



**FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT
IRFFI/UNDG IRAQ TRUST FUND (UNDG ITF)**

<p style="text-align: center;">Participating UN Organization(s)</p> <p><i>WFP</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sector(s)/Area(s)/Theme(s)</p> <p>A – Agriculture, Food Security, Environment and Natural Resource Management</p>										
<p style="text-align: center;">Programme/Project Title</p> <p>A6-02 (WFP project EMOP 10360.0) Development of Safety Nets and Food Security through Food Assistance.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Programme/Project Number</p> <p>A6-02</p>										
<p style="text-align: center;">Programme/Project Budget</p> <table border="0"><tr><td>UNDG ITF:</td><td>USD \$ 9,194,839</td></tr><tr><td>Govt. Contribution:</td><td>USD</td></tr><tr><td>Agency Core:</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Other:</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL:</td><td>USD \$ 9,194,839</td></tr></table>	UNDG ITF:	USD \$ 9,194,839	Govt. Contribution:	USD	Agency Core:		Other:		TOTAL:	USD \$ 9,194,839	<p style="text-align: center;">Programme/Project Location</p> <p>Region (s):</p> <p>Governorate(s): 14 governorates of Iraq – Anbar, Babel, Basra, Diyala, Thiqr, Wassit, Missan, Qadissiya, Muthanna, Salah Al Din, Baghdad, Kerbala, Kirkuk, and Sulaimaniyah</p> <p>District(s)</p>
UNDG ITF:	USD \$ 9,194,839										
Govt. Contribution:	USD										
Agency Core:											
Other:											
TOTAL:	USD \$ 9,194,839										
<p style="text-align: center;">Final Programme/ Project Evaluation</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Programme/Project Timeline/Duration</p>										

Evaluation Done Yes

Evaluation Report Attached Yes

<http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp192521.pdf>

Overall Duration

Feb 2005 – Dec 2007

Original Duration

Feb 2005 – Dec 2006

Programme/ Project Extensions

- 1) **Extension until 30 June 2007 approved on 28 Jan 2007**
- 2) **Extension until 31 December 2007 approved on 29 May 2007.**

Report Formatting Instructions:

- Number all sections and paragraphs as indicated below.
- Format the entire document using the following font: 12point _ Times New Roman & do not use colours.

FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT

I. PURPOSE

- a. Provide a brief introduction to the programme/ project (*one paragraph*)
- b. List programme/project outcomes and associated outputs as per the approved Project Document.
- c. List the UN Assistance Strategy Outcomes, MDGs, Iraq NDS Priorities, ICI benchmarks relevant to the programme/ project
- d. List primary implementing partners and stakeholders including key beneficiaries.

a) Development Goal

Development of Iraqi Government capacity for the implementation of social safety nets, developing and managing safety net and food security programmes; Support to improved nutrition and health status of vulnerable groups; Improve access to primary education in particular for girls

Immediate objectives

- Assist MOPDC/COSIT and Food Security Unit in improving Iraq institutional capacity in monitoring and analyzing poverty/food security;
- Support in establishing nationwide school feeding programme;
- Support MOE in increasing enrolment and regular attendance of children, in particular girls, in primary schools;
- Assist MOH in improving knowledge of mothers and caretakers of young children on appropriate feeding practices and improving the nutritional status of malnourished children and pregnant and lactating mothers;
- Assist MOH in increasing attendance of the vulnerable at local health care facilities.

b) Outputs and Outcomes:

- Assist in the establishment of food security unit within MOPDC/COSIT and strengthen the capacity of the Government for continued monitoring and analysis of food security and in developing cost effective and targeted safety net strategies;
- Support MOE/MOH in establishing inter ministerial project implementation capacity, training of trainers and advocacy/awareness raising on food security and need for education;
- Train staff and implementing partners in the implementation of targeted assistance programmes;
- Enhance learning capacity and attendance of children particularly girls in WFP assisted primary schools.

- c) The National Development Strategy (NDS) is established on 4 major pillars, the third of which is "Improving the quality of life". This requires actions "to reduce drop-out rates at the primary (school) level" and the enactment of "a social safety net program for the poor and vulnerable".

This WFP assistance to Iraq specifically addresses these requirements of the NDS through the provision of targeted food aid to those identified in WFP's 2004 Baseline Food Security Analysis as being extremely food insecure and to school children to encourage attendance and reduce drop-out rates.

Through the provision of food assistance and by undertaking capacity building activities, mainly based on a training programme, the Operation is addressing the following Millennium Development Goals:

- MDG 1: “Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger” by distributing food to vulnerable groups and school children.
 - MDG 2: “Achieve universal primary education” by working towards increasing enrolment and improving the attendance rates of Iraqi primary school level children.
 - MDG 3: “Promote gender equality and empower women” by contributing to the elimination of gender disparity in primary education, through provision of incentives to female school children.
 - MDG 4 “Reduce child mortality” and 5 “improve maternal health” are addressed through provision of food aid to pregnant women and nursing mothers and malnourished children, and through education aiming to improve knowledge of appropriate feeding practices.
- d) WFP’s partners are the Ministries of Health (MOH), Education (MOE) and Planning and Development Cooperation (MoPDC) who manage and implement the EMOP activities through the central Project Management Committee (PMC). Each of the Ministries (MOH & MOE) is represented by two senior staff at policy and decision making levels who are delegated responsibility for the overall implementation of the project with WFP playing an advisory role. The PMC coordinates monitors and reports on the implementation progress.

At the governorate level, a Project Management Unit (PMU) composed of representatives from the Ministries of Health and Education as well as WFP (in an advisory capacity) carries out the day-to-day implementation and oversight activities.

These activities comprise responsibility for receiving and storing of food commodities arriving from neighbouring countries, secondary transport of commodities, distribution, monitoring and reporting. Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) are responsible for supervision of food storage and stocks and the organization and supervision of the food distribution process to the beneficiaries.

II. ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAMME/ PROJECT RESULTS

- a. Report on the key outputs achieved and explain any variance in achieved versus planned results. Who have been the primary beneficiaries and how they were engaged in the programme/ project implementation?
- Increase enrollment and regular attendance of children, in particular girls, in primary schools; - not achieved due to the lack of activities during the reporting period. Activities have been suspended since October 2006, as a result of a request from the Ministry of Education to provide a food ration with non-standard WFP commodities.
 - Increase attendance of malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women at local healthcare facilities; - achieved during food distributions.
 - Improve the nutritional status of malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women; achieved, recovery rate of malnourished children receiving WFP food is over 90%
 - Secure regular attendance of tuberculosis patients enrolled in the National Programme at local healthcare facilities; - achieved. TB patients receiving WFP food.
 - Improve the knowledge and daily practices of mothers and caretakers of young children on appropriate feeding practices; - achieved. Mothers receiving WFP food also receive information on good feeding practices.
 - Improve Iraqi institutional capacity in monitoring and analyzing food security. – achieved. Food Security Unit established within Ministry of Planning and Development cooperation. They have conducted two comprehensive food security and vulnerability surveys with WFP

since 2004 and performed the data collection of a third survey in Nov/Dec 2007 which should be published by late May 2008.

- b. Report on how achieved outputs have contributed to the achievement of the outcomes and explain any variance in actual versus planned contributions to the outcomes. Highlight any institutional and/ or behavioural changes amongst beneficiaries at the outcome level

100% of planned results were achieved as detailed below:

- The US \$ 2.2 million from the EC donation was used for the transportation and distribution of 1,242 mt of High Energy Biscuits to Iraq and related direct support costs to support staffing.
 - Over 3,000 primary schools covered by the assistance.
 - A total of 450,438 primary school children benefited from the assistance
 - Data collected by project implementation staff revealed that attendance rates increased by 10 % and female student enrolment rate by 12 % in the districts where WFP is providing assistance
- c. Explain the overall contribution of the programme/ project/ to the ICI, NDS, MDGs and Iraq UN Assistance Strategy.

This programme has contributed to the NDS goals of "Improving the quality of life". This requires actions "to reduce drop-out rates at the primary (school) level" and the enactment of "a social safety net program for the poor and vulnerable".

- d. Explain the contribution of key partnerships including national, international, inter-UN agency, CSO or others towards achievement of programme/ project results.

WFP worked closely with UNICEF in supporting nutrition and health education training to 153 staff in the PHCs and CCCUs in Basrah province. This coordination between WFP and UNICEF ensured that the same staff who handle WFP food could impart good advice to beneficiaries on feeding practices, health and hygiene.

- e. Highlight the contribution of the programme/ project on cross-cutting issues:

- Were the needs of particularly vulnerable or marginalised groups addressed?
- How did men and women benefit from the programme/project? How were gender inequalities handled?
- Were environmental concerns addressed including environmental impact/risk assessment where relevant?
- Were there any specific issues in relation to the security situation?
- Did the project contribute to employment generation (gender disaggregated)?

Management of WFP's programme in Iraq was handled through the Ministry of Health's PMUs in each province, as well as the overall PMC in Baghdad. More than 60 percent of WFP's beneficiaries in 2007 were women.

- f. Provide an assessment of the programme/ project based on performance indicators as per approved project document using the template in Section IV

III. EVALUATION & LESSONS LEARNED

- a. Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken relating to the programme/project and how they were used during implementation. Has there been a final project evaluation and what are the key findings? Provide reasons if no evaluation of the programme/project have been done yet?
- b. Indicate key constraints including delays (if any) during programme/ project implementation
- c. Report key lessons learned that would facilitate future programme design and implementation.

- a) WFP has been working closely with the Ministry of Planning's Central Organization for Statistics and Information Technology (COSIT) since 2003 in building their capacity in food security monitoring and analysis. WFP has helped set up a Food Security Unit within COSIT dealing specifically with this issue. Two comprehensive food security and vulnerability surveys have been completed with this unit, one published in 2004 and the second in 2006.

The latest survey found that just over 4 million people – or, 15.4% of the surveyed population – were food insecure and in need of humanitarian assistance, including food. It found that a further 8.3 million people (31.8% of the population) would be rendered food insecure if not provided a food ration through the Public Distribution System (PDS)¹. The full report can be accessed on COSIT's website at the following link: http://www.iraqcosit.org/english/activities_reports.shtm. Iraq's PDS experienced significant shortfalls during 2006 and 2007. This, coupled with the mass movement of people since the previous survey, would have a major impact on the food security situation of the population. Thus, it was decided to conduct a follow-up survey to assess current levels of food security and malnutrition. For the first time, this survey involves the Kurdistan Regional Government and covers all 18 governorates of Iraq. Data collection went ahead in November and was complete by December 2007 and the full report published in 2008. It can be accessed at: <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp192521.pdf>

- b) Distributions were limited in the second half of 2007 primarily by internal funds transfer constraints. Funds for local transport, storage and handling were not reaching the governorate levels in spite of being received in Baghdad. Without adequate funds, local officials were not able to accept significant quantities of commodities, nor get them to the health centers for distribution. The food that did reach the beneficiaries did so because committed PMU staff paid the up front costs out-of-pocket to ensure that food reached those in need. As such, the MoH requested that WFP stop dispatching food to Iraq after July 2007. Food already in-country was distributed as planned.

WFP has been in dialogue with the MoH to see if a possible solution can be found to this problem, including the MoH's agreement of direct payment to local authorities at the Governorate level. Should this be resolved, and the MoH puts forward a request, WFP will be able to consider the continuation of the programme.

School feeding remained suspended during the reporting period as a result of the Ministry of Education's refusal of WFP's food basket. In spite of numerous consultations, this impasse was not resolved ahead of the 31 December 2007 closure of the project.

¹ 2006, WFP/COSIT, *Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis in Iraq*

Although outputs under this project were 100% achieved, any extension of this project is pending further discussions with the Ministry of Health and/or Education in order to overcome the constraints listed above.

- c) One principal lesson learnt in this exercise is to work with the Government of Iraq on their internal funds transfer constraints. This problem was sidestepped by allowing WFP to directly transfer cash to the governorates through a cash facilitator, but the line ministries must be able to transfer funds to the governorates in the long term for sustainable and efficient programming.

IV. INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baselines	Planned Indicator Targets	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance (if any)	Source of Verification	Comments (if any)
IP Outcome 1							
➤ Enhance learning capacity and attendance of children particularly girls in WFP assisted primary schools.							
IP Output 1.1	Indicator 1.1.1 Number of schools receiving WFP food	0	3000	Over 3000			
	Indicator 1.1.2						
	Tonnage of food distributed in schools	0	1240 mt	1242 mt			
IP Output 1.2	Indicator 1.2.1						
	Indicator 1.2.2						
IP Outcome 2							
➤ Assist in the establishment of food security unit within MOPDC/COSIT and strengthen the capacity of the Government for continued monitoring and analysis of food security and in developing cost effective and targeted safety net strategies;							
IP Output 2.1	Indicator 2.1.1 Establishment of food security units in each governorate	0	18	18			
	Indicator 2.1.2						

IP Output 2.2	Indicator 2.2.1						
	Indicator 2.2.2						