



**STOP RAPE NOW**  
UN ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

**Strengthening the Capacity of UNAMI in collaboration with the UN Country Team to implement the conflict-related sexual violence mandate through the deployment of a Senior Women Protection Advisor**  
**PROJECT NUMBER: UNA048**

***UN ACTION MPTF PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT***

<b>Country</b>	IRAQ
<b>Project Start Date</b>	(02/2017)
<b>Project Completion Date</b>	(02/2018)
<b>UN Implementing Entities</b>	LEAD: UNAMI: SUPPORTING: UNCT
<b>Name of Reporting Focal Point</b>	Idah Muema
<b>Title of Reporting Focal Point</b>	Senior Women Protection Advisor

Report Date	(02/2018)
<b>1. Background</b>	

**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.

The purpose of the project was to support UNAMI and the UNCT implement the mandate on conflict-related sexual violence including establishing a Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (MARA) mechanism for Iraq and strengthen the ability of the Government of Iraq implement the Joint Communiqué on prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence through the recruitment and deployment of a senior women protection advisor. The project was implemented under Pillar A of UN Action against Rape which is: Support to UN system-Wide Action at Country Level.

Following its seizure of Mosul and surrounding areas in June 2014, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) instituted a pattern of sexual violence, slavery, abduction and human trafficking mainly targeting women and girls from minority communities. Eyewitness accounts gathered by UNAMI/OHCHR and investigations<sup>1</sup> conducted by an OHCHR special investigation mission in Iraq from December 2014 to February 2015, as well as discussions conducted with women and girls who escaped ISIL captivity by the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Hawa Bangura, from 26 to 29 April 2015, indicated clear patterns of sexual violence against women by ISIL as a deliberate tactic of war to advance key strategic priorities<sup>2</sup>. These strategic priorities included recruitment, fundraising (through the sale of women and girls in slave markets, the payment of ransoms by their families, and the transfer of women among groups); to enforce discipline and order through the punishment of dissenters or family members; and to advance their radical ideology<sup>3</sup>. UNAMI/OHCHR continued to receive reports that civilians in ISIL captivity were subjected to harrowing acts of sexual and physical violence.<sup>4</sup> Incidents of CRSV perpetrated by ISIL continued to be reported and occurred alongside other forms of human rights violations.

With a view to ensuring a strengthened response to CRSV, the deployment of a senior women protection advisor was recommended in the 2015 annual report of the Secretary General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence to support the establishment of the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (MARA), strengthen coordination between UN and government partners in responding to the needs survivors of sexual violence and engage with the Government with a view to securing specific CRSV-related commitments.

In February 2017, a senior women protection advisor was recruited and deployed in UNAMI within the office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General following approval of funding support from UN Action against Rape. The CRSV mandate within UNAMI and the UNCT has been effected through a four-pronged approach: (i) advocacy to addresses CRSV and mainstreaming CRSV considerations in UN initiatives; in particular in UN agencies programming

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<sup>1</sup> In-depth interviews were conducted with over 100 victims and witnesses.

<sup>2</sup> UNAMI/HRO PoC report of 11 December 2014 to 30 April 2015

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

activities (ii) training (iii) establishing monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements (MARA) on CRSV and regular reporting in collaboration with members of the UNCT and (iv) strengthening coordination between the Mission, the UNCT, the government and other partners with regard to advancing the implementation of the Joint Communiqué on prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence.

## 2. Project Implementation – Overview & Results in 2017

### 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 during 2017 as well as any other activities implemented in synergy to project activities, if any.

#### **Advocacy**

Following the appointment of the SWPA and the designation of two high-level focal points on CRSV at the federal government and the Kurdistan Regional Government, the need to address CRSV and its consequences increasingly became visible. Efforts to advance the implementation of the Joint Communiqué have been stepped-up following the Government of Iraq’s willingness and commitment to addressing CRSV as demonstrated by senior Iraqi leadership including through the appointment of CRSV focal points within key ministries in Baghdad and Erbil. Significant steps have been made to develop an implementation plan on the Joint Communiqué on Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence.

Another example of the Government’s commitment to address CRSV is that, on the observance of the ‘International Day on the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict’ held on 19 June, Iraqi Prime Minister issued a statement reiterating the Government’s commitment to the full implementation of the Joint Communiqué on Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. Events to observe the day were also held in Baghdad by the Ministry of Interior and in Erbil by the High Council for Women’s Affairs. In the Erbil event, the SWPA participated in a round-table discussion jointly with the diplomatic community, government officials and civil society under the theme ‘*Preventing Sexual Violence Crimes through Justice and Deterrence*’.

In 2017, quarterly reports to the UN Secretary-General on implementation of UNAMI’s mandate continued to highlight actions undertaken to address CRSV including following the retaking of areas under ISIL-control.

#### **Coordination**

##### **Establishment of the MARA Working Group**

In April 2017, UNAMI Senior Women Protection Advisor provided a briefing at a UNCT meeting and UNAMI Senior Management Meeting requesting Senior Leadership- both from UNAMI and the UNCT to nominate staff members form the first MARA Working Group (WG) for Iraq according to the criteria established in the Provisional Guidance Note on UN SC resolution 1960 (2010) on operationalization of the MARA.<sup>5</sup> Following this request, staff members were

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<sup>5</sup> Provisional Guidance Note on UN Security Council resolution 1960 provides a criteria for determining which entities could

nominated from UNAMI Sections – the Gender Unit, Child Protection, the Integrated Coordination Office for Humanitarian and Development Affairs (ICODHA), Human Rights Office, the Office of Political Affairs (OPA) – and from the UNCT (UNDP, UNW, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNODC<sup>6</sup>, WHO and UNOPS). Nominated members of the MARA WG converged in Erbil for a two-day workshop from 01-02 August. The overall objective of the workshop was to strengthen the ability of members of the MARA WG to monitor, document and report CRSV in accordance with established guidelines. Sub-objectives were to; discuss the CRSV mandate for the UN system in Iraq; understand the operationalization of the MARA; understand linkages between the MARA and other protection monitoring and reporting tools e.g. the GBVIMS<sup>7</sup>, MRM<sup>8</sup>; discuss possible challenges and solutions in implementing the MARA and; review the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Group. The Group also had the opportunity to benefit from colleagues from MONUSCO and MINUSMA on their experiences on the process and functioning of the MARA. The format of the workshop included plenary sessions facilitated by UNAMI, UNHCR, UNFPA, WHO and OSRSG-SVC as well as group discussions. A pre and post-test questionnaire was administered at the beginning and the end of the workshop. It is important to note that the MARA Working Group is the first in Iraq and the MENA region and as such could be used as a blue print to establish future MARA WGs in the region; particularly those in similar contexts where CRSV is used both as tactic of conflict and terrorism such as Syria.

Meetings were held with MARA Working Group members in the last quarter of 2017. Further, the group adapted the global early warning indicators on conflict-related sexual violence to the context of Iraq.

The MARA Working Group, following its establishment for the first time, submitted inputs to the Annual Report of Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence at the end of 2017.

#### Engagement with the UNCT, GBV Sub-cluster, MRM and PSEA Network

The SWPA continued to participate in other protection monitoring and reporting mechanisms including the MRM for CAAC, GBV Sub-cluster and the PSEA network to share information, strengthen collaboration in CRVS analysis and training.

#### **Activities Implemented**

##### Training for government officials and civil society representatives

In July, senior and technical government officials participated in workshops on CRSV in Baghdad and Erbil organized with funding and technical support from the OSRSG-SVC. The workshops examined the CRSV mandate and the role of key ministries in advancing the implementation of the Joint Communiqué on Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence.

