

**United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund**  
**Project #:F8-10b**  
**Date and Quarter Updated: 1 July – 30 September 2011 (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter)**

**Participating UN Organisation:** UNICEF (Lead Agency), UNFPA, UNHRO      **Sector:** Protection  
**Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry:** Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA) (federal and regional)

<b>Title</b>	Strengthening Protection and Justice for Children and Young People in Iraq				
<b>Geographic Location</b>	Governorates: Baghdad, Basra, Ninewa, Erbil Suleimaniyah and Dohuk				
<b>Project Cost</b>	3,000,000 (UNICEF USD2,000,000: UNFPA USD 1,000,000)				
<b>Duration</b>	3 Years				
<b>Approval Date (SC)</b>		<b>Starting Date</b>	14 August 2009	<b>Completion Date</b>	14 August 2012 extended to 14 August 2012
<b>Project Description</b>	<p>This project is designed to provide technical support to the Government of Iraq to strengthen the Juvenile Justice system and increase children and young people’s access to justice and protection. The project will use a three pronged approach which will help alleviate the plight of children currently caught up in the judicial system, promote restorative justice, and develop strategic direction for juvenile justice in Iraq. First, at the national level the project will work with the High Judicial Council and government ministries involved in the administration of juvenile justice on: advocacy for legislative reform; reduction of pre-trial detention; introduction of diversion and alternative measures; and on improvement of systems for data collection, monitoring and tracking of children who are in contact with the law. Secondly, at community level the project will focus on actions that prevent children from coming into contact with the law; diversion projects; and will provide reintegration assistance to children released from detention centres and reformatories. Lastly, the project will also invest heavily in developing the capacities of key duty bearers in the juvenile justice system in Iraq.</p>				

<b>Development Goal and Immediate Objectives</b>	
<p>The developmental goal is to strengthen the GoI’s capacity to improve the Juvenile Justice system and increase children and young people’s access to justice and protection.  Key immediate objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved functioning of the juvenile justice system in Iraq</li> <li>• Increased capacities of key duty bearers to provide legal, judicial and reintegration services to children and young people in contact with the law.</li> <li>• Increased capacities of families and communities in six governorates to protect and prevent children from getting into contact with the law.</li> </ul>	

<b>Outputs, Key activities and Procurement</b>	
<b>Outputs</b>	<p>1.1. GoI has reliable information to address needs and gaps in the Juvenile Justice system.</p> <p>1.2. Capacities of families and communities in six governorates increased to protect and prevent children from getting into contact with the law.</p> <p>1.3. Improved capacities of 100 key duty bearers in managing and monitoring</p>

	<p>detention facilities and reformatories.</p> <p>1.4. Increased capacities of families and communities to provide care, protection and diversion services</p> <p>1.5. Enhanced capacity of 400 duty bearers to provide better legal, judicial, rehabilitation and reintegration services to children and young people.</p> <p>1.6. 300 Reformatory staff have an enhanced capacity to provide follow up services and reintegration assistance to children and adolescents.</p>
<b>Activities</b>	<p>1.1.1. Assessment of the Juvenile Justice System in Iraq</p> <p>1.1.2. Review of the Juvenile Care Law and another three laws related to children</p> <p>1.2.1. Identification of factors that push children at risk into contact with the law</p> <p>1.2.2. Awareness raising activities in communities, schools and religious institutions focusing on guidance to children, young people and their families</p> <p>1.2.3. Educational support for out of school children and young people</p> <p>1.2.4. Media campaigns and advocacy for awareness-raising of care providers and families on prevention, care, and protection for children.</p> <p>1.3.1. Setting up systems for providing quality care services including arrangements for case management</p> <p>1.3.2. Setting up of information management systems and training of MoLSA and detention centres' staff</p> <p>1.3.3. Setting up of five multi-disciplinary teams and training</p> <p>1.3.4. Legal assistance to children and young people in detention</p> <p>1.3.5. Life skills training to children and young people in detention</p> <p>1.3.6. Protection and basic services to children and young people in detention</p> <p>1.3.7. Regular monitoring of detention centres</p> <p>1.3.8. Setting up complaint systems in the detention centres and reformatories</p> <p>1.4.1. Setting up of community-based aftercare services for protection and diversion services in selected project governorates</p> <p>1.4.2. Training to community members and care providers on provision of diversion services in six governorates</p> <p>1.5.1. Training of duty bearers (juvenile judges, legal prosecutors, JTI instructors, juvenile police, staff of detention and reformatory centres, social workers, and care providers) on international standards, juvenile justice, psychosocial support etc</p> <p>1.5.2. Module development for integration of juvenile justice in judges training curriculum</p> <p>1.5.3. Training of reformatory managers and staff on rehabilitation and reintegration services</p> <p>1.5.4. Provision of psychosocial, medical, educational, and basic services in reformatories</p> <p>1.5.5. Improvement of vocational training provision with capacity development and equipment support</p> <p>1.6.1. Develop a national multidimensional package for caring/integration of children and young people in reformatories and after release</p> <p>1.6.2. Training provision for reformatory staff, NGO partners and community members to provide rehabilitation and reintegration services</p> <p>1.6.3. Provision of educational, recreational, vocational and life skills development inside reformatories</p> <p>1.6.4. Inter-ministerial/CSOs coordination and monitoring mechanism for after care services mechanisms</p> <p>1.6.5. Support MoE &amp; MoLSA staff to integrate Life Skills education into their respective educational &amp; vocational activities</p> <p>1.6.6. Training to medical, social &amp; educational workers to detect, support and report psychological &amp; physical disorders /abuse among children and young people inside reformatories</p>

