

**2010 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT FOR PROJECT
 IRFFI/UNDG IRAQ TRUST FUND (UNDG ITF)**

Participating UN Organization: UNICEF

Sector: Health and Nutrition

Project No. and Project Title:

Support to the Government of Iraq's Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 4 (MICS4)

- Programme Number(if applicable) D2-32
- MDTF Office Atlas Number:00075002

Report Number:

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Reporting Period:

26 April 2010 – 31 March 2011

Project Budget

UNDG ITF: US\$ 1,480,000

UNICEF: US\$ 698,300

UNICEF additional: US\$ 500,000

TOTAL: US\$ 2,678,300

List Implementing Partners:

- WHO, UNFPA, WFP
- Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation's Central Statistics Office (CSO, former COSIT), and Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office

Geographic Coverage/Scope:

Nationwide, All districts

Abbreviations and Acronyms:

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

MICS4: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 4
 MoPDC: Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation
 CSO: Central Statistics Office
 KRSO: Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office

Project Status: Duration/ Timeline Extension/Closed Project:

- 18months
- Start date 26 April 2010
- Original end date 26 Oct 2011

NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

I. Purpose

The purpose of this project is to support the Government of Iraq conducting the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS4). The survey will augment the ability of the GoI, UNCT, donors, and other development partners to strategically plan interventions towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals, the priorities of the National Development Plan (2010-2014), the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2011-2014), and the goals of the World Fit For Children.

- Outcome: Health and nutrition policy makers and service providers at all levels have developed, reviewed and implemented policies, strategies, plans and projects
- Output 1: COSIT, KRISO and relevant partners have increased capacity to develop, design, implement and supervise large surveys, such as MICS4, to obtain quality household data.
- Output 2: Policy makers and planners, at national and governorate levels, are better informed on the status and needs of the children and women.

UN Assistance Strategy for Iraq, MDGs, Iraq NDS and ICI

This activity is relevant to the UNDAF priorities and NDP strategic objectives, in particular the findings of the survey which will enlighten policy makers concerning the gender gaps and provide information tool to enhance improving the quality of life of children and women in Iraq in general and gender equity, reduction of child deaths and full access to health services in particular. MICS4 will be an important data source for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals with 20 MDG indicators collected. MICS4 is expected to generate the same type of data to update the country situation for evidence based planning and monitoring against the UNDAF Priority 4 *Increased access to quality essential services*, outcomes:

- 4.1 Policies: The Government of Iraq has participatory and accountable policy framework and implementation mechanisms for the delivery of quality basic services at all levels
- 4.3 Health: Government of Iraq has enabled improved access to and utilization of quality Primary Health Care services for all people in Iraq
- 4.4 Water & Sanitation: People in Iraq have improved access to safe water, sanitation, electricity and municipal services
- 4.6 Food & Nutrition: People in Iraq have improved food and nutrition security, and food safety

And to monitor against the UNDAF Priority 5: Investment in human capital and empowerment of women, youth and children:

- Outcome 5.1 Knowledge, Attitude, Practices: The Iraqi state has improved knowledge, attitude and practices regarding the roles and rights of women, youth and children in line with international conventions, the Iraqi Constitution and legislation

II. Human Resources

a. National Staff & Consultants:

- 1 Knowledge Management Officer to provide logistic and technical support, liaise with the partners, and participate in monitoring activities
- 1 Programme Assistant to assume the day-to-day the administrative and financial
- 1 MICS4 Regional Office Consultant to support the customization of the questionnaires and manuals, and to facilitate the Training of Trainers
- 1 Regional Office Consultant to provide support in the review of the data entry program
- 1 M&E MICS4 Consultant for the day-to-day management of the survey implementation liaising with the partners, and coordinating UNICEF's technical support through the Regional Office and HQ
- 5 Consultants to facilitate the workshop on survey design, the workshop on data processing, and the Training of Trainers.

b. International Staff:

- 1 Chief of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation to oversight the implementation of the project at all stages
- 1 M & E MICS Regional Coordinator to provide technical support and guidance at key stages

III. Methods of Operating

CSO and KRSO chair the Project Steering Committees (PSC) for Central-South Iraq and for KRG governorates respectively. The PSC are composed by senior expert staff from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Municipalities, and Nutrition Research Institute. PSC are responsible for overall guidance to the process and the results.

