



**IRFFI/UNDG IRAQ TRUST FUND (UNDG ITF)
ANNUAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT
AND FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2009**

- THIS PROJECT IS OPERATIONALLY CLOSED -

Submitted by:

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Country and Thematic Area²

Iraq
Health and Nutrition

***Programme No:D2-22
MDTF Office Atlas No: 66903
Programme Title: Enhancing the Iraqi
Institutions' Capacity in Analyzing and
Reporting Food Security and
Vulnerability in Iraq***

***Participating Organization(s):
World Food Programme***

Implementing Partners:

Central Organization for Statistics and Information Technology (COSIT) and the Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office (KRSO) of the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation (MoPDC) and the Nutrition Research Institute (NRI) of the Ministry of Health (MoH), Government of Iraq.

Programme Budget (from the Fund):

USD \$1,151,317

Etc.

¹ The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

² E.g. Priority Area for the Peacebuilding Fund; Thematic Window for the Millennium Development Goals Fund (MDG-F); etc.

Programme Duration (in months):18

Start date³: 28 March 2008

End date: 28 September 2009

- *Original end date – 28 Mar 2009*
- *Revised end date, if applicable – 28 Sep 2009*
- *Operational Closure Date⁴, if applicable:28 Sep 2009*

Budget Revisions/Extensions:

6-month extension approved on 1 April 2009.

Introduction:

The Narrative Progress Report template is in line with the UNDG Standard Progress Report.

Building on continued efforts made in the UN system to produce results-based reports, the progress report should describe how the activities (inputs) contributed to the achievement of specific short-term outputs during the twelve month reporting period, and to demonstrate how the short-term outputs achieved in the reporting period collectively contributed to the achievement of the agreed upon outcomes of the Strategic (UN) Planning Framework guiding the operations of the Fund⁵.

In support of the individual programme reports, please attach any additional relevant information and photographs, assessments, evaluations and studies undertaken or published.

The information contained in the Programme Summaries and Quarterly Updates prepared by the Participating Organizations may be useful in the preparation of the Annual Narrative Progress Report. These Summaries and Updates, where applicable, are available in the respective Fund sections of the MDTF Office GATEWAY (<http://mdtf.undp.org/>).

³ The start date is the date of the first transfer of funds from the MDTF Office as Administrative Agent.

⁴ All activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MDTF programme have been completed. Agencies to advise the MDTF Office.

⁵ E.g. in the case of the MDG-F, it is important to show how the programme relates to the UNDAF and how it aims to support national development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The causal links and rationale between the joint programme, the thematic window of the MDG-F and the MDGs should be clearly stated. In the case of the Peacebuilding Fund's Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility (PRF), show how the programme relates to the PBF Priority Plan's objectives. For the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund, explain how the programme relates to the UN Assistance Strategy for Iraq, UN MDGs, ICI, NDS, etc.

Formatting Instructions:

- The report should not exceed 10-15 pages.
- The report should be submitted in one single Word or PDF file.
- Annexes can be added to the report but need to be clearly referenced, using footnotes or endnotes within the body of the narrative.
- Do not change the Names and Numbers of the Sections below.

NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

I. Purpose

- Provide the main outputs and outcomes/objectives of the programme.

Development Goal:

Sustainable community based food security through informed and maintained social safety net strategy.

Immediate objectives:

1. Capacity of the Government of Iraq to conduct a comprehensive, nationwide survey on Food Security and Vulnerability enabled.
 2. An information analysis mechanism created to be used by planners and decision-makers to combat food insecurity, vulnerability and malnutrition.
- Explain how the Programme relates to the Strategic (UN) Planning Framework guiding the operations of the Fund.

Iraq's National Development Strategy (NDS) is established on 4 major pillars, the third of which is "Improving the quality of life". This requires the enactment of "a social safety net program for the poor and vulnerable".

This WFP assistance to Iraq specifically addresses this requirement of the NDS through building the capacity of the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation and giving them the necessary tools to build its own food safety net programme.

