



<b>Enhanced Access to Justice and Protection of Women and Girls from Conflict Related Violence (CRSV) through the Provision of Legal Aid Services in Iraq UNA044</b>	
<b><i>UN ACTION MPTF PROJECT FINAL REPORT</i></b>	
<b>Country</b>	Iraq
<b>Project Start Date</b>	1 January 2017
<b>Project Completion Date</b>	31 March 2018
<b>UN Implementing Entities</b>	UNDP – Iraq; UN Women
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<b>Report Date</b>	1 January 2017 – 31 March 2018

## 1. Background

Guidance: Include a brief description of the project - explain the project's purpose and rationale, which CRSV gaps it seeks to address, who are the UN implementing partners and the value-added each one brings considering their respective mandates; describe the objectives of the project and its technical approach.

### **Background:**

Iraq has witnessed decades of violent conflict and instability leading to a total breakdown of the rule of law and negatively impacting people and communities. Further this is exacerbated by a deeply divided ethno- sectarian society entrenched in memories of victimhood; legacy of political violence incited by regimes and leaders heavily influenced by sectarian agendas; and daily atrocities of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Overshadowed by a mutual perplexity of profound distrust, fear and a legacy of past atrocities and suffering can prevent the country from building a more inclusive and peaceful society underlying post-conflict recovery.

Vulnerable groups specifically women and girls, are particularly susceptible to threats posed by insecurity caused by lack of access to security and justice provision and remain unable to claim their rights. Trust and confidence in state's ability, to address people's justice and security concerns is low. More specifically women and girls remain highly vulnerable to Conflict -Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) Violence and Gender -Based Violence (GBV) committed both within family and outside such as in the case of trafficking and sexual harassment and abuse. Other forms of violence include forced early marriages, rape, abduction and sexual slavery and sexual

exploitation stemming from lack of income generation livelihood opportunities for women and girls.

Access to justice for vulnerable groups (i.e. CRSV survivors of and at risk individuals), with a specific emphasis on responding to and protection from CRSV is deficient and negatively impact their lives and livelihoods. Despite the presence of an independent criminal prosecution services in Iraq (both in the Centre and Kurdistan Region in Iraq), the justice system is outdated and slow and often expensive and remain inaccessible to poor and vulnerable groups. These groups therefore often remain highly vulnerable in the absence of constructive paths to seek help to address their pressing justice needs.

Recognizing that access to justice is a pre-requisite for durable peace and protection of human rights of affected populations, efforts must be made to initiate a change process to encourage more effective, participatory and inclusive engagement and collaboration between both government and non- governmental justice service providers such as the Higher Judicial Council (HJC), Bar Associations, Family Protection Units (FPU) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to engage meaningfully with vulnerable groups with a specific emphasis on survivors and at- risk women and girls to ensure accessible justice service delivery to address their actual needs and concerns related to CRSV and, reduce further vulnerability to injustice and insecurity.

#### **UNDP and UN Women engagement:**

Since 2012, **UNDP** in Iraq has worked extensively to combat Conflict -Related Gender - Based- Violence (CRGBV) and Sexual and Gender -Based Violence (SGBV) engaging with relevant government and civil society stakeholders by initiating a process to establish the Family Protection Directorate (FPD) and 16 Family Protection Units (FPUs) collaboratively with the State Ministry of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Interior (MoI) and Local Police in Baghdad and Basra. Furthermore, in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I), UNDP initiated the establishment of seven Directorates for Combating Violence Against Women (DCVAW) in partnership with the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) as well as 27 offices at provincial level. UNDP also supported the establishment of six court-based legal aid help desks in five cities across Iraq (e.g. Baghdad, Basra, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah and Duhok governorates) and six legal assistance centers within refugee and IDPs camps in Erbil and Duhok governorates). UNDP support to enhance legal aid provision has further extended to assisting the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) to establish a referral system between Kurdistan Bar Association (KBA), DCVAW and Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA) with the view to institutionalize the provision of legal aid service provision within these government entities and ensure long- term sustainability of UNDP support to legal aid. Since 2011, UNDP have extended its free legal aid services to Sulaymaniyah, Duhok and Erbil governorates in the KR-I. UNDP also supported the MoI with policy and legislative reform to improve access to justice for GBV survivors, as well as strengthened the institutional capacity to protect GBV survivors at both federal and regional levels. Among other significant achievements the establishment of a national database on Domestic and Gender- Based Violence (DGBV) is an important milestone. The database generates reports on reported cases/ incidences of GBV including geographic locations, type/nature of incidences, profile of victims/survivors and to inform government policy and practice. This is centrally located in the MoI headquarters in Baghdad. This is the only such database generating information on this issue and remains as the only reliable source to access information on GBV and related issues in Iraq.

