



IRFFI/UNDG IRAQ TRUST FUND (UNDG ITF)

ANNUAL PROGRAMME NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT FOR PROJECT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY -31 DECEMBER 2009

Submitted by:

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Country and Thematic Area:

Agriculture, Food Security, Environment and Natural Resources Management

Programme No: OSRO/IRQ/704/UDG

MDTF Office Atlas No: A5-23

Project Title: Towards Sustainable Development of Inland Fisheries in Iraq

Participating Organizations:

Not Applicable

Implementing Partners:

Iraq Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

Programme Budget [from the Fund]:

US \$ 3000,007

Programme Duration (in months):

Start date: 26 March 2008

End date: 30 September 2009

- Original end date: 30 September 2009
- Revised end date: 31 July 2010
- Operational Closure Date: Not Applicable

Budget Revision/Extensions:

Project extension until 31 July 2010 and a budget revision, movement of funds between project budget components was approved on September 17, 2009

I. Purpose

Provide the main outputs and outcomes/objectives of the programme

The long-term development goal of the project is to contribute towards the sustainable development of inland fisheries, in order to meet the domestic demand of fish and to enhance livelihood and employment opportunities and food security among rural and disadvantaged communities of central to northern parts of Iraq.

The main objectives of this project are to:

- build capacity of General Board of Fish Resources Development (GBFRD) of Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) to establish a fish seed supply network to reach remote and potential areas to support a sustainable inland fishery industry;
- diversify inland fisheries practices that will contribute to national fish production and enhance employment/livelihoods of communities and to empower rural and marginalized communities by involving them in the planning, extension and development of sustainable inland fisheries;
- Strengthen extension services system reaching remotely located rural communities.

The key outputs of the project are:

- brood stock development programme for native fish species established and fish seed supply operational;
- disease diagnostic and fish feed formulation and testing capacities of GBFRD personnel enhanced;
- fish stock enhancement/restocking programme established;
- community participatory methodologies for conservation and management of inland fishery established;
- Extension capacity of GBFRD on inland fisheries management enhanced.

Explain how the programme relates to the strategic (UN) Planning Framework guiding the operations of the Fund.

This project was formulated within the UN Assistance Strategy for Iraq framework following the work plan outlined in the strategy to increase food security in Iraq through agriculture and food assistance. Specifically, this project contributes to outcome 1, “enhanced production and productivity in the agriculture sector,” outcome 2 “poverty reduced and sustainable employment for vulnerable groups created” and outcome 3 “Agriculture policy and natural resource management improved.” This project continues to contribute to the above by:

- The development of inland fisheries and thereby offer opportunities for communities associated with these water bodies to diversify their livelihoods and income generation avenues;
- Adoption of community participatory management strategies for the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture practices; and
- Capacity building through access to innovative inland fishery practices and technologies and information for dissemination.

This project was also developed with the MDGs in mind, particularly MDG 1 “Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger.” In this context fish production through inland fisheries will contribute to the decrease in hunger as a result of increase fish production and better access to the protein source. In addition, the increase in fish production is transferable into an improvement in income for fish farmers. In addition, this project adamantly encourages the participation of women in project activities, thus contributing to MDG 3 “promote gender equality and empower women.” Lastly the development of inland fisheries has the potential to indirectly contribute to the achievement of the MDG 4 “Reduce Child Mortality” and MDG 5 “Improve Maternal Health” by providing a source of high quality food source, rich in essential micronutrients.

In addition, the National Development Strategy (NDS) recognizes the need to develop agriculture sector, in which fisheries is a sub-sector, to create employment opportunities and enhance livelihoods and to build capacity to generate new generation of researchers and extension workers. The project is designed to address these national priority goals in NDS through:

- The development of inland fisheries and thereby offer opportunities for communities associated with these water bodies to diversify their livelihoods and income generation avenues;
- Adoption of community participatory management strategies for the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture practices; and
- Capacity building through access to innovative inland fishery practices and technologies and information for dissemination.

II. Resources

Financial Resources

Provide information on other funding resources available to the project, if applicable.

Not applicable

Provide details on any budget revisions approved by the appropriate decision-making body, if applicable.

A budget revision, movement of funds between project budget components was approved on 17 September 2009 to cover the project duration extension period until 31 July, 2010,

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.

The mechanics of the financial process was carried out without any constraints.

Human Resources

National Staff & Consultants: Provide details on the number and type (operation/programme)

One National Project Coordinator (NPC), nominated by the Iraqi MoA is stationed in Baghdad to support to programme coordination between FAO and MoA, work plan formulation and assistance in activities implementation.

