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## **2014 (First) Consolidated Annual Progress Report on Activities Implemented under the Kurdistan Vision 2020 Facility Fund**

**Report of the Administrative Agent of the Kurdistan Vision 2020 Facility Fund  
for the period 1 January–31 December 2014**

**Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office**  
Bureau of Management  
United Nations Development Programme  
<http://mptf.undp.org>

31 May 2015

# Kurdistan Vision 2020 Facility Fund

## PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS



World Health Organization (WHO)



Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)



United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN)



World Food Programme (WFP)



United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)



International Labour Organisation (ILO)



United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

CONTRIBUTING DONORS



Kurdistan Regional Government

## **2014 (first) Consolidated Annual Progress Report on Activities Implemented under the Kurdistan Region-Iraq Trust Fund, Vision 2020**

### **Introduction**

The 2014 Annual (First) Progress Report on Activities Implemented under the Kurdistan Region Vision 2020 Fund is submitted to the Ministry of Planning of the Kurdistan Region Government (KRG), as well as the MPTF Office, in its capacity as the AA for the Facility in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the Facility TOR and further specified in the SAA and the MOU in fulfilment of the reporting provisions of the SAA. The information presented in this Progress Report covers the period 1 September to 31 December 2014.

On 31 October 2013 - The Kurdistan Region Government and the Integrated Coordination Office for Development and Humanitarian Affairs (ICODHA) of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) have signed of an agreement to launch a joint Trust Fund aimed at supporting the Kurdistan Region Government's development vision outlined in the Kurdistan Vision 2020 Development Strategy. The official title of the fund is "Kurdistan Vision 2020 Joint Programming Facility".

The Facility provides a mechanism for the Kurdistan Region Government to draw upon expertise of the United Nations System to support the realization of development objectives for and implementation of development programs targeting priority sectors including health and social services, education, employment, physical infrastructure, good governance and economic development. The Kurdistan Region Government is the main funder of the Facility, with the United Nations as a principal co-funder. The initial projects and joint programmes to be financed through the Facility, amounting to over \$18 million, of which over \$13.8 million is financed by the Kurdistan Region Government, supported the implementation of activities in the priority sectors.

The information contained in the remainder of the report is consolidated based on information and data provided in the individual progress reports prepared at regional level and financial statements submitted by Participating Organizations at headquarter level to the MPTF Office as well as information on decisions taken by the KR Vision 2020 Steering Committee throughout the course of the reporting period.

### **Summary of the Kurdistan Vision 2020**

In September 2013, the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) launched the "Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) 2020: A Vision for the Future" (in short, Kurdistan Vision 2020) presenting the future vision of KR-I and its policy priorities for the next five-year period (2013-2017).

The four strategic pillars of the Kurdistan 2020 Vision are:

- **Putting people first** through focusing programming that targets the areas of health, education, inclusiveness and the labour market.
- **Building the Kurdistan's regional infrastructure** through improved transportation, water and sanitation, electricity, housing and communications.
- **Building the economic prosperity** for the region through the areas of agriculture, private sector growth and environmental protection.
- **Strengthening good governance** through continually building an effective and honest Government, budget, and civil service through needed reforms.

To support the achievement of its Vision, the KRG established the Kurdistan Vision 2020 Joint Programming Facility (hereafter “Facility”), to leverage UN expertise for the achievement Kurdistan Vision 2020 under the leadership of the KRG Ministry of Planning (KRG MoP).

