



**2009 Annual (Tenth) Progress Report on Activities Implemented  
Under the United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund  
(UNDG ITF) of the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for  
Iraq (IRFFI)**

**Protection Sector Report**

Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office  
Bureau of Management  
United Nations Development Programme  
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## 1.1 Protection

### 1.1.1 Sector Outcomes and Outputs

<b>Protection</b>	
<b>Outcome 1</b>	<b><i>An environment for improved protection of civilians based on human rights standards in place throughout Iraq</i></b>
Output 1.1	Specific legislation, policies and codes developed/reviewed, and recommendations submitted for required amendments in line with international laws, standards and principles
Output 1.2	Knowledge of human rights and international humanitarian law among duty-bearers and rights-holders to address protection issues is increased
Output 1.3	Vulnerable groups have increased access to protection (legal and social) services
Output 1.4	Consolidated systems for monitoring and reporting on protection issues are set up, and findings of reports and studies (including baseline data) are made available
Output 1.5	National capacities to respond to crises in conformity with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) are strengthened
Output 1.6	Improved national capacity to formulate and operationalise mine action policies and strategies

### 1.1.2 Operating Context During Reporting Period

The year was characterized by gradual stabilization and diminished levels of violence, although a number of spectacular attacks occurred in Baghdad, Taza (Kirkuk) and Wardak (Ninewa). Downsizing of United States (US) troops has continued, but the capacity of the Iraq Security Forces to provide security for the population remains unclear. According to an agreement signed on November 2008 between US Forces and the government of Iraq, US Forces transferred the security portfolio to the Iraqi authority in June 2009 and left the civilian areas. US Forces continue to release detainees; the original plan to transfer all US Forces detainees to Iraqi custody by 1 January 2009 was abandoned, due to lack of space in Iraqi detention facilities and lack of capacity of the Iraqi judicial system to process thousands of cases.

Ahead of the Parliamentary election, the sectarian/party divide became increasingly evident. Political parties were more grounded in sectarianism—most parties were either Sunni or Shiite or Kurdish and mixed parties were rare.

Iraqi society and the economy are still affected by years of violence. The country is highly vulnerable due to poverty, fluctuating oil revenues, under-developed private sector, high unemployment rate, and dependence on existing social safety nets (i.e., Public Distribution System). Other factors include collapse of public services, dilapidated structures, and lack of sustainable livelihood opportunities and adequate housing, which affect access to education, health care, electricity, water and sanitary facilities. Many governorates experienced a measles outbreak and the H1N1 pandemic influenza.

Despite improved security conditions in some governorates after operations against armed militias, concerns remained about the physical safety and legal protection of suspects arrested, including children, women and journalists, as well as detention conditions and lack of due process following detention. Instances of violence against women, gender-based violence (including honor killings, domestic violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, harmful traditional practices) and trafficking increased—unfortunately, these categories of violence were treated as family affairs and went almost unreported to the authorities.

With improved security, humanitarian access has expanded to reach most districts. No major displacement occurred in 2009, although a small number of people were displaced due to drought. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugee families continued to return to their places of origin at a steady pace. In 2009 more than 200,000 persons, mostly IDPs, returned to Baghdad and Diyala. However, concern remains for IDPs occupying public buildings and complexes.

### **1.1.3 Implementation Constraints and Challenges**

Obtaining accurate information remains challenging, but the Protection sector and its agencies were able to collect and verify information on the civilian situation and to use it to inform programming in 2009.

The main identified protection risks included human rights violations, impunity, targeted attacks and threats, arbitrary detention and killings, violence against children, and recruitment and use of children by armed groups including as suicide bombers. Targets included scholars and professors, civil servants, judges, lawyers, medical doctors, journalists and human rights defenders, and persons having worked or cooperated with Multi-National Forces in Iraq (MNF-I) or still associated with Iraqi armed forces, US Forces and private security companies. Acts of violence were also perpetrated against women, members of ethnic and religious communities, and persons on the basis of their perceived sexual orientation. Exploitation, violence and abuse against children in detention occurred, and there were instances of Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CAAC).