The results of this survey also relate directly to two of the goals outlined in the *International Compact with Iraq*, launched in May 2007:

1. Social Safety Nets – Taking care of the poor and vulnerable
2. Reforming Subsidies – Phasing out inefficient, large-scale subsidy programs while ensuring delivery of services to the poorest

This project identifies the locations of the most food insecure people inside Iraq. This data is available for the Government of Iraq in fulfilling the two goals above as set out in the Compact. The data can be used to create a social safety net, targeting the poorest with food. The data can also be used to reform the Public Distribution System (PDS) to target only vulnerable groups, shifting from blanket coverage to targeting only the most food insecure. Currently, the government-run PDS aims to deliver a monthly food ration to all citizens of Iraq.

This project also addresses the first Millennium Development Goal: “Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger”. The safety net would target the most vulnerable residents for food assistance, eradicating hunger.

II. Resources

Financial Resources:

- Provide information on other funding resources available to the project, if applicable.
- Provide details on any budget revisions approved by the appropriate decision-making body, if applicable.
- Provide information on good practices and constraints in the mechanics of the financial process, times to get transfers, identification of potential bottlenecks, need for better coordination, etc.

This project started quickly as there was a high level of interest from GoI counterparts. The principal constraint was delays in the approval process of IRFFI funds. The GoI expressed their commitment to this project in February 2007, but funds were only received in March 2008.

Human Resources:

- National Staff: Provide details on the number and type (operation/programme).

82 national staff including 58 based inside Iraq (programme and logistics staff). The 24 staff in Jordan and Syria are also comprised of programme and logistics staff as well as ICT, administration, finance, HR, security and drivers.

- International Staff: Provide details on the number and type (operation/programme)

10 international staff – 2 management, 1 finance/administration, 1 security, 3 logistics, 2 programme, 1 public information

III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

- Summarize the implementation mechanisms primarily utilized and how they are adapted to achieve maximum impact given the operating context.

WFP is implementing this project directly with the Ministry Planning and Development Cooperation's (MoPDC) Central Organisation for Statistics and Information Technology (COSIT) and the equivalent in the north – the Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office (KRSO), and the Ministry of Health's Nutrition Research Institute (NRI). Technical assistance is being provided by UNICEF and WHO.

- Provide details on the procurement procedures utilized and explain variances in standard procedures.

All procurement follows WFP's standard procurement procedures.

- Provide details on the monitoring system(s) that are being used and how you identify and incorporate lessons learned into the ongoing project.

This is the third survey that WFP has undertaken with the Government of Iraq. Lessons learnt from previous surveys have been incorporated into all stages of this project.

- Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken.

WFP has been working closely with the Ministry of Planning's Central Organization for Statistics and Information Technology (COSIT) since 2003 in building their capacity in food security monitoring and analysis. WFP has helped set up a Food Security Unit within COSIT dealing specifically with this issue. Previously, two comprehensive food security and vulnerability surveys have been completed with this unit, one published in 2004 and the second in 2006.

Iraq's PDS experienced significant shortfalls during 2006 and 2007. This, coupled with the mass movement of people since the previous survey, would have a major impact on the food security situation of the population. Thus, it was decided to conduct a follow-up survey to assess current levels of food security and malnutrition. For the first time, this survey involved the Kurdistan Regional Government and covered all 18 provinces of Iraq. Data collection went ahead in November – December 2007 and the results were published in the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) in November 2008. The full report is available online at:

<http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp192521.pdf>

The findings show that, while pockets of vulnerability remain, the overall food security situation has improved dramatically since the last survey was conducted in 2005. The number of food insecure people has fallen from 4 million to less than 1 million. Moreover, there are a further 6.4 million people who would slide into food insecurity if it were not for safety nets, such as the Public Distribution System (PDS).

These surveys form the basis of targeting food assistance to those who are most in need. The results of this survey have informed WFP's Country Strategy in Iraq for 2010-2014. Targeting of food assistance will be directed at the 41 most vulnerable districts of Iraq (out of 115) as identified in this survey.

Beyond WFP, this data is important to Iraqi policy makers. One key element of the International Compact for Iraq is the phase out of the Public Distribution System, to be replaced with a food safety net system targeting the most vulnerable. The Food Security Unit established with support from WFP and these Food Security and Vulnerability surveys will be of paramount importance in designing this food safety net as they identify who the vulnerable are, and where they are located.