Under the DPA Extra-Budgetary Project on '*Strengthening UNAMI's Support for the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325*', UNAMI Senior Women Protection Advisor conducted a three-day training on CRSV for local NGOs Dohuk in September in collaboration with UNFPA and UNICEF as part its activities The collaboration and participation of relevant UN agencies in all the workshops continues to underscore the importance of partnership in

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participate in the MARA WG.

<sup>6</sup> UNODC does not have a physical presence in Iraq. It's role in the MARA is important due to the linkage between sexual violence and trafficking in armed conflict as highlighted in SCR 2331 (2016)

<sup>7</sup> Gender-based Violence Integrated Management Systems.

<sup>8</sup> Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms on Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC).

implementing the Joint Communiqué and consolidating efforts on strengthening the capacity of the Government and NGOs in tackling CRSV.

#### Round-table discussions with religious leaders

Similarly, under the DPA Extra Budgetary Project, roundtable discussions with religious leaders were held in May and August in Baghdad and Dohuk respectively. In Baghdad, UNAMI met with Christian and Turkmen Shi'a religious leaders separately whilst in Dohuk meetings were held with members of the Yezidi Spiritual Council and Sunni Arab leaders from Mosul- most of whom are imams and religious scholars. Discussions with Turkmen Shi'a leaders in Baghdad confirmed concerns around difficulties in obtaining information on the scope of sexual violence meted out on Turkmen Shi'a women and girls by ISIL.

### **b) Results & Impacts**

**Guidance: Describe the main results and impacts achieved through the project during 2017, NOTE: If possible, include quotes and statements that may help you illustrate your project's story**

#### Main results

- i. Establishment of the MARA Working Group in accordance to UNAMI mandate and UN SCR 1960.
- ii. Increase in visibility of the need to tackle CRSV including its consequences.
- iii. Strengthened partnerships within the UN and between the UN and Government as well as other key actors including religious leaders in addressing CRSV under the context of the implementation of the Joint Communiqué on Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence.

#### Impact

- i. Establishment of the MARA Working Group will support better information-gathering, analysis and reporting on CRSV by the UN.
- ii. Increase in visibility of the need to tackle CRSV including its consequences ensures that CRSV remains a priority both nationally and internationally. This further expands the possibility to allocate financial and human resources to tackling CRSV.
- iii. Addressing CRSV in partnership with the Government of Iraq, civil society is key to synergizing efforts to tackle the complexities associated with CRSV.

### **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**

At the end of 2017, approval was obtained to include the SWPA post in the regular budget of UNAMI.

Under DPA extra-budgetary support, consultations with religious leaders on how to better protect survivors of sexual violence in conflict and children born of rape will continue. Addressing protection concerns of children borne of rape will be undertaken by UNICEF in collaboration with the UNCT and UNAMI under a project funded by UN Action against Rape.

### 3. Lessons-Learned & Best practices

**Guidance:** Describe main challenges encountered during project implementation in 2017; 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

#### Main Challenges

- i. Limited capacity to verify cases especially in areas where UN actors have no/limited access
- ii. Insecurity
- iii. Political challenges e.g. dispute between the federal and regional governments, differences in approach on CRSV and addressing human rights challenges etc.
- iv. Lack of clarity between CRSV, SEA and some forms of GBV e.g. survival sex.
- v. Unavailability of data on CRSV committed against men and boys.

#### Good Practices

- i. The collaboration and participation of relevant UN agencies in all the workshops continues to underscore the importance of partnership in implementing the Joint Communiqué and consolidating efforts on strengthening the capacity of the Government and NGOs in tackling CRSV.
- ii. Discussions with religious leaders from Iraq's diverse religious and ethnic groups should continue. Common ground can be found in all these groups to enhance the protection of survivors of sexual violence and to find acceptable way to protect children born of rape. The ability of religious leaders to reach a much wider audience with messages of acceptance, safety and support for survivors should be harnessed in advancing protection for CRSV survivors. With regard to the status of children borne of rape, efforts on tackling stigma should continue. In depth studies and assessments are needed to facilitate a better understanding of the scope and consequences of CRSV.

## 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>				