**UN Women** in Iraq have worked extensively to ensure protection of women and girls in Iraq as well as to improve their socio- socio economic status with a specific emphasis on addressing their needs and concerns within conflict and post -conflict contexts. UN women's work in Iraq aims to promote political participation and leadership of Iraqi women; economic empowerment of women; ending violence against women and girls; women, peace and security; governance and national planning and, humanitarian action. Among others specific activities include support to Iraqi women in political participation and leadership through technical support, capacity building and promoting young female leadership; works with national and provincial governments to develop legislative and policy framework to promote women's economic empowerment as a key driver to combat violence against women; collaborates with Gol and Iraqi civil society to advocate for legislative reforms to end violence against women and girls; works with Gol, UNAMI and civil society to encourage greater participation of women in the field of peace and security in-line with Iraq's commitments under UN SCR 1325; works to mainstream gender- responsive approaches to Iraq's national strategies and policies; advocates for and, supports Gol to introduce gender-responsive budgeting and, supports income generation projects for female headed households in Northern and Central Iraq (in response to the after math of Iraq's humanitarian crisis ).

**Project:**

Building on the success of UNDP and UN Women's work to-date, this project focused on the replication and scale -up of free legal aid services to survivors of and at-risk women and girls from CRSV. Overall aim of the project was to improve access to justice for displaced women and girls through free legal aid services and, respond to their immediate protection and recovery needs.

Intended beneficiaries and target groups:

Survivors and at-risk women and girls from CRSV from displaced populations in target locations; Directorate for Combating Violence Against Women (DCVAW) and Family Protection Units (FPU); Ministry of Interior (Baghdad and KRG), State Ministry of Women Affairs; Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (KRG); Judicial Council; Bar Associations in Baghdad and KR-I; Union of Jurists in Baghdad and CSOs active in legal aid service delivery and SGBV prevention.

**Outcome:**

Enhanced protection from and response to CRSV survivors and at- risk women and girls through the provision of legal aid services and joint government and civil society action to prevent and respond to CRSV contributing to just societies.

In order to achieve this, the project worked towards three interrelated outputs:

- (i) Increased technical expertise and advocacy capacity of key national stakeholders and institutions to engage constructively in response and protection of survivors and at-risk women and girls of CRSV. This took place through CRSV training to implementing partners, including DCVAW, Independent Board of Human Rights (IBHR) and NGOs/CSOs.
- (ii) Increased access to justice to at-risk and women and girl survivors of CRSV through the provision of legal aid services. Activities focused on delivering legal aid and psychosocial support services to survivors via in -camp static centers and out- camp mobile teams.

- (iii) Improved policy and practice to support and protect survivors and at - risk women and girls of CRSV through the provision of legal aid services. Activities included on-going training and mentoring of implementing partners by UNDP.

**2. Project Implementation – Overview & Results for the project duration**

**a) Activities Undertaken**

Guidance: In line with the project’s work plan, describe the main coordination and implementation activities undertaken as part of this project, as well as any other activities implemented in synergy to project activities, if any.

**b) Results & Impacts**

Guidance: Describe the main results and impacts achieved through the project. NOTE: If possible, include quotes and statements that may help you illustrate your project’s story

<b>Output 1.1.</b> Increased technical expertise and advocacy capacity of key national stakeholders and government institutions to engage constructively in response and protection of survivors and at-risk women of CRSV (GBV and SGBV)	
Activities conducted:	<p>During the reporting period UNDP conducted the following activities:</p> <p>1) Training on Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV). Training took place from 16 -18 January 2017, in Dohuk. Forty- Seven participants attended the training. They included staff from the implementing NGOs Harikar, DHRD and PAO, as well as staff from the Directive for Combatting Violence Against Women (DCVAW) and the Independent Board of Human Rights (IBHR). Overall participants represented the following governorates: Erbil, Sulaimaniya and Duhuk in Kurdistan. Additionally 2 UN Women staff and 3 UN Women's implementing partners also attended the training. Training covered the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meaning of Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV).</li> <li>▪ Sexual violence.</li> <li>▪ Myths and beliefs about rape.</li> <li>▪ Effects of CRSV.</li> <li>▪ Psychosocial effects of CRSV survivors, and their psychosocial needs.</li> <li>▪ Stigma and barriers to survivors reporting CRSV.</li> <li>▪ CRSV response.</li> <li>▪ Multi-sectoral response for CRSV and timeline of care required by sexual violence survivors.</li> <li>▪ First on the scene.</li> <li>▪ Key elements of psychological first aid.</li> <li>▪ CRSV, law and, justice.</li> <li>▪ Documentation of CRSV.</li> <li>▪ CRSV against men and boys.</li> <li>▪ Child survivors of CRSV.</li> </ul>

