



**IRFFI/UNDG IRAQ TRUST FUND (UNDG ITF)**

**ANNUAL PROGRESS NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY –31 DECEMBER 2009**

***Submitted by:***

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***Country and Thematic Area***

Iraq, Agriculture and Food Security Sector

***Programme No:*** A5-27

***Programme Title:*** Strengthening the capacity of the Iraqi Veterinary Services for control of Zoonotic and transboundary animal diseases

***Participating UN Organization:***

Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)

***Implementing Partners:***

Iraq Ministry of Agriculture

***Project Budget [and revision if applicable]:***

UNDG/ITF: USD 3,000,000  
Government contribution: USD 2,748,000 (in kind)

***Programme Duration (in months):*** 18

Start date: 01/02/2009

End date

• Original end date: 01/08/2010

## I. Purpose

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

The project aims to strengthen the technical and institutional capacity of the Iraqi veterinary services for effective surveillance and control of zoonotic and transboundary diseases in order to protect livestock from losses and reduce serious threats to human health and safety. Protecting livestock from epidemic and endemic diseases and increasing the local production through efficient veterinary services will increase the supply of healthy meat and other animal products (milk, eggs, etc) and will contribute to improve human nutrition, household food security and employment. Furthermore, control of zoonotic diseases in animals will decrease the risk of contamination among the farmers and general public consumers.

The immediate objectives of this project are:

1. Strengthening of the capacity of the Iraqi veterinary services in disease prevention and control
2. Effective surveillance and control of targeted zoonotic and transboundary animal diseases

The key outputs of the project are:

- 1.1 Improved veterinary organization and legislation.
- 1.2 Strengthened institutional capacity for senior veterinary managers
- 1.3 Strengthened capacity for epidemiology and disease information analysis at the central level.
- 1.4 Strengthened capacity of surveillance and response systems at the provincial and local levels.
- 1.5 Strengthened laboratory capacity for investigation, diagnosis and surveillance of major livestock and poultry diseases.
- 1.6 Strengthened capacity in veterinary border control and inspection.
- 2.1 Sound control strategies for priority animal diseases (FMD, HPAI, Brucellosis, etc) developed and agreed by stakeholders at all levels.
- 2.2 Targeted and active surveillance programmes in place and implemented for priority animal diseases.
- 2.3 Strategic disease control programmes implemented and monitored.

*Explain how the programme relates to the Strategic (UN) Planning Framework guiding the operations of the Fund:*

FAO will ensure project activities are integrated into the overall UN strategy for Iraq. This supports the Iraqi National Development Strategy while contributing to the Millennium Development Goals.

### ICI

This project is in line with the International Compact with Iraq through goal 4.6 which strives “to develop a stable, competitive and sustainable agriculture to enhance food security and rural incomes, generate rural employment, diversify economic growth and protect the natural environment.” The benchmarks of relevant in the above are:

- 4.6.4. Improve institutional and regulatory underpinning of public agriculture
- 4.6.5. Carry out investment plans

This project will contribute to the above goal through:

- Strengthen critical public support organization through capacity building for agricultural planning, monitoring, oversight, research, extension, pest and disease control, quality standard and certification. Increase income generation opportunities at community level

- Expand the middle class in Iraq through solid education and business opportunities to reduce living standard gaps, increase consumption and redistribution growth.

#### NDS:

The project is designed to directly contribute to Iraq's National Development Strategy through its first pillar (Strengthening the foundations of economic growth), and the following NDS prioritized actions:

- Development of a viable agricultural research and extension service to develop and disseminate successful production practices to restore agricultural productivity;
- Increasing production and productivity and boost rural job creation.
- To a certain extent, the project is also linked with the fourth pillar (Improving the quality of life) since controlling zoonotic disease will directly impact human health. Main priority action is:
  - Intensifying communicable disease control activities.

## **II. Resources**

### Financial Resources

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

The government is contributing in kind support totalling US\$ 2,748,000

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

Not applicable as the original date of this project's end is August 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.*

So far there has been no constraint to the financial processes.

### Human Resources

*National Staff & Consultants: Provide the number and role (operation/programme)*

One NPC from MOA staff who is coordinating between the project management and MOA and follow up the implementation of the project activities.

*International Staff: Provide the number and role (operation/programme)*

One Project Manager, based in Amman, who is in charge of the implementation of all the project activities in coordination with the NPC, MOA and the local councils, and who is preparing monthly, quarterly and yearly reports to the FAO headquarters and donors.