IV. Results

- Provide a summary of Programme progress in relation to planned outcomes and outputs; explain any variance in achieved versus planned outputs during the reporting period.

The two immediate objectives (listed below) have been achieved.

1. Capacity of the Government of Iraq to conduct a comprehensive, nationwide survey on Food Security and Vulnerability enabled.
2. An information analysis mechanism created to be used by planners and decision-makers to combat food insecurity, vulnerability and malnutrition.

Training for Government of Iraq counterparts was completed as planned, the information analysis mechanism established, and nationwide survey successfully conducted.

- Report on the key outputs achieved in the reporting period including # and nature of the activities (inputs), % of completion and beneficiaries.

1.1.1 Data collection	25,875 households surveyed across all 115 districts of Iraq	% of planned	100%
1.1.2 Training on Food Security Concepts	One training session conducted for COSIT, KRSO and NRI staff (29 people trained) in Amman.	% of planned	100%
	Training of 320 enumerators across Iraq rolled-out.		
1.2.1 Training on Food Security Analysis	Training of COSIT, KRSO, and NRI staff.	% of planned	100%
2.1.2 Consolidate data and publish the survey	Data consolidation is complete and the final report launched in Baghdad and Erbil in November 2008.	% of planned	100%

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men		
Women		
Children		
IDPs		
Others	349	100%
Indirect beneficiaries	27 million	100%
Employment generation (men/women)		

- Explain, if relevant, delays in programme implementation, the nature of the constraints, actions taken to mitigate future delays and lessons learned in the process.

All project activities have been completed on schedule. The 6-month extension-in-time (with no change to project budget) was required to complete financial commitments.

- List the key partnerships and collaborations, and explain how such relationships impact on the achievement of results.

This is the first time that WFP worked with the Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office (KRSO). Bringing them together with their counterpart, the Central Organisation for Statistics and Information Technology (COSIT), who WFP has been working closely with since 2003, and developing consensus between these two bodies has been critical at all stages of this project.

The Nutrition Research Institute (NRI) from the Ministry of Health was the lead body for nutrition considerations in this survey.

Technical inputs from UNICEF, WHO and FAO were integral for designing the survey questionnaire.

- Other highlights and cross-cutting issues pertinent to the results being reported on.

The Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis has been designed to consider cross-cutting issues such as gender and status. Data has been disaggregated by gender, urban vs rural, IDP and employment status.

V. Future Work Plan (if applicable)

This project is operationally closed.

VI. Performance Indicators (optional)⁶

- Fill the table in this section to report on the indicators set at the output level as per the approved results framework in the programme document.

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baselines	Planned Indicator Targets	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance (if any)	Source of Verification	Comments (if any)
Outcome 1 - Capacity of the Government of Iraq to conduct a comprehensive, nationwide survey on Food Security and Vulnerability enabled.							
Output 1.1 Household food security, including anthropometric component, conducted and data processed.	Data collected and entered	0	100%	100%		Completed questionnaires entered into database	
Output 1.2 MoPDC and MoH analysts produced a high quality analysis showing understanding of the geographic dimensions of food insecurity, poverty and malnutrition.	Number of trained staff	0	100%	100%		Training reports	

⁶ E.g. for the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund and the MDG-F.

Outcome 2 - An information analysis mechanism created to be used by planners and decision-makers to combat food insecurity, vulnerability and malnutrition.							
Output 2.1 Improved targeting of food aid through emergency assistance and/or a reformed PDS, and enhanced staff ability to perform food security M&E and reporting.	Recommendations listed in final survey publication.	0	100%	100%		CFSVA document	
Output 2.2 Governments plans improved to include better management of food-based programmes, recommendations and strategies including addressing malnutrition among young children and other vulnerable groups.	Recommendations listed in final survey publication.	0	100%	100%		CFSVA document	

VII. Abbreviations and Acronyms

- List the main abbreviations and acronyms that are used in the report.

CFSVA	Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis
COSIT	Central Organisation for Statistics and Information Technology
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
GoI	Government of Iraq
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IRFFI	International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq
ITF	Iraq Trust Fund
KRSO	Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoPDC	Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation
NDS	National Development Strategy
NRI	Nutrition Research Institute
UN	United Nations
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation