

FAMILY SUPPORT, JUSTICE & SECURITY

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

Programme Title & Number
Programme Title: Family Support, Justice and Security
Programme Number: P1-02
<u>MDTF</u> Office Atlas Number: 00081992

Country, Locality(s), Thematic Area(s) ²
Iraq, Baghdad , Basra, and Erbil
<u>UNDAF Sector</u> : Governance and Human Rights

Participating Organization(s)
UNDP UNICEF

Implementing Partners
Family Protection Units at central level, Directorate for Tracing Violence Against Women at Regional level.

Programme/Project Cost (US\$)
UNDAF Fund Contribution: <i>by Agency</i> USD 5,467,880
UNDP: USD 3,967,880
UNICEF: USD 1,500,00
Government Contribution <i>(if applicable)</i> 0
Other Contribution (Norway) USD 320,000
TOTAL: USD

Programme Duration (months)
Overall Duration 36 months
Start Date ³ 9 March 2012
End Date or Revised End Date, <i>(if applicable)</i> 31 March 2015
Operational Closure Date ⁴ 30 May 2015
Expected Financial Closure Date 30 July 2015

Programme Assessments/Mid-Term

Submitted By

¹ The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

² Priority Area for the Peacebuilding Fund; Sector for the UNDG ITF.

³ The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MDTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MDTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org) (<http://mdtf.undp.org>).

⁴ All activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MDTF programme have been completed. Agencies to advise the MDTF Office.

Evaluation

Assessment Completed - if applicable *please attach*

Yes No Date: _____

Mid-Evaluation Report – *if applicable please attach*

Yes No Date: _____

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NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2013 UNDP Iraq, as part of its larger programme addressing access to justice for women and survivors of Domestic and Gender-based Violence (DGBV), undertook a number of consultations with national counterparts, representatives of other UN agencies, and relevant international actors to propose a policy reforms, capacity building and institutional development programme that aims at strengthening the capacity of the GOI to combat violence against women in Iraq. Positive results have been achieved during the reporting period of time which can be summarized as follows: Reporting mechanism for DGBV has been established at federal and regional levels to provide services to the survivors of DGBV, exemplified by the establishment of **7 Directorates for Combating Violence Against Women in KRG, in addition to 27 offices at provincial level in Kurdistan Region of Iraq. 16 Family Protection Units have been established in each Governorate at the central level, and a total of 11,000 DGV cases have been reported during the year 2013.**

Similarly, under this project, **5 legal aid help desks have been established within the premises of the appellate courts to provide free legal assistance to the survivors of DGBV in Dahouk, Sulymaniha, Erbil, Basra and Anbar.** In KRG, UNDP took first step to institutionalize the provision of free legal aid services with the signing of a MoU with the Kurdistan Bar Association (KBA) enabling lawyers of the KBA to provide legal representation and consultations. Similar MoUs have been signed between Family Protection Units (FPUs) and the KBA, providing a framework for a referral system between the two institutions. As a result of this effort, **17,000 people have benefitted from the services of the legal help-desk throughout Iraq - 650 received full legal representation, 4,100 received one-one-on legal consultation and follow up and 12,250 people received legal awareness and information.**

Under this project, capacity building programmes have been conducted targeting FPU staff and other stakeholders. A number of trainings have been conducted, capacitating a total of **198** staff in different specialized skills relevant to investigation, management, forensic, interview technique and data-base. The project facilitated technical advisory support aiming at **policy reform and as a result the adopted Domestic Violence Bill in KRG is under revision, while draft Domestic Violence Bill is under discussion at federal level.** The project has significantly expanded its **presence in the KRG, Baghdad, Basra and Anbar regions.** At the moment, in terms of human resources, a full capacity is in place, which is contributing positively to effective engagement with Iraqi partners and regular consultations with Government and civil society.

I. Purpose

Relevant NDP Goal(s):

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

Relevant UNDAF Priority Area Outcome:

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

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

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

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

Outcome 5.5: The Iraqi state has institutionalized preventive and protective mechanisms to

combat gender-based violence.