## **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.*

This project is executed by FAO and implemented jointly by the project management and Ministry of Agriculture (MOA). FAO assists the veterinary body of the MOA, the State Veterinary Company, in strengthening its capacity at central and regional branches for zoonotic and trans-boundary disease control and surveillance. These activities are considered as "public goods" and therefore fall under the responsibility of the government. In addition, FAO is providing technical assistance, expertise and management services. The project is implemented with full participation

and significant resource inputs from the Iraqi MOA and allied institutions. The development and delivery of the project is achieved through a participatory approach including consultations and interactions with key national veterinary staff and training of trainers who, in turn, will train regional veterinary staff.

Inter-agency and Sector Outcome Team (SOT) cooperation is sought concerning the exchange of data and information. In particular, FAO is cooperating and exchanging data with WHO concerning zoonotic diseases transmissible to humans.

Due to the prevailing poor security situation at present in Iraq, management by international staff is done from FAO-Iraq offices in Amman, Jordan. Management decisions are influenced by periodic progress reports from the field. The Project Manager stationed in Amman will be in constant communication with the National Project Coordinator (NPC) in Iraq via telephone, e-mail and video conferencing and will visit the field whenever it is possible. The NPC will also travel to Amman when necessary to discuss programme planning, monitoring, and technical specification and bids evaluation review on procurement issues. The Project Steering Committee also meeting in Amman, will provide guidance on the implementation of activities and recommend alternative course of actions when required.

*Provide details on the procurement procedures utilized and variances in standard procedures:*

The standard FAO procurement procedures, consisting of tendering through an invited bidding process, are being applied for procurement of all goods and services for this project. However, during the needs identification and procurement process, the endorsement from the Iraqi Ministries for FAO purchases for all equipment and/services is obtained in order to assure maximum ownership, transparency and appropriateness of goods being procured.

MOA's involvement in FAO Procurement Process is as follows:

- FAO Identification of inputs or services required
- Preparation of detailed specifications, drawings, delivery time and destination
- Listing of potential local potential suppliers
- Technical review of the offers received

*Provide details on the monitoring system(s) that are being used:*

For regular monitoring and follow up on implementation of the project, the following monitoring systems will be used: telephone calls, e-mails and reports as well as periodic visits to Amman of NPC and the counterparts (national counterparts and MOA) and to Iraq by the project manager (whenever it is permitted) and continuous copying of the chain of events and correspondence to all pertinent parties.

For reporting purposes, a monthly progress report from the NPC in the field is received by the PROJECT MANAGER who in turn prepares a quarterly monitoring report consisting of parameters, such as project activities as outlined in the work plan, projected dates for the completion of the outlined activities and current status of each project activities both in terms of time and status of work. The Project Manager then submits the reports to the OIC of FAO-Iraq Programme for necessary action and on-forwarding to the Operations Division at headquarters

#### 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 the reporting period.*

- a) Field work plan was prepared and approved. 400 veterinarians were selected from all governorates of Iraq. The 400 vets are distributed according to the locations (governorates) and disease sector. Local workshops started in Baghdad, Erbil, Najaf, Wasit, Babil and Karbala to brief the selected veterinarian on the planned activities and their role.
- b) First workshop was conducted on the 23/7/2009 in Baghdad veterinary hospital. Fifty veterinarians from the six mid governorates of Iraq (Baghdad, Babil, Wasit, Diyala, Salah-Aldeen and Anbar) who are selected to be involved in the implementation of the project, and representatives of the veterinary colleges in Baghdad and Mousil have participated. The workshop was concerned with the identification of the project objectives; activities, work plan and the role of each region in the implementation process were introduced.
- c) MOA/GSCVS and other institutes connected to the project activities were structured in order to organize the field implementation. GSCVS staff from the central government and Kurdistan region was nominated, representing all governorates of Iraq for the four disease sectors. The implementation teams are selected according to the geographic location and disease sector. Therefore the 400 nominated vets are divided into three groups North, Mid and South and each group is sub grouped into four according to the selected four diseases.
- d) Second workshop was conducted on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 2009 in the GSCVS HQ in Erbil for the selected veterinarians. 36 veterinarians from Mousil, Dohuk, Sulaymania and Erbil have attended where they were briefed of the project objectives, activities; work plan and the role of each region in the implementation process were introduced.
- e) 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop was conducted on 30 Sept 2009 in Baghdad Veterinary Hospital with participation of the 4 sectors leaders and the head of the 16 teams (16 vets) and 40 vets from the Baghdad veterinary hospital. In this workshop the main activity of the 4 sectors and the field teams in Baghdad were reviewed and a work plan was discussed.
- f) List of equipments and supplies and their specifications were prepared jointly between FAO and MOA, tenders issued (either from Amman or Rome headquarters) and purchase orders finalized. This concerns mainly laboratory equipment, diagnostic reagents and veterinary chemicals. Delivery to the field did not yet start during the reporting period.
- g) A training programme on virological and molecular techniques for the diagnosis of major poultry diseases including avian influenza and Newcastle diseases was undertaken by four Iraqi veterinarians for the period 8 Nov. – 4 Dec in IZSVE, Italy. The evaluation report of the course was very positive and indicated that the course was very useful for the beneficiaries work and responsibilities.
- h) National workshop was conducted in Erbil on 22-23/Nov following the first preparatory workshop at the beginning of the month PSC meeting 1, which amongst others endorsed the list of priority zoonotic and transboundary animal diseases on which the project will focus: Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD); Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI), Newcastle Disease (ND) and other associated diseases; Rabies; Brucellosis.
- j) GIS training course on epidemiology and control of emerging avian diseases (gives dates, number of participants, organized from other sources but facilitated by this project etc).

