

**United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund**  
**Project #: A5-20**  
**Date and Quarter Updated: July – September 2010 (Quarter 3)**

<b>Participating UN Organisation:</b> UNIDO	<b>Sector:</b> Agriculture and Food Security
<b>Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry:</b>	Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Ministry of Planning

<b>Title:</b>	Job Creation Through Micro Industries Promotion in Al-Qadissiyah, Iraq				
<b>Geographic Location</b>	Al-Qadissiyah Governorate				
<b>Project Cost</b>	\$5,871,891				
<b>Duration</b>	18 months				
<b>Approval Date (SC)</b>	28 Jan 2007	<b>Starting Date</b>	30 Jan 2007	<b>Completion Date</b>	30 SEPT 2010
<b>Project Description</b>	This project addresses the socio-economic priorities of the Dewaniyah Governorate with a focus on community empowerment and the promotion of income-generating activities/job creation. The project has been designed to increase the capability of marginalized and poor communities to engage in viable non-farming agro-enterprises, thus reducing their dependency on a variety of relief aid packages and strengthening the sustainable livelihoods recovery process.				

### **Development Goal and Immediate Objectives**

#### Development Goal

To improve the socio-economic conditions of the population in the project area through community empowerment and rehabilitation of the livelihoods and productive capacities in Al-Qadissiyah.

#### Key Immediate Objectives:

1. Provide targeted communities with the capacity to plan and manage their development activities and restoring a functional base for economic growth and social peace.
2. Improve the livelihood of approximately 4500 households living in the project area through strengthening of their productive capacities in post-harvest and other income-generating activities.
3. Enable large number of youth who have been deprived by conflict to gain basic knowledge of productive skills through practical experiences and activity based learning.

### **Outputs, Key activities and Procurement**

#### Outputs

- 1.1 Enhanced capacities at the community level in support of socio-economic growth and peaceful coexistence.
- 2.1 Sources of income and employment for men and women in targeted communities are improved through increased quality and diversity of sustainable livelihoods activities benefiting 4500 households.
- 3.1 A minimum of 1,000 youth (50% female) are provided with marketable skills to enable them to obtain jobs and/or start up an economic activity to sustain livelihoods for themselves and their families.

## Key Activities

1. Assessing the needs of project beneficiaries (using selected participatory appraisal tools), identifying viable productive income generation activities and appropriate technologies.
2. Selecting project sites with the collaboration of all stakeholders, based on the distribution of vulnerable groups in both urban and rural areas and the availability of raw materials and markets.
3. Finalising selection and identification of beneficiaries based on the criteria agreed upon by all stakeholders: local governments, women's associations, directorates of counterpart ministries, village elders and Project Steering Committee members.
4. Rehabilitation of the Dewaniyah Vocational Training Centre.
5. Training of Trainers in selected technical and entrepreneurship training areas.
6. Procurement and installation/transfer of training workshop equipment for the Dewaniyah Vocational Training Centre, project beneficiary 'toolkits', and productivity enhancing technologies in Production Groups and other project support micro industries.
7. Training of beneficiaries in technical, vocational, entrepreneurial skills areas so as to assist them in starting their own business or to increase employment opportunities.
8. Mentoring of project beneficiaries and the activities of Production Groups.

## **Procurement**

Non-Food: The Project Management Unit (PMU) has completed the acquisition, transfer, and installation of all project procured training equipment. This equipment has enabled the newly renovated Dewaniyah Vocational Training Centre (DVTC) to deliver a wide variety of technical and vocational skills upgrading training programmes. Technical areas that the DVTC is currently providing non-food training in include: agro/auto-mechanics, metalworking, welding, carpentry, spinning and weaving, mobile phone repair, and sewing/tailoring. The project has also provided all the necessary instructional-support equipment to the DVTC which builds on and strengthens the long term sustainability expected under the terms of the project.

Technology packages and other equipment that has been procured for the revitalization of project supported Production Groups (PG) has also been fully completed. These PGs have been established in a number of districts throughout the province and are providing viable and sustainable jobs in dynamic sectors of the local economy. In addition, the PMU has transferred, to end users, all beneficiary 'toolkits' packages. These 'toolkits' have been provided to project beneficiaries so as to assist them in starting up self-employment opportunities or to help strengthen the development of viable micro enterprises in the province.