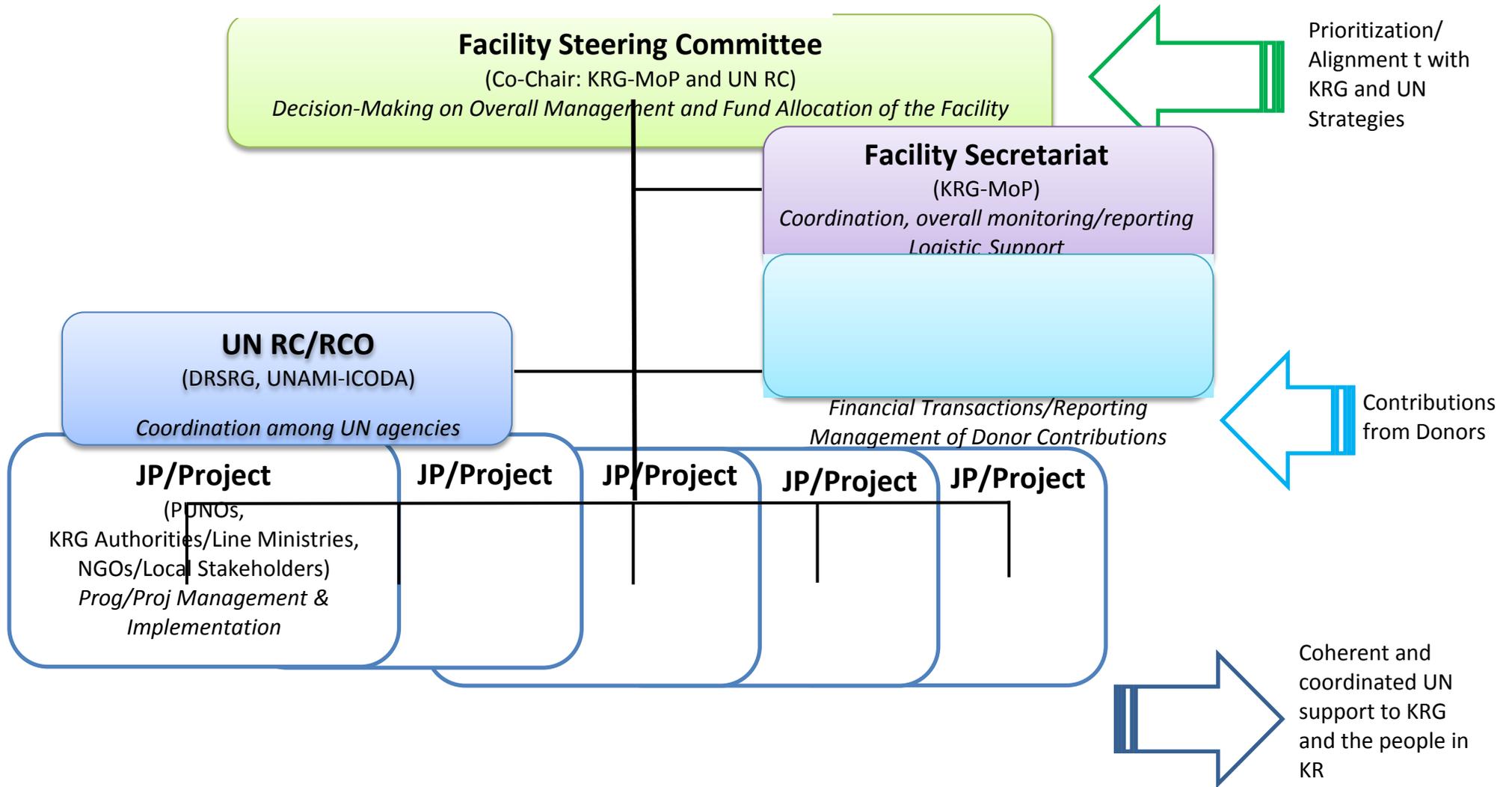
Embodying the principals of Paris Declaration for Aid Effectiveness and Accra Agenda for Action the strategic framework for the Facility is fully aligned with the KRG Vision 2020. The 2020 Vision provides a strategic framework for the KRG to work towards common goals focusing on improving the well-being of the population of the KR-I.

The activities of supported by the Facility are equally aligned and consistent with the common priorities of the KRG and UN as outlined in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) reflecting the overall development priorities in Iraq.

The Facility will be the primary financing mechanism between KRG and the UN agencies to achieve the common strategic priorities determined by the Kurdistan Vision 2020 and UNDAF. It is the first co-financing Facility, capitalized primarily from the KRG Investment budget, with UN counterpart contributions contributing to joint programming in the KR-I.

The Facilities overall strategic framework and governance and decision making structures are outlined in the Facility Terms of Reference.

# The Facility Governance Structure



## 4.1 Programme achievement

### 1. Pillar: Putting People First

#### Sector: Ensuring an Inclusive Society

##### **1.1 : MPTF No. : 91231 : Safer city in Suleimani under policy priority area : Assure equal opportunities for girls and women**

One of the main project objectives is to enhance capacity of duty bearers, in the intervention areas, and to respond to and prevent (VAW&G) in public space, in this regard UN WOMEN has contracted a firm to conduct the survey, analyze the data, and draft the initial reports on levels of harassment in Suleimaniyah. The firm, IDRC, was selected based on a competitive bidding process following our standard procurement guidelines. The company has expertise in data collection, will be using secure data processing software, and is aiming to have the project finalised within three months of the start date. The IDRC team will be working with the American University in Suleimaniyah on the data collection, focus group and subsequent analysis thereof. They will have a large team of surveyors in place, and use advanced software for data processing and analysis, also ensuring that the confidentiality of respondents is protected. The survey and analysis will be concluded in the first quarter of 2015.  
*Challenges and issues faced during implementation within the reporting period:*