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

One International Project Manager (Chief Technical Adviser) is stationed in Amman, Jordan and is responsible of overall project management under recruitment.

III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

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

The project is operated in collaboration with the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture, in particular in close collaboration with the (GBFRD). The project is implemented through the weekly communications with the MoA and the suppliers, technical meeting and PSC meeting.

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

Standard UN procedures are being applied and necessity for variances in standard procedures were not experienced. In August 2004, FAO, in a written agreement with its key counterpart ministries, opted for strong involvement of the ministries in the procurement process. This involvement includes the following elements which are being applied to date:

- identification of inputs or services required undertaken jointly by FAO and the relevant Iraqi Line Ministry;
- preparation of detailed specifications, BoQ, drawings, delivery time and destination undertaken by FAO and the Iraqi Line Ministry and endorsed by the latter;
- list of local potential suppliers/contractors provided and endorsed by the Iraqi Line Ministry to be included by FAO in its invitations to bid;
- tenders launched by FAO inviting local and international potential suppliers;
- technical review of the offers received and preparation of recommendation carried out jointly by FAO/Iraqi Line Ministry and endorsed by the latter;
- Purchase Orders or Contracts issued by FAO.

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

In line with FAO policies and procedures, monitoring is being done at all crucial stages of implementation of the project based on the measurable indicators and means of verification identified in the logical framework. In order to assess the progress of project activities, in-house financial and narrative progress reports are used on a regular basis. One such report is a monthly field activity report to follow-up on the project activities in relation to the work plan. Another report is a monthly report provided by the financial department of the Iraq offices detailing the expenditure of project funds. A Project Management Unit (PMU) with offices in Amman, Jordan and Iraq evaluates these reports along with other reports to monitor and assess the progress of the project. To ensure that the MoA is aware of and participate in the monitoring and evaluation of the project, the above report are period provided to them.

In addition, the Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meetings incepted on 10-11 August 2009 and held at least one every six months, is used as a forum to bring all stakeholders together for quality control and monitoring purposes. The PSC meetings are used as opportunities to discuss project problems as well as achievements, while ensuring full transparency and accountability of activities throughout project implementation. At the end of the meeting decisions are made as to how to continue the project in light of the discussions undertaken. Members of the PSC include: representative from the MOA particularly the GBFRD, the PMU staff from FAO-Head Quarters in Rome.

Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken.

Minutes of the third project steering committee meeting held in August 2009, including a presentation on the programme/project progress in relation to expected outcomes and outputs.

IV. Results

Provide a summary of programme/project progress in relation to planned outcomes and outputs; explain any variance in achieved versus planned outputs during 2009 reporting period.

Review of regulatory framework in Iraq

A draft Law on Fisheries and Aquaculture and a draft Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy Framework have been finalized by FAO and submitted to the GoI for evaluation/adoption after translation of the documentation into Arabic.

Construction works

The Bill of Quantities and Designs for the construction of two brood fish centres with hatchery tanks and earthen ponds at Salah Al Deen and Anbar, Iraq, have been finalized. The estimated cost for this activity provided by the Iraqi MoA on 6 December 2009 is USD 3,348,748 against total funds availability under the project of USD 1,100,000 which is far below the estimated cost. As a consequence, following the meeting held with the FAO-Technical Divisions, AFSI and FIMA, and in agreement with the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture, it has been decided to construct only one brood fish centre at Salah Al Deen and simultaneously scale down the total number of external earthen ponds to be realised at a total estimated cost of approximately USD 1,350,000. Therefore, considering the available budget of approx. USD 1,100,000 and additional possible savings under the non-expandable equipment component of the project, it should be possible to construct only one brood fish centre with hatchery tanks and earthen ponds.

Capacity building

Three GBFRD scientists were trained on the application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in inland fisheries and aquaculture development at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Thailand. Additional six GBFRD scientists were trained at the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) on brood stock management, disease diagnosis, and fish nutrition & feed formulation as part of inland fisheries management program. The workshop on capacity building for planning and development of fish seed quality assurance, fish disease monitoring and fish feed development programmes planned to take place at FAO Office of Iraq relocated in Amman is delayed until 2010 as requested by the Iraqi MoA, depending on the budget availability after completion of the construction works.

Procurement of equipment and material

As part of the brood stock development program the procurement of GIS and Fish Laboratory Equipment completed. Purchase of additional equipment for Gel electrophoresis and chemicals materials are in progress.

