



SIXTH SIX-MONTH PROGRESS REPORT FOR PROJECT

REPORT COVER PAGE

<p>Participating UN Organization: FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN</p>	<p>Cluster: A Agriculture, Food, Security, Environment and Natural Resources Management</p>
<p>Project No. and Project Title: A5 – 18 OSRO/IRQ/702/UDG Rehabilitation and Maintenance of Traditional Irrigation Schemes in Resettled Areas.</p>	<p>Report Number: 1</p>
<p>Reporting Period: 1 January to 30 June 2007</p>	<p>Project Budget: US\$ 3,598,077</p>
<p>List Implementing Partners: Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR)</p>	<p>Project Coverage/Scope: Erbil, Dohuk and Sulaimaniyah Governorates / Rehabilitation and Maintenance of Traditional Irrigation Schemes</p>
<p>Abbreviations and acronyms: FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN MoWR: Ministry of Water Resources KRG: Kurdistan Regional Governorate</p>	<p>Project Duration/Closed Project: 12 months</p>



I. Purpose

1.1 Provide the main objectives, outcomes, outputs of the programme/project

1.1.1 Main Objectives:

- Increase agricultural productivity.
- Improve farmers' livelihoods.
- To create an institutional understanding and capacity and provide the means for sustainable operation and maintenance of the rehabilitated infrastructure, involving both the beneficiaries and the government institutions.

1.1.2 Outcomes:

- Promote sustainable long-term food production and natural water resource management.
- Rehabilitation of economic and productive rural and urban infrastructure and available resources.
- Capacity of local and rural communities institutions (public and private) enhanced for planning and executing development projects at community level.

1.1.3 Outputs:

- 1,900 ha of irrigated lands will be put back into production.
- 200,000 days of labour will be paid, through rehabilitation and maintenance of irrigation schemes.
- 4,600 vulnerable farming families will be provided with sustainable irrigation water

1.2 Explain how the programme/project is relevant to the following benchmarks:

- UN Assistance Strategy for Iraq

UN objective for Iraq is to increase agricultural production and national food security and to achieve this objective, one of the strategies underpinning the UN Plan is to aim for achieving a sustainable, economically efficient, socially acceptable and environmentally sound rural development. The project addresses the following matrix outcomes of the Joint UN-Iraq Assistance Strategy:

- Improved utilization of the water for increased production and productivity.
- Increased crop and livestock production.



- Short term and long term employment opportunities created by the infrastructure rehabilitation component.
- Rural technical institutions strengthened.
- Local communities play an active role in the identification of plans for rehabilitation of economic and productive rural infrastructure.
- Capacity built at municipal and local levels.

- UN Millennium Development Goals

By providing employment and raising agricultural productivity, the project will contribute directly to the Millennium Development Goal of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger.

It will also contribute to the Goal of promoting gender equality and empowering women as there will be a focus on ensuring their due roles with WUAs. Priority will be given to female-headed households for technical assistance in irrigation infrastructure rehabilitation.

Finally, the emphasis on ensuring efficient operation and sustainable maintenance of the rehabilitated irrigation systems will contribute to the Goal of ensuring environmental sustainability.

- Joint Needs Assessment

Beneficiaries are fully involved in the prioritization of irrigation schemes for rehabilitation and subsequently in operation and maintenance of the schemes through the Water Users Associations.

Ministries of Agriculture and Water Resources will also be fully involved in the identification of schemes and will assist in project implementation at all stages.

- Iraqi National Development Strategy

The MoWR already had a project proposal for rehabilitation and maintenance of traditional irrigation schemes in resettled areas project within its portfolio. There are also several on going activities, some financed by the Ministry's national budget and others from other sources to support the Ministry's activities with respect to irrigation. The Ministry is also trying to create job opportunities for farmers in rural areas and to improve their incomes. Therefore this project fits well within the



Government and MoWR priorities of job creation while enhancing food security, environment and poverty alleviation.

Training the MoWR staff in the field to support WUAs in the operation and maintenance of irrigation schemes will contribute to capacity building within the Ministry.

The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) also strongly supports the broader programme of irrigation infrastructure rehabilitation. The planned training programme will include staff from Dahuk and Sulaimaniya. The staff from the mentioned governorates will be brought to Erbil to attend the training programme and will then contribute to the training of the farmers in the two governorates.

- 1.3 Indicate the main implementing partners, their roles and responsibilities, and their interaction with the Agency

The Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) and Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) are the main counterparts. The Kurdistan Regional Government in North Iraq is also a counterpart.

The project is implemented by FAO in close collaboration with the MoWR. The MoWR will also make sure that the project is integrated into its ongoing programmes.

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) will provide advice with respect to implementation of all activities that relate to crop/livestock production and farm water utilisation. Their extension services involved in rural development, horticulture, plant protection, animal production and animal health and marketing, will be involved in project activities.

II. Resources

Financial Resources:

- 2.1 Provide total funds provided, disbursed and committed:

Total funds provided: US\$ 0
Disbursed: US\$ 0
Committed: US\$ 0

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- 2.2 Highlight any variation(s) in projected versus actual spending for the reporting period indicating the reason for such variation(s). None
- 2.3 Explain programme/project expenditures within the 10 budget categories, including security expenditures.
None
- 2.4 Indicate other funding sources, if applicable. None.
- 2.5 Provide details on any budget revisions approved by the UNDG ITF Steering Committee, if applicable. None.
- 2.6 Project expenditures for the 1 July to 31 December 2007 period: US\$ 2,000,000

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Human Resources:

National Staff: One NPO.

International staff: One project manager and other management and administrative staff are co-shared with other UNDG ITF projects

III. Methods of Operating

- 3.1 Implementation mechanisms:
- The engagement of a local consultant to identify suitable locations for rehabilitation and maintenance of irrigation schemes.
 - The appointment of contractors for the rehabilitation and cleaning of the irrigation schemes.
 - The use of local, paid labour amounting to 200,000 days of labour.
 - The coordination and supervision of work implementation.
 - The establishment of Water Users Associations (WUAs).
 - The monitoring of and reporting upon project implementation progress.
- 3.2 Procurement procedures utilized:
- Tendering for preparation of feasibility study, design and tender documents for rehabilitation and cleaning the channel.



- Tendering for the rehabilitation and cleaning of the small irrigation schemes.

3.3 Monitoring system(s):

The primary responsibility for monitoring and evaluation of the project will be with the Chief Technical Advisor and the regional engineers, who will ensure, through their internal reporting requirements, that all relevant information on the project performance indicators is consistently and accurately collected on time. They will, through field visits, crosscheck the accuracy of the information and may carry out sample surveys if the need exists. Monitoring of work performance, inputs, expenditure and adherence to the work plan will provide direct information to the sub-sector management to improve performance, and to allow amendments or changes to the implementation arrangements. Control mechanisms available within FAO guidelines for tendering, procurement, contract award of works and technical supervision will be established by the project management.

3.4 Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken:

An identification report prepared, in collaboration with the Ministry of Water Resources in Erbil / Kurdistan Regional Governorate, of a number of irrigation schemes for rehabilitation and cleaning.

IV. Results

- 4.1 Although the project only commenced in April 2007, the following results have already been achieved.
- A CTA has been appointed.
 - An NPO has been appointed.
 - Contacts and operational links have been made with relevant central technical institutions.
 - An inception report and work plan have been prepared.
 - The identification has been made of 120 locations for rehabilitation and maintenance of irrigation schemes, which was done via the hiring of a national consultant in collaboration with the Directorate of Water Resources and Irrigation in Erbil/ Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation - KRG.



- A tender has been issued for the preparation of the 120 feasibility studies, designs, bills of quantity and tender documents, following approval by MoWR/ KRG of the selected firms invited to bid.

V. Future Work Plan

Summarize the projected activities up to the end of December 2007.

- Appointment of consultant(s) to prepare tender documentation.
- Tendering for and appointment of contractor(s) to implement the rehabilitation and cleaning of the 120 irrigation schemes.
- Establishment of Water User Associations (WUAs) to ensure full involvement in rehabilitation work and subsequent maintenance.
- Appraisal of the planned proposals and measures together with the WUAs and key members of the local communities.
- Preparation of designs, work contracts, estimates, detailed equipment lists, budget requirements for each scheme, in order of priority.
- Coordination and supervision of work implementation.
- Monitoring and reporting upon project implementation progress.