The consultation with the stakeholders is underway in parallel with the survey which will be undertaken by UNWOMEN on related issues to Violence Against Woman to identify groups of duty bearers and right holders

##### **1.2 MPTF No.: 91232 : Strengthening the care, prevention and reintegration mechanisms for children and young people who are contact with the law, including increased employment opportunities for youth released from detention, under policy priority area : Assure the development and inclusion of youth**

No significant progress is reported under activity of Developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Social Workers (SWs) to undertake reintegration assistance (including training of SWs and piloting of the tools) but preparation for a consultative workshop with all relevant professional peoples from different ministries, Universities, NGOs and UN agencies started and planned to take place during the first week of February 2015 to discuss the structural mechanism and clear strategic direction for the implementation of social care programs by all stakeholders working with children in contact with the law.

With regard to providing reintegration assistance to children in contact with the law two meetings were held with a team of the General Directorate of Social Reform to discuss the implementation modality and identifying an experienced National NGO to implement the reintegration program, this entail organizing a study tour on alternative to detentions for key stakeholders and in this regard and in consultation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, two countries were proposed for study tour on alternative to detention for children in conflict with law. . The plan is expected to be finalized together with the ministry in January 2015. The period from September till December 2014 concluded discussions with the local counterparts as well as the involved UN agencies to draft and prepare policy paper on alternative care options for children and young people whom are unable to return back to their parents', the policy paper is being submitted to the Council of Minister for review and endorsement. UNFPA has prepared the rehabilitation package in terms of psycho- social services to be distributed and used during the rehabilitation process and training activities. Capacity of 22 social workers from the reformatories of Erbil, Suleymanieh and Dohuk was enhanced in screening risky behaviour through a five days' training workshop. The training focused on enhancing capacity of the social workers in screening risky

behaviour and its importance in the rehabilitation process. In this connection consensus has been reached over the training program of social workers and follow-up mechanisms on the three reformatories. A one day workshop was conducted on 9/11/2014 with the management and social workers of the three reformatories in Kurdistan. It was an orientation and planning workshop.

With regard to reproductive health vocational, employability and life skills training provided for 50 juveniles in MOLSA vocational training centers, assessment of the juvenile's vocational training needs in Dohuk and Suleymanieh reformatories has been conducted, a program on After-release support services has been introduced and developed in coordination with youth centers and local NGOs and in terms of providing technical assistance an agreement has been reached with American University in Beirut (AUB) to provide technical assistance on developing after release guidelines and capacity building of staff.

*Challenges and issues faced during implementation within the reporting period:*

One of the main challenges is related to the delay of fund transfer among the UN agencies due to un-clarity of the role and responsibility of different actors and un-clarity of the MoU as well as identification of experienced country with good practice of Justice for Children takes time.

Also changes of senior officials at the Juvenile Care Council and the Legal Department of Council of Ministers created delays in getting the relevant ministries on board and establishing a steering committee coupled with the security situation that prevented UNICEF and UNFPA staff from conducting the meetings necessary to move the project forward. First coordination meetings were scheduled for January 2015.

The mobilization of necessary human resources took longer than anticipated but the situation is currently solved.

1.3 MPTF No. : 91233 : Physical and Socio-Economic Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Persons with Disabilities/Mine Victims and Community Based Mine Risk Education and Victim Assistance in Kurdistan Region of Iraq, under policy priority area : **Assure the development and inclusion of youth**

During the reporting period there was no major progress in project activities, UNICEF with IKMMA have focused on finalizing the agreement, coordination at the local level, discussion and finalization of training materials. This entails 75 Community Focal Points identified to be trained on MRE (Mine Risk Education) as well as targeted border areas with Iraq, Turkey, and ISIS areas to be provided with Community Based Mine Risk Education. Implementation of major activities will start in January 2015.

*Challenges and issues faced during implementation within the reporting period:*

The fund transfer was delayed due to identification of partners and un-clarity of the role and responsibility of different actors and un-clarity of the MoU as well as finalisation of agreement between UNICEF and IKMMA.

1.4 MPTF No : 91235: Kurdistan Centre of Gender Studies, under policy priority area : **strengthen laws against discrimination and their enforcement**

UN Women has started this project by identifying the relevant partners to implement the project through applying UN standard bidding processes and the High Council of Women's Affairs-HCoWA is selected as the counterpart to coordinate with the relevant parties to implement the project. Among those who will contribute to this project are the Ministry of Higher Education represented by Soran University, UNDP and UNESCO. The UN Women and HCoWA have endorsed and signed the agreement according to the final version of the project document and the implementation is starting accordingly. The project will be supported for 2 years by UNDP and UN Women, by the end of the project period, it is expected that the Gender Studies Centre will be established and a fully integrated part of the Kurdistan Higher Education system. The project

will work to promote research, training and capacity building on gender issues throughout the public and private sector in Kurdistan and to provide policy advice.

*Challenges and issues faced during implementation within the reporting period:*

The key challenge in this project was the staff turnover which has created some gaps in term of communications and then delayed the implementation process. Another constraint is the delay of processing the required paperwork within the internal system of both government and the UN agencies and these challenges and issues were addressed by respective organizations and systems in place to accelerate implementation.

1.5 MPTF No: 91236: Harnessing evidence for community mobilization to eliminate FGM, under policy priority area : **strengthen laws against discrimination and their enforcement**

UNICEF in partnership with Heartland Alliance and in close collaboration with the High Council of Women Affairs designed a Baseline and Intervention Strategy Survey for the Eradication of FGM in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) to (a) address remaining gaps in knowledge of the prevalence and geographic distribution of FGM; (b) identify a benchmark for future measurement of reduction in FGM; (c) obtain additional information on the practice of FGM among ethnic and religious minorities in the KR-I, and (d) expand upon findings of the KAP survey to identify specific knowledge gaps with respect to social pressure to conduct FGM, and to identify the incentives for traditional birth attendants. The survey is expected to be carried out in early January with well-trained local surveyor group in targeted locations.

Also a survey on Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices conducted in Kurdistan Region to provide a qualitative and quantitative profile of the roots of FGM in religious, social, traditional, and cultural understanding, beliefs and practices. The survey provided specific information not only on how the practice of FGM is distributed geographically and demographically, but also how those who practice and support it, and those who do not, view FGM. This KAP survey targeted households in Erbil and Sulaimaniya governorates, including Garmiyān as a sub district of Sulaimaniya. These districts were selected based on Multi Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) conducted by UNICEF/Government of Iraq in 2010. MICS4 found that FGM is mostly practiced in these governorates, where one in two females surveyed were victims of FGM. In correlation, the current survey found that 58% and 55% of women and girls had been mutilated in the Erbil and Sulaimaniyah governorates respectively, adding further weight to the existing statistical evidence that FGM is a significant health issue in these regions and in the KR-I. The survey concluded some key findings of the report relate to the knowledge and understanding of participants on the practice of FGM. For example, 62.4% of women and 46.6% of men who were surveyed believe that FGM was not practiced in KR-I. Of those surveyed, a full 31.4% are not sure if FGM had any harm for the women involved, indicating a significant lack of awareness among some on the harmful nature of FGM. On the other hand, of participants surveyed, 43% say that the main reason they do not practice FGM is they do not want to harm their daughters. The final report is being translated into Kurdish and official launch took place on September 2014 where key stakeholder including Diplomatic institutions, Council of Ministers, UN Agencies, NGOs, and other professional and academic peoples are also participated

With regard to activities under community dialogues and focus group discussion with practicing and non-practicing communities took place with implementing partner WADI Organization to gauge underlying reasons for subscribing/abandonment of FGM practice. Nine meetings with a variety of community actors in areas representing different stages of awareness: Ranya, Qaladza, Toutaqal, Halabja, Garmyan; Two meetings in Sulaimaniyah, Two meetings in Erbil were held in different areas. Its results point to the fact that familiarity with FGM and its adverse health effects, as well as knowledge on the new Domestic Violence Law is generally still alarmingly low. so based on that, Wadi and UNICEF got into an agreement to develop a community dialogue campaign started early July 2014.

*Challenges and issues faced during implementation within the reporting period:*

- Lack of local partner with technical capacity to support the High Council Women Affairs in conducting the prevalence FGM Survey caused delay in starting the survey process, so getting into partnership with an International Organization is helpful in building capacity of the local organizations/governmental institutions to implement such technical
- Difficulty in identifying a local partner in designing and conducting FGM survey;
- Delay in allocating fund into UN agencies financial system;
- A series of meetings and discusses required for finalizing project document and approval

1.6 MPTF No :91237: Promote civic, social and economic participation of dis-advantaged youth in Kurdistan, under policy priority area: assure the development and inclusion of youth

ILO achievements during the reporting period :

- ILO drafted the TORs of the Project advisory committee. They were reviewed and agreed upon by the MOLSA. The Project Advisory Committee and its members will be in place by the time the report is submitted.
- ILO prepared the TORs for the rapid assessment of skills in the local labour market. Same was translated into Arabic and shared with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. A call for the expression of interest was published by the ILO on UNAMI and other UN agencies' web pages.
- ILO developed the Job Description of the National Project Coordinator position. The position was classified by HQ as NO-B. The vacancy was announced in early December 2014.
- ILO/UNFPA Chief Technical Advisor post will be advertised this week by the ILO.
- An ILO/UNFPA technical and programming mission was fielded to KRG between 22 and 25 September 2014. In-depth discussions were held with Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Planning, and the Chamber of Commerce and Industries on (a) the current realities of Kurdistan, and (b) the respective roles of MOLSA, ILO and UNFPA in the implementation of the project.
- The ILO/UNFPA log frame was revised (outputs, activities, performance indicators, baselines) and agreed upon with the MOLSA. The revised log frame was signed and submitted to MOLSA on 27 September. MOLSA in turn submitted it to MOP on 28 September. ILO translated the original PRODOC and the revised work plan (according to the demands of MOLSA), into Arabic and submitted these to MOLSA.

UNFPA achievements during the reporting period :

- *All the targeted disadvantaged (750) youth trained on life skills, community leadership and civic engagement in coordination with MOCY youth centers and youth NGO/s*
- Consensus has been made on the Life Skills package development processes, on the timeline for its development and on capacity building activities. This was achieved through a one-day workshop that was conducted with the management, trainers and resource persons of the vocational training centers in Kurdistan.
- *All the targeted youth (750) trained on health practices and RH education*

- A Peer Education package/manual has been prepared in both Sorani and Bahdinani dialects. This manual which tackles healthy lifestyles and promotes youth skills has been developed in participatory process with youth in Kurdistan and the greater Iraq
- Youth initiatives and voluntary works designed and implemented by the youth in their local communities also a Civic Engagement package has been prepared, translated into Kurdish and ready for printing. The package addresses voluntary work and builds the skills of youth in developing and implementing voluntary youth initiatives.

*Challenges and issues faced during implementation within the reporting period:*

In late August/early September 2014, the ILO was notified of the arrival of the first tranche (\$303,520) of the budget for this project, and the project's launching date was announced by MOP and MOLSA as 1 September. Yet, as the project was designed in 2012, there was a time gap of more than a year between the development and submission of the project for funding and the proposed launching of the project implementation. It was impossible, from a programmatic and administrative point of view, to start implementing the project without prior conversation with MOLSA, UNFPA and other stakeholders to review and adapt the project to evolutions in the target region.

1.7 : MPTF No 91238 : Socio-Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Kurdistan Region, under policy priority area : assure equal opportunities for girls and women

FAO achievements during the reporting period:

- A training programme to build the capacity of extension services staff has been developed incorporating a component for different food processing activities which will also support the establishment and/or revitalization of Production Groups and agro-industries to improve income generation activities of micro-industrial enterprise.
- A targeted needs assessment survey to identify the strategic investments and interventions required to promote agro-industrial development as well as the selection of the beneficiaries (Women and girls) was commissioned and will be complete in one month's time.

UNESCO achievements during the reporting period:

- Identified jointly with MoE the target locations where 10 community learning centres will be set-up;
- Names of Ministry of Education focal points in the Directorates of Education in Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Duhok have been compiled
- Initiated the process of calling for proposals for setting-up and running the community learning centres. A list of NGO's registered in MOE has been compiled

UNFPA achievements during the reporting period:

- The joint project document has been translated from English into Kurdish language.
- The project managerial committee with clear terms of reference has been established. This was established through a two- day launching workshop for all Focal Points from UN organizations and line Ministries. The meeting agreed on the plan of action and budget for one year; identified list of focal points; and agreed on the geographical areas, districts and sub-districts within the three governorates.
- Training guidelines and the toolkits that will be used to train the women health volunteers on how to do outreach on reproductive health/ family planning and gender based violence issues were developed and is in the process to translate the materials into Kurdish language
- Preparations for the focus groups discussions workshop has been finalized and the time for the training is set for 13-16 January 2015

- The women health booklet has been developed and the printing is pending the translation of the booklet into Kurdish language

UN WOMEN achievements during the reporting period:

- A consensus has been reached with the High Council for Women's Affairs on modalities of implementing the project. The two entities agreed that due to the layered nature of this programme, the UN WOMEN component, namely holding leadership trainings and establishing the women's organizations will happen towards the end of the project, once the other components, namely the literacy training, life skills trainings and agriculture trainings have begun. The women's organizations will be formed from these and will serve as an additional platform for engaging and enhancing women as leaders in their communities.
- Project locations were identified and agreed upon by all parties. A process of mapping organizations and personnel for the leadership training will commence soon.

*Challenges and issues faced during implementation within the reporting period:*

- Commencement of project activities as per the work plan has been postponed due to delay in receiving the national counterparts' approval on the agreed work plan for the first year of the project (UNESCO);
- Limited number of proposals were received from NGOs due to the small budget allocated for the implementation of project activities compared to funds allocated by other projects focusing on Syrian refugees and IDPs. Consequently, the deadline for submitting proposals was extended (UNESCO);

**1.8 MPTF No 91239 : UNV Capacity development and support to the Kurdistan Regional Government through volunteering, under policy priority area: assure the development and inclusion of youth**

- The framework to set up the KRG scheme for national UN Volunteers was established. The programme is now ready to integrate all the new national UN Volunteers under this scheme.
- There are still some operational problems concerning their financial allowances. UNVHQ is currently working on fixing the problems to make sure they receive their allowances on time.
- UNVHQ sent on mission the UNV Programme Officer in Tunisia to follow up on the implementation of the project.
- Based on the amount of money received up until now, it is possible to have 10-11 national UN Volunteers positions.
- Nine descriptions of assignments of Terms of Reference were drafted and we are currently waiting for approval from the Ministry of Planning. Once the approval is received, then the TORs will be submitted to UNVHQ for final clearance, then they can be advertised.

*Challenges and issues faced during implementation within the reporting period:*

- **Ongoing global review of national UN Volunteers proformas**
- **Management arrangements related to the change of focal points and absent of full time project manager**

Education Sector:

MPTF no. 91234: Piloting Child Friendly Schools with School Health and School Nutrition services to improve access to quality education in Kurdistan Region, under policy priority area: ensure access to all level of K-12 education

Due to the high influx of IDPs and refugees into Kurdistan Region recently, the four agencies and the MoE were mainly engaged to respond to emergency needs. Therefore, the size of interventions may not ensure concrete results. Unfortunately, WFP was not able to start the project yet and WHO could not engage a consultant to commence the work. Furthermore, the transferred fund reached UNICEF late September. Despite all challenges, UNICEF and UNFPA made the following achievements:

***UNICEF Progress during the report period***

- 30 schools have formed PTA (parents teacher association) to enhance community participation in school management and respond to the needs of the target schools.
- Technical capacity of 29 admin supervisors enhanced to support the target schools to improve quality of education.

***UNFPA progress during the report period***

Consensus has been reached on the developing Life Skills and Civic Engagement package for teacher training through a one-day workshop with the managers, supervisors, teachers and resources persons from MoE in three governorates. In the workshop agreement was reached on the process of developing life skills and civic engagement package for teacher training with detailed timeline and validation mechanism.

Another consensus has been reached on developing Life Skills and Civic Engagement package for school clubs through peer education (extra-curricula). The consensus was reached in a one-day workshop with the managers, supervisors, teachers and resources persons from Ministry of Education in three governorates. In the work-shop agreement is reached on the process of developing life skills and civic engagement activity package for students through peer education in the school clubs. Also agreement has been reached with American University of Beirut for developing school clubs guidelines.

*Challenges and issues faced during implementation within the reporting period:*

- Disagreement of teachers/principals/supervisors/parents on an exact time for training courses.
- Lack of an integrated training institution in Kurdistan Region.
- Involved UN agencies focused more on Humanitarian issues

Health sector

3.1 MPTF no. 91240 : Improving availability and access of quality PHC services in Kurdistan Region of Iraq, under policy priority area: improve the availability and quality of clinical services

Several key activities pertaining to the various outputs have been undertaken by the all four agencies. However, some delay has been encountered by all the four agencies due to adjustment of financial resources, creation of work plan and award etc. as per the requirements of the financial and operational management system of each involved agency. Almost all agencies have already assigned specific staff who will be able to work full time and thus focus better on the implementation aspects. As mentioned above WHO is working recruit a program manager and a program assistant who will work full time on the implementation of the project and these measures will expedite the progress of the project and the little delay caused in the first month will be remedied.

- The following activities have been implemented by each of the participating agencies:

#### WHO Progress during the reporting period :

- WHO recruited short term expert on family practice who is assigned to work on various components of the planned activities for the first quarter. After the selection of health facilities and discussion of each agency plan of action for the first quarter, WHO initiated the implementation of several activities which will support the implementation of planned activities at the 15 health facilities.
- As per the agreement with MOH focal points and DOH focal points, WHO conducted an orientation and planning workshop from 17-20<sup>th</sup> November for Erbil governorate. 33 Participants from the MOH KRG, DOH Erbil governorate and the health facilities staff of the five selected facilities participated in the four days workshop. The objective of the workshop was to orient the health staff at various levels about the basic principles of family practice, the mechanism which will be adopted with regard to implementation of 12 interventions which aimed to introduce and support the implementation of family practice. Similarly, the participants were introduced to the baseline assessment tools which have been used later at the health facilities in order to gather information about the current status of health facilities and helps in the identification of shortcoming and gaps related to all aspects of care. Furthermore, an arrangement on how to implement and monitor the implementation of the 12 interventions was agreed. Teams to co-ordinate and supervise the implementations were assigned at various levels. The planning workshop was followed by a five days baseline assessment. One day was specified to make a visit to each health facility. The detailed assessment report is ready for review and will be shared with all the partner agencies.
- Likewise an orientation and planning workshop took place from 7-10 December in Sulaimaniya governorate. The workshop was attended by 31 health officials from DOH Sulaimaniya as well staff of the five health facilities where family practice will be implemented. The four days workshop was followed by a baseline assessment which took place from 11-15 December. The planning workshop for Dohuk governorate will take place from 21-24 December which will be followed by a five days assessment. The responsible officers of the three involved UN agencies were invited to the planning workshops and they presented their planned activities in order to ensure synergy and enhance complementarity among the various planned activities supported by all the four agencies.

#### UNICEF Progress during the reporting period:

The project start-up was delayed due to known reasons. This delay added with the crisis that erupted in from last August 2014 in KRG, impacted negatively on the implementation process. UNICEF's progress during the reporting period is as below:

- NRC's visited and supply ordered
- Growth monitoring tools has been supplied to respective DOHs and follow-up with concerned DOHs is ongoing for transfer of those supplies to the PHCs.
- Assessment tools for preventive health services finalized

It is imperative to underline that several planned activities will be implemented in the last two weeks of December and coming January.

#### UNFPA Progress during the reporting period:

UNFPA has successfully reviewed the guidelines for family planning for participants as well as trainers. Similarly, family planning counselling Decision Making tool (DMT) for trainers is finalized and is being translated into Kurdish language and the printed copies readily available for use. In addition, the training manuals for Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Youth Friendly Health Services (YFHS) as well as Emergency Obstetric & Neonatal Care

(EmONC) training guidelines were developed. In addition, a TOT on family planning counselling was conducted and TOT on family planning for service providers will be conducted in the last ten days of December.

Moreover, it is important to underline that sufficient amount of contraceptives have been procured and ready for distribution. Development of Women Health Booklet in Kurdish language: translation and validation by MOH finalized, design is in process and printing should follow in January.

Development, validation of women health social workers guideline finalized, translation and printing will follow Next quarter.

WFP Progress during the reporting period:

As stated in the outset, the pace of implementation in the first quarter was affected due to engagement of the current staff in the implementation of emergency programs. WFP is currently in the process of recruiting a full time technical officer who will work on the implementation of the project. All the pending activities planned for the first quarter will be implemented in the second quarter of the project in addition to implementation of the planned activities for the second quarter

*Challenges and issues faced during implementation within the reporting period:*

- Engagement of all partner agencies staff in emergency response
- Creation of work plan in alignment with each agency system requirements
- Engagement of Ministry of Health and Directorate of Health officials in Emergency Response

## 2. Pillar : Building the Region Infrastructure:

### Housing Sector

#### 2.1 MPTF no. 91241: Strengthening Urban and Regional Planning in KRG, under policy priority area : improve land use regulation

Six lectures have been delivered as part of the programme of formal training on key issues in urban and regional planning, this fall under outcome Improving substantive and administrative capacities of staff within KRG and Erbil Governorate urban planning units. The lectures (attended by an average 26 trainees per session) tackled issues related to urban growth, development patterns, land use, density, participatory planning, sustainability, integration, and inclusiveness.