UNDP Country Programme Outcome 2:

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



FPU's staff database training in Baghdad

- In March 2009 the UNDP programme in the Kurdistan Region reported, while divorce may not be widespread, anecdotal evidence reveals that self-harm and suicide rates among girls and women are linked to gender-based violence. There are currently few public entities that are able to receive and support victims of gender-based violence, something which this programme will seek to address through the proposed Family Protection Directorates.
- In 2010 a survey conducted by OXFAM International, in collaboration with the Iraq Al-Amal Association of Iraqi women, revealed that approximately 60% of women in the sample of 1,700 indicated that safety and security continued to be their main concern; 40% indicated that their security had actually worsened compared to 2006 and 2007; 35% of the sample were female household heads; 55% of them stated that they had been a victim of violence; 22% had experienced domestic violence; 45% indicated their income situation had worsened compared with previous years with access to water, electricity and health care cited as major problems by most of the women respondents.
- UNDP Iraq, in coordination with the Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery formulated the Family Support, Security and Justice in Iraq programme to further support the Government's efforts in creating a strategy to ensure that survivors of domestic, gender based violence and trafficking are offered refuge and support. This project provides comprehensive technical and advisory support combined with extensive capacity development interventions of known key stakeholders in Iraq including the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Woman as well as with non-governmental and civil society organizations and international support missions.
- This project is within Outcome 2 of the UNDP Country Programme 2011-2014 which is Enhanced rule of law, protection and respect for human rights in line with international standards and responds to three outputs within the CPAP 2011-2014 document.

Outputs	Output 1: Policy and legislative reform supported for improved access to justice for gender based violence (GBV) survivors. Output 2: Enhanced law enforcement response to combating GBV and supporting GBV survivors and victims of trafficking. Output 3: National institutions strengthened to undertake social and economic empowerment and protection of GBV survivors.
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<p>Activities</p>	<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> <p>2.1.7 Assess performance and impact of Directorates.</p>
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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.

	<p>3.2 Female shelters and safe houses supported through institutional strengthening and capacity development.</p> <p>3.2.1 Mapping of NGOs providing shelter or refuges to victims of violence, including advocacy and workshops.</p> <p>3.2.2 Support to existing NGO managed shelters for victims of violence including a national conference for lessons learned.</p> <p>3.2.3 Capacity building provided to shelter staff on management, budgets, resource mobilization, etc.</p> <p>3.2.4 Develop/adapt training material on working with victims of violence for shelter staff (also to GoI).</p> <p>3.2.5 Specialized training provided to shelter staff on dealing with victims of violence.</p> <p>3.3 NGOs offering shelter support to women strengthened to provide referral support.</p> <p>3.3.1 Provision of capacity building, financial and logistical support to NGOs providing support to women and women victim of violence that can act as referral centres.</p> <p>3.3.2 Develop linkages with on-going UNCT economic empowerment/private sector development programs.</p>
Procurement (major items)	Too early in the life cycle of the project.

II. Assessment of Programme Results



The Director of the DfCVAW during the inauguration of the Investigation Units in KRG

i) Narrative reporting on results:

At the outcome indicators level, this project is showing a positive impact on the ground and adequate changes at policy and community levels. All development efforts through this project have positively impacted the policies related to combating violence against women as well as improving the lives of communities. The evidence for this change is best illustrated by the establishment of total of **24 Family Protection Directorates and 5 legal aid helpdesks** at federal and regional levels, defining the provision of services to women and children, as it provides a concrete model for the GOI to respond to DGBV. It has also led to the enactment and the adoption of Domestic Violence Bill in KRG, a draft Bill in Baghdad, and a draft legal assistance Law in KRG. Iraq has also drafted a shelter policy for vulnerable women with UNDP support. Through this project UNDP is also supporting MOLSA, MOWA, High Council of Women in KRG and Baghdad with the drafting and the adoption of shelter strategic framework. National capacity, especially of the of the Family Protection Directorates and the law enforcement officers at the Ministry of Interior, have been significantly improved through trainings, development of strategic action plans, and most importantly the development of the national data-base for GBV and DV at the federal and regional levels. UNDP, through the implementation of this project, helped create the visibility and the focus needed for abused women and girls through the adoption of the adequate and relevant legal instruments to ensure the prevention and protection measures.