Laboratory equipment for bacteriology, fish nutrition and histology is being procured. Delivery is in progress.

Bacterial identification equipment and PCR equipment is being procured. Delivery is in progress.

Report on the key outputs achieved in 2009 including # and nature of the activities (inputs), % of completion and beneficiaries.

Establishment of two breeding cum fry rearing centers and operation	Reference to the construction of two brood fish centres with hatchery tanks and earthen ponds at Salah Al Deen and Anbar, Iraq, and the estimated cost of USD 3,348,748 provided by the Iraqi. MoA on 6 December. In this regard, note that the funds allocated for this activity is USD 1, 100, 00 which is much below the estimated cost. H.Q following the meeting held with the technical Divisions, AFSI and FIMA, to identify a viable solution to this issue. As a consequence, the total number of ponds has been reduced to the minimum possible in order to assure the efficiency of the facilities. In addition, also the construction of the buildings has been slightly reviewed. However, despite the above attempts to reduce the costs, the estimated price still approx. USD 1,350,000 for the construction of one brood fish centre only. Therefore, considering the available budget of approx. USD 1,100,000 and additional possible savings under the non-expandable equipment component of the project, we should consider the possibility to construct only one brood fish centre with hatchery tanks and earthen ponds at either Salah Al Deen or Al-Anbar in order to achieve the aims of development the brood stock for local fish as per the work plan document of the project. GBFRD suggested selecting Salah Deen site. HQ will prepare a new design of BoQ for Salah Al Deen site only in order to prepare a final tender.	% of planned	25%
Establishment of disease diagnostic & fish nutrition laboratory facilities	Procurement completed. Delivery in progress.	% planned	85%
Technical specification for GIS facilities.	Procurement completed. Delivery in progress.	% planned	85%

Capacity building of GBFRD personnel	Training on GIS application in inland fisheries and aquaculture completed with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)	% planned	100%
	Training on brood stock management, disease diagnosis, and fish nutrition & feed formulation completed with the Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific (NACA).	% planned	100%
Review of Iraqi fisheries legislation	A draft Law on Fisheries and Aquaculture and a draft Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy Framework have been finalized by FAO and submitted to the GoI for evaluation/adoption after translation of the documentation into Arabic.	%planned	50%
Purchase and installation of equipment for fish feed formulation	Delayed, depending on the budget availability of the project after completion of the construction works.	%planned	0%
Preparation and extension material	Finalizing the manual for brood stock fish and sent to GBFRD to translate to Arabic language.	%planned	75%
Work plan in Amman for capacity building	Following a meeting with the MoA, it was agreed that a new training workshop will be organized after secure payment based for hatchery center.	%planned	20

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

Delay has occurred in the issuance of the tender for the construction of two brood fish centres with hatchery tanks and earthen ponds at Salah Al Deen and Anbar, Iraq. In fact, based on the estimated cost provided by the Iraqi MoA (USD 3,348,748), this activity could not be completed against a total available budget of approximately USD 1,100,000 only. As a consequence it has been decided to construct only one brood fish centre at Salah Al Deen and simultaneously scale down the total number of external earthen ponds to be realised. The BoQs and Designs are being reviewed accordingly. In order to mitigate such delays in the future the project budget should be consistent with the work plan to cover all the activities planned.

The workshop on enhance the capacity building of GBFRD staff was delayed until a secure payment based for hatchery center is completed

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

The key partner in the implementation of the project is the MoA. The GBFRD of the MoA is responsible for implementing project activities nationally. Such a partnership has made project implementation smoother in light of the current security situation and the difficulty for the entire Project Management Unit (particularly internationals) to be in Iraq.

Universities, civil societies were also involved in selecting the place of hatchery center on Tiger River.

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

Not applicable at this stage

V. Future Work Plan

Summarize the projected activities and expenditures for the following reporting period (1 January-31 December 2010), using the lessons learned during the previous reporting period.

The balance activities to be completed during the next reporting period are as follows:

1. Finalization of designs and BoQs for the construction of centre hatchery at Salah-Al-Deen Governorate.
2. Follow up the operation of GIS system inland water in Iraq.
3. Procurement of fish feed formulation equipment to be completed;, upon funds availability
4. Workshop on capacity building for planning and development of fish seed quality assurance, fish disease monitoring and fish feed development programmes to be held in Amman at FAO Office of Iraq relocated in Amman within the next six months period if there is available sub budget.
5. Carry out Steering Committee Meeting in order to review the technical activities and its implementation in the project.