Preparations for training courses Brucellosis, Rabies, Epidemiology.

- k) A letter of appreciation was received from the Iraqi Union for veterinarian for the efforts of MOA/FAO to implement the project.

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

<b>Quantitative achievements against objectives and results</b>			
General - training	Identification of training needs	<b>% of planned</b>	100
	Preparation of ToRs for courses	<b>% of planned</b>	40
	Identification of training institutes	<b>% of planned</b>	40
Output 1.1: Strengthened veterinary institutional capacity	Preparation of ToRs and recruit specialist external consultant	<b>% of planned</b>	20
	Review veterinary organization and legislation	<b>% of planned</b>	20
	Prepare paper and present/circulate to PSC meeting	<b>% of planned</b>	40
Output 1.2: Strengthened institutional capacity for senior veterinary managers	Identification of training site (workshops to be organized by FAO in Amman)	<b>% of planned</b>	50
	Contracting of trainer/institute	<b>% of planned</b>	0
	Selection of trainees	<b>% of planned</b>	0
	Implementation of training	<b>% of planned</b>	0
Output 1.3: Strengthened capacity for epidemiology and disease information analysis at the central level	Identification of required equipment	<b>% of planned</b>	100
	Procurement of required equipment	<b>% of planned</b>	40
	Identification of training site (Australia, April/May 2010)	<b>% of planned</b>	100
	Contracting of trainer/institute	<b>% of planned</b>	80
	Selection of trainees	<b>% of planned</b>	100
	Implementation of training	<b>% of planned</b>	100
Output 1.4: Strengthened capacity of surveillance and response systems at the provincial and local levels	Provincial workshops for field veterinary staff on surveillance and reporting	<b>% of planned</b>	0
	Awareness raising for farmers on disease control and surveillance	<b>% of planned</b>	0
Output 1.5: Strengthened laboratory capacity for investigation, diagnosis and surveillance of major livestock and	Identification of required equipment	<b>% of planned</b>	100
	Procurement, installation of equipment in selected labs	<b>% of planned</b>	40
	Identification of training site.	<b>% of planned</b>	100
	Selection of trainees	<b>% of planned</b>	100
	Contracting training institutes IZSVE/Italian	<b>% of planned</b>	100

poultry diseases	Training implementation	<b>% of planned</b>	100
Brucellosis training	Identification of training institute	% of planned	100
	Selection of trainees	% of planned	100
	Contractual process of the training course on Brucellosis in France / Centre National de Référence des Brucella - National Reference	% of planned	70
Rabies training	Identification of training institute	% of planned	100
	Selection of training institute	% of planned	0
Output 1.6: Strengthened capacity in veterinary border control and inspection	Assess key strategic crossings: functioning, volumes, needs, etc	<b>% of planned</b>	60
	Identification of training site (ToT)	<b>% of planned</b>	0
	Contracting of trainer/institute	<b>% of planned</b>	0
Output 2.1: Sound control strategies for priority animal diseases (FMD, LPAI/ND, Rabies, Brucellosis) developed and agreed at all levels	Prepare checklist/criteria to identify priority animal diseases	<b>% of planned</b>	100
	PSC to agree on priority animal diseases	<b>% of planned</b>	100
	Prepare brief justification for MOA priority diseases	<b>% of planned</b>	100
	Identification and recruitment of consultant(s) and organization of workshops to finalize/endorse control strategies	<b>% of planned</b>	0
Output 2.2: Targeted and active surveillance programmes in place and implemented for priority animal diseases	Establishment of disease information centre	<b>% of planned</b>	50
	Planning of sero-surveillance campaigns for targeted diseases	<b>% of planned</b>	90
	MOA official team selection	<b>% of planned</b>	90
Output 2.3: Strategic disease control programmes implemented and monitored	Limited procurement of vaccines and equipment for vaccination campaigns	% of planned	0
	Capacity building on procedures during outbreaks (field workshops and meetings)	% of planned	30
	Assist in implementing disease control campaigns	% of planned	0

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

Some delays developed because of difficulties in obtaining entry visas for the Iraqi trainees in many counties, be it because of restrictive visa policies, long and time consuming procedures or because of absences of embassies in Baghdad where to apply for visa. Since many training courses are on dangerous zoonotic diseases, also vaccination, health and antibody checking protocols as imposed by the training institute are not easy to comply with in the Iraqi context.

