

United Nations Development Group UNDAF Trust Fund
Project: 81968: P1-02
Date and Quarter Updated: 1 January to 31 March 2014 – Q1 2014

Participating UN Organisation: UNDP, UNICEF

PWG: Governance and Human Rights

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

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

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

Relevant NDP Goal(s):

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

Relevant UNDAF Priority Area Outcome:

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

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

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

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

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

UNDP Country Programme Outcome 2:

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

Outputs, Key Activities and Procurement

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

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

Tranche funding for the project through the UNDAF Trust Fund

UNDP

Funds Committed	USD \$ \$2,369,232.74	% of approved	96.00%
Funds Disbursed	USD\$ \$2,061,330.10	% of approved	83.53%
Forecast final date	12 March 2015	Delay (months)	0

UNICEF

Funds Utilized	USD \$ 467378.28	% of approved	71.05%
Forecast final date	12 March 2015	Delay (months)	0

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results

Output 1 Policy and legislative reform supported for improved access to justice for GBV survivors	<p>UNDP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuous consultations on the revision of the Domestic Violence Bill at regional level. - Regular follow up on progress of the work of the FPU, DCVAW and the status of the provision of free legal assistance in Iraq. - Follow up on progress made with regards the shelter policy at regional level. 	85%
Output 2 Enhanced law enforcement response to combating GBV and supporting GBV survivors and victims of trafficking.	<p>UNDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuous and regular support to strengthen the capacity of the FPUs at central and regional level. - Total of 280 cases have been reported to FPUs in Basra, 110 cases resolved and closed, 36 cases processed to the judge, 134 cases on-going under investigation or at the court - Total of 309 persons provided with free legal assistance during the Q1. (125 Female – 124 Male received legal consultations. 56 Female – 4 Male received free legal representations). - Total of 673 persons (565 female – 108 male) attended mobile legal outreach session. - Support to the establishment of the training units within the Directorate for Combating Violence Against Women. - Continuous support to the DCVAW to strengthen the capacity of the offices on investigations of DGBV cases <p>UNICEF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to MoLSA on the development of the national child protection policy is on going - A total of 589 children provided with legal assistance during the project 	<p>UNDP 75%</p> <p>UNICEF 67.5%</p>
Output 3 National institutions strengthened to undertake social and economic empowerment and protection of GBV survivors.	<p>UNDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training of lawyers in Baghdad, Basra on legal aid and legal assistance. - Discussion with governmental and non-governmental institutions on institutionalization of the free legal assistance at federal and regional levels. 	65%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

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

At policy level:

- As part of policy reform, UNDP conducted series of ad-hoc meetings with GOI institutions, namely the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Women Affairs, civil society organisations and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to discuss the progress made regards the shelter policy which drafted and shared by UNDP with the respective actors. The result of these meeting is that the shelter policy and strategy is still under discussion pending the hearing and the adoption of the Domestic Violence Bill by the Council of Representatives in Baghdad.

At regional level UNDP held meetings with representative of Ministry of Social and Labour Affairs to follow up on the shelter strategy, the meeting resulted on a formation of experts committee chaired by the Ministry and with membership of UNDP and other relevant institutions, the mandate of this committee is to review the final comments on the shelter strategy and submit final draft to the Ministry to final review prior to the adoption of the policy in Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The challenge facing this course of action is the absence of the Minister from the Region as well as the delay of the formulation of the new Government in the region.

On 11 March 2014 UNDP held meeting with deputy Governor in Basra to share and discuss the shelter strategy, the Governorate is very keen to adopt the support the shelter policy, in addition to this the Governor of Basra agreed to allocate land block to be built by the Governorate for the DGBV survivals. This support resulted from UNDP continuous meetings and consultations with all actors in Basra to support combatting violence against women. UNDP will follow up on this decision and ensure that it will be translated into tangible reality.

-In regards to the draft Domestic Violence Bill in Baghdad, UNDP continues to follow up on the progress made by the Committee of Experts, chaired by Ministry of Woman Affairs, comments have been received from all governmental institutions and civil society organisations. The upcoming parliamentary elections will impact the discussion of the Bill.

At regional level, UNDP organised number of meetings with the Directorate for Combatting Violence Against Women, Ministry of Interior, Kurdistan Judicial Council and selected members of the Regional Parliament where it has been agreed that UNDP will facilitate a strategic meeting with Heads of all mentioned institutions to discuss the mechanism upon which the revision of the Domestic Violence Bill will be conducted. It is anticipated the meeting will take place during the third quarter of the project.

-During the reporting period, UNDP facilitated the signing of two Memorandums of Understanding between Kurdistan Bar Association and DVAW in Dahouk and Erbil, the purpose of these MoUs is to strengthen and establish an institutionalized referral system between the two institutions. The Kurdistan Bar Association is now providing free legal assistance to the survival of domestic and gender based violence who referred to the KBA by the Directorate, this practice will contributes to raise awareness of the lawyers on issues related to DGBV and ensure the engagement between two institutions to combat violence against women.

Capacity building level:

-UNDP facilitated the participation of six lawyers in the legal aid trainings organised by USAID in Baghdad and Basra on February and March 2014. The training conducted by the USAID Access to Justice team aims at enhancing the capacity of lawyers to provide free legal aid services as well to raise awareness of lawyers community on legal assistance in Iraq.

-UNDP agreed to support the training of an additional 110 DVAW staff on investigations and interview techniques. The trainings will be conducted by DVAW trainers who have been previously trained by Denmark Police Commission. All training will take place in Erbil in June 2014

-UNDP coordinated with the UNAMI Policing Advisor to extend the support to the training units within the Ministry of Interior in Kurdistan, it has been agreed the Policing advisor will support the development of

Human Rights and Gender-based Violence curriculum as well conduct a Training of Trainers to assist the establishment of a pool of national trainers within the newly established Units.

UNICEF:

Development of National Child Protection Policy for Iraq (NCPP)

In partnership with American University of Beirut (AUB), the development of National Child Protection Policy (NCP) for Iraq is still in progress. As a crucial step in the development of the policy, MOLSA commissioned a situation analysis on children in Iraq with support from AUB with the aimed of ensuring that policy development is inform by situation of children in Iraq, lessons from previous policy development exercises, such as documentation and review of relevant legislations for children. Based on the outcome of the situational analysis, a consultative workshop aimed at discussing the identified gaps of the Situation analysis, deliberate on other models of Child Protection Policies, including the need to take a system approach for the Iraq's policy was organized by UNICEF and AUB on 27 February 2014 in collaboration with the Child Welfare Commission (CWC). The meeting resulted into:

- A discussion on four options model of policy from other countries which are similar in context, laws and cultural context to Iraq;
- It was agreed that MOLSA will study these four options policies and use the lessons from these policies to inform the development of the Iraq's policy;
- AUB was requested to develop a Policy Options paper based on a review of the Iraq Situation analysis for children, other literature reviews, and collections of relevant data from other sources, deliberation with key stakeholders, including government, Civil Society and UN agencies in Iraq.

As a follow up to the recommendations of consultative workshop, AUB conducted the relevant consultations, reviews and developed a Policy Option paper. The Policy Option paper has been shared with UNICEF and MOLSA for review and consideration as contributing document to the development of the Iraq Child Protection policy. Both UNICEF and MOLSA are currently reviewing this document through a committee constituted by the CWC and UNICEF is a member of this committee. . Following the review and recommendation of this committee, both the Policy Option paper and the learning from the four options Child Protection from other countries will inform the working modality for the drafting of the Iraq Child Protection Policy.

Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on the grave violations of children's rights in armed conflict.

UNICEF focused during this reporting period on the capacity building of MRM focal persons through a) roll out of a 6 month MRM Orientation sessions, b) monitoring and documenting incidents of grave violations and c) submission of inputs to SRSG's report on Children and Armed Conflict and the three monthly Global Horizontal Note.

a) Development and roll out of 6 months MRM Orientation Plan:

The 6 months plan for the MRM capacity building orientation sessions was officially launched during this reported period and first phase of this orientation exercises started in March 2014. Since the launched of the exercise, a total of 206 persons comprising of teachers, medical personnel, lawyers, HR activists and NGO staffs from 8 Governorate have be reached as detailed below:

No.	Location	Number of sessions	Number of participants
1	Baghdad	2	30
2	Kirkuk	1	30
3	Neinawa	1	30
4	Salaheddin	1	30
5	Qadissiya	1	30
6	Wassit	1	30
7	Babil	1	30
8	Diyala	1	30

This orientation exercise is been conducted by MRM Focal persons who were provided an extensive training on MRM through a Training of Trainers (ToT) facilitated and supported by UNICEF in November 2013. The strategy for providing orientation session to individuals from other areas of disciplines is to increase the net through which initial information on grave violations can be alerted which will then be followed by a thorough investigation by a focal person who will assess the authenticity of the violation and take the appropriate action.

b) MRM incidents verification:

During the reporting period a total of 304 incidents were reported (MRM and Possibly MRM). Out of the total reported MRM cases, only 112 were verified in Iraq. Furthermore, Anbar governorate alone, a total of 76 MRM and possibly MRM incidents were reported. Out of the reported MRM cases in Anbar, a total of 65 were verified.

c. 13th Annual Report on CAAC & GHN:

The 13th Annual Report on ACCA was drafted, discussed and finalized by the TWG and endorsed by the CTF in January 2014 and the GHN report is currently in draft and will be finalized over the next few weeks.

Main implementation constraints & challenges

The main challenge UN is facing the upcoming parliamentary elections, which will impact the timely implementation of some activities of the project. It is anticipated that the implementation of the activities during the second quarter will slow down. To mitigate this, UNDP will focus on activities that should be implemented by Civil Society Organisations, namely the legal aid helpdesks and the consultations with CSOs on shelter policy.