors/assets.

UNESCO: The best practices report has been developed and is currently under review and subsequent refinement by UNESCO team. It was expected that the best practices report was finalized in December 2013

UNDP and UNESCO: with UNEP and FAO held the workshop in Amman, Jordan from December 3rd to 5th 2013 to report findings of the said technical studied agreed by the stakeholders in the meeting in July 2013. UNDP and consultants provided the results of the vulnerability assessment focusing agriculture and environmental sectors along with remote sensing mapping exercise. Based on the indicators presented, the DRM working group identified sensitive areas (hotspots) in the region for further investigating the vulnerability of drought:

- 1- Duhok in the North
- 2- Mosul in the North
- 3- Maysan in the South

During the meeting, the DRM working group agreed upon the key components of the DRM framework to be included as:

- 1) Work methodology: conducting further study on drought impact particular in soil and water (quantitative approach) in agriculture sector
- 2) Governance: establishment of higher committee connecting with departmental units to deal with drought management in selected ministries (e.g. MoWR, MoA and MoEN) both at the national and governorate level
- 3) Policy: implementation of the drought monitoring measures and coordination mechanism to be incorporated in drought reduction policies
- 4) Policy: identification of overlapping and synergic areas between existing environmental programs and DRR activities
- 5) Knowledge management: upgrading institutional capacities and providing expert missions for training and monitoring at the ground level
- 6) Knowledge management: strengthening the communication network between researchers, practitioners and stakeholders
- 7) Civil society's empowerment: support of active participation and engagement of community groups to promote modernized irrigation approach
- 8) Knowledge management: provision of safety nets and economic incentives

- 9) Resource mobilization to support the implementation the framework including capacity building, institutional settings and technically of drought mitigation measures

2.2. Technical Planning Assistance – Provision of guidance by technical specialists on different aspects of DRM framework formulation, including exposing Iraqi partners to international DRM frameworks, tools, and techniques.

UNDP identified risk measures and vulnerabilities defining the main elements for drought risk reduction in Iraq. Based on the vulnerability assessment, the framework captured the following, but will not be limited to: (1) Policies and governance structure for the DRM; (2) Drought risk identification, impact assessment and early warning; (3) Drought awareness and knowledge management with a focus on gender sensitivity and mainstreaming tools; (4) Effective drought mitigation and preparedness measures. An integrated, comprehensive, and inclusive national DRM framework with action plans drafted.

Outcomes of the preparatory workshop meeting aimed to discuss to how UNDP, ELARD and GOI proceed the vulnerability assessment with specific focus areas and the framework development including 1) governance structure for the DRM; (2) Drought risk identification, impact assessment and early warning; (3) Drought awareness and knowledge management with a focus on gender sensitivity and mainstreaming tools; (4) Effective drought mitigation and preparedness measures. Intensive technical consultation is expected to facilitate the ownership of the process by the government.

Output 3. National partners have enhanced understanding and knowledge on the causes and trends of sand/dust storm affecting Iraq (FAO: 50% UNEP: 100% completed)

3.1: 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.

FAO identified 2 national experts and is in the recruiting process in order to develop the indices required to start the mapping of land degradation in Iraq. These experts also assisted in the programme development process. FAO has discussed assessment parameters at the inception workshop that it jointly held with UNEP along with UNDP and 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. In this regard, FAO, with the help of its national consultant, has currently compiled a variety of maps highlighting the indicators selected. FAO prepared draft report for potential indicators of sources and locations of dust and sand storms.

3.2: National partners able to undertake assessment of dust and sand storms transportation paths and dynamics within Iraq.

UNEP identified international consultant to conduct the climate modelling. UNEP also assisted the engagement of Iraq in the technical meeting on the regional SDS programme held in Abu Dhabi in May which lead to better understanding of scope of the assessment for Iraqi within the broader regional dimension.

UNEP along with other UN agencies conducted the inception workshop on the SDS Programme 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 discussed 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 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:

EG-1: Climatology of SDS

EG-2: Land Resources

EG-3: Institutional Issues and Drafting Team

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 will be pursued 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 is currently under preparation by UNEP.

During the fourth quarter, the report on dust storms climatology was completed by the national experts supported by international experts at AEMET. A second technical workshop was conducted 2-5 December 2013 in Amman. The report findings were discussed and main conclusions and recommendations agreed upon. Hot spots of dust sources were identified in six areas agreed by the Task Force. The visit has been postponed till first quarter of 2014.

Output 4-Development of national programme to monitor, combat and mitigate dust/sand storms and enhance regional cooperation (FAO: 20% UNEP: 60% completed)

4.1:National partners are able to undertake institutional and stakeholder mapping on the integrated approaches to monitoring and combating sandstorms.

Collation of background studies and research material was conducted. The DRM institutional mapping the WMO-UNEP questionnaire on SDS monitoring and early warning gave preliminary idea to roles and responsibilities as well as gaps in capacities. The regional assessment conducted by WMO and UNEP gave inputs to the scoping of the Iraqi programme. Background

FAO has 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. During the fourth quarter, in line with the recommendations of the preparatory workshop, FAO prepared an initial list of recommendations in monitoring and combatting sandstorms.

4.2: 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.

UNEP recruited international consultant to support the drafting of the programme. The consultant proposed a programme document outline for consideration in the inception workshop to be held in July. More specific requirements for the report were included into the TORs of the EGs and the international consultants recruited for the programme.

The outline of the national SDS programme was proposed and agreed by the Task Force during the 2-5 December workshop in Amman. Content of each section was discussed and responsibilities for drafting these sections were assigned to national experts. The international consultant will compile inputs from national experts and prepare the first draft by end of February 2014. The validation workshop will take place by mid-March 2014.

- **Challenges, lessons learned & best practices**

The programme has encountered several challenges that have joint implementation delayed, hence the request to the UNDAF Trust Fund Board for a no cost project extension till the end of March 2014.

In more detail, due to high staff turnover, the second extension was requested and approved on 17, January 2013 with funds, change of scope and request for additional funds by 31 July 2013 for UNDP and UNESCO, 31 December 2013 for UNEP and FAO (effective start date for UNEP and FAO was 7 March 2013). UNDP (on behalf of all Participating Organizations) requested the third time extension of 8 months for four agencies (until 31 March 2014) in order to complete all remaining activities under this programme. For UNDP, primary constrain delayed the process was due to the limitation of data availability and accessibility of the required information needed to conduct the vulnerability assessment with available indicators and to assess significance of the impacts related to drought. The DRM framework will highlight comprehensiveness in response to drought incidents. UNESCO faced budgetary constrain on development of the Best Practices' Toolbox/Guideline. This had been communicated accordingly with the stakeholders who were approached to seek additional funding to finalize the toolbox. For UNEP and FAO, timing of inputs from the three SDS Expert Groups may not adhere to the work plan because of different timing of their formal establishment.

UNDP

Staff turnover from UNDP delayed the process to precede the contract with ICARDA, which had an agreement in previous discussion between UNDP and ICARDA. Direct contract with ICRDA attempted, however the long-term contract (LTA) agreement with the institute was expired while absence of the staff, therefore new TOR/RFP had to be prepared to invite candidates for the project activities. Due to the reasons above, the project delayed for 3 months (including, advertisement, technical and financial evaluation, and contract agreement with new service provider)

UNDP and UNESCO: 2nd no cost extension request was approved in early January 2013 until the end of July 2013. Within given a short time period, UNDP tried to utilize the exiting LTA with the well-known international entity, however, LTA was expired before the contract issued. During processing the extension request, previous programme officer left UNDP and a new staff took over the programme in late March 2013. In accordance with UN procurement rules, new ToR were prepared and developed in order to invite all possible service providers (3-week procurement notice and 2-week technical and financial evaluation). RFP 25-03 was uploaded onto the procurement notice in middle of April 2013 after consultation with the Government of Iraqi counterpart and selection process started in early May 2013. Technical and financial evaluation completed.

The Contract Asset Procurement (CAP) meeting was postponed for three weeks in May for the approval process due to the availability of the CAP's Committee. ELARD, selected consultants, had some concerns on UNDP clauses and Procurement department sought helps to UNDP HQ to clarify the terminologies. The process delayed for two weeks in order to be resolved.

The CAP meeting was canceled several times due to availability of representatives. The CAP meeting was re-arranged in 27th of May and the process has been finally approved. ELARD had some concerns on UNDP

clauses and Procurement Dept. sent several inquiries to UNDP HQ to clarify the terminologies of the Clauses. Agreement was made between UNDP procurement and ELARD and finalized the process for the contract on June 30.

UNESCO

The Best Practices' Toolbox/Guideline could not be developed in full due to given budget constraints. This had been communicated accordingly with the stakeholders who were approaches to seek additional funding to cover for it. To date, GoI has not reflected UNESCO's recommendation to have this important work completed in order to provide a first of its kind reference for Iraq and adjacent regions/catchments.

UNEP

Programme payment transfer from MPTF was made in March 2013 but internalization in UNEP and actual budget availability for commitment was only effective in June 2013. The planning process (including the contract) took some time, therefore the extension until March 2014 was favorably requested in order to provide deliverables in a timely manner.

FAO

Due to the current instability within the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture (due to the multiple changing of Ministers), the process of appointing counterparts in the Ministry has till date proved difficult.

FAO has initiated contact with the Ministry of Agriculture to land-use and vegetation cover mapping exercises, in addition to beginning the process for a comprehensive literature review on these topics. However, due to the current instability within the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture (due to the multiple changing of Ministers), the process of appointing counterparts in the Ministry has till date proved difficult. The situation in the Ministry has since stabilized and we will be soon restarting our contact with them.

Lessons Learned

With a number of interventions ongoing under the line Ministries, there could be a fatigue among several Officials caused a limited cooperation. Mitigating this risk required careful explanation to build understanding of how critical and imminent issue of drought sand / dust storm is, and its direct relation to stakeholders. Periodical consultation with stakeholders and direct communication are highly encouraged.

While processing the extension request, the implementation of the programmes was kept ongoing. To ensure that there is no delay in keeping with the timeline of the programmes, UNDP initiated preliminary consultations with other agencies and set a reasonable timeframe to implement the said activities. In doing so, four agencies were able to coordinate each other in line with progress of each activity.

- **Qualitative assessment:**

Regarding the addressing of cross-cutting issues, the project has played a strong role in converging outputs of activities along with the beneficiary institutions. In January 2013, UNDP initiated the no cost extension until end of July 2013 for the current DRM along with UNESCO. The request included to expand the scope of the existing programme to integrate new outputs (3&4) and activities that addresses the issue of sand and dust storms. SDS project let by UNEP and FAO was intended to implement the end of December 2013,

however UNDP (on behalf of all Participating Organizations) requested the third time extension of 8 months for four agencies (until 31 March 2014) in order to complete all remaining activities under the Programme. This was because of the strong linkages between drought, desertification and dust storms and the need for coherent and integrated approaches to address these issues. Stakeholders agreed that integrating dust storms into the existing DRM to be the most cost-effective approach to ensure delivery of outputs.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document / AWP** - provide an update on the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why, as well as plans on how and when this data will be collected.