Indicate any major adjustments in strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs planned.

Only one brood fish centre with hatchery tanks and earthen ponds will be constructed at Salah Al Deen, Iraq.

VI. Performance Indicators

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

Output	Measurable indicators	Means of verification	Achieved Indicator Targets
1.1 Output Brood stock development programme to maintain genetic quality established and GBFRD personnel trained.	Genetically quality brood fish available and maintained	Number of brood fish produced and in use in breeding programmes, Hatchery records	85 % Available brood Stock By GBFRD.
1.2 Output Two brood fish centre cum hatcheries located at project governorates Salah Al Deen instead of Ninawa and Anbar to maintain brood stock and produce larvae/fry of native Barbus and to provide necessary training for hatchery operators on brood stock management are established and operational.	Two hatcheries established and operational in Ninawa & Anbar governorates Number of hatchery operators trained by GBFRD	Hatchery records for number of spawning and number of larvae/fry produced, Progress reports, Financial reports	The BoQ is identified and the centers still need to be constructed in two governorates Salah Al Deen and Anbar because the sub budget does not cover the estimated cost in the two centers with earth pond and hatchery system.
1.3 Output Two fry nursery rearing facilities located at the project governorates Salah Al Deen instead of Ninawa, and Anbar operational as fry and fingerling supply centers and GBFRD personnel trained on current techniques.	Two fry nursery centers established and operational in Ninawa & Anbar governorates Number of farmers trained by GBFRD personnel	Number of fry and fingerlings produced, Nursery records, Progress reports, Financial reports	
1.4 Output Fish seed quality assurance system in place.	Fry and fingerlings are graded according to quality	Nursery records, progress reports	
1.5 Output Research facility on fish feed formulation and testing is established and operational.			60%
1.6 Output Fish disease diagnostic capacity enhanced.	Equipment installed and operational	Developed and tested fish feed formulae, progress reports, financial reports	90%
2.1 Output Fish stock enhancement/ restocking programme in Mousal (Ninawa governorate), Haditha and Tharthar	Equipment installed. Completed training of GBFRD personnel Productivity assessment	Disease diagnosis and treatment records and established control procedures, progress	This activity will start after completing Salah Al Deen brood stock center

(Anbar governorate) and Himreen and Alidaim (Dialya governorate) dams operational.	by using GIS Stock enhancement/restocking design	and financial reports	
2.2 output Community participatory methodologies for conservation and management of inland fishery tested.	Co-management/community based management strategies adopted	GIS facility installed, productivity assessment reports, Number of fish fry/fingerlings stocked in dams, progress & financial reports	85% (capacity building for MoA staff)
2.3 output Plans prepared for community and institute based research actions by involving research, extension, development personnel and communities.	Prepared institute-community partnership research agenda	GIS facility installed, productivity assessment reports, Number of fish fry/fingerlings stocked in dams, progress & financial reports	85%
2.4 output Community focused plans of action prepared for sustainable inland fisheries development in the project governorates on the basis of participatory principles and sub-sectoral review of resources, constraints, needs and policies of the government	Management and development action plans prepared	Number of fisheries associations established, reported illegal fishing reduced, Progress reports Community participatory appraisal workshops conducted, progress reports , Review report	85%
2.5 output Reviewed regulatory framework to ensure sustainable inland fisheries development and recommendations made.			
3.1 output Trained and adequately oriented counterpart personnel who can catalyze the sustainable development of inland fisheries according to the needs and aspiration of communities	Review conducted GBFRD personnel trained		100%
3.2 output A network of extension services system organized with government and community participation with its services reaching the rural areas.		Number of persons trained, progress reports	This activity is postponed for security reasons.
3.3 output	Extension system with	Number of extension	90%

Inland fisheries management extension material developed and disseminated.	participation of GBFRD, Department of Agriculture and inland fishermen/farmers operational	programmes conducted, gender participation records, progress reports	
4.1 output Indigenous fish diversity protected ensuring sustainable fisheries.	Number and type of extension material prepared	Number of beneficiaries and type of gender received extension support & material	This activity will be implemented after printing and publishing the extension manuals.

VII. Abbreviations and Acronyms

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

CTA – Chief Technical Advisor

GBFRD – General Board of Fish Resources Development

GoI – Government of Iraq

MoA – Ministry of Agriculture

NDS - Iraq National Development Strategy

NGO – Non Governmental Organization

NPC – National Project Coordinator

NACA--- Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific.

GIS- Geographic Information Systems

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN