

**Final Narrative Report
of
the Kurdistan Vision 2020 Facility
for the period October 2014 to 31 December 2016**

**Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
Bureau of Management
United Nations Development Programme
[GATEWAY: http://mptf.undp.org](http://mptf.undp.org)**

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS



Food and Agriculture
Organizat



International Labour
Organisat



UNDP(MDTF/PUNO
only).



United Nations
Educational, Sc



United Nations
Population Fund



UN Centre for Human
Settlement



United Nations Children's
Fund



UNWOMEN



World Food Programme



World Health
Organization

CONTRIBUTORS



Kurdistan Regional Govt Iraq

Introduction

The final 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) in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the Facility TOR and further specified in the SAA and the MOU. The information presented in this Progress Report covers the period October 2014 to 31 December 2016.

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 provided 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 was the main funder of the Facility and had pledged a total of approximately USD 13.9 million of which USD 4.2 million were transferred. In addition, the Participating UN Organizations also provided resources for the programmes funded through the facility. The total resources provided by the Participating UN Organization are estimated at approximately USD 4.1 million.

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 were:

- **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.

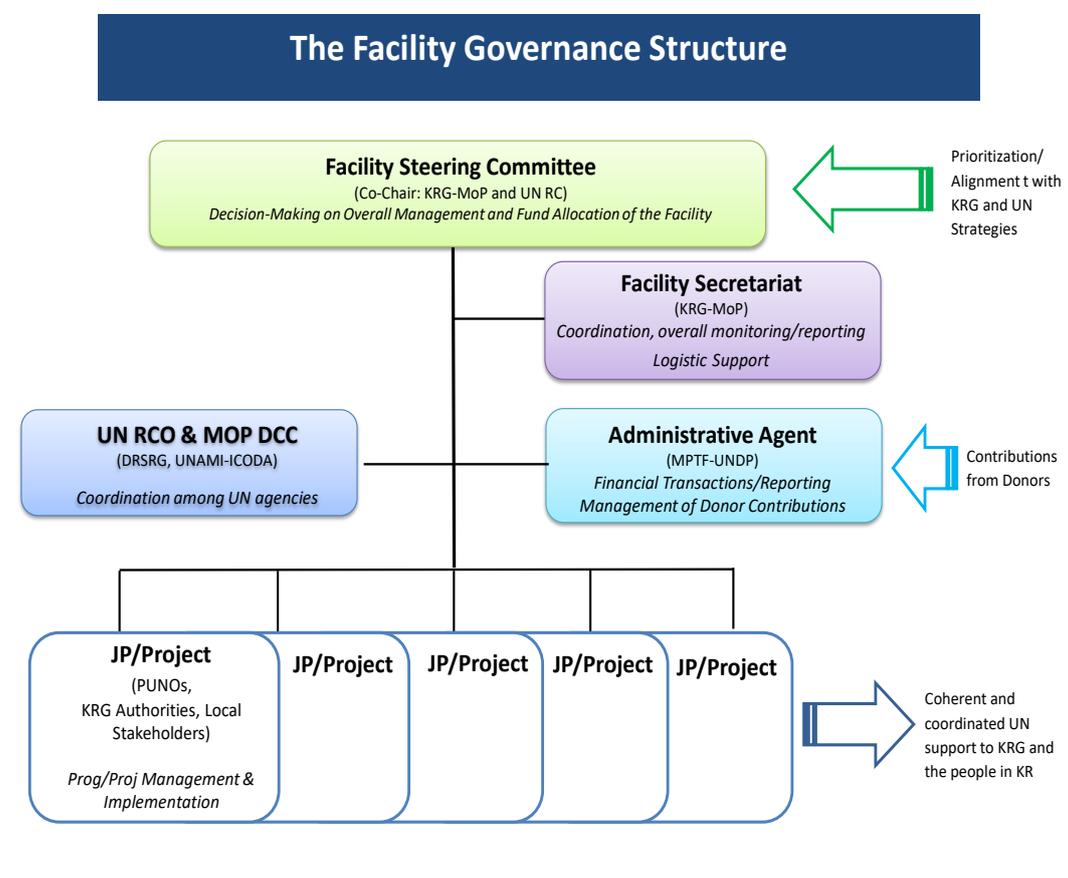
To support the achievement of its Vision, the KRG established the Kurdistan Vision 2020 Joint Programming Facility (hereafter "Facility"), to leverage UN expertise for the achievement of the Kurdistan Vision 2020 under the leadership of the KRG Ministry of Planning (KRG MoP).

Embodying the principals of Paris Declaration for Aid Effectiveness and Accra Agenda for Action the strategic framework for the Facility was 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 supported by the Facility were 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 was 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 was 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 were outlined in the Facility Terms of Reference.



Closure of Kurdistan Vision 2020 Joint Programming Facility

Similar to the rest of Iraq, the fiscal crisis and the security challenge posed by the ISIS insurgency have had a significant adverse impact on economic growth in the Kurdistan Region. Kurdistan Region has been dealing with the fall in revenues by a combination of postponing its investment projects, letting payments fall in arrears including wages and salaries of government employees.

The ISIS insurgency has put significant pressures on the Government through increased security spending and the influx of refugees and IDPs.

The impact of political and financial crises the Kurdistan Government is facing caused lack of financial resources to pay the second tranche which affected the continuity of Facility Fund.

Following the admin order issued by KRG Prime Minister on 11 February 2015 instructing the KRG Ministries to close projects that could not be financed, the Steering Committee met on 9th March 2016 where a decision was made to dis-continue the Facility fund. Accordingly, two letters were issued by the facility fund Secretary on 16 June and 16 August, 2016 that were sent to UN agencies and KRG counterparts on closing the 2020 Joint Facility Fund.

It is also worth mentioning that KRG is facing a wide range of immediate and medium to longer-term challenges that are intrinsically linked to the overall macroeconomic situation of Iraq, these challenges, which would bear significant repercussions nationally and internationally if inadequately addressed, are immediate priorities for the KRG..