Food: To support food related post-harvest processing activities, the project has procured, installed and commissioned 100% of the food related training technologies/equipment/resources that were required to upgrade the knowledge and skills of project targeted beneficiaries. Similarly to the non-food component of the project, the PMU has located the training equipment at the DVTC and is currently finalizing all post-harvest training sessions; which include beekeeping, fruit/vegetable processing, bread and pastry, dairy products, sesame/tahini processing, etc. The PMU reports that 99% of all beneficiary food processing 'toolkits' have been distributed to end-users. These toolkits will help enable project targeted beneficiaries to start up their own small enterprises or raise household level productivity at the end of their food-related training courses.

To assist in the revitalization of post-harvest capacity and agro-processing productivity in the governorate, the project is in the final stages of resourcing a number of food related PGs. A revitalization assessment was conducted and 6 sites have been completely rehabilitated. The Project Management Unit is finalizing the commissioning of all project-procured equipment for this site. The PMU expects to have these sites fully operational in September 2010. Once operational, the PGs will provide the province of Al-Qadissiyah with an important source of safe and hygienic locally grown and processed food stuffs.

<b>Funds Committed</b>	\$ 3,913,299	<b>% of approved</b>	67
<b>Funds Disbursed</b>	\$ 4,956,618	<b>% of approved</b>	84
<b>Forecast final date</b>	30 September 2010	<b>Delay (months)</b>	27 Months

<b>Direct Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Number of Beneficiaries Targeted</b>	<b>% of planned (current status)</b>
Men	500	60%
Women	500	218%
Youth (youth 18-24)	1000 (50% Women)	58%
IDPs	TBD	N/A
Others	NA	N/A
Indirect beneficiaries	2500	90%
Employment generation (men/women)	2000	90%

### **Quantitative achievements against objectives and results**

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| 1. Provide targeted communities with the capacity to plan and manage their development activities and restoring a functional base for economic growth and social peace.                            | <b>% of planned</b> | 90 |
| 2. Improve the livelihood of approximately 4500 households living in the project area through strengthening of their productive capacities in post-harvest and other income-generating activities. | <b>% of planned</b> | 90 |
| 3. Enable large number of youth who have been deprived by conflict to gain basic knowledge of productive skills through practical experiences and activity based learning.                         | <b>% of planned</b> | 95 |

### **Qualitative achievements against objectives and results**

The design, development, and implementation of project sensitization workshops, with core project stakeholder groups, have been completed. The project has confirmed the needs of project beneficiary groupings through the preparation of a comprehensive needs assessment report that was conducted in collaboration with COSIT from the Ministry of Planning.

The selection of project sites and the 'mapping' of beneficiary groups, project extension services, project supported training sites, and other agro-infrastructure is largely completed. Our mapping and tracking 'platform' has been designed to be easily updateable and will be regularly revised as the project moves through the project cycle. The project has also been developing its database comprised of information contained in the beneficiary profile forms and other project reporting documents.

The identification and promotion of locally relevant and appropriate agro-economic technologies has been completed. The completion of this activity was facilitated through a demand driven and market based assessment of raw materials, support services, distribution nodes, and market access points conducted in project targeted areas. Throughout this process, the Project Management Unit (PMU), the Project Steering Committee, and the Government of Iraq (GoI) counterparts were actively engaged in this initiative.

The project has completed all rehabilitation works at the DVTC and the placement of trainers from various project participating ministries has been finalized and implemented. The PMU has helped to organize the Official Facilities Receiving Committee which was accepted by the Rural Extension Directorate from the MoA. Receiving ceremonies provided the PMU with an important opportunity to showcase the involvement of key stakeholders from the Governor's Office, the provincial council, the GoI counterpart ministries, and project linked community development leaders. The DVTC has become a model facility in the governorate and it has been visited by a wide range of Iraqi officials.