Output 1: Policy and legislative reform supported for improved access to justice for GBV survivors

On federal level, UNDP continued to provide technical advisory support to the draft Domestic Violence Bill. Expert opinions and comments were provided and incorporated to the draft bill As a result final draft has been submitted by the Ministry of Woman Affairs to Shura Council for review prior to the submission to the Council of Representatives.

To inform policies and decision-making process on issues related to Domestic and Gender based violence, UNDP assisted with the development of a national database of GBV and DV within the Family Protection Units (FPUs) and MoI at regional and federal levels. UNDP continues to follow up

with MOI on the uploading of the database within the MOI IT system. To operationalize the database, MOI, at federal and regional levels, is identifying a service provider prior to the uploading of the database in their system, which will facilitate consistent reporting and access to information on incidents of GBV and DV.

Remarkable steps have been taken to institutionalize the provision of the free legal aid services in Kurdistan Region of Iraq where UNDP developed, signed and implemented an MoU with KBA for the provision of free legal assistance services to the victims of Domestic and Gender-based violence, to ensure the sustainability of services. UNDP, through this project, is enhancing the capacity within the KBA to manage provision of free legal assistance. In addition UNDP is advocating for and facilitating the adoption of the draft Legal Aid Law initiated by the KBA. As a result, three legal help desks have been established in Erbil, Duhok and Sulaimany, located within the premises of the appellate courts, supporting the work of the Directorate for Combating Violence Against Women (DfCVAW) while working closely with CSOs to promote legal aid in the region. It is anticipated that a similar MoU will be signed between UNDP and Iraqi Bar Association (IBA) during the second quarter of the year 2014 to define a strategic partnership on legal assistance in Iraq, particularly with regard to the newly established legal help desk in Baghdad, Basra and Anbar.

Output 2: Enhanced law enforcement response to combating GBV and supporting GBV survivors and victims of trafficking.

During 2013, a **total of 149 FPU and MOI staff**, including senior managers and law enforcement officers, both male and female, received intensive trainings, in cooperation and with the support of the Danish Police Commission, on database management, investigation, forensic analysis, interview techniques, project management and referral systems. In addition, study tours have been organized for **49 staff** from both institutions to FPU units in Jordan, to examine the organisational and management structure of the Jordanian Family Protection Units. This was requested by MOI considering the cultural and social commonalities of the two countries. To ensure the sustainability of the training, **training materials have been developed in close consultations with the trainers who received Training of Trainers**, comments have been provided and incorporated, continuous consultations made with counterparts and the trainers to finalize the training materials as well as a training work-plan. In addition, UNDP developed a draft Terms of References for continued training of FPU staff and police officers. As a result of the enhanced capacity within the Family Protection Directorates, **a total of 9562 cases have been reported by all FPUs at federal level and 5384 cases received by DfCVAW at regional level. Out of this total, 7797 cases have been resolved by the FPUs staff and processed to courts, while 1765 cases are currently in process.**

Through UNDP technical and capacity building support to the DfCVAW and MOI in Kurdistan Region, the DfCVAW has retrieved the power of investigation and, based on this decision, the Directorate will establish investigation offices and is able to investigate domestic and gender violence cases. This is considered to be a major step towards cementing the position of the Directorate as a fully mandated entity to combat violence against women, and it is the first time, since the establishment of the Directorate, that female police officers are investigating domestic violence cases.

UNICEF

Key Achievements:

- Support to MoLSA on the development of the national child protection policy is on going
- A total of 788 children provided with legal assistance and social services during the year.

Legislative and Policy Assistance

UNICEF facilitated and supported consultations with children in design of the federal and regional child law for the Kurdistan Region (KR). UNICEF reviewed both child laws and has provided technical inputs. One of the recommendations for the KR Child Law involved raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 11 to 13 years. This was, however, not accepted by the KRG. Both laws have been submitted to their respective Shura Councils, pending endorsement. There is currently a waiting period as a number of other laws are pending at the councils.

UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in developing the National Child Protection Policy (NCPP). The initial international expert considered for provision of technical support for the NCPP, with experience from the UNICEF workshop on developing a Roadmap for the National Child Protection Policy, withdrew after a lengthy approval process by the Ministry. The Minister's approval is a prerequisite to appointing national and international experts. UNICEF consequently recommenced pursuing qualified candidates from Iraq, the Middle East region, as well as other regions. By the end of June 2013, UNICEF had not found a qualified candidate; and therefore called for a global request for an expression of interest. A suitable candidate – a group of experts at the American University of Beirut (AUB) - were eventually identified, and a meeting between AUB and MoLSA delegates was organised in order to agree on the selection of experts and the process for policy development. UNICEF finalised contracting the American University of Beirut in November 2013.

The American University of Beirut began completing the child protection situation analysis drafted by MoLSA. The situation analysis includes reviewing previous steps undertaken in policy development in Iraq, such as documentation and relevant legislations for children and will provide an initial basis for policy development through collaborative workshops, technical trainings and consultations scheduled for 2014.

Legal Assistance

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

UNICEF has also entered a new programme co-operation agreement with War Child to expand its legal assistance in Basra, Thi-Qar and Missan. During the reporting period, 788 children have received legal assistance and social services. Charges from 106 cases have been dropped and diverted from detention on the basis of legal assistance provided. Legal assistance was also provided in three cases of alleged sexual abuse (prostitution or charges of immorality) which are among the most sensitive and demanding cases in legal assistance.

Capacity building

In the Kurdistan region, 30 police officers were provided training on child rights. The police officers continued to coordinate with lawyers and social workers to provide support to juveniles and to prevent them from going to a formal judicial system.

The planned capacity assessment of the CWC did not materialise due to competing priorities expressed by MoLSA. The Ministry requested UNICEF to emphasise development and finalisation of the national child protection policy (NCPP). The capacity assessment of CWC will be undertaken as a component of the development of the child protection policy. The assessment and capacity building of CWC is assessed by UNICEF as being a critical element for the implementation and sustainability of the child protection system.

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

UNICEF in partnership with Bar Association held a conference on legal assistance for children and young people in Erbil on the 28th February 2013, with participation from over 50 people from various ministries, UN agencies, donor community and I/NGOs. The conference identified and discussed key challenges and the lesson learnt in providing legal assistance to children. It highlighted the importance of providing legal assistance at earlier stages of the juvenile justice system, such as police stations, in order to promote diversion of cases and to prevent children from going through the formal justice system and sending them to detention centres. Other main recommendations were raising the minimum age of the criminal responsibility, promoting free legal assistance (pro-bono system), and strengthening the role of parents/legal guardians, as primary responsible entity, in prevention of children coming into contact with the law.

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

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

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

MoLSA's earlier situation analysis on child protection led to recognition by MoLSA and the CWC on the challenges that the lack of reliable data on the situation of children, an incomplete analysis and the subsequent planning of appropriate policies have. While UNICEF is firmly committed to supporting the GoI in developing knowledge management systems that address existing gaps and challenges, the GoI is reluctant to share information in the current system, especially in sensitive matters.

In response to the Syrian crisis, UNICEF took the opportunity to support the KRG in developing a child protection information management system in the region that process tracks vulnerable children from identification to case management. UNICEF plans to develop a model and good practices for replication purposes and present these to the federal government for scaling at national level.

As part of the joint programme with UNDP, a national database on gender-based violence and violence against children under the Family Protection Directorate and its 16 units from the Ministry of Interior has been developed. UNICEF will continue to support Family Protection Units in providing trainings on child sensitive matters in its activities.

2013 marked a significant increase in the number of security incidents resulting in the killing of 7,818 civilians, including at least 248 children. This is the highest number of casualties reported since 2008. During the reporting period, the MRM Country Task Force (co-chaired by UNICEF and UNAMI) verified 167 of 200 reported incidents of the killing and maiming of children. A total of 913 child casualties were recorded, with 665 children injured and 248 killed throughout the country in waves of attacks, including IEDs and complex attacks. The highest number of reported violations were the killing and maiming of children, and attacks against schools. The most affected governorates were Baghdad, Kirkuk, Nineveh, Diyala, Anbar, Wassit and Salahaddin. The Islamic State of Iraq and Sham (ISIS) and Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQ-I) were allegedly responsible for most documented incidents.

