

Coordinated Action to Respond to the Needs of Child Born of Rape, Children Born to ISIL Fighters, and Their Survivor Mothers (UNICEF ref: SC170619)	
UN ACTION MPTF PROJECT FINAL REPORTING FORM	
Country	Iraq
Project Start Date	01 October 2017
Project Completion Date	31 December 2019
Project Duration	27 months
UN Implementing Entities	UNICEF
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UN Action pillar of activity	<input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Knowledge building <input type="checkbox"/> Support to UN system at country level
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1. Project Context

The military operation to retake the city of Mosul began on 17 October 2016. In the months prior, the humanitarian situation continued to worsen due to escalation of fighting along the Tigris and Euphrates River corridors as the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) moved towards northern Ninewa. Starting mid-2016, the Government of Iraq (GoI) intensified its military operations to retake Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) controlled areas in Fallujah in Anbar Governorate and into Salah al Din and Ninewa Governorates. Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced into Anbar, Baghdad, Salah al Din, Kirkuk, Erbil, and Ninewa. Since the operations to retake Mosul, an estimated 330,000 have been displaced. Additional people are anticipated to be displaced, possibly as many as 350,000 as the military operations continue inside West Mosul. By mid-2017, as the Mosul crisis evolves, as many as 12-13 million people in Iraq may require some form of humanitarian assistance.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is widespread and continues to be exacerbated as vulnerabilities of women and girls increase due to one of the largest crises emanating from the conflict to retake areas from ISIL control. Sexual violence including sexual slavery and multiple rapes have been used by ISIL as a tactic of terror and conflict, systematically and primarily targeting women and girls of specific ethnic and religious minority groups in Iraq and Syria.

Furthermore, those who have lived in areas under ISIL control have been at extreme risk of rights violations, abductions, rape, torture and abuse and restrictions to fundamental freedoms. The Republic of Iraq has already indicated its commitment to addressing conflict related sexual violence, as indicated by the 23 September 2016 Joint Communiqué of the Republic of Iraq and the United Nations on Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) signed by the UN and the Republic of Iraq.

This proposal directly supported commitment (3) of the *Joint Communiqué* to “[ensure] the provision of services, livelihood support, and reparations for survivors and children born of rape” as well as commitment (1) to “[support] legislative and policy reform for strengthen protection from and service response for sexual violence crimes and to facilitate documentation, return and reintegration of IDPs and refugees into communities.” The UN, under this framework of the Joint Communiqué has a key role to support the GoI strengthen its primary responsibility to protect the rights of children, including those born as a result of rape. Furthermore, following the designation of High-level focal points on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence at federal and regional levels, the UN has initiated discussions for the establishment of an inter-ministerial taskforce to oversee implementation of the Joint Communiqué. In close collaboration with the CRSV High-level focal points and with the support of UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI), project staff engaged with members of the inter-ministerial taskforce to discuss the implementation process and to ensure governmental support and interventions are provided as needed. Through this proposal, UNICEF and UNAMI led engagement with relevant national institutions on areas of advocacy identified through the initial evidence generation phase. The resulting framework and coordinated response plan will enable the taskforce to work with relevant government ministries to strengthen their ability to support survivors and children born of rape.

2. Progress Summary

a) Project Goal

This UNICEF and UNAMI joint project, funded by the UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, contributed to addressing the needs and situation of children born of rape and to people perceived of affiliation with ISIL in Iraq and to the steady realization of the third pillar of the Joint Communiqué signed between the Government of Iraq and the United Nations, primarily through enhancing knowledge and evidence base about the situation of children born of rape and to people perceived of affiliations with ISIL. Specifically, the project provided dedicated resources and capacity to (a) assess the scope of the problem (b) review and provide analysis of the legal framework (c) map existing responses in different locations, including judicial and local authorities' handling of cases and support provided by non-government organisations (NGO)/civil society organisations (CSO) and treatment of children in similar situations in Iraq (d) engage relevant ministries, governmental authorities (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs [MoLSA], Ministry of the Interior [MoI] Ministry of Justice [MoJ], MoH and registration authorities, etc.), tribal, religious leaders, community and women leaders, and any task forces focused on implementation of the joint communiqué (e) identify gaps and areas of advocacy or intervention

to follow up (f) develop coordinated response strategy to be taken forward by the established taskforce and relevant actors and (g) provide leadership for coordination (working group or task force) of UN agencies and national and international NGOs responding to survivors of CRSV and their children to jointly address this complex issue

During the project period, the UN efforts under this project have significantly contributed to enhancing the knowledge and evidence base about children born of rape and to people perceived of affiliations with ISIL by completing, verifying and disseminating two key studies namely, review of existing legal and policy framework and assessment of the situation analysis of children born of rape and to people perceived of affiliation with ISIL.

b) Project Outcomes

Indicator: Policies and legal frameworks that facilitate response programmes addressing the needs of children born of rape/ to ISIL fighters, and survivors of CRSV are formulated and work begun to operationalize through action framework and coordination mechanisms (working group or task force)- **Completed.**

This project contributed to coordinated action to respond to the needs of children born of rape, children born of ISIL fighters and their survivor mothers through building and enhancing the knowledge and evidence base through situation analysis and review of existing legal and policy frameworks.

In line with the project proposal, UNICEF hired a consultant, a lawyer, who conducted review and analysis of the country's legal and policy framework for protection of children and a second consultant to undertake a situation analysis of children born of rape or to ISLL fighters. The finding from the legal review indicated that the Citizen Affairs and Public Relations Department and the Operations Branch of the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers have submitted an executive plan to support women survivors of sexual violence committed by ISIL.

The plan recognized children born because of sexual violence and, specifically to meet the needs of these children, recommended allocation of new homes or shelters for children born, or those who will be born, due to forced marriage, in case they are abandoned by their mothers. The analysis of existing legislation also indicated all children born in areas formerly controlled by ISIL and who do not have birth certificates face significant procedural hurdles to be able to register and receive needed documentation. For children born of rape and sexual slavery where proof of paternity may be impossible, the Iraqi law does not have any provisions for this category of children and a special court was established to deal with such cases.

c). Project Outputs

Output 1: Capacity of UN Agencies strengthened to address issues of children born of rape

Indicator: # UNA-funded field level human resources supporting improved conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) prevention and response: **Achieved**

Two dedicated consultants were hired with support from the UNA contribution and have completed their assignments. One national legal consultant was hired to undertake the review of legal framework related to the issue of children born of rape and to people perceived of affiliation with ISIL in Iraq. Another national consultant was recruited to support with coordination and to undertake assessment of factors impacting on the fundamental rights of children affected by conflict, with a focus on children born of rape and to people perceived of affiliation with ISIL. Both assessments have been completed, details of which are indicated in output 2 and, through these studies, have supported an increase in the capacity of UN agencies in Iraq to address issues facing children born of rape.

Output 2: Capacity and engagement of government, other national actors, and international non-governmental organisations (INGO) to confront the challenges of addressing conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) and protecting children born of rape strengthened.

Indicator: Increased engagement, capacity and understanding of the gaps in knowledge, practices, advocacy and technical expertise among government, national actors, and INGOs regarding CRSV and children born of rape: **Achieved**

With the UNA contribution, UNICEF and UNAMI have taken measures to strengthen the knowledge base and enhance engagement of government and other national actors. Findings from the legal and policy review and situation analysis were presented to different stakeholders including religious and community leaders, Government officials and prominent parliamentarians, judges and lawyers, survivors and youth groups, on four separate occasions to verify the evidence and propose recommendations. The proposed recommendations/plan will be presented for consideration of high-level government and civil society organizations – this is expected to take place in April 2020.

The process of consultation was led by a national NGO partner, 'EMMA' who was selected because of their current engagement in advocating for and addressing harms suffered by female survivors of rape by ISIL and their children. This involved presentation of the findings and carefully-prepared video testimonies of mothers. Recommendations developed following this consultation call for actions around (a) legal and policy reform (b) access to civil documentation and Mental Health and PSS services (MHPSS) and (c) community awareness raising to assist social reintegration children born of rape and to those with perceived affiliations to ISIL.

As part of national child protection systems strengthening, UNICEF is currently supporting both federal Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq to develop a of Child Rights Act. This is being funded with complementary contributions (non-UNA) and, as of December 2019, review of the existing had been completed at federal level and a draft of the Child Rights Act had been produced at KRI level; this work will continue in 2020, as UNICEF and partners will advocate, during legal drafting and consultation process, to fix legislative gaps identified in this legal review.

Output 3: Capacity, technical expertise of UN agencies, INGO, and national actors leveraged to address identified gaps and strengthen positive response and access to services for children born of rape, children born to ISIL fighters, and survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.

Indicators:

- Action plan developed with joint commitment from taskforce and clear benchmarks for action. – **drafted; still to be submitted for Government review and endorsement**
- # events conducted to share findings of analytical review & action plan – **four completed, one to be held in April**
- % gaps or challenges identified in analysis addressed in the action framework (100%). **Gaps have been identified in three broad areas (a) legislative gap (b) access to basic Civil Registration, Mental Health Services (c) and social stigma related to perceived association with ISIL. The proposed recommendations address all three.**

A draft plan covering recommendation on three major areas of gaps identified during situation analysis and legislative reviews (i.e legal and policy reform; access to civil documentation and MHPSS services; and community awareness-raising to assist social reintegration children born of rape and to those with perceived affiliations to ISIL) was produced following four consultations with different stakeholders. As of December 2019, the draft plan was yet to be presented to senior government officials and civil society organization for review and endorsement; a further event is planned in April 2020.

An example of increased awareness of gaps and challenges facing children born of rape and other conflict-affected children is the increased focus on this issue under the UN interagency Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), reflected in increased commitments to support civil documentation/birth registration – from a 2018 target of 2,000 children, to 15,000 children in 2019. Additionally, in 2019 and using non-UNA sources of funding, UNICEF, through its regular child protection program, supported civil registration of 5,127 children (2,693 girls) through provision of legal representation and facilitation of civil documentation for children.

Coordination mechanisms involving UN agencies and NGOs were established at the start of the UNA project in 2017; however, this lost momentum due to delay in identification of appropriate consultants to undertake the study and delays associated with reporting. However, coordination between UN agencies have been strengthened since November 2019 and is continuing.

At upstream level UNICEF, UNAMI and UNHCR have engaged with MoLSA, Mol, MoJ and the Judicial Council to advocate for mobile legal clinic and birth registration services, and for establishment of a clear procedure of registration of children in conflict-affected areas including children born of rape and to those perceived to have association with ISIL in order to increase the reach of service and ensure that more and more children secure birth certificate. This effort was slowed down due to the uncertain political situation in across much of central and southern Iraq during the UNA project period.

d) Project Activities

Completed analysis of the legal framework governing Civil Documentation in Iraq: The analysis of legal framework was undertaken with the aim of understanding legal bottlenecks faced by families seeking to obtain birth certificates and civil documentation for their children and identifying concrete and actionable recommendations to overcome these. The study involved desk review of national legal and regulatory framework to identify laws, regulations, policies and practices related to civil documentation and registration for children born of rape or in ISIL-controlled territory and their mothers, including marriage and birth registration. In addition, stakeholder analysis was conducted to identify key stakeholders from among the Ministries, governmental authorities,¹ registration authorities, High Judicial Council) and legal experts, and explored their level of interest and influence to determine entry points for action. The legal analysis also looked at existing responses in different locations, including judicial and local authorities' handling of cases, and treatment of children and women facing legal registration issues. A final report titled "Analysis of the Legal Framework Governing Civil Documentation in Iraq" was produced. The analysis of existing legislation also indicated all children born in areas formerly controlled by ISIL who do not have birth certificates face significant procedural hurdles to register. For children born of rape where proof of paternity may be impossible, Iraqi law does not have any provisions for this category; a special court was established to deal with such cases.

Furthermore, the situation analysis of children born of rape and to people perceived to have been affiliated with ISIL indicated that, the Department and the Operations Branch of the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers have produced an executive plan to support women survivors of sexual violence committed by ISIS. The plan recognized children born because of sexual violence and recommended allocation of new homes or shelters for children born, or who will be born, because of rape or forced marriage, in case of their abandonment.