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Output 1⁸ Government of Iraq and relevant stakeholders have improved knowledge and common understanding on Drought Risk Management			
Output 1.1 Government and partners are able to undertake a comprehensive mapping exercise of DRM-related institutional stakeholders and initiatives			
<p>Indicator 1.1.1 Comprehensive mapping & analysis DRM-related institutional stakeholders and interventions completed Baseline:0 Planned Target: Yes</p> <p>Indicator 1.1.2 Percentage of stakeholders participating in the mapping/analysis exercises (disaggregated by category) Baseline:0 Planned Target:90%</p>	<p>Output 1.1. Achieved UNESCO: Indicative drought indices collected and analyzed</p> <p>Output 1.2. Achieved UNDP: Needs assessment studies conducted to map out existing institutional capacity and gaps to be filled in future</p>		<p>UNESCO: Drought Risk Management Report disseminated to stakeholders UNDP: Capacity Assessment Report Finalized for Drought Risk Management</p> <p>22 stakeholders from various Ministries attended in the workshop in July 2013 and disseminated outputs of findings and shared common understanding of the issues. Priorities were given by stakeholders to focus on agricultural, environmental and socioeconomic impacts of drought</p>

⁸ Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be **as outlined in the Project Document** so that you report on your **actual achievements against planned targets**. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc.

<p>Output 1.2 Government and partners are able to undertake technical assessments of DRM capacities and</p> <p>Indicator 1.2.1 DRM Capacities and Vulnerabilities Assessment completed Baseline: No Planned Target: Yes</p> <p>Indicator 1.2.2 Percentage of institutional DRM stakeholders (identified under output 1.1) assessed Baseline:0 Planned Target:90%</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>Output 2.1 Government and partners are better aware of international good DRM practices applicable to Iraq</p> <p>Indicator 2.1.1 Document on international good DRM practices produced Baseline: No Planned Target: Yes</p> <p>Indicator 2.1.2 Number of key national DRM institutions exposed to international good DRM practices Baseline:0 Planned Target: 15</p>	<p>Output 2.1. Achieved UNESCO: Best practices approach with key findings of recommended guidelines proposed</p>		<p>UNESCO: Best practice approach introduced to stakeholders</p>
<p>Output 2.2 Government and partners are supported to formulate a participatory,</p>	<p>Output 2.2. Achieved</p>		<p>Results of vulnerability</p>

<p>comprehensive and inclusive national framework for DRM Indicator 2.2.1 A participatory comprehensive, inclusive national DRM framework with an action plan drafted produced Baseline: No Planned Target: Yes</p> <p>Indicator 2.2.2 Percentage of stakeholders satisfied with relevance, comprehensiveness, and inclusiveness of the proposed DRM framework Baseline:0 Planned Target: 75%</p>	<p>UNDP/ELARD conducted vulnerability assessment focusing on the said impacts and revealed drought prone areas through internationally practiced methodologies and proposed draft framework with mitigation plans proposed with short-mid-long term visions</p>		<p>assessment presented to stakeholder and received number of suggestions and recommendations to refine the assessment outputs.</p> <p>In December meeting, 47 stakeholders participated in the workshop and gained the momentum that drought risk in Iraq required comprehensive approaches and stakeholders identified particular technical and institutional capacities to be strengthened.</p>
<p>Output 3: National partners have enhanced understanding and knowledge on the causes and trends of sand/dust storm affecting Iraq</p>			
<p>Output 3.1 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>Indicator 3.1.1 Clear causal-effect analysis of dust storms sources based on best available data and scientific evidences are completed. Baseline: No Planned Target: Yes</p> <p>Output 3.2 National partners able to undertake assessment of dust and sand storms transportation paths and dynamics within Iraq</p>	<p>Output 3 achieved: FAO highlighted potential sources of sand and dust storms in Iraq by describing current practices with agricultural processes in Iraq that lead to degradation, drought and associated issues regarding land use.</p> <p>Achieved:</p> <p>UNEP supported a team of national and international consultants to</p>		<p>A Technical Compilation and Qualitative Assessment of the Impact of Sand and Dust Storms on Agricultural Potential in Iraq</p> <p>Report of dust storms climatology including source mapping and model outputs</p>

