



UN-HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

**UNDG IRAQ TRUST FUND
FINAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE REPORT
OPERATIONALLY CLOSED**

Programme Title & Number

- Programme Title: Strengthening The Capacity of The Housing Sector Phase II
- Programme Number: E4-16
- MDTF Office Atlas Number: 66976

Country, Locality(s), Thematic Area(s)²

National Level and in 3 select governorates: Erbil, Babil and Najaf
Housing and Shelter Sector

Participating Organization(s)

UN-HABITAT: Lead Agency
UN-ESCWA: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Implementing Partners

- MoCH: Ministry of Construction and Housing
- MMPW: Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works
- MoF: Ministry of Finance
- GoI: Government of Iraq, Governorate Councils of three Governorates

Programme/Project Cost (US\$)

MDTF Fund Contribution: \$2,385,917

Agency Contribution NA

Government Contribution

Other Contribution (donor)

TOTAL: \$2,385,917

Programme Duration (months)

Overall Duration 48 months

Start Date 21 Dec. 2006

Original end date 21 June 2008

Revised End Date, 1st extension till 31 Mar. 2009

2nd extension till 31 Dec. 2009

3rd extension till 30 Jun. 2010

4th extension till 31 Dec. 2010

Operational Closure Date 31 December 2010

Expected Financial Closure Date 31 December 2011

Final Programme/ Project Evaluation

Evaluation Completed

No Date: _____

Evaluation Report - Attached

No

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¹ The term "programme" is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

² Priority Area for the Peacebuilding Fund; Sector for the UNDG ITF.

I. PURPOSE

The project is the second phase of an ongoing technical assistance and capacity building initiative in the housing and housing finance sectors in Iraq. It aims to improve the living conditions of Iraqis by strengthening the role of the housing sector towards ensuring adequate shelter for all; providing security of tenure and contributing to the modernization of the construction, building materials and housing finance sectors; employment generation; and poverty reduction.

Building on the achievements so far realized and the lessons learnt from the first phase UN-HABITAT supported project, “Strengthening Capacity of Housing Sector”, the project is continuing efforts towards improving housing sector institutions, facilitating introduction of investment supportive laws and regulations, and equipping the Ministry of Construction and Housing (MoCH) cadre to prepare enabling sub-sector strategies and effectively deliver on its International UNDAF commitments.

a. The list of the main outputs and outcomes of the programme as per the approved programmatic document.

Outcome One: Iraqi stakeholders’ ownership of, and pro-active commitment towards comprehensive housing sector reforms demonstrated, through a fully functional housing market information system and improved ministerial capacities for updating and analysis.

Outputs Related to Outcome One

1.1 A new national comprehensive housing information system

1.2 Ministry and Iraqi Central Office for Statistics and Information Technology (COSIT) staff trained in the operation of the new housing information system;

1.3 The Ministry is supplied with computer equipment and software necessary to operate the housing information system.

Outcome Two: Draft housing policy and legal and institutional reform package widely disseminated, debated and implementation endorsed by relevant ministerial and political stakeholders and promoted through decentralized housing strategies.

Outputs Related to Outcome Two

2.1 Legislative, policy and programme proposals prepared in collaboration with public and private sector stakeholders aimed at reforming the housing sector

2.2 An organizational restructuring plan for the MoCH aimed at ensuring that the Ministry will be capable of implementing the legislative, policy and programme proposals.

2.3 Proposals prepared in collaboration with stakeholders aimed at promoting their effective involvement in the future provision of new housing, and in slum upgrading.

2.4 Awareness increased among stakeholders with regard to the need for housing sector reform and the more effective involvement of the private sector, community leaders and voluntary organizations.

2.5 Proceedings of the regional housing conference aimed at showing best practices in housing sector reform, defining funding prospects and institutional partnerships.

Outcome Three: A functioning Training and Knowledge Centre appropriately staffed, equipped and funded. Awareness raised on housing sector reforms and government committed to policy, legal and institutional reform and capacities developed to implement policies

Outputs Related to Outcome Three

3.1 A functioning training and knowledge centre within the MoCH.

3.2 A business plan for the operation of the centre during its first three years.

3.3 Centre staff trained and capable of implementing the business plan.

b. The Programme relates to the Strategic (UN) Planning Framework guiding the operations of the Fund.

1. Support to Public Governance Reforms and Operational and Institutional Capacity Building: The programme is devised to reform the housing sector and build the capacity of housing institutions at central and governorate level accordingly

2. Support to Provision of Basic Services and Poverty Reduction (immediate and longer-term needs): the project aims to improve and increase the delivery of housing in order to meet the significant national demand, particularly from the poor, who currently suffer from inadequate housing

3. Cross Cutting Issues:

Gender: Gender Disaggregation of data promoted in all information gathering exercises. The housing policy outcomes have a pro-poor bias, focusing on vulnerable community members, many of whom are women and women headed households

Human Rights: addresses the right to adequate shelter by producing policies and strengthening institutions to address housing needs with a focus on vulnerable sectors of society

Employment: Improved housing delivery, resulting from this project will improve employment opportunities in the construction sector

Environment: Housing policies and strategies developed promote environmentally sustainable practices

c. The list of primary implementing partners and stakeholders including key beneficiaries.

Implementing Partners:

MoCH: Ministry of Construction and Housing

MMPW: Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works

MoP: Ministry of Planning

MoF: Ministry of Finance

GoI: Government of Iraq, KRG/ Governorate Councils of three Governorates: Erbil, Hilla, Najaf

UN-ESCWA: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Beneficiaries: The project is helping to strengthen institutional capacity within the housing sector through the development of policies, strategies and programmes for accelerated supply of housing. This will if effectively achieved, benefit the entire Iraqi population either directly or indirectly.

II. ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAMME/ PROJECT RESULTS

a. The key outputs achieved

Output related to Outcome 1:

1.1 A new national comprehensive housing information system

A focused plan has been prepared to set up a Housing Observatory Unit in MoCH which replaced the earlier intended plan to set up an Urban Observatory Unit which was costly especially is that MoCH was unable to cost share the training budget. A two phased training was delivered successfully to selected staff from MoCH as well the Training and Knowledge Centre. The unit is functioning inside MoCH.

(100% achieved)

1.2 Ministry and Iraqi Central Office for Statistics and Information Technology (COSIT) staff trained in the operation of the new housing information system; **(100% achieved)**

1.3 The Ministry is supplied with computer equipment and software necessary to operate the housing information system. **(100% achieved)**

Outputs related to Outcome 2

2.1 Legislative, policy and programme proposals prepared in collaboration with public and private sector stakeholders aimed at reforming the housing sector **(The Housing Policy report is 100% completed and endorsed by the council of ministers in Nov. 2010)**

2.2 An organizational restructuring plan for the MoCH aimed at ensuring that the Ministry will be capable of implementing the legislative, policy and programme proposals. **(report is 100% completed)**

2.3 Proposals prepared in collaboration with stakeholders aimed at promoting their effective involvement in the future provision of new housing, and in slum upgrading. **(The Housing Policy report is 100% completed)**

2.4 Awareness increased among stakeholders with regard to the need for housing sector reform and the more effective involvement of the private sector, community leaders and voluntary organizations. **(media campaign 100% achieved)**

2.5 Proceedings of the regional housing conference aimed at showing best practices in housing sector reform, defining funding prospects and institutional partnerships. **(100% achieved)**

Outputs Related to Outcome 3

2.1 A functioning training and knowledge centre within the MoCH. **(100% achieved)**

2.2 A business plan for the operation of the centre during its first three years. **(100% achieved)**

2.3 Centre staff trained and capable of implementing the business plan. **(100% achieved)**

b. The achieved outputs have contributed to the achievement of the outcomes through the following:

Outcome One: Iraqi stakeholders' ownership of, and pro-active commitment towards comprehensive housing sector reforms demonstrated, through a fully functional housing market information system and improved ministerial capacities for updating and analysis.

The establishment of a Housing Observatory within the MoCH has the following results:

- o Help improve the collection, management, analysis and use of information in formulating effective policy guidelines.
- o Develop performance monitoring frameworks for national development plans or programmes.
- o Report housing indicator data, share information, knowledge and expertise using modern information and communication technology (ICT). And to provide information and analysis to relevant stakeholders for effective participation in housing policy decision-making.
- o Use performance indicators for improving housing supply and affordability, housing programme and public accountability.
- o Establish regular sustainable data collection and analysis procedures through the national housing observatory within TKC, creating a core unit of knowledgeable staff for a housing observatory in MoCH.
- o Coordination with COSIT/ MoP proved very useful and vital in terms of information sharing.

Outcome Two: Draft housing policy and legal and institutional reform package widely disseminated, debated and implementation endorsed by relevant ministerial and political stakeholders and promoted through decentralized housing strategies.

-The Iraq National Housing Policy was prepared in close collaboration with the MoCH, UN-HABITAT and ESCWA over the period May 2009 – April 2010. Multiple iterations of the policy document were prepared following meetings between MOCH and UNHABITAT consultant during that period. The principal result of this outcome was the preparation of a National Housing Policy for Iraq. This participatory process was essential in building capacities and raising awareness on current bottlenecks within the housing sector and means of resolving them. The policy was endorsed by the Council of Ministers in November 2010.

Outcome Three: A functioning Training and Knowledge Centre appropriately staffed, equipped and funded. Awareness raised on housing sector reforms and government committed to policy, legal and institutional reform and capacities developed to implement policies.

Training of trainers was provided to selected staff from MoCH and other ministries by a specialized international institute and UN-ESCWA in different fields related to the housing sector identified in collaboration with MoCH.

-The Training and knowledge Center established in MoCH has been functioning since August 2008. Up to 40 training courses have been delivered to 726 ministerial staff from different ministries. The activities extended to KRG ministerial staff within that region.

c. The overall contribution of the programme to the Strategy Planning Framework or other strategic documents as relevant, e.g.: MDGs, National Priorities, UNDAF outcomes, etc

1. The project contributed to the achievement of multiple MDGs in Iraq, especially MDG 7, Target 11 (Significant Improvement in the Lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers).
2. The project contributed to the following UNDAF outcomes: 1; 3; 5;
3. The project provided support to Public Governance Reforms, Operational and Institutional Capacity Building: The project was devised to reform the housing sector and build the capacity of housing institutions at central and governorate level accordingly.
4. The project supported provision of Basic Services and Poverty Reduction (immediate and longer-term needs): the aim of the project was to improve and increase the delivery of housing in order to meet the significant national demand, particularly for the poor, who suffer from inadequate housing.

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

The continuous dialogue and cooperation with the Ministry of Construction and Housing has resulted in establishing good relations, which is considered the basis for any future work primarily in this challenging field of improving the housing delivery in Iraq.

e. Who have been the primary beneficiaries and how they were engaged in the programme/ project implementation? Provide percentages/number of beneficiary groups, if relevant.

The project is a second phase of a technical and capacity building programme, direct beneficiaries are staff members in the ministry of MoCH who were trained or took part in technical working groups who discussed the formation of vital documents. Indirect beneficiaries are the whole Iraqi population who will benefit from the improvement of housing delivery in general.

f. The Highlights of the contribution of the programme on cross-cutting issues pertinent to the results being reported.

By virtue of being a technical assistance and capacity building initiative, the project directly addressed issues of physical security and employment. It has helped to generate awareness among the potential employment generation on the vibrant housing sector. Similarly, through the work done on the building materials and construction sectors, the project has tried to promote the use of local materials and technologies that have no adverse environmental effects.

The Housing Policy document which is the main achievement of the project emphasized on the government's obligation towards vulnerable groups, especially women headed households, in terms of prioritizing their needs when it comes to housing related support.

The project ensured optimal participation of women and men in all its activities.

g. Has the funding provided by the MDTF/JP to the programme been catalytic in attracting funding or other resources from other donors? If so, please elaborate.

The project has contributed to raising awareness of the Iraq Government on the importance of housing as a vital sector that is related to essential services and inclusive economic growth. This led to development of similar projects building on findings and lessons learned from this project with the government cost-sharing in the implementation of the following new projects:

Improving the Housing Delivery System in Erbil Project.

Strengthening the Capacity of the Housing Sector in Iraq-Bridge for Phase 3 Project.

III. EVALUATION & LESSONS LEARNED

a. The assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken relating to the programme and how they were used during implementation.

Studies undertaken under this project are the following:

1. A housing strategy for the following cities: Erbil, Hilla and Najaf

2. The Iraq National Housing Policy Decentralized Strategies, Institutional and Regulatory Reforms

An evaluation of key housing sector outputs relevant to the implementation of the "Iraq National Housing Policy" will be conducted under Housing phase three bridge funding project. This was agreed upon having discussions with the government counterparts.

b. Delays in programme implementation, and the nature of the constraints such as management arrangements, human resources, as well as the actions taken to mitigate, and how such challenges and/or actions impacted on the overall achievement of results.

The MoCH which is the primary partner for the project has an important but extremely limited role within the housing sector. The prevalence of a centralized system at the ministry of Construction and Housing coupled with the lack of human resources within the Ministry caused delayed finalizing the housing Policy study from the side of the ministry; this delay was compounded by logistical constraints associated with international consultants working remotely.

A range of ministries and authorities involved in the development of land, provision of services, regulating the building materials and construction sectors, etc needed to be involved in the reforms dialogue and their related activities needed to be coordinated – this has been a significant challenge encountered by the project, and a cause for delays due to the difficulty in bringing people together.

These constraints were addressed through conducting continuous missions to Baghdad to discuss and agree with the ministry on a plan for executing their commitments and establishing direct communication between international consultants and assigned focal points in the ministry to enhance their communication skills and expedite flow of relevant information.

The political situation during the last months of 2010 in Iraq (ministerial changes) resulted in slow

response to project requirements.

- c. Key lessons learned that would facilitate future programme design and implementation, including issues related to management arrangements, human resources, resources, etc.,

The participatory approach in implementing assignments of a technical assistance nature proved best in building the capacities of the staff while on the job. A draw back on this was the logistical difficulties of having an international consultant travelling to Iraq to meet and work with related counterparts on a periodical basis. Moreover, the travel implications of bringing participants from Iraq to attend meetings and workshops outside Iraq had resulted in costing the project a lot. In addition, there were complicated procedures within ministries to approve such activities, which cannot be done as frequently as needed. The best mitigation way was to rely on a combination of both modalities.

1. Continuous coordination with the Iraqi counterpart and involving more than one ministry in the programme helped to ensure smooth flow of decisions and procedures; it also helped to create coordination mechanisms between ministrie