Completed situation analysis of children born of rape and to people perceived of affiliation with ISIL: This study was undertaken to improve knowledge base on factors affecting the fundamental rights of children born of rape and people perceived to be affiliated to ISIL because of conflict, and to identify major gaps in existing interventions and inform actions to be taken to protect this group. Analysis involved 11 focus group discussions with mothers and caregivers; 76 interviews

¹ Ministry of Displacement and Migration; Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs; Ministry of Interior; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Health

with relevant individuals and government stakeholders; and five long roundtable discussions involving UNAMI, UNICEF, tribal leaders and activists in Dahuk, Mosul and Baghdad governorates. The main tools were: Questionnaire on evaluation of services provided in the field of child protection; Guide to focus group discussions for mothers; Guide for interviewing government agencies; Guide to group discussion for local leaders and civil activists; case study and mapping. The analysis focused on children born to ISIL parents because of the inability to reach rape-born children and their mothers due to the sensitivity of the subject. The study identified two broad areas of challenges in improving protection. The first is legal challenges faced by families seeking to obtain birth certificates and civil documentation. The second is social rejection of those children, who are treated as a source of danger and as security threats, rather than victims.

Mapping and analysis of current practices and capacity: Mapping of existing actors and responses identified 52 NGO/CSO organizations who are in some way working on the issue or have at least one type of relevant service available for children affected by conflict including children born of CRSV and their mothers. However, findings indicated that there is no targeted or specific services for children born of rape or to those who have perceived affiliations with ISIL, nor there is an assessment of the needs of this group. Mapping of services for and response gaps for all children affected by conflict is regularly carried out by the CP and GBV sub-cluster and evidence incorporated in HRP.

3. Project Beneficiaries

The main focus of the program was evidence building, coordination and planning; for this reason, there was no direct delivery of services undertaken by UNICEF with UNA funds. However, the new knowledge generated from the two studies produced with UNA funds have increased the knowledge and awareness of a range of key stakeholders including government bodies and NGO/CSO partners, on the challenges facing this particularly vulnerable group of children. In this way, project outputs are indirectly contributing to support increased and improved services targeting children born of rape, children born to ISIL fighters, and their survivor mothers.

4. Implementing partner coordination and stakeholder engagement

UNICEF and UNAMI are the lead implementing partners for this project, in collaboration with other UN Agencies. The programme was managed jointly by UNICEF and UNAMI. UNAMI led the coordination while UNICEF received the UNA funding for legal reviews and studies. UNICEF recruited two consultants to carry out reviews, and partnered with EMMA, a local NGO who carried out stakeholder consultation on the finding of the studies and development of the draft action plan.

The initial consultation conducted included UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNAMI, and the International Rescue Committee (IRC). UNICEF leads the national Child Protection sub-cluster (CPSC) in Iraq which coordinates humanitarian Child Protection response. UNAMI and UNICEF actively engage in GBV coordination at national and sub-national levels across Iraq, including as members of the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) of the GBV Sub Cluster (GBVSC) which oversees humanitarian GBV prevention and response. UNICEF and UNAMI also engaged other stakeholders including UNOCHA, UNFPA, UNHCR, IOM UNDP, as well as local civil society, local organisations, and international NGOs at different points in the implementation of the project. Consultations were held with a range of relevant civil society organizations and youth groups at the research phase as well as during verification and dissemination events.

Strengthening the capacity of local community-based organizations and government involved several trainings and mentoring as well as systems strengthening. This project did not have a component on institutional strengthening.

5. Challenges

Challenges with recruitment and coordination: UNICEF faced some delays in implementation in the initial months of the project related to finalizing the two national consultancies. These issues were fully resolved during the first half of the project, and substantial progress was made between 2018 and mid-2019 regarding key activities. The final report from this consultancy was expected by UNICEF in May 2019. However, the national consultant focusing on coordination and community consultation, while strong in technical areas and research on the subject of the consultancy, had limited English skills, which necessitated that technical reports, as well as other outputs from this consultancy, are prepared firstly in Arabic before being translated into English. Given the final report provides important inputs for the development of the coordinated action plan, and the sensitivity of the issues related to the work of the coordination mechanism, an extension was requested by UNICEF to the UNA. Because of this delay, the coordination group decided to meet less frequently, and the group also experienced some significant staff turnover between inception of activities and later phases of work.

Difficulty of accessing the target group: Due to the sensitivity of the issue, it was difficult to identify and talk to the target group. However, other categories of vulnerable children without birth registration or civil/national documentation were identified through community consultations and focus group discussions (FGD). These groups of children face similar, if not identical, underlying legal and social barriers to accessing basic rights and services. For these reasons, it was difficult for the researcher conducting the situation analysis to fully separate these groups from the stream of work under the UN Action project. The situation was less complex for the legal review consultant, as legal procedures were more clearly delineated and differentiated between these groups of children. A takeaway from this is that, while there is a clear need to tackle specific legal hurdles and social stigmas, it is important to avoid narrow, issue-based solutions to problems that are similar across a wider group of children.

Challenges to mapping of services: Overall the consultant did not identify any services that specifically target this group of children; those services that are available, are for all conflict-affected children. However, the changing context, with large numbers of IDPs returning to re-taken areas (in some cases, with movement being forced/involuntary) as well as reduced funding for humanitarian response, there have been frequent shifts and changes in types and levels of child protection, GBV and other services available . This made mapping of NGOs/CSOs responses and gaps challenging.

Challenges for legal consultancy: The legal consultancy was short (three months) given complexity of the problem and the need to develop trust with various stakeholders. The issues covered by the legal report and discussed during key informant interviews were sensitive and not all stakeholders were willing to provide frank and open information. Security concerns raised by some key informants may have created barriers to sharing of information despite the fact that confidentiality was assured. Due to these factors, this report was initially delayed and is being held as confidential with only limited circulation.

6. Lessons Learned

Evidence generated from the two studies conducted by this project highlighted two critical barriers to the realization of fundamental rights of children born of rape and to people perceived to have associated with ISIL. The first major challenge that many children in conflict affected governorate do not have birth certificate or other civil documents. Children born of rape and to people perceived to have associations with ISIL face very complex legal bottlenecks to birth registration and civil documentation. In Iraq, lacking an identity document could have the following consequences for the person- a) Denial of access to health, education, housing and employment; b) Restricted movement due to risk of arrest by security forces; c) Cannot apply for welfare benefits (social protection cash transfers). The second problem is the social rejection to those children and treating them as a source of danger and security threat rather than victims. These two critical bottlenecks need to be addressed for these children to have their rights to freedom of movement and access to basic services realized.

7. Innovations

The key component of this project is evidence building and knowledge generation. There were no major innovations. The study design used standard qualitative including key informant interviews (KII), focus group discussions (FGD) and desk reviews.

8. Sustainability Plan

Key bottlenecks identified during this project relate to access to civil documentation and social stigma facing children born of rape. Improving access to civil documentation is one of the key targets for HRP. However, the HRP only targets 15,000 of 460,000 children who have been

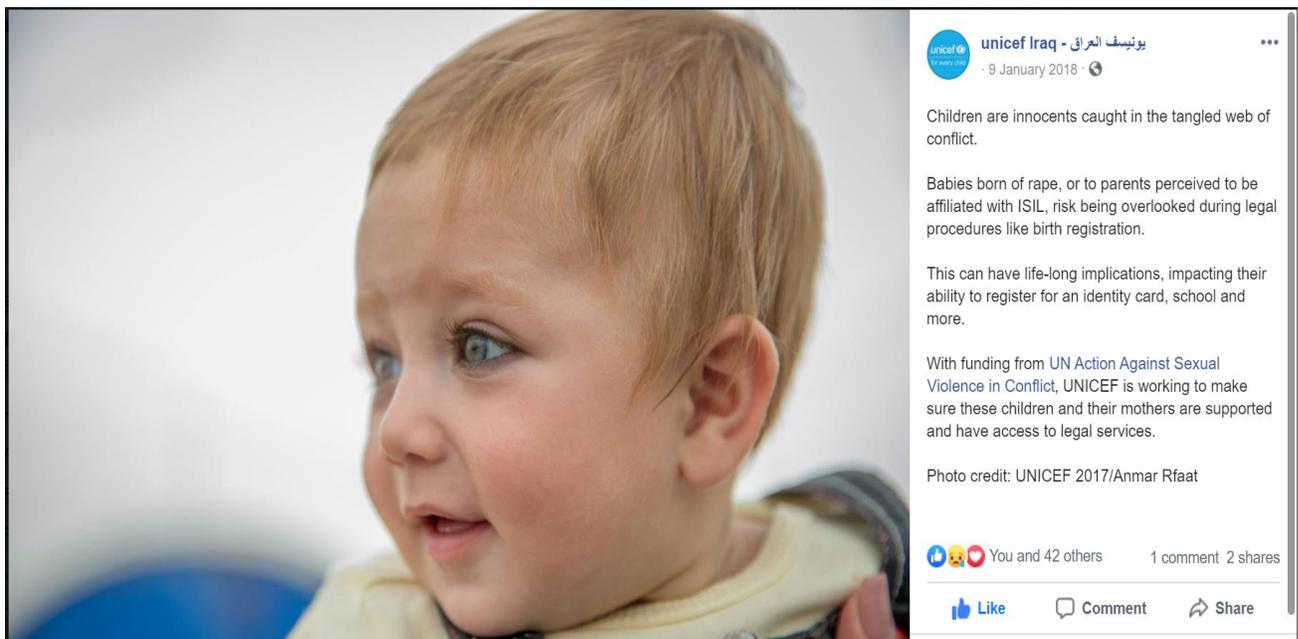
identified as in need of civil registration. Therefore there is a need for concerted advocacy for government to reduce legal hurdles and improve birth registration for all. A safe and successful reintegration of children born of rape and women survivors requires addressing social stigmas and barriers identified in the study. Therefore, sustainability of the intervention requires further follow up and integration of this issue into broader child protection and GBV intervention.

9. Communicate Strategy, Products, Tools and Media

Despite the sensitivity of the issues surrounding the interventions, and groups, who were the central focus of the UNA project, UNICEF was able to recognize the UNA contribution through its public social media outlets and channels, in line with a standard external communication and resource partner recognition strategy. As standard, UNICEF works to deliver resource partner recognition, and all material on its external communication channels, in English and in the language(s) of the countries in which it works; in this case, materials were produced in English, Arabic and Kurdish languages. Produced items are linked below, in section 10.

10. Voices and Stories

- 01/09: UNICEF Iraq English Facebook post: <http://bit.ly/2lpJWmM>
- 01/09: UNICEF Iraq Kurdish Facebook post: <http://bit.ly/2lpJWmM>
- 01/09: UNICEF Iraq Arabic Facebook post: <http://bit.ly/2lpJWmM>
- 01/09: UNICEF Iraq Twitter post: <http://bit.ly/2p6UEFM>
- 03/08: Human Interest Story (HIS): <http://bit.ly/2oYsT2d>
- 03/08: HIS linked to UNICEF Iraq Facebook post: <http://bit.ly/2oTLDRb>
- 03/08: HIS linked to UNICEF Iraq Twitter post: <http://bit.ly/2ttTLwx>



11. Budgetary and Spending Report

UNICEF requested two No Cost Extensions (one in August 2018, and the second in the first half of 2019) for this grant to extend the project lifespan until 31 December 2019. While developing the two consultant positions, UNICEF engaged in discussions on divisions of labour, as well as consultation and review and at different levels (UNAMI, UNICEF/ country offices, regional office and UNA). Originally, the consultancy was designed to be provided by one international expert with the support of national one but, given the language of the documents to be examined as well as the focus on community consultation, this approach was changed instead to have two national consultants: one focusing on legal framework (3 months) and another focusing on coordination and community consultation (11 months). The coordination consultant had extensive knowledge on the subject of the consultancy, however, she had more limited English skills than were anticipated. She was nevertheless selected due to her technical knowledge. The change in approach resulted in savings in projected amounts for consultancies; UNICEF and UNAMI discussed reprogramming of these funds, and approached UNA for approval, indicating that funds would need to be used for oral interpretation to support the community consultant in meetings with International (i.e. English speaking) counterparts and for translation of technical reports and other outputs resulting from this consultancy.

In addition, as part of the second NCE, UNICEF indicated that remaining balance of funds would be used for additional validation meetings with stakeholders and for dissemination of the findings and communication products; UNAMI and UNICEF had identified a national NGO partner (EMMA), who was also a member of the coordination group, who added further support in validation of findings and expedited finalization of the coordinated action plan with key stakeholders; the partnership with EMMA accounts for the expenditures under the Transfers and Grants to Counterparts category, indicated in the spending report below.

After approval of the NCE, and as of close of the project on 31 December 2019, all funds have been disbursed and there is no balance remaining.

Programme Budget	Budget USD	Expenditure USD
Category		
1. Staff and other personnel Cost	130,000.00	
<i>International/national consultant staff</i>	104,000.00	85,956.24
<i>National consultant staff</i>	26,000.00	
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	-	-
3. Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture	-	-
4. Contractual Services	30,000.00	2,501.03
5. Travel	8,315.89	2,438.88
6. Transfers and grants counterparts	-	77,419.70
7. General Operating and Other Direct Cost - Security, operations, Administration, M&E, management	18,600.00	18,600.00
Total Programmable Costs (7%)	13,084.11	13,084.11
Total Cost	200,000.00	199,999.96

12. Contribution to UN Action's Results Framework

The project contributed to the realization of the UN Actions Global Results Framework on CRVS by supporting UN actions at country level on knowledge building, stakeholder engagement and advocacy. The project specifically contributes to the achievement of the following key indicators under the UN Action's Global Results.

- ***UNAOup.3.2: UNA-funded HQ and field level human resources supporting improved CRSV prevention and response***

Two consultants were recruited. One conducted legal review and another conducted situation analysis

- ***UNAOuc.1.1: Increased knowledge, technical expertise and/or advocacy capacity of targeted stakeholders to respond to CRSV and protect survivors and at-risk groups***

Two knowledge products produced i.e

- Analysis of legal framework governing civil documentation in Iraq
- Situation analysis of children born of rape and children born to ISIS Fathers

- ***UNAOuc.1.2: Improved CRSV policy, practice and access to specific support services***

Increased awareness of the situation of Children Born of Rape or to individuals perceived to have association with ISIL, have contributed to increased commitments to support civil documentation/birth registration – from a 2018 target of 2,000 children, to 15,000 children in 2019. Additionally, in 2019 and using non-UNA sources of funding, UNICEF, through its regular child protection program, supported civil registration of 5,127 children (2,693 girls) through provision of legal representation and facilitation of civil documentation for children.

- ***UNAOuc.3.1: CRSV-affected countries supported with National Strategies and/or Action plans***

Evidence and recommendations from the situation analysis and legal reviews indicated under outcome 1.1 will be used for advocacy in the development of Child Rights Act for federal Iraq and for KRI.

13. Monitoring and Evaluation

The consultants hired by the project were routinely supervised by UNICEF GBV specialist and UNICEF Child Protection Specialist. Regular calls and discussions were held with UNAMI on the implementation of the project, latterly also with direct engagement from the UNA HQ focal point. UNICEF conducted training on for EMMA staff on Harmonized Cash Transfer Modalities and the UNICEF GBV Project Officer regularly met the partner and monitored implementation of programme and financial utilization.

14. Support and follow up from UN Action

UNICEF is currently supporting the Government of Iraq in development of Child Rights Act for Federal Iraq and for KRI. UN Action could support advocacy for the parliamentary endorsement of these acts once they are produced.

15. Other comments and questions

The sensitivities associated with the issue of CRSV in general and children born of rape and to those perceived to have affiliations have impacted the project significantly. Firstly, it was difficult to identify and assess the specific needs of the target group because of their fear of personal security and stigmas associated with perceived affiliations with ISIL. From the start it was difficult to find appropriate consultant to undertake assessments. Once the consultant was recruited it was difficult to identify the target group and undertake the assessment. This resulted in delayed production of reports, losing momentum in local coordination structures which were established at the start of the project.

In addition to the programmatic and operational complexities in Iraq, the UNA coordination structure was complex, and the reporting schedule to UNA was heavy and to a large degree repetitive given the scale of funding and the type of action underway. Future, similar initiatives should take into consideration the sensitivity of the issue and the time it may take to devise appropriate coordination structure integrated with the CP-GBV sub cluster coordination structure instead of creating a parallel taskforce.