	<p>2) Training on Gender - Based Violence (GBV) for staff from the Erbil legal aid center and the mobile legal aid teams in Dibaga, Khazer and HasanSham to place from 2- 3 August 2017, in Erbil. It was specifically designed to orient the newly recruited staff. Due to increasing demand for services in the Erbil center and, the above mentioned mobile legal aid teams, 11 new lawyers were recruited in June 2017. The training therefore was conducted to sensitize and familiarize the new staff on concepts of GBV and GBV case management.</p> <p>The participants had limited experience in GBV and the training was highlighted as a priority activity and covered the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender vs Sex /Gender roles, recognizing women 's role, status and power.</li> <li>• GBV definition, GBV types and consequences.</li> <li>• GBV case management including principles of case management, steps of case management and who should be involved in case management?</li> <li>• GBV referrals including existing GBV service providers in their respective areas, referral procedures and referral documentation</li> <li>• Conducting GBV awareness raising activities - behavior change, putting together awareness raising groups, topic selection, topic research and Information preparation.</li> <li>• Capturing and storing information /documentation.</li> <li>• Project management i.e. legal aid center management - important principles for running the legal centers smoothly and monitoring and evaluation.</li> </ul> <p>UNDP project team also continued its regular mentoring visits to the legal aid centers in Erbil, Dohuk and Sulaimaniya and provided on going mentoring and guidance to improve service delivery and center staffs' operational efficiency.</p> <p>During December 2017, emphasis was in making sure all legal aid cases pending with the centers were finalized in the courts before the schedule closure of the centers and the mobile legal teams on 31 December 2017 in line with the exit strategy timeline agreed between UNDP and the implementing partners.</p>
<p>Progress in achieving output (please use indicator):</p>	<p>With regard to CRSV training, five partner organizations were trained with a specific focus on prevention and protection from CRSV among displaced populations. Among others, the training dealt with responding to CRSV survivors through legal aid and psychosocial support, case tracking, documentation and reporting. Participants included staff from the three NGO partners (i.e. Harikar, DHRD and PAO) and two government partners (i.e. DCVAW and IBHR). Furthermore staff from UNDP project partner UN Women also attended the training. Total number of national stakeholders trained was 47 and this included 24 women and 23 men.</p> <p>Total of 11 newly recruited lawyers from the implementing partner NGO in Erbil Public Aid Organization (PAO) were trained on the concepts of GBV and GBV case management, as well as how to deal with GBV survivors in their daily work. Seven female and four male lawyers attended the training. Key topics/ sessions included - service provision, case management, referral procedures</p>

	<p>and documentation and, topic selection for awareness raising groups. The training also delivered sessions on managing the centers and, monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>In view of the changing context and emerging priorities where large numbers of IDPs were returning to liberated areas, a gradual 'hand over' of the legal aid centres to DCVAW was initiated in discussion with implementing partners. The 'hand over' included the centres where some IDPs were expected remain beyond 2017. The overall objective of the 'hand over' was to ensure uninterrupted service delivery by DCVAW to remaining in- camp IDPs after 2017 and beyond. Project's NGO partners agreed to assist DCVAW on request where possible.</p>
<p>Impact (narrative)</p>	<p>The CRSV training helped to improve understanding and awareness of CRSV among UNDP's national implementing partners ( i.e. government and NGO stakeholders). The overall training focused on imparting CRSV knowledge and, identifying and assisting CRSV survivors.</p> <p>Participants highlighted, while many women who visit UNDP assisted legal aid centers are CRSV survivors, few come forward to report their cases or to seek assistance from the centers. Therefore the participants mentioned that the training helped to gain necessary skills and knowledge on the issue and, it would allow them to identify CRSV survivors and assist them appropriately. Majority of participants also mentioned they had minimal or no knowledge of this important issue and, highlighted the training as an important milestone in their efforts to gain new knowledge and skills that would allow them to deliver efficient and timely services to CRSV survivors.</p> <p>The 'role playing' sessions conducted during the training proved useful to gauge participant's improved understanding and knowledge of CRSV and dealing with CRSV survivors.</p> <p>Participants were also provided a feedback form to identify what sessions they found most useful and areas for improvement in future trainings. Among others feedback included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>It was really useful information - will discuss and propose to apply in every camp and health center and share with people living in the camps especially women and girls.</i></li> <li>- <i>Sessions were very useful particularly in terms of understanding conflict and the silence around sexual violence - result of repeated sexual violence cases.</i></li> <li>- <i>I think it is crucial that everyone who works with CRSV and SV survivors to attend this kind of CRSV trainings.</i></li> </ul> <p>With regard to GBV training, the participants from PAO said the sessions allowed them to familiarize with the GBV concept, its relevance to their work and, its impact on IDPs/ their clients who seek services from the center. They also highlighted that the training allowed them to understand and learn approaches / tools to help GBV survivors in resolving their issues while</p>

	<p>adopting Do No Harm principles, specifically with regard to protecting and respecting their privacy,</p> <p>Following are some feedback from the participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>I found the course very useful for my work, as I haven't been to any trainings on this topic, it was new and interesting to me.</i></li> <li>- <i>My understanding of GBV was very limited, thanks to this training I now know how to deal with survivors of GBV. Hope we can get a more detailed training on this issue in the future.</i></li> </ul> <p>In view of the changing context and, emerging priorities with large numbers of IDPs returning to liberated areas an exist strategy was discussed and agreed between UNDP and implementing partners to ensure a smooth 'hand over' over of the legal aid service centres to DCVAW.</p> <p>Furthermore, UNDP project staff provided on- going mentoring, advice and assistance to DCVAW staff during the reporting period to improve their confidence and capability in view of the imminent 'hand over' of full management of the selected centers. While these efforts have significantly improved skills and capacity of DCVAW, it should be noted that their future work in this sphere is highly constraint by limited financial resources stemming from the on -going financial crisis in KRG.</p>
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<p><b>Output 1.2</b> GoI and stakeholders have the knowledge and are aware of the importance of legal aid service provision and psychosocial centers to displaced women and girl survivors of CRSV</p>	
<p>Activities conducted:</p>	<p>One- day training on Sexual and Gender -Based Violence (SGBV) was held on 9 February 2017 in Baghdad. UNDP conducted the workshop <i>Advancing Understanding of SGBV to Enhance Response</i>. Twelve staff members from project's NGO implementing partner Dar Al Khibra Organization (DKO) attended the training. The workshop also assessed baseline, response and best practice from the Baghdad legal aid center. DKO participants included legal aid center staff as well as community mobilizers. (6 women and 6 men). The overall objective of the training was to strengthen understanding of types of SGBV, its causes, and consequences in order to enhance legal aid response to women survivors in displaced settings.</p> <p>UNDP also developed a Case Tracking Form (CTF) to improve data collection and analysis. The CTF was piloted during the reporting period. UNDP team will monitor the CTF added value in real time data collection, analysis and case follow- up. During the reporting period, CTF was also introduced to KR-I NGO implementing partners and the UNDP Rule of Law team in Erbil. In this regard on 4 April 2017, a workshop was held in Erbil to introduce the CTF as a tool to 'measure change'. The UNDP project team in Baghdad delivered the workshop. The workshop achieved the following objectives: understand why it is important to measure change; demonstrate its potential through some case examples; and illustrate how</p>