The main challenges included:

- Lack of systematic coordination with national and local authorities, the legal and judicial system, and civil society to identify and address protection issues especially in the integration and return process.
- Ongoing access to beneficiaries and monitoring of activities remains problematic, along with lack of physical presence of UN agencies and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) for protection activities.
- Obtaining data for advocacy and for informing protection programming remains a challenge because different Protection Sector Outcome Team (SOT) members are involved in gathering data, which is yet to be collated.

Consequently, delays in protection project implementation have been caused by: (i) no reporting or under-reporting of rights violations; (ii) inaccessibility to many locations; (iii) lack of institutional capacity for designing, implementing and monitoring programmes and projects; (iv) shortage of qualified professionals and issues related to procurement and shipment; (v) volatile and fragile security conditions for the communities; (vi) travel restriction for Iraqi citizens; and (vii) lack of capacity to undertake strategic and comprehensive planning.

### **1.1.4 Coverage and Counterparts**

The Protection SOT is a field-driven inter-agency forum where concerned actors focus on cross-cutting protection/human rights issues in Iraq. It aims to coordinate interventions and activities to support Iraqi Authorities, UN Agencies and NGOs to address identified protection risks and factors by establishing and reinforcing strategic relations in support of individuals at risk or conflict-affected communities.

The primary recipients of support from the Protection SOT include the Iraqi civilian population and authorities including institutions such as the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM), Ministry

of Environment (MoEn), High Judicial Council, Juvenile Justice Coordination Committee, Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR), Ministry of Interior (MoI), Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA), Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS), National Mine Action Authority (renamed as the Directorate of Mine Action [DMA]), Regional Mine Authorities and Mine Centers, and Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA). The links with key institutions were developed in light of roles, responsibilities and mandates for the protection of the civilian population and vulnerable groups. The Protection SOT has increased working with a variety of local NGOs and civil society organizations to reach out and create awareness of protection risks, factors and responses. The sector has worked at national level particularly on issues related to policy development and review of legislation.

The Protection SOT has worked in all 18 governorates through its members, which include:

- UN agencies—Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), UNAMI Human Rights Office (HRO), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UNDP-Mine Action, UN Centre for Human Settlements (UN-HABITAT), UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO);
- Inter-governmental organizations (International Organization for Migration [IOM], and International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] as observer); and
- International and national NGOs—International Rescue Committee (IRC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), Iraqi Correctional Service (ICS), International Medical Corps (IMC), Organizzazione Umanitaria Per L'emergenza (InterSOS), Mercy Corps, Mercy Hands, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), NGO Coordination Committee in Iraq (NCC), Un Ponte Per (UPP), International Relief and Development (IRD), Terre Des Hommes (TDH), AL Mesallah, Iraqi Youth League, Marsad Iraq, Save the Children, War Child UK, Heartland Alliance, Al Amaal Association, Iraq Health Social Care Organization [IHSCO], Relief International).

The selection of areas in the governorates was based on the level of vulnerability as well as on security and protection needs and threats. The SOT depends on field-based working groups (Erbil, Kirkuk, Basrah) as well as thematic working groups (monitoring and reporting mechanism [MRM], gender-based violence [GBV], internally displaced people [IDP]).



### **1.1.6 Narrative Explanatory Summary of Results**

During the reporting year, the Protection SOT continued to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders to ensure full respect for the rights of individuals in accordance with the letter and spirit of relevant bodies of law (namely human rights, international humanitarian and refugee law) and without discrimination of any kind (age, gender, ethnic, social, religious or other background). The main areas of intervention included:

#### **Legislation, policies and codes developed and reviewed**

The Protection SOT offered ongoing advice to the authorities for the adoption of relevant bodies of law.

#### **Outreach to communities**

The UNHCR Protection Assistance Center (PAC) network of 14 centers and 35 mobile teams throughout Iraq assessed needs and provided legal assistance and protection. The PAC network includes 130 Iraqi staff (lawyers, social workers, monitors, public information and database officers, team leaders) of which 40 percent are women. Mobile teams made 1,410 visits to villages, settlements, public buildings, camps and communities. Also in 2009, UNHCR created Return, Integration and Community Centers (RICCs) to address the social, assistance and information needs of returnees.