2020 Joint facility Fund – Projects achievements

1. Pillar: Putting People First

Sector: Ensuring an Inclusive Society

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

One of the main project objectives was to enhance capacity of duty bearers, in the intervention areas, and to respond to and prevent Violence against Women and Gender (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 Slemani. The firm, IDRC, was selected based on a competitive bidding process following UN standard procurement guidelines. The main activity conducted was the Women's Safety Audit. Maps of the Slemani public location have been provided by the municipality with the GIS information. Civil society members assessed through the map for identifying the most sensitive routes to the female of Slemani (Women and Girls) although all the locations are considered women are not feeling comfort they face harassment every were but the selected locations are the routes women are most sensitive. Designing the questionnaire form, civil society groups have been consulted about the questions should be included. Before starting the Woman Safety Audit (WSA) training and meetings were organized with the project Board and Core groups to have their inputs and potential ideas. WSA workshop was been conducted September 8th 2015 to the civil society 16 volunteer (including various age, level of education, etc). WSA conducted by the volunteers, according to the selected routes within Slemani public market (from Mawlawi street –Kaso mall –cinema location, Qrzdya street) 2nd Baredaka –malwai---mhkjama – Emergency hospital and Qanat street 3rd Mzgwate gawra –Kaneskan --- Jumla bazaar up to Kaneskan main street. Follow up meeting with the civil society groups and gathering filled questioners from them, which included analysis of data. Questionnaire results have been analyzed by the project team according to the data collected by volunteers in preparation of producing a final audit report to share with the local authorities. Work was also started on producing the Neighborhood Upgrading plan and consultation was conducted with local stakeholders to develop a vision statement and objectives for the area. Vision Statement developed: "Space where business and people can work in harmony, safety and a good environment". Objectives of the Vision are:

1. Culture of prevention
2. Better coordination between stakeholders
3. Legal and regulation
4. Social – community contract/responsibility
5. Built environment/physical
6. Access and mobility
7. Focus on women and g

Also the project Enhanced capacity of rights holders in the intervention areas to respond to, and prevent VAW&G in public spaces:

- Engaged stakeholders to participate in consultative process;
- Public participation plan developed.
- Beginning of process of engagement of local media actors and local business in order to organise public information sharing on VAW&G issues (media sensitisation);

- Preparation of public awareness campaign strategy;
- Review strategy with local stakeholders and municipality;
- The project contributed to Improve the local infrastructure through Working with Community Police

Challenges and issues faced during implementation within the reporting period:

Concerns regarding working with local authorities who are not being paid – low morale, issues with attendance. Also delay in receiving the second tranche affected the continuity of project activities.

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

Following the agreement with the two local implementing partners in the Kurdistan Region (KSC and Harikar) Organization, 192 children in contact with the law provided with social reintegration services. In addition to that, 150 children in contact with the law during the pre-trial are provided with legal aid services. An estimated of more than 100 children released by the juvenile judge and kept under the supervision of the behavior monitoring unit at the juvenile court.

UNICEF in close cooperation with the Swedish Prison and Probation Service organized a study tour to Sweden and attended by Chairman of the Juvenile Care Council, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) , two members, social workers, juvenile judges, and police officers from the three Governorates of the Kurdistan Region to share experiences and good practices about juvenile justice in particular alternative to detention for children in contact with the law.

As a follow up to the Sweden study tour that was conducted on March 2015 and the recommendation of the workshop in promoting alternative to detention, UNICEF and MoLSA continue to engage strengthening Juvenile Justice Coordination in all three governorates in KRG. The Juvenile Justice Task Force (JJTF) was established in three governorates. The task force consists of social workers from observation house and reformatory centers, juvenile judges, Juvenile Magistrate, Head of Juvenile detention, Director of Social reformatories, Human Rights Commission, public prosecutors, Juvenile police officers, and representatives of MoLSA, UNICEF, and a local NGO.

The Juvenile Justice Task Force and during 2016 met twice in Erbil , Slemani and Dohuk to update on the situation of children in contact with the law, challenges and achievements and advocate for issues requires urgent action for the improvement of the Juvenile Justice system, including promoting alternative to detention measures. Three major achievements being made at the regional level through the advocacy made by the group with the Ministry of Interior:

- Assign a Police Officer to be focal point at each district police stations in different areas of the three governorates where there are no Juvenile Policy officers to accelerate the investigation and diversion of children who are in contact with the law;
- Provide social workers to the juvenile police centers to accompany children during investigation process;
- The juvenile Police in Slemani equipped with two more caravans to have more spaces for children’s investigation while waiting.

A Foster Care Pilot Project started in Slemani. A technical consultative committee and a local implementing group established to oversee the project implementation. In addition a legal consultation meeting organized by UNICEF implementing partner STEP's international legal consultant on 5th December 2015. The meeting was attended by 12 Participants including juvenile judges, attorney general, Head of the Juvenile Police, legal representative of MoLSA, STEP lawyers, and UNICEF

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, Slemani and Dohuk was enhanced in screening risky behavior through a five days' training workshop. The training focused on enhancing capacity of the social workers in screening risky behavior and its importance in the rehabilitation process.

With the 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 Slemani reformatories has been conducted by UNFPA, a program on After-release support services have been introduced and developed in coordination with youth centers and local NGOs and in term of providing technical assistant 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.

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Challenges and issues faced during implementation within the reporting period:

The delay in receiving second tranche has delayed implementation of some activities.

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 implementation period, the project achieved the following results:

A total of 234 Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) provided with Ortho-Prosthetic devices (both upper and lower limbs). A total of 1,104 PwDs provided with Physiotherapy services. A total of 415 PwDs provided with maintenance to their prosthetic devices (artificial limbs). A total of 471 PwDs provided with Mobility Aids (i.e. crutches, wheelchair, walker frame, etc.) UNDP activities have been suspended by the implementing partners due to unavailability of the 2nd installment payment starting July 2015, however their outputs are already exceeding the expected outputs indicated in the project document.

The CBR teams of the three cooperate partner agencies conducted home visits, economic assessment and awareness advises for 30 PwDs and their families. The team established 30 income-generating projects for PwDs in need, based on the economic assessments and priorities.

In collaboration with University of Sleimani; KORD implemented a social activity included various activities such as exhibition, 3 seminars by the academicians about disability issues, educational and artistic activities. The activities lasted for 3 days in the University of Sleimani, and created a great impact on the attendees. The aim of this activity was to give awareness to the students, teachers, and PwDs about the rights of the PwDs, and how to respect and deal with these disabilities in general and inside education paths. The content of the seminars, were related to the subjects concerning bridging between university and society and namely disability issues. This is mainly to raise awareness of the public towards the rights of persons with disabilities and to recognize their abilities and invest them in society.