The preparation of the technical specification for project procured equipment has been finalized and procurement activities have been completed by both UNIDO and FAO. The project has completed its inventory reporting on project-purchased equipment and tools that will be distributed to the DVTC, project beneficiaries, and project established PGs. Training related equipment has been installed and commissioned in the newly renovated DVTC and formal agreements and conditions of use documents

have been finalized to structure technology transfers between the PMU, GoI Line Ministries, and other end-user groups.

All Training of Trainers (TOT) sessions have been completed for various technical and vocational skills upgrading of ministerial counterpart staff. These staff will be attached to the project's food and non-food vocational training and skills upgrading centre. In addition, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has brought a number of project trained trainers under staffing contracts. These trainers will eventually be assigned to the VTC that MoLSA is building in Dewaniyah. In total, the project has trained 48 ToTs in a variety of technical, vocational, and management-based thematic areas. Furthermore, the project has completed its training of 13 Community Development Leaders and has been actively working with group members to promote and monitor development activities in the governorate. The PMU is currently working with GoI focal points to identify and nominate candidates that will receive follow up training in business and operations management. These capacity building initiatives are aimed at complimenting the technical training programme of the project.

The Training of Beneficiaries (ToB) component of the project has started with technical training of project targeted beneficiaries in a number of food and Non-food related fields. Currently the project is training or has trained over 1750 project beneficiaries in a large number of non-food type technical and vocational skills areas. The PMU is closely monitoring the Project Steering Committee endorsed ToB training action plan. This plan has been prepared to facilitate the timely unfolding of all vocational and technical training sessions by 30 June 2010. At that time, all vocational/technical project trainings will have been completed, data will have been collected and analyzed on project 'impact', and the PMU will have finalized its training sustainability strategy with GoI counterparts. Part of the sustainability strategy is to identify and provide small business management training to dynamic project trained trainees. Through the project's engagement with the Dewaniyah Small Business Development Centre, the PMU is funding three rounds of small business training sessions for targeted project beneficiaries. Monitoring and tracking activities will continue to project close out on 30 September 2010.

The project has made the revitalization of dynamic workshops a central feature of the Producer Groups (PG) component of the project. Using the established MISP methodology, the PMU has hired a National Consultant to help identify and select the most suitable productive facilities and workshops to participate in the PG component of the project. The consultant has helped prepare the Bill of Quantities for these PGs, and the civil rehabilitation works have been completed on all Non-food Production Groups. Non-Food PGs have been equipped with locally relevant and high quality equipment and technologies and owners and managers have participated in a number of small business development training sessions. The PMU has also assisted 5 PG operators to secure small loans to help take their business to the next level of service and excellence. The rehabilitation of Food side Production Groups is in its final stages and the PMU is expecting that all revitalization efforts will be completed by 30 September 2010. The PMU has put in place a number of resources to help sustain the operations of the PGs once technology transfer packages have been installed and commissioned.

The PMU has been actively working with its Government of Iraq counterparts to develop a comprehensive sustainability strategy. After a number of meetings, the PMU is set to initiate the endorsed sustainability initiatives that have been agreed to, so as to ensure that the project has the necessary support after the expected close out date in September 2010. The PMUs sustainability strategy is being strengthened by the expertise and recommendations of an independent evaluator who has a well developed understanding of the MISP approach and has made some important contributions to enhancing the implementation results associated with the project.

#### **Main implementation constrains & challenges**

- The fragile security situation hampers free movement of international and national project staff and consultants, posing some difficulties to the effective implementation of project activities.
- Effective targeting of dynamic youth remains a challenge for project managers. Although there are a large number of eligible youth, many do not meet the suitability criteria that have been established and endorsed by the Project Steering Committee.
- The project is also working in a more traditional part of the country and securing the participation of many vulnerable or marginalized groups has been a difficult and challenging task.

## Photos

The following pictures highlight some of the important activities that have been recently conducted under the terms of the MISP III project in Dewaniyah.

Small Business Training at Dewaniyah SBDC



Beneficiary Training: Welding Assignment



Food Processing Training: Dates



Beneficiary Exhibition (Female-made Products)



Practical Training: Machinist Training



Beneficiary Toolkit Distribution Ceremony: Mechanics