	<p>projects are overcoming challenges to data collection/analysis in post-conflict settings.</p> <p>Furthermore, standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were developed to improve Baghdad legal aid center's service delivery and overall management. On 29 January 2017, an orientation session was conducted on the newly developed SOPs. The one-day workshop was held in Baghdad and was attended by 12 staff members from the implementing NGO partner - DKO. (6 women and 6 men). The workshop helped to sensitize center staff in improving its services within international standards and practice.</p> <p>The CTFs and the SOP s developed for the Baghdad legal aid center were fully operationalized during the reporting period. Moreover the implementing NGO -DKO found these initiatives very useful to improve center's overall case management, monitoring and service delivery.. It is expected that these initiatives will remain operational to assist DKO legal aid service center beyond UNDP support in December 2017.</p>
<p>Progress in achieving output (please use indicator):</p>	<p>Overall the activities conducted during the reporting period helped implementing partners to put in place tools such as CTF to improve documentation and case reporting, as well as consolidated operational modalities through SOPs. It is expected that these tools will better position implementing partners to draw additional financial support from potentially interested external partners/ donors beyond UNDP support in December 2017. The CTF and SOPs will continue to support DKO to improve its overall legal aid service delivery for the longer term.. It also addresses a priority organizational need in terms of having appropriate systems and processes in place to improve its operational capacity in delivering legal aid.</p>
<p>Impact (narrative)</p>	<p>Activities contributed to putting in place tools such as CTF to improve documentation and case reporting, as well as consolidating operational modalities through SOPs, with a view to assisting implementing partners to better position themselves to attract new donors and new funding opportunities as well as embedding measures/ approaches to improve the impact of their work beyond UNDP engagement.</p> <p>In view of the changing context and emerging priorities with large numbers of IDPs returning to liberated areas an exist strategy was discussed and agreed with the implementing partners to ensure a smooth 'hand over' of the legal aid service centres to DCVAW where some IDPs were expected to remain after 2017.</p> <p>In view of the above UNDP support to all legal aid centers and mobile legal aid teams in KR-I and Baghdad concluded on 31 December 2017. In line with the mutually agreed and planned exit strategy the centers where some IDPs were expected to remain in 2018, were successfully handed over to DCVAW.</p>

	<p>In November 2017 UNDP held a meeting with DCVAW in Erbil to discuss the 'hand over' process of the identified centers. Following issues were discussed and agreed at the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Finalization of all the legal aid cases on or before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017.</li> <li>- Hand over the management of the following centers to DCVAW: 1 in-camp centre in Sulaymaniya in the Ashti IDPs camp and, 2 in-camp centers in Erbil ( Baharka IDP camp) and Kawrgosk (refugee camp) in Erbil.</li> </ul> <p>All capacity building activities that were implemented during the reporting period were aimed at up skilling DCVAW to take over management of the selected centers by 31 December 2017.</p>
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<p><b>Output 1.3.</b> Context specific advocacy material and lessons learned documents developed to support signed agreement</p>	
<p>Activities conducted:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Six project beneficiaries were interviewed during the project period to better understand their needs and identify ways to improve assistance and service delivery in the KR-I centers. Those interviewed included in- camp Syrian refugees, IDPs, and CRSV survivors who were held in ISIL captivity. Interview findings were used to document case studies/ human stories. Case studies highlight success stories and best practice in legal aid service delivery to displaced CRSV survivors.</li> <li>- Five case studies were developed to highlight legal aid service delivery and best practice stemming from the center in Baghdad.</li> </ul>
<p>Progress in achieving output (please use indicator):</p>	<p>KR-I:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seven interviews were conducted</li> <li>- Documented 6 human stories in preparation for wider dissemination.</li> </ul> <p>Baghdad:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documented 5 case studies related to following topics: national ID / duplicate</li> </ul> <p>At the time of writing this report the finalization of the case studies is on-going in collaboration with UNDP Communication Team.</p>
<p>Impact (narrative)</p>	<p>Documentation of lessons learned brief from the Baghdad legal aid center and, the case studies from KR-I and Baghdad centers have helped to initiate a process to advocate project outcomes. Specific emphasis is on the impact and benefit of the legal aid services provided to affected women and girl survivors in Iraq.</p> <p>The case studies show the direct and indirect impact of the project services to vulnerable populations (e.g. women and men) and how they have benefited from these services to change their lives for better.</p> <p>The first case study was published on the UNDP website during the reporting period. Please see link below:</p>