During December 2015; UNDP contributed extra cash, amounting US\$24,000 to the three implementing partners, covering income generating support for 6 women with disabilities and conducted additional advocacy campaigns for the rights of persons with disabilities.

UNICEF, in coordination with its implementing partner IKMAA, visited 35 schools in Dohuk Governorate with a two-fold scope. First, assess the teaching methodology in place for the MRE messages, which form part of the formal education curriculum. Second, provide orientation to school teachers orient on how to engage with children in schools and teach them about MRE.

UNICEF has also contributed to train 45 religious leaders in Kura town on MRE/UXOs during April 2016. Leaflets and posters have been distributed by IKMAA among people visiting Kuna, a tourist area. The leaflets were used to orient the religious leaders about risk mitigation and prevention measures as related to the use of mines and UXOs. IKMAA worked with religious leaders to disseminate education and raising awareness messages through the mosques. The team from IKMAA visited mosques for field monitoring, to ascertain the degree and quality of participation and support extended by the religious leaders.

25 billboards have been displayed in 25 targeted Mine/UXO contaminated villages. Communities were selected based on the following main criteria: mine contamination, and number of victims in each village as per existing data. The billboards contain information on MRE focal point of the village, particular community mapping and mine contaminated areas in the village in Erbil, Dohuk and Sleimani.

UNICEF supported the training on MRE held during April and May 2015 for 18 community leaders, and 45 NGO field staff from SCI and Harikar working in IDP camps such as Domiz, Akre and Darashakran in Dohuk governorate. The training was facilitated by IKMAA. The training focused on type and history of Mines and UXOs, key messages of prevention, how to get help while at risk of mines in the field, guidance when you reach mines or UXOs.

Challenges and issues faced during implementation within the reporting period:

UNDP and UNICEF activities have been suspended by the implementing partners due to unavailability of the 2nd installment payment.

1.4 MPTF No : 91235: Kurdistan Centre of Gender Studies (KCGS), under policy priority area : Strengthen laws against discrimination and their enforcement

During the Implementation period, the following achievements by all the partners working on the Kurdistan Centre for Gender Studies (KCGS) comprising of UN Women, UNDP, Soran University and the High Council of Women Affairs (HCoWA) were carried out:

UN Women, UNDP, Soran University and the High Council of Women Affairs (HCoWA) during 2015-2016 managed to conduct series of meetings of the KCGS board and were organized to follow up on the progress and challenges. Also the KCGS has amended the Terms of Reference and the work plan according to the new timelines set for the activities and the upcoming trends and deploying a UNV

to support the activities of the KCGS related to coordination with the communities, networking and mobilizing.

The official opening event of the KCGS was organized on 2.12.2015 with attendance of the Deputy Prime Minister, president of Soran University, Governor of Erbil, Ministers, UN Women and representation from other UN agencies and NGOs.

UNDP has facilitated a session in the one day workshop conducted in June 4th 2015 explaining the structure of the center and operating tools and techniques. The UNDP gender specialist has supported the center with lessons learned and best practices of the GSC in Baghdad.

Five days Training during April 2016 was conducted by UNDP which helped to develop the capacity of 8 trainers and enable them to understand the nature, purpose and methods of coaching, it further provided an opportunity to practice training skills and raise awareness about the topics covered in the training. In addition, the first round of the trainings has been conducted for staff of the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

Six trainers have been selected to be hired by the center who will conduct the first trainings for the targeted KRG institutions. .

Another round of ToT three days course with support from UNDP to the Management Team and stakeholders to orient them about the project and its objectives. Seminars were carried out on the topic (Public, Police and Pupils) on 21 September 2016, for raising awareness about prejudices against women at workplace. Two Trainings were held for the Police force and Traffic police regarding various Gender based topics in Soran district on September 2016. Conducted meetings with the Directorate of Violence against Women on the 27th of September 2016.

Challenges and issues faced during implementation within the reporting period:

The key challenges of this project were the turnover of staff in UN Women and Soran University as the leading implementing partner for this project. Another constraint was the delay of 2nd payment by KRG.

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

The Heartland Alliance International (HAI), in close collaboration with High Council Women Affairs (HCWA) and UNICEF, completed the data collection process through field research and focus group discussions and managed to input all data into a system (specially designed data base), this was done during 2015. All the collected data was evaluated on rolling basis to allow for additional correction in the field if there are errors in the data collection (e.g. survey instruments not properly filled out or surveyor input is illegible). The survey included a total of 6,259 questionnaires from all governorates of Kurdistan Region.

HAI conducted four tests runs of the data system prior to launching the survey, coinciding with key milestones in preparing and finalizing the survey instrument. These include: 1) entering data from the pre-test survey instrument; 2) entering data from the pilot test; 3) testing data input from staff to monitor and verify input controls upon collection of the first set of real data from the field. It is worth mentioning that 9 communities were mobilized to promote elimination and prevent FGM and this will raised the profile of the FGM elimination in the KRI policy making agenda.

The HCWA, in a close collaboration with the UN WOMEN in Iraq and Egypt, organized a study visit to Egypt during Q4 2015 involved seven key senior officials from different Ministries and Departments such as Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Directorate of Combating Violence Against Women, the High Council of Women Affairs, Kurdistan Religious Union, and a representative from the UNWOMEN. The main goal of the visit was to exchange experiences, challenges and lessons learned on the harmful traditional practices, in particular FGM that is practiced in both countries of Egypt and Iraq and especially in KRG.

Nine meetings with a variety of community actors in areas representing different stages of awareness: Ranya, Qaladza, Toutaqal, Halabja, Garmyan; Two meetings in Selimani, Two meetings in Erbil were held in different areas. The 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.

Challenges and issues faced during implementation within the reporting period:

Similar to other projects, the delay in receiving second tranche resulted in delays in implementation of some activities.