MoDM has established three Returnee Assistance Centers (RACs), which provide returnees with administrative support including registration, processing of return grants for eligible returnees, and other services and procedures to facilitate sustainable return. UNHCR supports the Government's initiatives on behalf of returnees through a range of field and outreach activities. The RICC and PAC networks work in close coordination and their activities are complementary. RICCs conduct comprehensive community-needs assessments and disseminate information on the return process, highlighting areas where UNHCR's immediate intervention and advocacy are required. PACs monitor and report on the protection environment and provide free legal and social counseling for all persons of concern to UNHCR. Both RICCs and PACs support the outreach capacity of the MoDM and its RACs.

At the same time, UNHCR conducts capacity-building and skills training for MoDM and RACs in order to enhance their ability to address the needs of returnees through fair and efficient procedures. Thus, UNHCR is using a two-pronged approach that consists of 1) support in expanding the network/outreach and 2) skills training.

#### **Increased knowledge of human rights and international humanitarian law**

Thematic conferences, workshops, trainings, information campaigns, meetings and media interviews were conducted on gender-based violence, human rights and protection of vulnerable women and children.

To enhance protection for refugees in Iraq, 10,558 Palestinians in Baghdad have now been successfully registered jointly by MoDM and MoI, with technical assistance provided by the Protection SOT. Discussions with MoI and MoDM as well as representatives from the Palestinian Embassy in Baghdad reached agreement on the type of ID documents to be issued to third-country refugees. For some refugees, resettlement has been the only durable solution—2,266 individuals (1,100 female and 1,166 male) were submitted for resettlement. Furthermore, for the 'Improving Access for IDPs and Returnees to Acceptable Shelter Solutions' project, Erbil city has allocated the land, and the site survey process will be initiated. The major achievement is the governorate agreement to contribute to the project cost through provision of serviced land. In all other locations, the project has experienced major delays of land allocations for IDP

and returnee houses. Despite several consultations with the Director-General from MoDM, this issue is yet to be resolved.

During the reporting period, the sector supported MoLSA in providing an orientation on international juvenile justice standards to 60 judges, reformatory staff, social workers, and juvenile police in Baghdad. The orientation also provided the opportunity to discuss priority actions to prevent children and young people at risk from getting into contact with the law and also to protect those who are already caught up in the formal justice system. Under its humanitarian assistance programme, Protection SOT member agencies supported the training of 70 key government officials and NGO staff (47 male and 23 female) in data collection and child protection in emergencies.

In support of building knowledge of human rights and international law, members of the Government of Iraq (GoI) and 25 selected civil society organizations (CSOs) were briefed on the UN human rights system and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, and given technical assistance in report writing and monitoring the human rights situation by UNAMI HRO and UNOPS. The GoI successfully submitted the national UPR report to the Human Rights Council in November 2009. A draft of the national report was shared with civil society as part of a consultation process prior to the final submission. The group of 25 CSOs trained under the project also submitted a contribution to the UPR Stakeholder report in September 2009.

Capacity to address the issue of missing persons was built by UNAMI HRO and UNOPS training a team of 22 forensic experts to work for the MoHR on the excavation of mass graves. The team received two (of three) phases of planned training during the reporting period. The training included a comprehensive theoretical course on surveying and excavating mass graves and examining and identifying remains, along with practical training carried out during an excavation of a mass grave. The final phase of training is due to take place in 2010.

To increase the prevalence of rights-based management of correctional facilities in Iraq through integrated monitoring-to-training programs, 20 government officials from MoLSA, Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Ministry of Defense (MoD) and MoI as well as 30 representatives from the Justice Network for Prisoners (JNP) received two trainings: one on international norms and instruments for promotion and protection of detainees, prisoners and vulnerable people's rights and one on prisons management, administration of justice and penal reforms. Both trainings were supported by the EU and implemented by UNOPS in close cooperation with the MoHR.