The project management team in UNICEF is comprised of staff in the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) unit of UNICEF Iraq, UNICEF Regional Office and Headquarters. It is in charge of the day-to-day management of the project, including the work plan, budget planning and oversight, drafting terms of reference for the acquisition of services and supplies and the oversight of operations in the field. UNICEF is also responsible to produce financial and progress reports as required. The PME unit reviews the progress of the project, plan ahead and/or resolve problems and bottlenecks; an international consultant under this unit coordinates all these activities. Regular contacts are maintained with both partners overview the progress and agree on next steps.

COSIT and KRSO are specifically responsible for the data collection and data entry, staffing and logistics of all activities. UNICEF provides support to both CSO and KRSO and maintains close collaboration with all Steering Committee members to engage them in each step support the execution of the program components. UNICEF also assures that the survey tools used by the two main partners, CSO and KRSO, are consolidated and follow MICS global procedures. UNICEF is ultimately responsible for the coordination of the project.

UNICEF organizes regional and national workshops to provide the overall guidance to maintain the standards as well as the global aspect of the MICS. The field teams, comprised of GoI staff, are trained and deployed by COSIT and KRSO according to the survey plan as done in other MICS surveys. UNICEF provides close field support through its network of MICS experienced facilitators. An international consultant will be engaged in providing technical expertise in data processing, analyses, data interpretation and reporting.

b. The **procurement** procedures utilized and explain **variances** in standard procedures.

The procurement procedures used have been compliant with the UNICEF standard procurement procedures.

c. **The monitoring system** that are being used and how you identify and incorporate lessons learned into the ongoing programme/project.

Progress is being monitored against expected outputs and indicators as detailed in the results framework in this project document. CSO and KRSO inform on the regular meetings of Project Steering Committee and provide regular update on the progress of activities according to the MOU. Periodic reports are elaborated by the international consultant expert hired. The PME unit is responsible of the monitoring system and reports to UNICEF Regional Office and Headquarters for monitoring overall implementation of the project.

UNICEF is making use of its existing monitoring structures in Iraq such as the UNICEF's Field Offices in North, South and central zones, the Governorate-based facilitator network and field staff wherever they exist. Despite the difficulties to access the field for international staff, UNICEF is monitoring the implementation of the project on the ground with oversight from the PME Unit and the technical expert on board. Key and experienced facilitators, supported by UNICEF national staff, have undertaken field visits during the preparation of the fieldwork and the interviewing process.

In the case of the Training of Enumerators and fieldwork, KRSO started those activities before CSO; UNICEF has monitored them in the three KRG governorates through international and national staff that had access to the field; lessons learned have been shared with CSO and incorporated in its activities.

Training of Trainers refresher



Training of Enumerators



Pilot Survey



d. Assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken relating to the project and how they were used in support of the project.

Studies on the measurement of wealth using survey data highlight the need to improve the questionnaires through the modification of the list of commodities used to build wealth indices. The aim of the improvement consists of including commodities that are specifically owned by the least wealthy households: then wealth will not only be measured by the number of commodities owned, but also by which commodities are owned. This is expected to produce a wealth index more sensitive to the lowest levels of wealth. With this background CSO, KRSO and UNICEF technical staff met to discuss this issue and added three new commodities in the MICS4 household questionnaire's list of commodities to improve the wealth index in this sense.

IV. Results

The key **outputs achieved in the six month period** including # and nature of the activities (inputs), % of completion and beneficiaries.

The project is being launched in three phases: planning, implementation, and dissemination and advocacy. Once the activities under both the planning and the implementation phases have been completed, Output 1 will have been achieved. The first phase, planning, has been fully completed while the last stages of implementation are being currently undertaken. Interventions conducive to the achievement of Output 2 are under the third phase: dissemination and advocacy, which is due to start.

Output 1: National statistical agencies (CSO, KRSO) and relevant partners have increased capacity to develop, design, and implement large surveys such as MICS4, to obtain quality household data

- A Survey Design workshop organized by UNICEF held in Amman in 24-30 October 2009 provided technical support to 3 senior CSO-KRSO staff to draft the country survey plan. The workshop trained the partners in designing, planning and implementing the MICS4 survey.
- The two Project Steering Committees were established and have met regularly to oversight and provide strategic and technical directions.
- In 16-17 April 2010 UNICEF hosted a Partners Consultation meeting in Amman. 11 Senior technical staff from the partners CSO, KRSO, the MoH and the MoE participated, together with UNICEF Iraq office Chief of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, UNICEF's regional MICS coordinator and consultant, and UN agencies WHO, UNFPA, and OCHA. The meeting served to analyse the information gaps and the MICS4 standard list of indicators and select the survey modules to be included in the MICS4 questionnaires for Iraq. The modules included are the following:
 - Household Questionnaire
 - Household Listing
 - Education
 - Water and Sanitation
 - Household Characteristics
 - Child Labour
 - Child Discipline
 - Hand washing
 - Salt Iodization
 - Chlorine test
 - Questionnaire for Individual Women
 - Marriage
 - Child Mortality

- Birth History
 - Desired birth
 - Maternal and New-born Health
 - Illness symptoms
 - Contraception
 - Unmet Need
 - Attitudes Towards Domestic Violence
 - Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
 - HIV/AIDS
- Questionnaire for Children Under Five
- Birth Registration
 - Early Childhood Development
 - Breastfeeding
 - Care of Illness
 - Immunization
 - Anthropometry

During the Partners Consultation meeting, potential duplicities and ways of cross-fertilization with other data collection activities planned by CSO-KRSO and UN agencies in Iraq were identified, specifically with the Micronutrients Survey (WHO) and the Women Integrated Social and Health Survey (UNFPA) presented the information. Eventually, details of the whole sample design were presented by the Head of CSO and discussed among the partners.

- UNICEF organized the MICS4 Data Processing training in Amman, 9-16 May 2010. The 4 staff in CSO-KRSO responsible for MICS4 data processing that attended the training built and customised the standard MICS4 data entry and analysis programs in CPro 4.0; learnt how to adapt the standard MICS tabulation programs using SPSS 18.0; and became familiarised on how to customise the standard survey archive using the IHSN toolkit.
- The translated questionnaires and manuals were reviewed, and listers were trained along May 2010.
- In 1-10 June 2010 the Training of Trainers was held in Amman. The 2 MICS4 coordinators in CSO and KRSO, plus 21 supervisors attended this training aiming to prepare them to further train the enumerators. The training helped them fully understanding and administering the MICS4 questionnaires; gaining familiarity on the survey methodology and the field operations; acquiring familiarity and developing skills with participatory training methodologies and interviewing skills; gaining ability to organize the training of enumerators, and to develop and use standard tools to train enumerators.
- In June 2010 all MICS4 activities were suspended due to the Census fieldwork. As a consequence the field household samples had to be updated when the project was resumed in December 2010: the questionnaires were back translated Arabic-English and Kurdish-English, and they were newly reviewed
- Training of Trainers refresher had to be scheduled to refresh the Trainers' skills, and it was held in Amman in 8-14 January 2011. Immediately after the training, in 16-18 January 2011 the questionnaires were pre-tested and adjusted by CSO and KRSO.
- The Training of Enumerators was held in KRSO during 29th January – 10th February 2011 and in CSO during 13-25 March 2011. Pilot survey was conducted the last two days of the training.
- Training of editors and data entry clerks was undertaken by KRSO in 13-18 February 2011, and data collection was completed in the three KRG governorates from 13th February to 19th March 2011. CSO

is starting the training of editors, training of data entry, and the fieldwork in 31st March 2011.

a. The progress made toward the achievement of specific medium-term outcomes of the programme/project as a result of the achieved short-term outputs during this reporting period.

The completion of the intensive first phase of the project and most of the second phase, planning and implementation respectively, have already contributed to Output 1 increasing CSO and KRSO capacity in designing, developing and implementing large surveys. Nevertheless activities conducive towards achievement of Output 1 have not been finished yet, activities planned under Output 2 are due to start in the Summer 2011, and hence the outcome is yet to be achieved.

b. The delays in programme/project implementation, the nature of the constraints and actions taken to mitigate future delays and lessons learned in the process.

The project was postponed due to the Census fieldwork activities. The uncertainty of the dates to conduct the Census forced a delay of 5 months: from June 2010 until December 2010. As a consequence the action plan had to be adjusted to reflect the new timelines. The postponement of the survey also had an effect on the budget because additional activities had to be planned: the updating of the field households sample and the refresher of the Training of Trainers conducted in January 2011. CSO and KRSO, supported by UNICEF, updated accordingly the Country Survey Plan.

The delay had an effect also in the work plan of the partners that implied having to conduct the fieldwork in different moments: with KRSO starting in 13th February and CSO in 31st March.

Although Census is a regular data collection activity, the time span between two consecutive Censuses is about several years. Indeed the latest one that was conducted in Iraq was thirteen years ago. The political context of the country made very difficult to predict that the Census would be postponed a few times since 2009. This exceptionality makes it complex to translate this experience into a lesson learned. Nevertheless, some of the consequences of the postponement of the survey might have been mitigated through an increased coordination between the organizations that had data collection projects partnered with CSO and KRSO cuing.

c. The key partnerships and collaborations, and their impact on the achievement of results.

- The Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation's Central Statistics Office (CSO, former COSIT), and Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office are the major partners of the project. They implement the project and coordinate the PSC members to provide overall guidance to the project. Both also are responsible for staffing field workers (statisticians), data clerks, supervisors. They adapt the MICS global standards into the country context, maintaining the quality levels established in the standards.
- A close collaboration with the Ministry of Health is fundamental because it provides technical staff (doctors and measurers) and technical expertise. Its role in articulating the Directorates of Health to provide supplies for the field has been critical.
- WHO, UNFPA, WFP: UN agencies have participated actively during the initial stages to identify information gaps, help avoiding duplicities and cross-fertilize with other data collection activities. They have also provided their expertise to review the questionnaires.
- The collaboration with the Nutrition Research Institute has been fundamental in logistics, specially to assure that supplies for the field would be available to the implementing partners.

d. The achievements against planned results for cross cutting issues: security, gender, human rights, employment (including # of short and/or long-term jobs created), and environment.

Achievements in Human Rights, Gender Equality, Environmental issues are dependent upon the completion of the project. Regarding employment generation the implementation of the survey has provided short term jobs for more than 700 Iraqis; it has created opportunities for government employees, national surveyors and professionals to upgrade their capacity in the field of data collection, fieldwork

skills, data analysis and processing as well as research methodology.

V. Future Work Plan

Output 1: National statistical agencies (CSO, KRSO) and relevant partners have increased capacity to develop, design, and implement large surveys such as MICS4, to obtain quality household data

- Data collection and editing in the 15 governorates in central-south Iraq
- Data entry and cleaning in the whole country
- Data processing Data analysis and tabulation

Output 2: Policy makers and planners at both national and governorate levels are better informed on the status and needs of children and women

- Participation in the 3rd regional training on dissemination and data archiving
- Data analysis and tabulation
- Prepare preliminary report & share for comments;
- Collect feedback on preliminary report (workshop)
- Finalize preliminary report (English & Arabic & Kurdish)
- Produce final report (English & Arabic & Kurdish)
- Collect feedback on final report (workshop)
- Prepare dissemination plan

The project will finish in 2012 when the following activities will be conducted:

- Print report
- Distribute/disseminate report
- Carry out advocacy interventions

VI. Six monthly Performance Indicators assessment

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baselines	Planned Indicator Targets	Achieved Indicator Targets	Means of Verification	Comments (if any)
IP Outcome 1 Health and nutrition policy makers and service providers at all levels have developed, reviewed and implemented policies, strategies, plans and projects						
IP Output 1.1 National statistical agencies (COSIT, KRSO) and relevant partners have increased capacity to develop, design, and implement large surveys such as MICS4, to obtain quality household data	Indicator 1.1.1 Number of supervisors, field workers trained on data collection (disaggregated by sex)	0	600	735	Training and Progress Reports	
	Indicator 1.1.2 Number of supervisors, field workers trained on survey design	0	8 ToT 60 in-country staff	3	Training and Progress Reports	
	Indicator 1.1.3 Number of supervisors, field workers trained on data processing	0		94	Training and Progress Reports	
	Indicator 1.1.4 Number of supervisors, field workers trained on data analysis	0				
	Indicator 1.1.5 Number of supervisors, field workers trained on reporting (disaggregated by sex)	0				
	Indicator 1.1.6 Percentage of staff satisfied with quality of training in terms of relevance and usefulness	NA	80%	90%	Training and Progress Reports	
	Indicator 1.1.7 Iraq customized MICS4 questionnaires in English, Arabic & Kurdish completed	No	Yes	Yes	Training and Progress Reports	
	Indicator 1.1.8 Percentage of data entry operators and supervisors trained on CSPro who rated satisfaction, relevance and utility aspects "high"	NA	80%	90%	Training and Progress Reports	