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

Training workshops were implemented during the programme's life on subjects of concern to equip young Kurdish men and women, as possible with the relevant technical skills in selected occupations, job seeking and entrepreneurship skills. Of these, vocational curricula designed using the DACUM and CBT approach. A number of instructors from seven MOLSA Vocational Training Centers (Erbil, Duhok, Suleimani, Soran, Garmyan, Zakho and the Swedish Academy in Erbil) were trained and are able to develop new CBT-curricula in six occupations (Car mechanics, electrical wiring installation, Air conditioning, Mobile telephone repair, hair-dressing and iron works in construction).

The ILO manual "My first Business"-MFB- translated to Kurdish –Badini during the period October-December 2015. First workshop on MFB conducted in Erbil for the period 3-8/October 2015. Twenty three participants from MOLSA directorate of loans were participated. The MFB manual in Kurdish-Sorani used for training. Based on consultation with Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the directorate of Loans, the workshop programme was modified to cover two topics instead of one. The first topic was on the technical content of the MFB manual and the second topic was on the management of loans to develop MOLSA staff skills in planning, implementing and monitoring the loans to the target groups.

UNFPA conducted TOT workshop on Life skills conducted for the period 6-15 December 2015, for twenty four instructors from seven MOLSA Vocational Training Centers in (Erbil, Duhok, Slemani, Soran, Garmyan and Zakho and Swedish academy in Erbil). TOT workshop on Peer Education conducted for the period 19-23 November 2015. Twenty eight instructors from the youth centers of the Ministry Of Culture and Youth (MOCY) and some youth NGO have participated in the workshop.

During the implementation period 8 sets of manuals were developed and printed on Know about Business, 5 sets of manuals were developed and printed on life skills as well as a training guide on life skills to be used by the trainers and participates during the technical training session also to be used y MoLSA.

The activity Knowledge of Business “KAB TOF workshop” was conducted over 12 days from 27 August to 8 September 2016, it was facilitated by the KAB Regional Key Facilitators and ILO technical specialist. Overall, capacities were strengthened and enhanced and an action plan was discussed and agreed upon with the participants.

Challenges and issues faced during implementation within the reporting period:

The main challenge was the delay in receiving the second tranche due to the financial crises the KRG is facing.

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

During the implementation period FAO, UNESCO, UNFPA and UN Women were able to deliver the following achievements :

FAO:

A target need assessment survey to identify strategic investments and interventions required revision is completed. Selection of 450 rural women and girls as beneficiaries according to the special criteria is completed. FAO conduct memorandum of understanding with NCARE/ Jordan to organize training course for eighteen Iraqi extension officers working with Iraqi local communities in KRI three governorates to upgrade their capacity in the field of food processing and bee keeping. The first training course of six TOT representing Erbil, Dohuk and Slemani governorates in the field of milk processing was conducted successfully in NCARE/Jordan during the period 15-19 Feb 2015. The knowledge gained by the trainees from the training course is expected to be transferred to other extension service staff and selected beneficiaries (rural women and girls). The second training course of six TOT representing Erbil, Dohuk and Slemani governorates in the field of fruit processing was conducted successfully in NCARE/Jordan during the period 22-26 March 2015. The knowledge gained by the trainees from the training course is expected to be transferred to other extension service staff and selected beneficiaries (rural women and girls).

The third training course of six TOT representing extension services in Erbil, Dohuk and Slemani governorates in the field of Bee keeping and honey production was conducted during the period 24-28 May 2015. The knowledge gained by the trainees from the training course is planned to be transferred to other extension service staff and selected beneficiaries (rural women and girls). A targeted needs assessment to identify the interventions required to promote agro-industrial development in the selected training centers was completed.

UNESCO:

Based on the evaluation of NGOs proposals, three NGOs were selected namely; PGN in Erbil, KSDO in Slemani and Alind in Duhok., UNESCO contracted the three NGOs to open ten community learning centers (CLCs) targeting 600 women and girls as per below distribution:

Governorate	Name of NGO
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Erbil	Peace Generation Network (PGN), 180 women and girls
Slemani	Kurdistan Social Development Organization (KDSO), 180 women and girls
Duhok	Alind organization for youth democratizing 240 women and girls

UNESCO agreed with the above mentioned NGOs on eight months of overall implementation period as agreed with MoE. During the reporting period, the below activities were implemented in Erbil, Slemani and Duhok governorates:

- The three NGOs continued delivered literacy and life skills classes;
 - Around 95% of the learners are able to read and write with 40% learning basic mathematics (adding, subtracting, among others)
 - Delivered 60 hours of literacy classes for reading, writing, mathematics, and sociology with an average of 12 hours per week in each governorate.
 - Delivered at least 4 hours per week hours of psychosocial and health information per literacy class in each governorate. These orientation sessions provide the students with information about how to take good care of their health and the health of their children and thus reduce disease and pay attention to hygiene in addition to their psychosocial health in each governorate.
- Around 80% of students performed well in the literacy tests and exams based on teachers' records in each governorate. A budget of USD 90,000 is allocated as per the project document to provide literacy classes and life skills training in ten CLCs. As UNESCO received only USD 50,000 against the first tranche out of which USD 46,727 is allocated for providing literacy classes and life skills training in the three KRG governorates, each NGO contract was divided into two contracts of four months. The first contract was completed on 15th Nov, 2015. Since the three selected NGOs could not deliver all required supporting documents for the final payment, UNESCO signed one month contract with them starting on 26 January till 29 February 2016 to complete all activities and submit all required supporting documents.

UNFPA:

The field reports for Focus Groups Discussion (FGDs) on FP/GBV in the target areas for the project: Amedi (Dohuk), Binaslawa (Erbil) and Raniya (Slemani) that were conducted on Aug. 15 were all sent to research leader from American University of Beirut (AUB) who will complete the final report and come up with the result at the end to inform and measure the level of accessibility, utilization and satisfaction of RH/ FP services in the above mentioned target areas. Trainings were conducted for the social workers in Erbil (9 participants: 6 females, 3 male) on 30 Nov. – 3 Dec., and Slemani (12 participants: 6 females & 6 male) and Dohuk (12 participants: 4 females, 8 male) both on 7-10 Dec. 15.

UNWOMEN:

UN Women and High Council of Women Affairs have organized joint meetings and identified the key work plan to be implemented in the upcoming quarter. Participation in the joint managerial committee meeting to discuss the progress and the future plan. UN Women has developed a ToR and work plan for a consultancy (either through an NGO or a consulting company) to support the training the women beneficiaries on leadership skills and establishment of the 3 women associations in the three governorates in the targeted areas to facilitate social participation, acting as centers for information exchange and legal support among rural women. UN Women has made the required logistics and procurement arrangements to process with the advertisement of the consultancy and it will be processed once the targeted beneficiaries are identified by UNESCO. The local consultant hired by UN Women will start the required tasks by mid-January 2016 in coordination with the High council of Women Affairs.

Challenges and issues faced during implementation within the reporting period:

Delay in receiving the second tranche of the fund affected the implementation of project activities as well as continuity.

1.8 MPTF No 01239 : UNV Capacity development and support to the Kurdistan Regional Government through volunteering, under policy priority area: assure the development and inclusion of youth

During the Implementation period 13 volunteers were recruited and served for various periods of time, mostly they completed their service, under the project. They were assigned to serve in 6 different UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UN Women and UNAMI). The hired volunteers were allocated to the cost sharing projects under the 2020 facility fund.

Out of 13 volunteers 5 are male and 8 females. This project thus gave a chance to young women to build their capacity. It is interesting to note that during the recruitment process, there were significantly more male applicants, but almost equal number of male and female applicants reached long and shortlisting. Female applicants were more diligent in creating their application thus increasing their chances to be selected.

The volunteers benefited from 7 training courses conducted during 20115-2016 on communication, administration, gender mainstreaming, job search, project planning, result based management, monitoring and evaluation as well as training on mentors.

An Assessment of Capacity Building Needs Study was conducted, using the 13 volunteers as a focus group, representative if youth volunteers in KR-I in general. The study offers a comprehensive analysis of the volunteer's training needs in order to become junior professionals.

A Learning Strategy was developed on the basis of the study. Due to unexpected delay in the consultant's delivery, only a summary was delivered, however this summary is a sufficient guideline as to what kind of trainings need to be provided to the volunteers.

Challenges and issues faced during implementation within the reporting period:

As for other projects, the delay in receiving the second tranche affected the recruitment of a number of UNV.

Education Sector:

1.9 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

During the implementation period of the project UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP and WHO made the following achievements:

UNICEF:

- 30 schools have formed PTA (parents' teacher association) to enhance community participation in school management and respond to the needs of the target schools.
- 30 schools were provided with continuous guidance and technical supports to activate the formed PTA during the first quarter 2015 through better enhancement of community participation in school management and respond to the needs of the target schools.
- Three UNICEF field staff have been visiting the schools continuously, meeting with PTA members and guiding them on how to support school improvement through identifying the urgent needs and lobbying to respond to the needs.
- PTAs played remarkable roles in supporting the target schools through: supporting cleaning campaigns, supporting minor renovation of schools, home visiting to follow up cases of students, organizing art and social activities and provision of needed supplies.
- UNICEF supported the organization of exposure visits for 11 PTAs members in who visited schools in Erbil which are successfully applying the CFS standards. Exposure visits took place between April and May 2015. As outcome of the exposure visits, it was agreed each of the 11 PTAs will maintain direct contact with the CFS schools in Erbil, to learn from their best practices to plan and operationalize the CFS standards and requirements.
- UNICEF provided approximately 250 reading books covering different teaching disciplines in November 2015. In addition, UNICEF provided and installed 120 projectors in the 30 target schools (4 in every school) to support the teaching and learning activities. Projectors and books were procured through other donor's contributions.
- Technical capacity of 29 admin supervisors enhanced to support the target schools to improve quality of education.
- All 1,000 teachers from 30 selected schools were trained, out of whom 150 are fully qualified to apply the teaching methodologies.
- UNICEF trained 72 school principals and assistant school principals on CFS approaches including School-Based Management (SBM) through four training courses, 6 days each. School supervisors and CFS facilitators monitor the performance of trained management staff to ensure target schools reach the level of endorsed CFS standards by MoE. Details follow: o 23 management staff in Dohuk from 14 to 19 March 2015 ,49 staff members in Slemani from 28 March to 2 April 2015.
- In coordination with the Ministry of Education and the Fakher Mergasory Foundation, between May and June, UNICEF supported the math test of all schools in KRG using the international standards of the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS). Findings highlighted children who attend CFS schools had higher scores than their peers in schools where no CFS programme is in place.
- To support child-centeredness principle and strengthen the application of the CFS standards, UNICEF procured and distributed 268 lockers to 4 target CFS in Erbil. Lockers are an additional element contributing to promote the CFS approach as they help increase the quality of space available for children within and outside the classrooms. As a result, approximately 1,608 will benefit from this intervention
- During the third quarter of 2015 UNICEF, in coordination with the Ministry of Health, organized 17 training courses for 353 PTA members/teachers and supervisors. The training courses covered Gender, Human Rights, Health and Hygiene Promotion at school

UNFPA:

- 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 Ministry of Education 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.

- A Life Skills and Civic Engagement package for teacher training has been developed by the American University of Beirut. Training of teachers for 14 teachers in CFS in Erbil took place from 01 to 10 October 2015.
- A Life Skills and Civic Engagement package for school clubs through peer education (extra-curricula) was finalized by the American University of Beirut. A consultative workshop took place on 25 and 26 October to introduce Life Skills and Civic Engagement, to teachers from CFS, education supervisors and CFS coordinators from KRG.

WHO:

- WHO has recruited a full time national officer in November 2015 to follow up the project implementation activities, in addition to the recruited short term national consultant who was assigned to review policies and guidelines used for Health promoting school initiatives by MoE and MoH relevant departments and prepare a detailed review report with recommendations on the way forward.
- A plan of action on how to move forward with the implementation of the planned activities has been prepared in collaboration with MoE and MoH. The present school health policy and regulations in Iraq were formulated in line with the World Health Organization (WHO) requirements.

WFP:

- WFP conducted assessment visits to the schools involved in the Child Friendly Schools project where 24 out of 30 schools have been visited. WFP staff investigated into the overall situation of school infrastructures as well as the nutrition services already available in the schools. The accessibility of such services was also looked at, by understanding the economic situation of the children enrolled in each school. The following table contains detailed information on the school visits:
- Reviewing national health policies and strategies for school health was achieved through recruiting a national consultant, collecting all relevant school health policies and guidelines, and then two stakeholder consultation meetings, on 11 January 2016 and 1 March 2016 with series of other preparatory meetings and visits to both ministries
- A training program, held in Erbil-Kurdistan Region/Iraq on School Health on 4 and 5 May 2016, consisted of an orientation and training workshop with practical exercises on planning and implementation of School Health Programs at primary schools. Over two days, 46 persons have been trained on developing and implementing school health programs, of which 31 were from primary schools, 10 from Ministry of Health-Primary health care departments, and 5 from the Ministry of Education.

Challenges and issues faced during implementation within the reporting period:

The Agencies faced difficulties in ensuring the relevance of project activities was maintained following the security and financial crises affecting Kurdistan.

Health sector

1.10 MPTF no. 91240 : Improving availability and access of quality Primary Health Care (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 as per the requirements of the financial and operational management system of each involved agency..

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

WHO:

- 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 17-20th 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.
- An orientation and planning workshop took place from 7-10 December in Slemani governorate. The workshop was attended by 31 health officials from DOH Sleimani 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.
- Following the dissemination of the final assessment report for the selected PHCs, in addition to the automation assessment report, which prioritized the following activities:-
 - Translate family folder contents to English
 - Identify list of services provided at the 15 PHC services and propose those services that should be converted into electronic filing system.
 - Identify core set of information from family folder to be reflected in the PHC centers e-information system
 - Design the minimum number of computer working stations at PHC facilities Based on available services e.g:
 - MCH, Immunization, Lab, pharmacy, Doctor.
 - List of the monthly data reports
 - Recommended data that should be transferred to the upper level
 - Design the e- templates for online referral and feedback

Above activities has been completed and shared with all partners. While the implementation of electronization of the 15 targeted PHCs in Duhok, Erbil, and Sleimani initiatives by MoH; WHO has conducted (2) consultative meetings with partners toward the electronization of the 15 targeted PHCs in Duhok, Erbil, and Sleimani.

UNICEF:

- UNICEF undertook spot assessments in 4 PHCCs; 2 in Sleimani (Shahid Sardar and Fai qi Haji Ali) and 2 in Duhok (Shahidan and Qasi Muhammed), in August and September 2015, results shows that all EPI staff in Sleimani, Erbil and Duhok were trained on vaccine and cold chain management. Supplies and

equipment of EPI, growth monitoring and nutrition unit as well as health promotion had been distributed.

In close coordination with KRG and central government health authorities, UNICEF secured the technical support of Baghdad-based EPI/Cold chain management trainers to support the KRG Ministry of Health to design the training manual and conduct the training of 15 technicians and engineers in Erbil, Sleimani and Duhok on cold chain maintenance.

- Capacity building continued as planned and UNICEF, in collaboration with the Directorate of Health in Dohuk, Sleimani and Erbil, trained 40 paramedical staff (15 from Erbil, 15 from Sleimani and 10 from Duhok) on breastfeeding practice, counselling and communication skills
- UNICEF coordinated a consultative workshop in collaboration with the KRG Ministry of Health in September 2015, wherein 20 MoH/DoH representatives, including medical and paramedical staff, attended the 2-day workshop in Erbil with the objective to identify and prioritize the capacity building needs of staff working at the 15 selected nutrition units.
- Anthropometric equipment have been supplied to Erbil, Sleimani and Hivie NRCs. The strengthening of the three NRCs is expected to benefit approximately 10SAM children/month/NRC for indoor treatment. Within the KRG 2020 contribution UNICEF was able to supply each NRC with the following items: 1 refrigerator, 1 gram scale, 15 cartons of therapeutic milk, 1 cupboard, 4 registration files and other type of stationaries for EPI, antibiotics and 2 beds.

UNFPA:

- 14 “FOCUSED GROUP DISCUSSION” sessions / each session 5-8 participant
 - 4 team / 2 in Erbil, 1 in Sleimani , 1 in Duhok participate in conducting these researches.
 - Erbil team 1 = 4 session
 - Erbil team 2 = 4 session
 - Duhok team = 3 session
 - Sleimani=3 session

Data analysis 2 days for each session (8 days for Erbil each team + 6 days for Sleimani & Duhok team)
Very valuable findings came out of these sessions expecting to affect the implementation and policy for RH in the near future.

- The DMT “decision making tool” for family planning translated into Sorani Kurdish and 500 copies printed in collaboration with American University of Beirut, then distributed to all facilities providing family planning services.

Challenges and issues faced during implementation within the reporting period:

The delay in receiving second tranche affected implementation project activities also The pace of implementation has been some what affected by the engagement of project responsible staff in several emergency related programs

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

In order to improve substantive and administrative capacities of staff within KRG and Erbil Governorate urban planning units, UNHabitat managed to lead the project in order to achieve the planned target in staff capacity building, institutional capacity building and structure.

Project progress during the Implementation period:

- **Structured Technical training**

To date, a series of experts delivered 17 lectures on technical subjects relevant to urban planning. The lectures were held on a bi-monthly basis and attended by an average of 15-20 technical staff of MOMT. Trainees were requested to prepare 5 assignments where they applied the concepts learned to the context of KRG

- **Resilient Infrastructure & Services**

This training was delivered in February 2015 following a special request by the Minister of MoMT to help local authorities address the IDP emergency crisis in Dohuk and other governorates. It entailed a 2 full day workshop in Dohuk, attended by 30 Government staff, and a lecture in Erbil.

- **GIS Training**

UN-Habitat delivered 2 intensive GIS courses of 15 working day each for a total of 21 trainees (210% of target). Detailed technical manuals were distributed.

- **DGPS training package**

Upon the request of MOMT and its surveyors, the Total Station training course was substituted with an intensive 2 week Digital GPS course designed for 12 surveyors that has been delivered in the 2nd and 3rd week of December 2015.

A series of 4 package courses, of 16 working days each, were attended by 42 admin staff (70% of target).

- **English language** these courses, organized upon specific request of counterparts, entailed 2 months in class, followed by 4 months of online self-tutoring. Two courses have been completed, for a total of 24 trainees.

