



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

**ANNUAL PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT FOR PROJECT**

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

***Submitted by:***

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN

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***Country and Thematic Area***

Agriculture, Food Security, Environment and Natural Resources Management

***Programme No:*** A5-15

***Programme Title:*** Restoration and Modernisation of Fish Production in Iraq

***Participating Organization(s)***

Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN

***Implementation Partners:***

Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)

***Project Budget (from the Fund):***

**US\$ 7 312 177**

***Project Duration (in months):***

Start date: 1 July 2006

End date:

*Original: 30 June 2008*

*Revised End date: 31 March 2010*

***Budget Revision & Extension***

*1<sup>st</sup>: 18 November 2008*

*2<sup>nd</sup>: 31 March 2009*

*3<sup>rd</sup>: 30 September 2009*

*4<sup>th</sup>: 31 March 2010*



## I. Purpose

*Provide the main objectives, outcomes, outputs of the programme/project.*

The development goal of this project is to support fish production in Iraq by stimulating the resumption of fish farming in large and small scale enterprises through practical demonstrations of applicable fish farming techniques, supply at cost of fingerlings, and on-going support of an active, applied and adaptive research programme.

The immediate objective of this project is to:

- Build or restore the productive capacity to supply fish fingerlings to the commercial fish farming industry;
- Build and restore a series of fish farming enterprises in the most needed areas in Iraq;
- Demonstrate new lake-based fish farming methods, and initiate stocking of native carps in selected lakes;
- Improve local capacity to manage and develop the fishery/aquaculture sector.

Main outputs are:

- A plan specifying all the required equipment and facilities for the proposed rehabilitation of the fish sector including established priorities for replacement;
- Equipment for rehabilitation specified through establish the following
  - A- Establish pilot cages in Kut Hindia dams.
  - B- Establish closed recirculation system.
  - C- Establish Chinese Hatchery system.
  - D- Establish Huweza Hatchery Center.
  - E- Equipment for laboratories.
- Established baseline information at Huweza Marsh;
- Extension materials developed to support the adoption of fish farming in Iraq;
- Technicians, fish farmers, resource managers and local communities trained in improved fish farming methods, hatchery/nursery management, fish health and marketing. The direct beneficiaries are 1 500 small fish farmers (farms of 10 ha or less) and rural fishers communities.



*Explain how the project 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” and outcome 2 “poverty reduced and sustainable employment for vulnerable groups created.” This project continues to contribute to the above by:

- Rehabilitating and reconstructing infrastructure;
- Strengthening institutional development and capacity building in the fish sector;
- Supporting legislation, policy and strategy formulation;
- Increasing employment and income-generation;
- Enhancing environmental restoration and conservation.

In addition, this project is crafted to assist and encourage the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. In restoring the fish farming enterprises in Iraq and improving the local capacity to manage and develop the fishery/aquaculture sector, this project acts as a significant multiplier of thus contributing to MDG 1 “eradicate extreme hunger and poverty.” This project adamantly encourages the participation of women in project activities, thus contributing to MDG 3 “promote gender equality and empower women.”

## **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 appropriate decision –making body if applicable*

Budget revisions, movement of funds between project budget components were approved on: 18 November 2008, 31 March 2009, 30 September 2009, and 31 March 2010. The overall fund of US\$ 7 312 177 was neither decreased nor increased.

*Provide information on good practices and constraints in the mechanics of the financial process, time to get transfers, identification of potential bottlenecks, need for better coordination, etc.*

There were no constraints in the mechanism of the financial process.



### Human Resources

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

One National Project Coordinator (NPC) is stationed in Baghdad in Iraq to support the project in coordination between MoA and FAO, work plan formulation and assistance in the implementation of activities.

One National Project Adviser (NPA) is stationed in Baghdad with regular missions to Amman, Jordan to assist the International Project Manager in the 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 for overall project management.

### **III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangement**

*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 MoA, 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:*

FAO standard procurement procedures were applied without variance. The procurement procedure followed was:

- Identification of inputs or services required undertaken jointly by FAO and the Iraqi MoA;
- 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 is provided to the MoA on a regular basis.

In addition, the Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meetings incepted on 09 September 2006 and held at least one every six months, is used as a forum to bring all stakeholders together for 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.*

No assessment, evaluations or studies were undertaken during this reporting period. Upon the completion of this project an external evaluation will be done.

#### **IV. Results**

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

During the reporting period, the construction of the research centre was completed at Huweza Marsh and an administrative building constructed in Kut and Hindia. The completion of the research centre has enhanced the research and development capacity of the MOA, particularly the GBFRD, in fish fingerling. The construction of administrative building has provided the MOA with additional resources to boost the supply of fish fingerlings to the commercial fish farming industry. Furthermore, the construction of the Chinese style hatchery and the installation of the closed recirculation system contribute to the creation of an environment that fosters higher production of fish.

In addition, progress has been made to develop local capacity to manage and develop the fishery/aquaculture sector. To date, a contract was signed with both the NGO



(Development Agriculture in Iraq) and with the GBFRD to conduct training on improved fish farming methods, hatchery/nursery management, fish health and marketing. Furthermore, during the reporting period, extension materials on development broodstock of fish, disease of fish, feed formulation and aquaculture by cages were created and are to be published for mass distribution.

Lastly, to contribute to the building and the restoration of the farming enterprises in Iraq, pilot fish cage systems are in process of being installed at Kut and Hindia dams to encourage and enhance local production of fish.

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

1. Installation of equipment and material to set up two pilot and demonstration cage culture facilities at Kut and Hind Dams is in progress. Activity is 25% complete.
2. Installation and handover to the Iraqi MoA of equipment and material to set up a complete closed recirculation system to ensure continuous fish seed supply. This activity was completed during the reporting period.
3. Construction and handover of one Chinese style hatchery at Sewera hatchery center is completed. .-
4. Construction of one Research Center at Huweza and two administrative buildings at Kut and Hindia dams is completed - 100%;
5. Procurement for equipment and material to upgrade the laboratory facility at Wasit hatchery is completed. One fish transportation vehicle is also being delivered. .
6. Publishing the final report of baseline study on Huweza marsh and the extension manuals are in progress -90%.
7. The additional local training of one technician staff of GBFRD on operation and installation recirculation system is completed.-100%

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

Delays in the installation of four pilot cage systems

Of the four pilot cage systems to be installed (two at Kut and two at Hindia), only one system at Kut was installed under the responsibility of the Iraqi MoA. Unfortunately damages occurred during the installation of the cage for Kut dam. Hence the installation of the fish cages was halted until FAO, Iraqi MoA and supplier Fischtechnik agreed in May 2009 to carry out an on-site inspection in Hindia dam with the assistance of an external independent inspection company in order to determine the site suitability as a cause for the damages occurred. A list of technical requirements to be investigated on-site has been finalized by the FAO-Technical Unit.



The MOA continues to install the fish cages in Kut and is working on cleaning the lake at Hindia to meet the specifications of the supplier prior to installation. Unfortunately, this delay in civil works has impacted the completion of other activities. First, FAO cannot sign the contract with the supplier to install and reinforce the fish cages. Second, this delay has halted the training on improved fish farming methods, hatchery/nursery management, fish health and marketing.

Delay in the procurement of one fish transportation vehicle.

Based on the technical specifications endorsed by the Iraqi MoA, a recommendation for the award of a Purchase Order was submitted by FAO. However, the Iraqi MoA did not endorse the evaluation of the bids upon FAO's recommendation due to high prices. During the steering committee meeting held in August 2009, it was agreed that FAO Iraq will purchase the transportation vehicle locally in Iraq. The procurement process has now been completed and the delivery of the transportation vehicle is now underway.

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

The project is operated in collaboration with the Iraqi MoA, in particular in close collaboration with the GBFRD. Due to the prevailing security situation at present which does not allow for normal field visit of the international staff to the areas of programme implementation within Iraq, the management is undertaken from the FAO-Iraq Office relocated to Amman using a remote-control mechanism. Contribution of GBFRD and MoA and also FAO office in Baghdad ensure smooth running of project activities in Iraq.

*Other highlights and cross-cutting issues pertinent to the results being reported 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 up to the end of March 2010 are summarised as follows:

1. Follow-up the installation and handover of pilot cages facilities at Kut and Hindia
2. Follow-up on the possibility to publish the final report of the Baseline Survey for Huweze marsh.
3. Finalize the delivery of one fish transportation vehicle.





4. Coordinate with GBFRD to operate the activities in the field.
5. Coordinate with GBFRD in order to arrange the local training program for the private farmers in order to enhance the capacity building in operating and utilizing the modern methods for aquaculture sector in Iraq.

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

No major adjustment in strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs is planned.

#### VI. Performance Indicators (optional)

*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.*

The indicators set at the output level of project are designed to achieve:

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Measurable Indicators</b>	<b>Means of Verification</b>	<b>Achieved Indicator Targets</b>
Output 1.1  A plan specifying all the required equipment and facilities for the proposed rehabilitation of the fish sector including established priorities for replacement	Work Plan presented for review	Final report	100%
Output 1.2  Equipment for rehabilitation specified.	Re-built Wasit hatchery, equipment installed and operating; production of carp fingerlings; operational feed mill at hatchery		100%
Output 1.3  Report and proposal submitted for funding		Report of feasibility for expanded project for village level fish farms	.100%





continuation of research and extension for the fish industry in Iraq.			
Output 2.1 Fifteen sites selected and rehabilitated for fish farming in the most needy areas	On-site (lake) hatcheries and nurseries established and operational	Training reports & monthly Reports from MoA.	Delayed for Security reasons as per request from the Iraqi MoA
Output 3.1 Established baseline information on Huweza Marsh instead of Therthar for security reasons.	Pilot farm and lake sites selected and fish farms and cage farms operating		100% Baseline study completed. The final report is under Publishing
Output 3.2 Pilot fish cage farms established at Kut and Hindia dams instead of Therthar Lake		Pilot farm and lake sites selected and farms and cage farms operating	50% Equipment has been received, installation in progress
Output 4.1 Five Iraqi scientists and 17 technicians trained in modern fish farming methods.	Trained scientists & technicians	Training reports Trained scientists & technicians	5 Iraqi Scientists 100% 4 of 17 technicians have been trained 25%
Output 4.2 Extension materials developed to support the adoption of fish farming in Iraq.			100% The manuals have been prepared with the help of the HQ in English, Arabic Languages.



<p>Output 4.3</p> <p>Technicians, fish farmers, resource managers and local communities trained in improved fish farming methods, hatchery/nursery management, fish health and marketing.</p>			<p>The training will take place after completion of the installation of pilot cages. The installation of the closed recirculation system and the construction of one Chinese style hatchery is completed</p>
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**VII. Abbreviations and Acronyms**

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

- FAO            Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
- GBFRD        General Bored of Fisheries Resources Development
- GOI            Government of Iraq.
- MDG            4UN Millennium Development Goals
- MoA            Ministry of Agriculture in Iraq
- NGO            Non Government organization.
- NPC            NationalCoordinator.
- PSC            The Project Steering Committee