<p>, therefore collection of information Indicator 3.2.1 Quality of the climate models as the basis for the assessment and clarity of assumptions and uncertainties validated by independent models and peer reviews. Baseline:0 Planned Target: 75%</p>	<p>conduct dust modeling to assess historical trends based on satellite images and data recordings of 30 years. The transportation pathways was identified for those coming in and out of Iraq.</p>		
<p>Output 4: Development of national programme to monitor, combat and mitigate dust/sand storms and enhance regional cooperation</p>			
<p>Output 4.1 <u>4.1:National partners are able to undertake institutional and stakeholder mapping on the integrated approaches to monitoring and combating sandstorms.</u> Indicator 4.1.1 Percentage of stakeholder profiles on roles and integrated approaches to addressing dust storms completed. Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 99%</p> <p>Output 4.2 <u>4.2: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.</u></p> <p>Indicator 4.2.1 Percentage of national partners satisfied with the quality and scope of the national programme in addressing dust storms and related issues at national and local levels.Baseline:0</p>	<p>Output 4 achieved: FAO was able to highlight stakeholder responsibilities and current practices with regards to the human component of the sources of Sand and Dust storms in Iraq. This is the primer and initial discovery phase of understanding the effects of current agricultural methods that are being utilized in Iraq.</p> <p>Output 4.2: UNEP constituted the national drafting team, the outline of the programme was suggested and agreed by the task force, the team is already 50% into the drafting process.</p>	<p>Collection and analysis of data took more time than anticipated. The main reason for delays is that the national programme has to be built on existing projects and plans, therefore, the team has to coordinate with relevant planning departments in the miniseries to be able to compile all projects related to sand and dust storms. In addition, writing up of various</p>	<p>A Technical Compilation and Qualitative Assessment of the Impact of Sand and Dust Storms on Agricultural Potential in Iraq</p> <p>Annotated Outline for the National Programme to Combat Sand and Dust Storms</p> <p>Zero draft of the programme document is available</p>

<p>Planned Target: 80%</p>		<p>sections of the programme required special skills and quality maps, charts, etc. this will need some more time to collate, organize and present into the programme.</p> <p>It is also anticipated that the programme which is now drafted in Arabic will need to be translated into English for a wider use in the regional and globally.</p>	

IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)

- Indicate any major adjustments in strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs that took place.

In January 17, 2013, UNDP initiated the no cost extension until end of July 2013 for the current DRM and movement of funds. The request includes expanding the scope of the existing DRM programme to integrate new outputs (3&4) and activities that addresses the issue of sand and dust storms. SDS project was intended to implement within 12 months until the end of December 2013 and requested for funds for the amount of USD 280,000 for UNEP and FAO. This was because of the strong linkages between drought, desertification and dust storms and the need for coherent and integrated approaches to address these issues, it was agreed that integrating dust storms into the existing DRM to be the most cost-effective approach to ensure delivery of support activities. The EPWG invited FAO and UNEP provided the necessary technical inputs to the dust storms component of the DRM programme.

Annex 1: Planned activities per Output

Output 1	Government of Iraq and relevant stakeholders has improved knowledge and common understanding on DRM.
Activities	<p>1.1: Research / Study – 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>1.2: Technical Assessments – Undertaking capacity and vulnerability assessments of DRM-relevant institutions in Iraq</p> <p>1.3: Consultation and consensus-building – 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>
Output 2	Iraq has a participatory, comprehensive, and inclusive national framework for Drought Risk Management in line with international good practice.
Activities	<p>2.1. Consultation and consensus-building – Development of a consensus on the definition, causal and cross-sectoral linkages of drought, and appropriate 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>2.2. Technical Planning Assistance – 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>
Output 3	National partners have enhanced understanding and knowledge on the causes and trends of sand/dust storm affecting Iraq
Activities	<p>3.1: 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>3.2: Development of national programme to monitor, combat and mitigate dust/sand storms and enhance regional cooperation</p>
Output 4	Development of national programme to monitor, combat and mitigate dust/sand storms and enhance regional cooperation.
Activities	<p>4.1: National partners are able to undertake institutional and stakeholder mapping on the integrated approaches to monitoring and combating sandstorms.</p> <p>4.2: 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>