	<p><a href="http://www.iq.undp.org/content/iraq/en/home/ourwork/democraticgovernance/successstories/the-role-of-legal-representation-to-obtaining-legal-identity--ib.html">http://www.iq.undp.org/content/iraq/en/home/ourwork/democraticgovernance/successstories/the-role-of-legal-representation-to-obtaining-legal-identity--ib.html</a></p> <p>Rest of the case studies are expected to be published on UNDP website over time in 2018.</p>
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<p><b>Outcome 1</b> Government institutions and key national stakeholders prioritize and engage in the provision of legal aid and protection-related services</p>	
<p>Progress in achieving outcome (please use indicator):</p>	<p>Key government institutions and national stakeholders that deal with CRSV in KR-I such as the DCVAW, IBHR and NGO implementing partners are involved in providing legal aid services to CRSV and GBV survivors and they recognize the importance of prioritizing these services. They also recognize the need to identify survivors who are afraid or are not willing to seek help due to social stigma and reprisals.</p> <p>Trainings conducted during the reporting period have helped to raise awareness amongst both the government and non- governmental stakeholders on the importance of prioritizing prevention of CRSV and GBV and assisting CRSV and GBV survivors through legal aid and appropriative referral services.</p> <p>Furthermore, the project meeting that was conducted on 27 February 2017 also provided a useful forum to discuss and identify challenges and areas that need further support and attention from entities such as UN Action to improve services to CRSV survivors. National stakeholders presented a range of recommendations to UN Action for its review and necessary action particularly relevant to this outcome. UNDP project team, UN Action staff and KR-I implementing partners attended the meeting.</p> <p>In view of the changing context and emerging priorities with large numbers of IDPs continuing to return to liberated areas an exist strategy was discussed and agreed with the implementing partners to ensure a smooth 'handover' of the selected legal aid service centres to DCVAW where some IDPs were expected to remain in 2018 and possibly beyond.</p>
<p>Impact (narrative)</p>	<p>Project activities undertaken during the reporting period helped to raise awareness and put emphasis on the importance of prioritizing assistance and services to CRSV and GBV survivors by national stakeholders. As a result of these efforts while there is now reasonable recognition on the need to prioritize assistance to CRSV/GBV survivors and at-risk women and girls, there remains many challenges. Among others they include lack of long- term government funding / resources, as well as lack of long- term vision and funding from international donors.</p> <p>The prevalent short term / 'piece meal' assistance provided by the government as well as international donors to support CRSV and GBV survivors and at -risk women and gril remain a major challenge to long- term sustainability of this work.</p>

	By 31 December 2017, the exist strategy was operationalized and the selected centers were handed over to DCVAW management on 31 December 2018.
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<b>Output 2.1</b> Free legal aid centers and listening centers are open to receive women and girls survivors of CRSV.	
Activities	<p>During the reporting period the project supported the operationalization and service delivery of the following legal aid centers in KR-I and Baghdad:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seven legal aid centers inside the main IDPs and refugee camps in the three Governorates of the KRI continued to operate: one in Sulaymaniya inside the Ashti IDPs camp, two in Erbil inside the Baharka (IDPs) and Kawrgosk (refugee) camps, and three in Duhok, two inside Shariya (IDP) and one in Domiz (refugee) camps.<sup>1</sup></li> </ul> <p>While the centers in Duhok and Erbil are run by NGO partners with support from DCVAW and IBHR, the center in Sulaymaniya is run by DCVAW to as pilot to test the gradual handing over of UNDP led centers to DCVAW in order to ensure long-term sustainability of the legal aid service provision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two legal aid centers for IDPs in the Al Salam Camp in Baghdad, during the reporting period in Baghdad. UN Women supported the operation of a mobile team for IDPs based in Karrada neighborhood in Baghdad/Karrada<sup>2</sup> In partnership with Tajdid. the Baghdad clinic ceased activities in June 2017 due to funds limitations. UNDP supported Dar Al Khibra Organization (DKO) to operate legal aid center for IDPs situated inside the Al Salam (Kasnizan) Camp.</li> </ul> <p>Furthermore in KR-I the project also started to support one mobile legal team aimed at out- camp IDPs particularly those displaced from Mosul. During the reporting period, the mobile team, run by the local NGO Harikar visited 4 IDP camps in Duhok, Zelkan, Germawan, Mamrashan and Bardarash and provided a range of legal aid services to out- camp IDPs with a specific focus on CRSV and GBV survivors.</p> <p>In July 2017 target locations for service provision was revisited with the view to maximize available resources where the need for legal aid services for CRSV/GBV survivors was greatest. Therefore the target locations were focused mainly in Erbil with some focus in Duhok in order to allow services to the large number of displaced people who were fleeing from Mosul amidst military operations to regain ISIL controlled territory.</p> <p>Those displaced from Mosul have been subject to ISIL control for nearly two years and, they have suffered extreme forms of phycological and physical trauma. Additionally, majority of the displaced had no legal documentation that was a pre- requisite to seek support services from the government and UN/ humanitarian agencies.</p>

<sup>1</sup> UN Women supported one legal aid center in Shariya camp, run by Tajdid, while the additional six were supported by UNDP.

<sup>2</sup> The mobile team assisted IDPs from Al Ahal camp, Al Nahrawan camp, Al Taji district, Al Waziriya district, Al Adhamiya district, Bzebez camp, Asia camp, Al Salam1 Camp, and Al Salam2 Camp.

For example, there were many cases where women were forced to marry ISIL fighters, have children born resulting from these 'forced marriages' and then either abandoned or divorced, with no support what so ever. Therefore, these female survivors did not have a marriage certificate to claim alimony or obtain identification documents for their children. In order to serve the displaced from Mosul where the need was greatest, UNDP re-arranged its target locations for legal aid services as follows:

Seven in- camp legal aid teams were established and operationalized in the following IDP and refugee camps across three governorates of the Kurdistan Region.

- Erbil: Total of 3 mobile legal teams. **Team 1** covered three camps in Debaga (Debaga 1, Debaga 2 and Debaga Stadium); **Team 2** covered the Khazer IDP camp and, **Team 3** was responsible for the HasanSham M2 and U3 IDP camps.
- Duhok: Total of 4 teams and included 3 in- camp static centers and 1 mobile team. Two static centers were established in Shariya (IDP) Camp (one run by UN Women and one by UNDP) and Domiz (refugee) camps. The mobile legal team covered Zelkan, Mamrashan and Nergizlia.

Similarly, UN Women has been working to support IDPs from Mosul and women associated with or those that had relationships with ISIL fighters. In doing so, in partnership with Tajdid who has developed a strong working relationship with the Genocide Committee in Dohuk.<sup>3</sup> Tajdid's staff has worked closely with the Committee staff, resulting in the Committee's support of their work and approval to assist survivors registered with the court (including the provision of legal services, PSS, referrals). As a result of this relationship, two additional staff were seconded to sit at the court twice a week to assist survivors and provide case management services.

During the reporting period, UNDP also handed over 3 legal aid centers to DCVAW where it was expected that some IDPs would remain during 2018, in line with the agreed exist strategy. It is hoped that DCVAW would continue legal aid and related CRSB/GBV services to those would seek/ need services after 31 December 2017 as far its limited budget would allow/ permit.

The centers that were handed over to DCVAW to continue under its management include the following:

- One in- camp centre in Sulaymaniyah in the Ashti IDPs camp.
- Two in-camp centers in Erbil ( Baharka IDP camp) and Kawrgosk (refugee camp).

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<sup>3</sup> In August 2014, the Government of the KRI, represented by the presidency of the Council of Ministers, established a High Committee to lead the investigation into crimes committed by ISIL in Sinjar.

	<p>The agreed exit strategy allowed a smooth transition of management of the above centers from UNDP to DCVAW and, it also helped to put in place a process to serve CRSV/GBV survivors beyond 31 December 2017.</p>
<p>Progress in achieving output (please use indicator):</p>	<p>Nine dedicated legal teams (seven supported by UNDP and two by UN Women) providing free legal aid and protection related services for CRSV /SGBV survivors amongst displaced populations are in place. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seven legal aid teams inside the main IDPs and refugee camps in the three Governorates of the KRI continued to operate: four teams (three static centers) in Duhok, two inside Shariya (IDP),<sup>4</sup> and one in Domiz (refugee) camps plus a legal mobile team that covers Zelkan, Mamrashan and Nergizlia. In Erbil, there are three mobile legal teams one covering the three camps in Debaga (Debaga 1, Debaga 2 and Debaga Stadium). The second one covers Khazer IDP camp, and the third one covers HasanSham M2 and U3 IDP camps as below</li> <li>- Two legal aid centers for IDPs in the Asalam Camp in Baghdad (UNDP) and Karrada neighborhood, Baghdad (UN Women) .</li> <li>- Two static centers 1 mobile legal team in KR-I that provide services to out-camp IDPs with a specific focus on those displaced from Mosul.</li> <li>- During the reporting period, 5 investigation units were also made fully operational in each legal aid center in KR-I. Local NGOs, the Ministry of Interior (Moi) and IBHR collaboratively run the units. These units provide legal and social support, as well as investigation and follow-up services to in- camp populations with a specific focus on women and girls survivors of CRSV/SGBV and trafficking.</li> </ul>
<p>Impact (narrative)</p>	<p>During the reporting period in KR-I, total of 13,147 IDPs and refugees (10,668 women and 2,479 men) received legal aid and social services such as legal support, legal representation, social counseling and referral to other service providers. Among these who benefited from UNDP legal centers services there were 641 GBV cases. <sup>5</sup> Of those that received services from UN Women Duhok center, 472 were GBV survivors.</p> <p>During the same period in Baghdad 843 IDPs (748 women and 95 men) received legal aid and social services from the legal center and the most beneficiaries were women.<sup>6</sup> Services provided include legal consultations, legal representation, and social counseling.</p> <p>During the reporting period all pending legal cases were finalized by the respective lawyers and the implementing partners.</p>

<sup>4</sup> UNDP and UN Women each supported a legal clinic in Shariya.

<sup>5</sup> UNDP supported 12,212 IDPs and refugees (9,733 women and 2,479 men), and UN Women supported 935 IDP women.

<sup>6</sup> UNDP supported 645 IDPs and refugees (550 women and 95 men), and UN Women supported 198 IDP women.

<b>Outcome 2</b> More women and girls survivors of CRSV use existing multi-sectoral CRSV services	
Impact: Progress in achieving outcome (please use indicator):	<p>During the reporting period, 6,044 IDPs and refugees in KR-I<sup>7</sup> and 303 IDPs in Baghdad benefited from the 13 awareness raising sessions held in Baghdad and 279 sessions held in KR-I.<sup>8</sup></p> <p>The awareness rising sessions benefited the in- camp displaced populations to better understand the laws related to SGBV/ CRSV, their own rights and responsibilities and that of others. The sessions also allowed an opportunity to inform vulnerable groups that help is available through legal aid centers for CRSV and SGBV survivors and the stigma related to these cases should not prevent them from seeking help from the centers. The awareness raising sessions have allowed CRSV/ SGBV survivors who sought help from the legal aid centers to talk/ discuss their cases more openly without fear. This change is significant in terms of clients who were reluctant to discuss their cases in detail.</p> <p>Similarly in Baghdad, it has been noted that a considerable number of CRSV/SGBV survivors have mentioned that having attended the sessions they decided to seek help from the in-camp legal aid center.</p> <p>Furthermore, awareness raising sessions in KR-I and Baghdad centers also helped in- camp populations to better understand the risks and negative impacts of domestic violence resulting from child marriages that is prevalent amongst in- camp IDPs.</p>

### c) Sustainability

Guidance: Focus on the project’s catalytic effect – describe follow-up activities that are being implemented or will be undertaken as a result of the project (if any), including replication in other settings if applicable

Financial constraints faced by DCVAW will remain a major challenge to uninterrupted services in the legal aid service centers. In order to address this challenge DCVAW will require resource mobilization skills to reach out to International organizations and donors. However this was an area they also identified as lacking expertise and skills with no previous experience. Similarly they also identified it as both a priority need and a pressing capacity gap in their efforts to sustain service delivery to CRSV/GBV survivors. UNDP therefore extended training support to DCVAW staff in proposal writing and resource mobilization.

In view of the above, in March 2018, UNDP designed and delivered a proposal writing training and follow-up mentoring course to DCVAW staff. The training took place from 13-to 15 March 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey. As a result of this activity 10 DCVAW staff were trained and 4 proposals for resource mobilization were developed.

<sup>7</sup> UNDP awareness sessions reached 5,919 IDPs, and UN Women sessions reached 125.

<sup>8</sup> UNDP supported 254 sessions in KRI, and UN Women supported 25.

In 2018, with the available limited funds UNDP will help DCVAW to conduct a series of awareness raising sessions/ events to at -risk and vulnerable groups among IDPs/ refugees and, host communities in KR-I. Where possible UNDP will also assist with priority training and mentoring of DCVAW staff to harness their skills and capacities to serve and protect CRSV/GBV survivors and at -risk women and girls.

UN Women continues to identify potential funding opportunities to support activities in the Sharia camp. To ensure continued access to services for survivors, UN Women has connected the legal aid clinic to other partner NGOs funded by UN Women for referrals and transfer of cases where necessary. Furthermore, UN Women's project partner also engages in ongoing programming that provides GBV services, including legal assistance and counseling and psychosocial support (PSS), to survivors and women in Dohuk, as well as 6 other governorates.

UN Women also continues to advocate for increased funding and prioritization of provision of services to GBV and CRSV survivors within the international donor community through the International Gender Group (IGG) and government. The IGG provides a forum for co-ordination and dialogue between member Development Partners aimed at promoting gender equality and women's empowerment according to Iraq's international commitments, gender policies and legislation and through harmonization of efforts and advocacy of commonly agreed positions. Complementing these efforts, UN Women also works closely with UNAMI Senior Women Protection Advisory to coordinate and support the Plan for the Implementation of the Joint Communique.

### 3. Lessons-Learned & Best practices

Guidance: Describe main challenges encountered during project implementation; outline any lessons-learned and good practices that emerged throughout the implementation of the project and how they will be used to inform future programming and/or project replication

#### **Key challenges:**

- ***Legislative gaps in the Iraqi legal system:*** The fight against ISIL and the atrocities committed by the militant group in Iraq since 2014 present new and challenging legal issues that did not exist before. Among others these include registration and legal status of children born to ISIL fighters in Iraq, supporting thousands of households whose breadwinner is either presumed dead or missing and, dealing with hundreds of women and girls who were forced to marry ISIL fighters and are now widowed. The current legal system does not provide provision to address these legal issues. These gaps are hindering the process of justice for CRSV survivors and their children. In future programming and project replication, it is therefore a necessity to include a dedicated output to address these legislative gaps.
- ***Obstruction of Justice related to CRSV/GBV cases:*** In liberated areas, when a case is brought before the court firstly, it requires security clearance to ensure that the case often involving a request for a death certificate -that the deceased is not a ISIL fighter. According to Iraqi Law for a woman to seek formal/ official recognition as

head of the household it must be evidenced by her husband's death certificate. In the absence of such formal recognition a woman as the head of the household cannot request for any official documents such as ID cards, passports, birth certifications that are generally requested by the father/ husband on behalf of rest of the family members. Similarly the security clearance process is time intensive and causes protracted delays to administration of justice to affected parties.