Also the identification of required equipment and the subsequent preparation of technical specifications for large amounts of equipment and supplies, through the agreed collaborative process between FAO and MOA experts, was important but time consuming.

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

The project is implemented with significant resource inputs from the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture and allied institutions. FAO assists the veterinary body of the MOA, the State Veterinary Company, strengthening the capacity at all its central and regional branches for zoonotic and trans-boundary disease control and surveillance. These activities are considered as “public goods” and therefore fall under the responsibility of the government.

Inter-agency and SOT cooperation is sought concerning exchange of data and information. In particular, FAO seeks cooperation and exchange data with WHO concerning zoonotic diseases transmissible to humans.

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

Cross cutting issue pertinent to the results can be indicated only after complete the implementation of the activities, however the ultimate beneficiaries of the proposed project will be the sedentary and the nomadic livestock owners of Iraq, currently estimated at 575 000 households, who will benefit from the delivery of effective disease prevention and control services to their animals. Their communities will face lower risks from zoonotic diseases such as Brucellosis.

#### Employment generation:

In the short-term:

One of the measures to be taken by the GOI for the surveillance and control of Avian Influenza is the establishment of village surveillance networks of so-called “epidemic guards” drawn from village farmers and dwellers. A total of 400 veterinarians will be recruited and employed in all governorates to support these “epidemic guards.” Policies are furthermore aimed at contracting private veterinarians for the implementation of vaccination campaigns, which will further stimulate the private veterinary sector. This way, an estimated 500 private veterinarians could benefit from the programme.

In the longer term:

In the longer term, an efficient control and surveillance disease programme will reduce mortality of animals and increase the national herd and production of domestic livestock production, which will generate associated farming and employment opportunities. This will generate further indirect employment in the production of fodder and roughage requirements, dairy processing, marketing, etc.

#### Gender equality

The labor force in the rural farming community comprises of both men and women, with the latter traditionally having an important role in livestock rearing and management of farm animals.

Therefore, both will be specifically targeted in the extension and awareness campaigns. A considerable number of women are also being employed in the Veterinary Department. As already occurred in previous projects interacting with this Department, the project will continue to assure that women are invited and will actively participate in human resource development activities such as workshops and technical and managerial training courses.

#### Key environmental issues

Appropriate management of the herds in terms of hygiene and health care will result in enhanced productivity, better fertility and higher reproductive efficiency of the cows together with lower mortality of the calves. Improvement of production and food intake efficiency will diminish soil and ground water contamination by waste and excess nitrates and phosphorus excretion. However, animal byproducts and manure will enable organic farming as organic fertilizer can replace chemical fertilizers.

Furthermore, a safe and healthy livestock will generate a safe environment for workers and farmers by reducing the risk of zoonotic disease infection.

#### Human rights

Adequate nutrition and income are basic and fundamental human rights essential for human dignity. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, clearly states that everyone has the right to a standard of living that is adequate for their health and wellbeing, including food. The project seeks to contribute to raising the health status of farm animals (and thereby their productivity and income for the farmer) as well as of the Iraqi population (by reducing the incidence of zoonotic diseases in animals and humans).

### **V. Future Work Plan**

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

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

1. Capacity building ;
  - a- Strengthened veterinary institutional and managerial capacity
  - b- Strengthened laboratory diagnosis of Brucellosis
  - c- Strengthened epidemiology and disease information systems
  - d- Strengthened diagnosis and control of Rabies
  - e- Strengthened capacity of surveillances and responses systems at the provincial and local levels
  - f- Strengthened capacity in the veterinary border control and inspection
  - g- In-country training rapid outbreak response processes and procedures
2. Finalize review of veterinary legislation
3. Strategic diseases control programme implemented and monitored
4. Diseases information centre functioning and supported
5. Sero-surveillance campaigns for targeted diseases fully implemented
6. Procurements of vaccines and supplies

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

No major adjustments in strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs are planned.

## VII. Abbreviation and Acronyms

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

TAD	Transboundary animal diseases
AI	Artificial Insemination
ET	Embryo Transfer
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
HPAI	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
GSCVS	General State Company for Veterinary Services
GOI	Government of Iraq
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
NDS	Iraq National Development Strategy
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NPC	National Project Coordinator
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOI	Ministry of Industry
PSC	Project steering committee
SOT	Sector outcome team
OIC	Officer in charge