- **Human Resource Management (HRM)**

A 5-day course training package was attended by 15 admin & tech staff (150% of target).

- **Procurement & Finance**

A 5-day course training package was attended by 15 trainees from different departments (150% of target).

- **Media & Communication**

A 5-day course training package was attended by 15 trainees from different departments (150% of target).

- **Leadership and Change Management**

A 5-day course training package was attended by 12 unit leaders and supervisors (120% of target).

- **Institutional Development**

The bulk of the meetings, brainstorming sessions and workshops were held in March 2015. Reports were completed by the Consultant in late June and submitted to MOMT in November prior to the Institutional Development retreat planned that has been conducted in February 2016. These include: Institutional Capacity, Assessment, Drafting of TORs, Annual Work Plan, and Performance Appraisal System.

- **Hands-on planning & mentoring**

The Review of Erbil Master Plan was initiated in March 2015 with a series of facilitated workshops which aimed at identifying planning gaps. Two sites in the Buffer Zone have been selected for hands-on urban planning work. The TOR for the design of a Satellite City was substituted at the request of MOMT by the drafting of a Planning Framework for secondary towns and villages in KR-I. Workshops were undertaken in the first half of 2015.

- **Planning System Study & Visioning Baseline study of the planning system**

The study was completed in June 2015, and submitted to MOMT in February 2016 after to the Institutional Development retreat conducted in February 2016.

- **Formal Planning Lectures:** 17 sessions of 3 hrs. each, attended by an average of 15-20 trainees, for a total number of 41 staff for 445 cumulative trainee days.

Trainees Assignments: 5 sessions, attended by an average of 24, for 95 cumulative trainee days.

- **Resilient Infrastructure in Dohuk:** 2 full workshop days, attended by 30 staff, for 60 cumulative trainee days.

- **ArcGIS course:** 30 sessions of 4hr each, attended by 21 staff, for 312 cumulative trainee days.

- **Human Resources Management:** 5 days of 6 hrs each, attended by 15 staff, for 75 cumulative trainee days.

- **Procurement & Fin. Management:** 5 days of 6 hrs. each, attended by 15 staff, for 75 cumulative trainee days.

- **Basic IT course:** 64 sessions of 3hr each, attended by 42 staff, for 672 cumulative trainee days.

- **English language:** 38 sessions of 3 hrs. each, attended by 24 staff, for 456 cumulative trainee days.

- **Institutional Development:** 9 sessions of 3hrs each, attended by 16 staff, for 108 cumulative trainee days.

- **Urban Planning Framework:** 9 sessions of 3hrs each, attended by 8 staff, for 69 cumulative trainee days.

- **Erbil Master Plan Review:** 30 sessions of 3hrs each, attended by 22, for 360 cumulative trainee days.

- **Site visits:** 7 sessions of 2-3 hrs. Each for a total of 9 staff, for 63 cumulative trainee days.

Overall, UN-Habitat delivered **290 training sessions**, for a total of 907 hrs. Attended by 357 staff (including English sessions of the on-going course) for a total of **3673 cumulative trainee days**. **The total number of trained staff of MOMT is 148.**

- **Resilient Infrastructure & Services:** This training was delivered in February 2016 following a special request by the Minister of MoMT to help local authorities address the IDP emergency crisis in Dohuk and other governorates. It entailed a 2 full day workshop in Dohuk, attended by 30 Government staff, and a lecture in Erbil.

Challenges and issues faced during implementation within the reporting period:

- Staff scepticism on taking part to a training programme that does not provide them an academic title which would help them advance their career within the Ministry.
- The limited timeframe for developing projects that require longer planning processes.
- Limited engagement of the leadership of the Directorate of Urban Planning of Erbil Governorate.
- Limited confidence of urban planning staff in the “political arena” of decision-makers.
- Limited coordination of MOMT with other urban institutions who seem to work in “silos”
- Difficulties in recruiting consultants willing to travel to Erbil in these times of geo-political uncertainty

Sector: Water and Sanitation for a growing economy

2.2 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 Implementation period the project achieved the following:

- Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) survey was conducted. The survey was done in coordination with Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office (KRSO). The draft results of the survey were released on Feb 2015. The objective of the survey is to understand the community knowledge regarding water conservation practices and hygiene practices and provide baseline information of the knowledge. Four days training course on project management took place in Erbil with participation of group from the members of the ministerial task force and governorates’ task forces, from Erbil, Duhok and Slemani in the training course to build their capacity in project management.
- The Task Force teams from Erbil, Dohuk, Slemani and Gerimyan, in direct coordination with the ministerial Task Force and UNICEF, have developed the key Information, Education and Communication (IEC) messages which will inform the communication and raising awareness events and campaigns. UNICEF and the KRG Task Force teams have closely worked together to review over 62 messages, huge amount of pictures and more than 12 videos and compiled it into 16 focused key IEC messages which were disseminated through a community-based approach, including streets, mosques and governmental departments.
- Also during the implementation period, UNICEF had continued its coordination with the selected company; IEC materials shall be printed out and be available for distribution towards

the end of 2015. In this connection, UNICEF has also developed two video clips informing on the importance to preserve the water resources of whole Iraq for the future generations; and raising awareness about efficient water consumption, and the actual costs families face due to poor conservation and management of the water at the household level.

- The Task Force teams from Erbil, Dohuk, Sleimani and Germiyan, in direct coordination with the ministerial Task Force and UNICEF, finalized and approved the key Information, Education and Communication (IEC) messages that informed the communication and raising awareness events and campaigns. UNICEF and the KRG Task Force teams reviewed over 62 messages, large amounts of pictures, 12 videos and compiled these inputs into 16 focused IEC messages which were disseminated through a community-based approach, including streets, mosques, schools, stadiums, local markets/ public and governmental departments. This will enable the highest media and awareness outreach and coverage, to maximize the desired results.
- Key messages were also broadcasted through KRG satellite channels along with messages on water conservation through KRG radio stations in Sorani, Badini, Arabic, and other minority group languages. Over 42,000 inhabitants directly participated in 40 public awareness campaigns conducted in Erbil, Sleimani, Dohuk and Germiyan. Campaigns targeted people of all ages at public parks, Directorate of Water, Health, Education and Environment.
- UNICEF also developed two video clips informing on the importance to preserve the water resources of Iraq for future generations; and raising awareness about efficient water consumption, and the actual costs families face due to poor conservation and management of the water at the household level.
- During the last quarter of 2015, UNICEF sought and received approval from the KRG 2020 Steering Committee to expand the number and type of messages to raise awareness on water conservation in the KRG. At the time of release of the final report, videos on water conservation have been broadcast via the most popular Kurdish satellite channels over the period February to July 2016, reaching at least 240,000 inhabitants within KRG.