- ***Lack of CRSV and GBV awareness among judges and judicial officers:*** **Judges** lack knowledge of CRSV and GBV and specialized expertise to adjudicate such cases. Similarly it is also alleged that in some cases judges, officials and police in newly liberated areas harass CRSV and GBV survivors. For example if the applicant was married to an ISIL fighter -often they are considered as an 'ISIL supporter/ sympathizer' or an 'ISIL wife'. Often they have already been 'judged' even before they present their case. In future programming and project replication it is important to invest in training and awareness raising to judges and judicial officers in handling/ adjudicating CRSV/ GBV cases
- ***Absence of civil registration:*** In the liberated areas thousands of marriages, divorces, deaths and births have not been registered during ISIL control. It has deprived a large number of people from receiving birth certificates, identity cards and passports as well as accessing social services such as health care, school placements etc. While some NGOs are assisting with documentation for these affected people/ families the services are limited and, fail to meet the increasing demand. In future programming and project replication it is important therefore to include an activity to help with civil registration in liberated areas.
- ***More piecemeal, short term financial support to CRSV/GBV projects in Iraq:*** The current funding trajectory for CRSV/ GBV projects is short term and more piecemeal. If the on going efforts by UN agencies and NGOs to support the government and affected communities on CRSV /GBV were to sustain, it is critical to provide longer -term more strategic and technical financial support to enable sustainable changes - moving away from more piecemeal, short- term approaches to financial support. It should be an important consideration in all future programming and project replications.

#### **Lessons Learned/ Best Practice:**

- ***Strategic partnership with DCVAW:*** The project allowed UNDP to develop a strategic partnership with DCVAW to support CRSV/GBV survivors and at- risk women and girls by providing free legal aid and social services. The partnership also allowed on the job training for DCVAW staff to up skill their knowledge and expertise on legal aid service delivery to CRSV/GBV survivors and at -risk women and girls. Further the partnership also helped to gradually institutionalize this intervention area within DCVAW over the project period. However it should be noted that the on going financial crisis in KRG would remain a major challenge in their ability to retain and hire personnel to continue service delivery.

- ***Collaborative partnerships with DCVAW and CSOs:*** The project also allowed UNDP to establish collaborative partnerships between DCVAW and CSOs working in legal aid service sector and with CRSV/GBV survivors. The partnership ultimately allowed both DCVAW and CSOs to combine their expertise to support CRSV/GBV survivors and at -risk women and girls through free legal aid services. Partnerships developed between DCVAW and CSOs during the project period will sustain for the longer term. Previously DCVAW has had very limited or no engagement with CSOs in this sphere. Similarly this collaborative partnership also resulted in timely and organized referrals to survivors such as health, documentation, livelihood support etc.
- ***'One stop shop' service centers for CRSV/GBV survivors:*** Recognizing the movement/ mobility restrictions imposed on displaced women and girls, the 'one stop shop' legal aid service centers support by this project allowed a greater number of CRSV/GBV survivors and at -risk women and girls seeking assistance from the centers both through in- camp and out- camp mobile centers. The centers provided legal aid and social services under one roof and where necessary also made direct referrals to other services such as health service providers, livelihood programs, child protection organizations and camp management.
- ***Combined services:*** UN Women saw that providing multi-sectoral services in one location was a key factor to success in program implementation. Due to mobility restrictions, access to financial resources and additional barriers, women are often unable to travel freely or to multiple locations for different services. Providing PSS and legal assistance and counseling together enabled women to access multiple services at once.
- ***Mobile teams:*** Similarly, UN Women and UNDP recognized that incorporating mobile teams enabled staff to reach those that need services but who are unable to access the centers. Specifically, providing regular visits to surrounding camps enabled staff to serve women while also building strong relationships with camp management.
- ***Coordination and Partnership with Local Justice Bodies:*** A key outcome from this program was UN Women and its partner's relationship with the Genocide Court in Dohuk. Through close coordination with court staff, UN Women teams were able to secure formal endorsement by the court for their work with GBV/CRSV survivors, authorizing them to manage their case on behalf of the clients (reducing burden of transportation and potential re-traumatization of survivors). The Genocide Court is understaffed and handles a high case load (over 1800), and additional requested to have UN Women partner staff support the cases in the court. Social workers then rotated one-two days a week at the court, following up on cases and providing PSS and legal services to survivors. This close coordination and partnership enabled UN Women teams to ensure women were able to access justice via the court as desired, and were able to support additional survivors while physically at the court on their rotations.



## 5. Project Data

Guidance: Present achievements against indicators outlined in the project's log-frame

[PROJECT TITLE]

- LOGFRAME -

	Project Summary	Indicators	Results		Verification Method
			Planned	Actual	
GOAL					
OUTCOME(s)					
OUTPUTS					
ACTIVITIES (INPUTS)					
PROBLEM STATEMENT	<i>[Description of the project's gap-filling contribution]</i>				