### **Vulnerable groups have increased access to protection (legal and social) services**

The UNHCR PAC network handled a total of 13,812 cases, classified as: civil ID (1,484), marriage (1,544), Public Distribution System (PDS) card (1,018), inheritance (1,205), utilities (762), health care (722), employment (672), social welfare (649), housing (306), citizenship (339), birth (970), death (286), and other personal status (151) certificates, immovable (306) and moveable (35) property, MoDM registration (259), passport (181), pension (158), divorce/separation (459), education (142), common criminal cases (38), other cases related to women (299) and children (115), government incentives for IDPs (202) and returnees (92), land allocations (31), detentions (19), driver license (44), family reunification (3) and other legal issues (1,321). Also, 18,468 individuals (of which 40 percent were women) benefited from PAC legal services, including: post-Samara IDPs (9,628), pre-Samara IDPs (1,367), refugee returnees (2,620), IDP returnees (2,648), refugee returnee into displacement (35),

refugees (228), asylum-seekers (48), stateless (5), deportees (8) and community members with specific needs (1,881).

The UNHCR PAC network conducted 1,214 Protection Monitoring Assessments in 620 locations throughout Iraq to identify protection needs, gather information on the protection environment and identify needed interventions. Persons of concern were assisted with their protection needs through a referral system: 3,947 cases (3,530 clients) were referred to UNHCR PAC networks, and PAC staff referred 2,598 cases to other stakeholders to assist to register with competent authorities, obtain documents to enjoy a wider spectrum of rights, basic services, humanitarian/financial assistance, inheritance/ property/land allocation, as well as advocate for rights, to stop evictions or to find alternative solutions for persons of concern, to follow up on detention cases, and prevent and respond to SGBV. UNHCR PAC teams responded to 4,878 requests to assist in enjoying rights and accessing services. UNHCR PAC mobile teams conducted 1,870 visits to reach beneficiaries, assess needs and provide assistance.



*UNHCR: IDPs returning to Kirkuk in 2009*

Among the most vulnerable IDPs were families living in public buildings, estimated at 450,000 persons.

UNHCR has been advocating with the authorities to expedite and streamline restoration of citizenship for the Faili Kurds and to address the situation of stateless persons in general. UNHCR PACs have assisted stateless persons with regard to access to documentation and courts.

At the end of 2009, the total refugee population was 39,018 individuals of various nationalities. Each refugee group has its own specific protection and durable solution challenges, depending on origin and current location in the country of asylum. Therefore, protection, assistance and interventions were linked to strategies addressing the particular protection needs of each group and identification of durable solutions for refugees. During 2009, 722 individuals were resettled.

Two rehabilitation centres—Bahjat Al Fuad Centre for Torture Victims in Basrah (BFRCT) and Kirkuk Centre for Torture Victims—were supported by the EU and UNOPS in providing medical and psychological assistance and rehabilitation services for a total of 2,397 victims of torture and violence and IDPs. Centre staff and local health professionals also received specialized medical and psychological training to allow them to care for the medical and psychological needs of traumatized individuals.

Activities supported by the Protection SOT including EU and UNOPS supported 20 Legal Defence Centres (LDCs) in 16 governorates in offering free legal aid and consultation services to Iraqi detainees. In 2009, 96 males and 14 females were provided with legal services.

In 2009 UNICEF worked with MoLSA and IMC to implement a project that combines prevention, protection, reintegration and restorative justice for children and young people. Through a set of community-based initiatives in Baghdad and Basrah, 200 teachers, community members and community

police have been trained to work with families and young people in the prevention of juvenile crime. It is expected that the 200 people trained will each reach 100 children and youth at risk and their families, thereby reaching some 2,000 people within six months with preventive messages and conflict mediation skills. IMC, in consultation with MoLSA, created four mobile legal teams that provide legal assistance to 90 boys in one juvenile detention centre in Baghdad and 17 girls in another. About 90 percent of the boys are accused of terrorism, which carries a 15-year jail sentence if convicted, and nearly 75 percent of the boys have been in detention without a formal charge for more than 12 months. The legal teams have so far managed to get 2 boys and 2 girls released from detention after successfully representing them in court. For the first time since 2003, UNICEF succeeded in providing access to justice to children in conflict with the law, and created an opportunity to effect change to the duration children are deprived of their liberty. This was also made possible because MoLSA provided unrestricted access to the juvenile detention centre for UNICEF's implementing partner. To strengthen the tracking and monitoring of children already in the formal justice system, UNICEF supported staff from MoLSA-Baghdad and KRG, the High Judicial Council and the managers of the detention centres to participate in a Regional Juvenile Justice Information System training in Amman in May 2009. UNICEF Child Protection in Emergency Cluster at HQ assisted the UNICEF Iraq Child Protection and Participation (CPP) unit to develop a strategy for providing reintegration assistance to children and young people affected by armed conflict—in particular, those who have been recruited and used by armed groups. The strategy will inform planned 2010 reintegration assistance initiatives.

Building on the protection programme developed in 2008, UNICEF continued to support area-based programming for children and young people living in acutely vulnerable communities through the provision of psychosocial assistance to children in schools, with 145 teachers (113 female and 32 male) trained to provide psychosocial care to 3,643 children (1,233 girls and 2,410 boys) in 8 schools in Basrah. In total 51,719 children (31,630 boys and 20,089 girls) in 105 schools continued to receive psychosocial assistance from 1,731 trained teachers (686 male and 1,045 female). Monitoring reports from school supervisors indicate that trained teachers are now more supportive to children who have experienced difficulties and that learning outcomes in these schools have improved. In the future, this programme will be managed by UNICEF's Education Section to ensure that the program is continued by the Ministry of Education. To compliment the psychosocial component in schools, the CPP Programme supported MoLSA to develop the framework for a community-based psychosocial programme that will target out-of-school children and youth as well as families and communities where the school-based psychosocial support programme is operational

UNICEF's support of de-institutionalization and re-integration of children without caregivers continued in 2009. 136 children (44 girls and 92 boys) from orphanages were reunited with their families and provided with reintegration assistance. Of the 136 children, 96 rejoined schools and the rest joined vocational skills training programmes. All reunified children and their families continue to receive psychosocial counseling through follow-up visits by social workers. The project evaluation indicates that the reunified children are coping well and the families are happy that the children are back at home. Some acutely vulnerable families who received their children back have been successfully included in the MoLSA-operated social safety net programme, which includes cash transfers to vulnerable families. MoLSA has now taken full responsibilities for the family reintegration programme.

UNICEF continued with capacity-building initiatives to improve the provision of protection services. 100 social workers from MoLSA KRG are undergoing six months of training in modern social work practices

and ethics—the training started in September 2009 and will end in April 2010. The training is being provided by the same Swedish lecturers who are providing the training for the social work education degree course at the University of Salahadin. Several short-term capacity-building initiatives to improve skills and knowledge of child protection workers reached 171 social workers, psychologists and caregivers who are now more aware of the impact of conflict and violence on children under their care.

In 2009 UNICEF supported 65 comprehensive assessments in 57 sub-districts and the identification of acutely vulnerable communities, and UNICEF's Child Protection Section developed and implemented emergency child protection response strategies that reached 26,279 children, youth, families and other community members. 17,600 (7,978 male and 9,622 female) teachers, social workers and community members received training on the protection of children and young people from violence and exploitation while 13,404 (8,422 male and 4,982 female) children and youth received life skills training on self protection from violence. 5,275 (3,119 male and 2,156 female) children benefited from protection services provided in 12 Child Friendly Centres. An additional 190 men and 521 women were reached with gender-based violence (GBV) awareness and training through the emergency child protection interventions. There is a long way to go before GBV is reduced, but community members are now opening up and are accepting information on GBV prevention and response. Nonetheless, so far only five GBV survivors have come forward to request GBV services and be provided with legal assistance and psychosocial counseling by a UNICEF-implementing partner.

#### **Consolidated systems for monitoring and reporting on protection issues set up**

Workshop, training and study tours were conducted to build capacity for Iraq to fulfil its treaty commitment on CEDAW reporting.

UNICEF has continued to support operationalisation of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) based on Security Council Resolutions 1612 and 1882 established at the end of 2008 and formally endorsed by the UN Country Team in March 2009. All technical guidance documents were developed and pilot-tested and are now in use. UNICEF has supported the training of 260 local NGO staff and some 30 UN agency staff in monitoring and reporting of grave child-rights violations. Between April and December 2009, trained staff reported 373 incidents of possible grave child-rights violations; so far 12 percent of the incidents have been verified. In 142 of these incidents, there is a strong indication that the children were killed or injured and in 10 out of the 142 incidents, it has been confirmed that 223 children were killed or injured. The database to support the documentation of reports under the MRM with the assistance of the Information and Analysis Unit (IAU) and OCHA is now operational and is managed by UNICEF.

The sector continued its work monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation in Iraq. These reports are taken seriously by the Iraqi government, NGOs, and the international community at large. Reporting and exposing violations of human rights in Iraq has an indirect deterring effect as the government both at the central and regional levels is concerned about its public image internationally. One positive development during the reporting period is the passing of the draft law related to the establishment of an Independent Human Rights Commission by the Council of Representatives. The establishment of this commission will be instrumental in providing protection and addressing human rights violations in Iraq. The sector held a number of training sessions and workshops on various human rights and protection issues. In recognition of the importance of an independent and functioning judiciary in enforcing the rule of law and protecting human rights in Iraq, a training workshop was organized with

the participation of 45 judges, prosecutors, and lawyers from central Iraq and the KRG. The focus was the role of the judiciary in protecting human rights in criminal justice, including counterterrorism.

UNICEF, in partnership with the Danish Embassy, supported MoLSA to initiate the development of a national child protection policy, which will provide the GoI with the framework for its child protection programmes and services. UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Human Rights to initiate the preparations for the next UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) State Party Report, which should be submitted in the last quarter of 2010.

### **Mine action policy, strategy and regulatory mechanism developed; Iraqi Mine Action operational capacity strengthened and awareness raised**

Clearance of land contaminated by mines and explosive remnants of war is ongoing. Over 300,000 boys, girls, women and men received mine-risk education between 2008 and 2009.

Mine Action achievements included 15.6 sq km of contaminated land made safe for use by local communities in Basrah. Capacity development of Mine Action national institutions continued with a three-day strategic planning course, and a Mine Action exchange programme to Sulymaniyah for Mine Action staff in Basrah. In terms of information management, the national organization took part in an operational and geographic information system (GIS) and mapping course and now have map-producing knowledge. The national Mine Action authority (re-named as Directorate of Mine Action) was also supported in: (i) drafting national mine action standards, (ii) preparing the transparency report in response to Ottawa treaty obligations, and (iii) preparing for drafting a national Mine Action strategic plan.

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Environment and the regional Mine Action authorities to draft a strategy and standards for mine risk education (MRE) in Iraq, to be completed in 2010 with technical support from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

### **Support to the Expanded Humanitarian Response Fund**

The Expanded Humanitarian Response Fund (ERF) has supported a diverse array of humanitarian organizations (31 Iraqi national groups, 13 international NGOs) with non-food item (NFI) and food projects. ERF worked with international and national actors to undertake urgent humanitarian activities in Iraq, targeting unmet needs as a result of geographic, sectoral and funding gaps in humanitarian response and/or government capacity. The programme funded 38 projects by the end of 2009 for a total amount of \$6,270,375. With the partnership of 29 Iraqi NGOs and 4 international ones, activities were conducted in 17 governorates under food,



*UNHCR: Distributing non-food items in Erbil, 2009*

shelter, water and sanitation, health, education and agriculture sectors. A major project in 2009 was to supply life-saving medical items to public emergency departments in 15 central and southern governorates. More than 210,000 beneficiaries (about 33 percent female) were/will be served through funded projects under all sectors. During 2009, the programme developed several mechanisms to improve the processing time of proposals, eligibility of recipients and monitoring capabilities, such as OCHA recruiting 17 Iraqi Field Coordinators (IFCs) to closely follow up and report on projects in the field.

### **1.1.7 Other SOT Major Contributions and Implementing Partners**

In addition to the ITF-funded projects, UNDP Mine Action is also supported bilaterally (Governments of Italy, Japan, Australia, and UK; US Department of State; and UNDP core resources) for activities in three governorates in the KRG, Baghdad and Basrah. Activities include: supporting operational capacity and institutional development, preparing a draft decree, drafting national and regional regulatory structures, and conducting strategic planning workshops for the new National Mine Action Strategy. Moreover, UNDP Mine Action is also supporting Victim Assistance initiatives through projects for Mine/Explosive Remnants of War victims, providing physiotherapy, mobility aids, and income-generation support.