During the project UNICEF established new partnerships with local organizations in KRG, further endorsed by the KRG Task Force. As a result, 42 local staff from different KRG government institutions of Erbil, Duhok, Garman and Sleimani participated in 4 training courses to become Training of Trainers (ToT) on hygiene promotion, rationale use of water in WASH humanitarian response, and environmental journalism

Challenges and issues faced during implementation within the reporting period:

Similar to other projects, the funding factor caused non completion of project activities.

3 Pillar: Putting Government to work for the People

Sector: effective and honest government.

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

Progress achieved by UNDP can be summarised as follows:

- **Institutional development of the Independent Board of Human Rights through staff skill and capacity development**

Following the establishment of the IBHR in 2013 while the board was aware that it required staff capacity building it lacked information related to existing strengths and gaps related to staff expertise and skills. Resulting from the capacity needs assessment that was conducted in early 2015; the board was able to define its capacity needs and priorities with clarity. Informed by the findings of the capacity needs assessment UNDP conducted a series of trainings for IBHR staff. These include the following: One workshop to review law 4/2010 in -line with Paris principles with technical advice provided by experts from Canada, South Africa and Palestine; Basic human rights training on international human rights treaty monitoring mechanisms, the role of national human rights institutions, and the Paris Principles; One Detention monitoring training to staff of the board on monitoring, reporting and risk assessment; one day workshop on media monitoring and reporting; and study tour for 26 IBHR staff to learn from the Jordanian National Human Rights Centre that underwent similar experiences to IBHR particularly on monitoring, documentation, awareness raising and conducting effective advocacy campaigns.

- **Development of a strategic plan**

Similarly through a rigorous consultative process with the IBHR, a two -year strategic plan was development for the board clearly defining its direction of travel for the coming two years. Expertise of an international Human Rights expert was also sought to provide strategic guidance and technical advice.

- **Conducting a review of the IBHR law**

Recognizing that the IBHR law required a review in-line with emerging priorities and changes with a specific emphasis on the increasing significance of IBHR as the independent human rights entity representing Kurdistan Region a review of the law was undertaken in consultation with IBHR staff, relevant government agencies and civil society. With the assistance of an international consultant a comprehensive analysis of the current law was conducted in-line with international standards and founding legislation and policies of 23 national human rights institutions. A group of focal points were also identified to present the revised law feedback and review. The draft of the review law is ready for a final stakeholder consultation and review.

- **Initiative to develop collaborations with the Human Rights Commission in Baghdad**

A draft MoU was developed to discuss joint working modalities between the IBHR and the Human Rights Commission in Baghdad including to identify agreed reporting modalities from IBHR to contribute to Iraq's annual reporting to the International Human Rights Commission.

- **Awareness raising and advocacy to promote IBHR**

As result of series of advocacy and awareness raising activities undertaken under this joint cost- sharing project between UNDP - IBHR, IBHR is now well known and a recognised independent human rights entity representing the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. These advocacy and awareness raising activities include

meetings with a range of relevant officials and agencies including judiciary, police, prosecutors and parliamentarians. Meetings were also held with the IBHR regional office and senior justice sector stakeholders from Dohuke and Erbil governorates on 19 March, 9 April and 16 August 2015 respectively.

- **Project activity review in-line with emerging priorities and changes.**

IBHR constructively utilized the interim period covering the pending 2nd tranche, to conduct series of meetings with key personnel staff from the IBHR to review the project work plan activities, following a joint agreement in October, to conduct IBHR work plan review exercise. The rationale for undertaking a review of the activity plan rests on the fact that the original activity plan for this project was developed before the establishment of the IBHR and since then many changes have taken place particularly related to emerging IBHR priorities and needs in the institutional and staff capacity development areas. Further there was also the need to review the current activity plan in-line with the IBHR organizational needs assessment that was conducted in 2015, as well as the need to undertake an honest appraisal of barriers/challenges related to efficient and effective functioning of the IBHR. For the work plan activity review exercise, assistance was also sought from the UNDP international consultant to provide technical advice and guidance. The revised work activity plan has been finalised as well as approval sought from the DG IBHR. All meetings related to activity work plan review exercise was planned in a way that did not incur costs and the International Consultant offered her time free of charge.

- **Efforts undertaken by UNDP during the interim period pending 2nd tranche payment to continue IBHR support to institutional development and staff capacity building by developing synergies through similar on-going projects**

During this period UNDP also promoted and supported IBHR engagement in UNDP efforts to provide legal assistance and protect refugees and IDPs living inside of camps from rights violations such as SGBV. This has resulted in IBHR extending its services to displaced populations living inside of camps to assist with cases related to rights violations across six legal aid camps in Erbil, Dohuk and Sleimani. Further, these efforts have provided the IBHR an opportunity to have their own representation in the camps and report information and raise concerns related to rights violations directly with relevant entities. To this end six IBHR staff members were assigned to assist with refugee and IDP rights related cases. The assigned staff report directly to the Head of IBHR and also engage in regular information sharing as it relates to the current situation / conditions inside the camps with a specific focus on rights violations of displaced populations. Further, these efforts have provided IBHR with an opportunity to have their own representation in the camps and report information and raise concerns related to rights violations directly with relevant entities. Additionally IBHR representatives assisting inside the camps also participated in a five -day training during 29 November - 3 December 2015, aimed at strengthening their capacity and knowledge in monitoring, documentation and reporting human rights violations in the camps. Knowledge gained from this training complements proposed activities under the revised cost-sharing project activity plan / output 2. The training provided useful skills to IBHR staff to carry out their duties effectively and in -line with international standards.

Key Challenges and issues as it relates to project implementation:

Indefinite pending 2nd tranche payment since April 2015 imposed severe limitations and restrictions to overall project implementation during the reporting period.