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

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

UNDP has provided regular technical support to Ministry of Women Affairs MOWA and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs MOLSA to assist and advance the development of Shelter Strategy in Iraq. A draft shelter policy, finalized by UNDP, was shared with Government of Iraq and Civil Society Organizations for review and commentary. In the KRG, a shelter policy was shared with MOLSA for internal review and approval. UNDP will continue to advocate for the adoption of the shelter policy in timely manner in KRG.

At the federal level, on the 17th November 2013, UNDP organized a workshop in Basra to discuss Shelter Policy and Strategy. The workshop resulted in the approval of the Governor to allocate buildings for shelters in the Governorate.

In partnership with Bar Association and Civil Society Organizations, UNDP continues to follow up and support the work of the **three legal aid help desks in Dahouk, Sulaimany and Erbil, in addition to the newly established first legal help desk in Basra**, targeting vulnerable groups, with special focus on women victims of Gender Based Violence and Domestic Violence. The total number of cases received by the legal aid help desks during 2013 was **816 cases, out of which are 665 legal consultations and 151 legal representations**. More than **20,000 Iraqi citizens** have benefited from the services of the legal aid helpdesks by receiving direct legal assistance or attending workshops and training courses. On 25th December, UNDP signed an agreement with local civil society organizations to establish an additional **legal aid helpdesk in Anbar**. This office provides free legal assistance to vulnerable groups, including women and children, in close coordination with the courts, Bar Association, Governorate Council and Family Protection Units.

UNDP coordinated the development of an MOU between DfCVAW and KBA that strengthens collaboration and cooperation between both parties to provide free legal assistance to women victims of GBV and DV whose cases are reported to/and received by DfCVAW. This is considered to be a first step to establish an institutional referral system for Domestic and Gender-based violence in Iraq.



Signing of the MoU on referral system of DGBV cases between DfCVAW & KBA

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

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 organized early in 2014.

In the KRG, shelter policy has been 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 of 2014.

The Iraq Bar association represents a major challenge for the work of the legal aid helpdesks, as there is limited understanding of the legal aid concept within the IBA. This has resulted in limited cooperation between Civil Society Organizations and Iraq Bar Association lawyers. To overcome this challenge UNDP shared draft MoU to be signed between UNDP implementing Partner and Bar Association in Basra, It is anticipated that the MoU will be signed in the first quarter of the year 2014. Similar modality will be adopted at institutional level between UNDP and Iraq Bar Association, for this UNDP shared draft MoU to be reviewed by Head of IBA.

The progressively deteriorating security situation in Iraq has resulted in severe challenges to the monitoring of grave violations of child rights. The monitors themselves have become the survivors and witnesses of violations. Road blocks and tighter security checks have made it difficult for monitors to reach incident locations. Furthermore, when asking for more incident information, monitors are increasingly viewed with suspicion, with possible connections to the specific incidents that have taken place.

- **Qualitative assessment:**

Key Achievements:

- Training courses targeted 198 FPU staff and law enforcement officers in different specialized areas of DGBV investigation and processing.
- Shelter strategic policy developed and shared with GOI and KRG.
- National database developed for FPUs
- 5 legal aid helpdesks established in Erbil, Dahouk, Sulymaniah, Basra and Anbar.
- 16 Family Protection Units established at federal level.
- 8 Directorate for Combating Violence Against Women are established at regional level.
- 6 workshops organized in different parts of Iraq to promote women's right, Shelter policy, DGBV referral system, legal awareness and gender equality targeting more than 2000 Iraqi citizens.
- Study tour conducted to Family Protection Unit in Jordan.

The Family Protection Units at federal level and the Directorate for Combating Violence Against Women at Regional level have been recognized by GOI and Iraqi citizens as the sole GOI reporting mechanism for DGBV cases, the FPUs and the DfCVAW have adequate capacities to provide services to Iraqi survival of DGBV. This has been ensured through series of trainings organized under this project and other trainings coordinated with other actors, such as EUJUSTLEX, USAID and national NGOs. Yet, additional capacity development support will be required to increase the citizen trust in other justice institutions, namely, Judiciary, Iraqi Bar Association and Police Stations.