The three-week Geographic Information System (GIS) training course that UN-habitat launched at the end of November 2014 was attended by nine technical staff from the urban planning units of the Ministry of Municipalities and Tourism (MoMT) and the Directorate of Urban Planning of Erbil were taught fundamental GIS principles and the role that GIS plays in the scientific processes of measuring, mapping, monitoring and modeling urban and rural areas. The training course offered three sequential modules on the latest ArcGIS 10 software from ESRI, from Basic GIS skills and concepts to Advanced Spatial Analysis, focusing on how and when to apply ArcGIS tools to create an efficient workflow that supports GIS analysis, the preparation of data for analysis, geo-processing models and associated challenges. At the end of each module, trainees undertook exams. The highest scores were attained by three young staff members of the Directorate of Urban Planning of Erbil, two of which women, whose hard work and results were praised during the final certificates' event. Their newly acquired skills may be soon put at good use and contribute to a better understanding of urban development trends in Erbil.

During this reporting period, the project management team has identified and selected consultants and contractors for the delivery of activities to be undertaken in the next quarters.

*Challenges and issues faced during implementation within the reporting period:*

The project has not suffered particular setbacks, aside from:

- The reluctance of several consultants to travel to Erbil due to perceived security situation

- Training sessions need to be arranged during working hours since staff is unwilling to undertake courses in the afternoon

### Sector : water and sanitation for a growing economy

3.1: MPTF no. 01242 : Water Conservation and Demand Management through Public Awareness and Education Program, under policy priority area : complete an integrated water resources management plan

During the reporting period a one day workshop was conducted in Erbil with participation of nine officials from General Directorate of Water and Sewage / Ministry of Municipalities and Tourism, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and water directorate from the three KR-I governorates, whom will be the ministerial taskforce. The taskforce reviewed and approved the taskforce ToR and governorate taskforce ToR. Additionally, two TV spot and 17,300 t-shirts were developed. The TV spots and t-shirts were developed through UNICEF Communication section in consultation with Water and Sanitation section. The broadcast of the spots will be done during 2015 as part of the communication package which is under development, while the t-shirts were distributed during the celebration of global hand washing day

The implemented activities are contribution to output no. 1 and output no 3 of this project “Public Awareness taskforce at Governorate level established” and “People in KRG have better knowledge and attitude on water conservation and hygiene practices “ .

*Challenges and issues faced during implementation within the reporting period:*

Competing demands of emergency program makes it difficult to pay attention to the regular program in UNICEF WASH – and WCDM Program is part of the regular program. Solution: UNICEF is recruiting more WASH staff

### 3. Pillar : Putting Government to work for the People

Sector : effective and honest government .

MPTF no. 91243: Capacity building and technical support for the Independent Board of Human Rights in the Kurdistan, under policy priority area: **create high level standards and ensure ethical behaviour by government**

During the reporting period, the capacity of the new Independent Board of Human Rights (IBHR) was enhanced through a review of Law 4/2010 in line with the Paris Principles and the development of a jointly agreed vision that outlines the Kurdistan Region’s human rights priorities, and enhances the understanding of international standards and operating frameworks of National Human Rights Institutions.

This was a result of the meeting of 27 members of the IBHR and 20 human rights activists from Duhok, Erbil, and Sulaymaniyah met in Erbil to discuss the vision of the IBHR and the way forward. The principles of adopting equity, equality, justice and inclusiveness have been adopted to guide and inform the vision of the IBHR. Also education, domestic violence, youth, children and the death penalty were identified as thematic areas for their work in the Kurdistan Region.

In addition, to enhance the capacity of the board members and the core staff to perform their duties and provide the required services, during the reporting period UNDP organized and conducted three workshop trainings for 25 key staff of the IBHR. These participants benefited from these workshop trainings which enhanced the understanding of: international standards and operating frameworks of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs); prioritizing the key activities and; linking them with IBHR's thematic priorities; as well as developing the capacity of the staff and better understanding international standards of human rights to protect the rights of people, and closely experience other national human rights institution.

As per the Annual Work Plan, several achievements have been made. The Terms of References (TOR) for the consultant has been prepared to assess the needs of the IBHR, review the current action plan, and the organizational structure of the board, and to propose a comprehensive and inclusive structure in line with the Boards mandate. This will also include the development of ToR for departments and offices within the Board and identify the human resources capacity needed, assess the capacity and outline relevant training programme. On September, the TOR was announced and the procurement process completed on November 2014, with the consultant scheduled to join UNDP by end of January 2015 to commence her duties.

*Challenges and issues faced during implementation within the reporting period:*

- The security situation impacted the timely recruitment of the Human Rights Expert.
- The Humanitarian situation in the region affected the implementation of planned activities