The significant increase in DGBV will require increase capacity and resources to enable adequate respond to the need on ground, and to establish reliable and unified source. Therefore, through the establishment and the operationalization of the national DGBV database MOI will be able to share trusted information with other institutions such as MOLSA, MOWA, COR, MOP and CSOs. For that matter UNDP and through this project is finalizing the establishment of the database within the MOI with the hope that it will be linked with the Central Statistics Office in Baghdad and KRG. It is anticipated that this can be achieved by the end of the project.

The establishment of referral system in KRG will substantively contribute to the strong institutional collaboration between DfCVAW, KBA and Civil Society Organizations. Within this context UNDP facilitated the signing of three MoUs between KBA, UNDP, DfCVAW on joint cooperation on DGBV.

It is crucial for the sustainability of the provision of free legal assistance to the vulnerable groups with special focus on women and children who are victims of DGBV, to involve the Bar Association as strategic partner to the project. To achieve this, UNDP signed MoU with the KBA positing the entity as leading technical partner. Similarly, UNDP is advocating for the adoption of the Legal Assistance law in KRG, upon its adoption the Regional Government financial resources will be allocated for such services. Milestone for this support is that DfCVAW in KRG has retrieved the investigation power of DGBV cases. This entails establishment of investigation offices with the DfCVAW.

As result of the implementation of this project, FPUs and DfCVAW managed to attract the attention of the GOI and other actors, increased number of police female officers and female civilian staff have been confirmed.

Culturally, the informal justice system is far more trusted and therefore a useful entry point for linking the community-based mediation and dispute resolution through this project is ensured, for the first time Tribal and Community Leaders are targeted with trainings and workshops, in Basra one of the religious leader is providing direct assistance to the FPUs at the Governorate advocating for combating DGBV.

JP Title	Family Protection, Support, Justice and Security for Survivors of Domestic and Gender Based Violence							
UNDAF Priority Area	Priority 1: Improved governance, including protection of human rights.							
Relevant MDG(s)	MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women. MDG 8: Develop a global partnership for development.							
Relevant NDP goals	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: 1.3: Iraq has an improved legal and operational Rule of Law framework for administration and access to justice. Outcome 5.5: The Iraqi state has institutionalized preventive and protective mechanisms to combat gender-based violence.								
JP Outputs	UN Organization Specific Output (Applicable in case of JP)	Performance Indicators	Baseline	Target	Achieved	Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Means of Verification
JP Output 1: Policy and legislative reform supported for improved access to justice for GBV survivors	1.1 Central Government and Kurdistan Regional Government are provided with legislative and policy support for improved family protection and law enforcement	1.1.1 Number of Family protection units staff trained on How to address violence against women and children and victims of trafficking	1.1.1 0	1.1.1 300	189 FPU staff, senior management and law enforcement officers, have been trained on GBV and DV. The training has been conducted by trainers from Family Protection Unit/ Jordan, Danish Police Commission. 3 training courses are planned for 2014. It is anticipated that the target for this indicators will be reached by the Q4 of the project.	On Track	1.1.1 Training Report	
		1.1.2 Percentage of trainees satisfied with the usefulness and relevance of training provided	1.1.2 NA	1.1.2 80%	% 60 Training activity planned for 2014		1.1.2 Trainees feedback and evaluation form	
		1.1.3 Policy to address Family Protection and GBV drafted.	1.1.3 No policy exists.	1.1.3 Policy drafted and submitted for GoI/ KRG endorsement.	Anti-domestic Violence Bill is endorsed and adopted in KRG. Draft Anti Domestic Violence is submitted for endorsement in at Federal level. Strategic framework and action-plan for the FPUs at federal levels are endorsed and adopted. Shelter policy is developed at federal and regional level and		1.1.3 Policy document	

					under discussion by MOLSA, MOWA, and Basra Governorate. 3 MoUs signed between UNDP, KBA, DfCVAW institutionalizing free legal aid services and establishing referral system.		
		1.1.4 Number of raising awareness campaigns on the legislations related to family protection	1.1.4 0	1.1.4 18	8	Planned for 2014	1.1.4 Programme Progress Report
	1.2 Child Welfare Commission is supported with the development of Child Protection Policy	1.2.1 A study on violence against children completed	1.2.1 No	1.2..1 Yes			1.2.1 Study report
		1.2.2 Child Protection Policy drafted	1.2.2 No	1.2.2 Draft Child Protection policy developed and ready to be submitted for endorsement.			1.2.2 Policy document
JP Output 2 Enhanced law enforcement response to combating GBV and supporting GBV survivors and victims of trafficking	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	2.1.1 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Protocols. Manuals for Family Protection developed	2.1.1 No SOPs and Protocols exist	2.1.1. SOPs, manuals developed	Intake- forms have been developed at federal and regional levels, endorsed and adopted by FPU in Iraq. Draft SOPs developed and shared with FPU for review. MoUs signed between DfCVAW and KBA have been signed to establish first institutionalized referral system between the two institutions. Training materials are developed		2.1.1 SOPs document
		2.1.2 Number of police staff (disaggregated by Sex) in central government and KRG trained on the Family Protection Units standard operating procedures	2.1.2 0	2.1.2 300	Total of 1072 out of which are 285 are female police officers in all Iraq.	It is anticipated that the target will be reached by the end of the project in 2015	2.1.2 Training report

		2.1.3 Percentage of trainees satisfied with the usefulness and relevance of training provided	2.1.3 NA	2.1.3 80%	%80		2.1.3 Feedback forms
		2.1.4 Number of female police staff trained on how to respond to GBV and domestic violence	2.1.4 0	2.1.4 100	285 female police officers have been trained.		2.1.4 Training report
		2.1.5 Percentage of trainees satisfied with the usefulness and relevance of training provided	2.1.5 NA	2.1.5 80%	80%		2.1.5 Feedback forms
		2.1.6 Number of victim support units in Police stations in Baghdad established, and referral centres	2.1.6 0	2.1.6. 18	10 Units established in KRG.	Discussion is ongoing at federal level	2.1.6 Programme progress report
		2.1.7 Number of CSO participating in the new Referral system at CSO level	2.1.7 0	2.1.7 20	10	Target will be reached by 2014	2.1.7 Programme progress report
		2.1.8 A Coordination process to establish Linkages between the Family Protection Directorates and existing Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism for Grave Child Right's Violations (MRM) referral mechanism in place	2.1.8 No	2.1.8 Yes			2.1.8 Programme progress report
	2.2 Relevant service providers have an enhanced capacity	2.2.1 Number of Family protection units and	2.2.1 0	2.2.1 250	Total 1276 out of which are 412 females.		2.2.1 Training report

	to deal with GBV cases	directorates staff of disaggregated (by sex) trained on how address to violence against women and children cases					
		2.2.2 Percentage of those trained satisfied with relevance and usefulness of training.	2.2.2 NA	2.2.2 80%	80%		2.2.2 Trainees feedback forms
	2.3 NGOs working on providing legal aid have an enhanced capacity on family protection and violence prevention	2.3.1 Mapping and capacity assessment of NGOs providing legal aid to victims of violence completed	2.3.1 No	2.3.1. Yes	Yes		2.3.1 Assessment report
		2.3.2 Number of NGOs providing supported to provide legal aid services	2.3.2 0	2.3.2. Fifteen (15) NGOs providing legal aid services 20	8	Approval of the Judicial Councils at regional and federal levels issued December 2012, upon which 5 legal aid helpdesks established in addition to 3 inside the camps of the Syrian Refugees in KRG	2.3.2 Programme progress report
	2.4. Relevant NGOs have an enhanced capacity on child protection issues	2.4.1 Number of NGOs staff trained on child protection issues	2.4.1 0	2.4.1 300 (100 social workers trained, 200 MRM Focal Persons monitoring and reporting child rights violations)			2.4.1 Training report
		2.4.2 Percentage of trainees satisfied with the usefulness and relevance of training provided	2.4.2 NA	2.4.2 80%			2.4.2 Trainees Feedback forms

JP Output 3: National institutions strengthened to undertake social and economic empowerment and protection of GBV survivors	National institutions strengthened to undertake social and economic empowerment and protection of GBV survivors	3.1 Number of CSOs involved in drafting of the Shelter Policy	3.1 0	3.1 Five (5) NGOs working on shelter policy	5 at federal and regional level.		3.1 Programme progress report	
		3.2 Percentage of CSOs involved in the drafting fully satisfied with their level of engagement in drafting of shelter policy	3.2 NA	3.2 80%	%60	Rolled out to 2013		3.2 NGOs feedback forms
		3.3 Shelter policy reviewed and re-drafted in a participatory manner	3.3 No	3.3 Policy drafted	Shelter policy has been drafted in KRG and submitted for approval to MOLSA. Draft Shelter strategy has been shared with federal government to initiate discussion on shelter	Discussion is ongoing		3.3 Policy document
		3.4 Number of advocacy initiatives undertaken	3.4 0	3.4 6	5 at federal KRG level Rolled out to 2013 at federal level.			3.4 Programme progress report
		3.5 SOPs to provide effective shelter support and services re-drafted	3.5 No	3.5 SOPs drafted	Nothing to report	This activity depends on the GOI decision to adopt shelter policy for GBV and DV victims. Discussion is ongoing		3.5 SOPs document
		3.6 Number of government staff trained on shelter SOPs	3.6 0	3.6 50	0	This activity depends on the GOI decision to adopt shelter policy for GBV and DV victims. Discussion is ongoing		3.6 Training report
		3.7 Percentage of those trained satisfied with relevance and usefulness of training	3.7	3.7	0	This activity depends on the GOI decision to adopt shelter policy for GBV and DV victims. Discussion is ongoing		3.7
		3.8 Number of NGOs trained in providing shelter services to victims	3.8 0	3.8 15	0	This activity depends on the GOI decision to adopt shelter policy for		3.8 Training report

		of violence				GBV and DV victims. Discussion is ongoing	
		3.9 Percentage of those trained satisfied with relevance and usefulness of training	3.9 NA	3.9 80%	0	This activity depends on the GOI decision to adopt shelter policy for GBV and DV victims. Discussion is ongoing	3.9 Trainees Feedback forms
		3.10 Number of NGOs offering shelter support to women supported to providing referral service	3.10 0	3.10 15	0	This activity depends on the GOI decision to adopt shelter policy for GBV and DV victims. Discussion is ongoing	3.10 Programme progress report

ii) A Specific Story



Girls from Domiz Refugee Camp KRG

She is a 20 years old Syrian refugee who came to Iraq one year ago and settled at Arbat refugee camp in Sulaymaniyah with her parents, brothers and sisters.

Shortly after arriving at Arbat, she was forced by her father to marry a man living inside the camp against her wishes. She faced regular physical violence from her husband, causing her to flee her situation to the women shelter outside the camp in October 2013.

When lawyers from legal aid center supported by UNDP with its implementation partner: Democracy and Human Rights Development Center (DHRD) learned about her case, they contacted her inside the shelter and began providing legal assistance and following-up care, opening a legal case at the police center, taking legal procedures to solve her problem, in addition to providing psychosocial assistance via the project social worker.

Before she has been contacted and visited by DHRD legal aid lawyer, she had tried to commit suicide on multiple occasions while living inside the shelter. After receiving legal and psychosocial support from DHRD staff, she has found hope and a chance to solve her problem. She said, “Now I feel that I am not alone after receiving legal and social assistance provided by your staff, my problem is now being followed up on by you that make me optimistic to start again my live”.

Institutionalizing the legal assistance in Iraq’s Kurdistan region:

Despite being granted equal protection under the Iraqi constitution, many vulnerable groups in Iraq have limited access to the country’s formal justice system.

On 24 April, UNDP Iraq and the Kurdistan Bar Association (KBA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen the provision of legal assistance services in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, providing a legal framework for the two entities to cooperate.

Under this agreement, UNDP supports the KBA, as one of Iraq's leading national legal institutions, to provide services that include a legal help desk and a mobile legal clinic. The help desk and clinic will provide free legal consultation and advice and even provide free legal representation for certain cases. Those who will benefit are the vulnerable and disadvantaged, such as people who are impoverished, victims of domestic violence, the elderly, disabled, detainees and the internally displaced.