	<p>1.6.7. Develop and operationalise sectoral data collection/ reporting tools to monitor developmental status &amp; rights of children and young people inside reformatories</p> <p>1.6.8. Support MoLSA staff to provide continuous contact and support to families of children and young people residing in reformatories, and facilitate regular family visits</p> <p>1.6.9. Setup multidimensional Day care centers to support and follow up children and young people in contact with law after their release from reformatories including visits to their homes and families</p> <p>1.6.10. Psychosocial /rehabilitation and follow up activities (counseling, group support, life skills education) to children &amp; young people after their release from reformatories</p> <p>1.6.11. Referral system of children &amp; young people released from reformatories to existing educational &amp; vocational services &amp; job opportunities (if above 15yrs old)</p>
<b>Procurement (major items)</b>	Psychosocial and recreational kits for use in the detentions centres and reformatories. Based on the assessment of the existing centres, equipment and furniture will be bought to be used in the Multidimensional Day Care centres i.e. chairs, tables, computers, TVs, DVD players, LCDs etc.

#### UNICEF

<b>Funds Committed</b>	1,882,400.00	<b>% of approved</b>	%94
<b>Funds Disbursed</b>	1,694,488.68	<b>% of approved</b>	%85
<b>Forecast final date</b>	14 August 2012	<b>Delay (months)</b>	12

#### UNFPA

<b>Funds Committed</b>	335,259.66	<b>% of approved</b>	%34
<b>Funds Disbursed</b>	242,175.48	<b>% of approved</b>	%24
<b>Forecast final date</b>		<b>Delay (months)</b>	

<b>Direct Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Number of Beneficiaries</b>	<b>% of planned (current status)</b>
Men		
Women		
Children		
IDPs		
Others		
Indirect beneficiaries		
Employment generation (men/women)		

<b>Quantitative achievements against objectives and results</b>			
JP Output 1.1: GoI has reliable information to address needs and gaps in JJ system of Juvenile Justice system	<p>1. The comprehensive assessment of the Juvenile Justice System is in progress. The research tools developed, the field teams trained, and data collection started in September.</p> <p>2. The development of a draft regional Child Law has been technically supported. A federal Child Law will also be supported in coming quarters.</p>	<b>% of planned</b>	35%
JP Output 1.2: Capacities of families and communities in 6 governorates increased to protect and prevent children from getting into	<p>1. Various out of school activities (Art, Sports, Community work, IT skills...) conducted at 13 youth centres in Baghdad, Basra and Ninewa.</p> <p>2. 72 teachers participated in TOT training on life skills development in Baghdad and Basra. 388 children participated in life skill training in</p>	<b>% of planned</b>	25%

contact with the law	<p>Baghdad, Basra, and Ninewa.</p> <p>3. A new legal awareness pamphlet on the important on identification for children and families developed and endorsed by the GoI. 1,200 copies distributed to schools, youth centres, and detention centres.</p> <p>4. Community based prevention actions are on-going with the mobilisation of communities and police forces to address risks and threats to children. Four meetings were conducted, participated by 75 community members.</p>		
JP Output 1.3: Improved capacities of 100 key duty bearers in managing and monitoring detention facilities and reformatories	<p>1. Support to detention centre and case management is planned for coming months.</p> <p>2. Data on children in detention centres maintained by the MoLSA with technical support from UNICEF/IMC.</p> <p>3. Establishment of multi-disciplinary team and training is planned in the coming quarters.</p> <p>4. 26 new cases of children in contact with the law provided with legal assistance in Baghdad, Basra and Ninewa.</p> <p>5. 22 children and young people in detention participated in life skill training, and 42 children trained on child rights. Three detention centre staff trained on life skills and eight detention centre staff trained on child rights. Legal awareness workshop conducted for 39 children.</p> <p>6. See 4 and 5</p> <p>7. Regular monitoring of seven detention centres in Baghdad, Basra and Ninewa conducted except in September.</p> <p>8. Setting up complaint systems in the detention centres and reformatories is planned in the coming quarters.</p>	<b>% of planned</b>	27%
JP Output 1.4: Increased capacity of families and communities to provide care, protection and diversion services	<p>1. Training of community mediators are not planned in this quarter.</p> <p>2. Six local mediation rooms within six youth centres in Basra established to support diversion of children from the formal judicial system. An establishment of a Restorative Justice Research and Training Centre commenced within the University of Baghdad.</p>	<b>% of planned</b>	45%
JP Output 1.5: Enhanced capacity of 400 duty bearers to provide better legal, judicial, rehabilitation and reintegration services to children and young people	<p>1. Training of duty on international standards, juvenile justice is scheduled in December 2011.</p> <p>2. UNFPA contracted with ILO and American University of Beirut to develop vocational skill training manual with an integration of life skill education.</p> <p>3. IT training for children in detention centres was not conducted due to challenges in access. 15 children (released) participated in vocational training. Three new children participated in paid apprenticeship.</p> <p>4. Psychosocial support provided to 20 children who were released from pre and post detention</p>	<b>% of planned</b>	45%

	5. see above 1.3.5		
JP Output 1.6: Enhanced capacity of 400 duty bearers to provide better legal, judicial, rehabilitation and reintegration services to children and young people	Activities are planned in the coming quarters.	<b>% of planned</b>	0%

**Qualitative achievements against objectives and results**

Since the major delays in forming the new Iraqi government in 2010 made it difficult for UNICEF and UNFPA to maintain contacts with the senior government officials to agree on the project concept and components, the start-up of the programme was subsequently delayed; therefore, UNICEF and UNFPA requested an one-year extension of the project, which has been approved by UNDG ITF Steering Committee in October. This will allow the agencies to implement the project effectively.

During this period, the Steering Committee (SC) to oversight this project has been established at the federal level, comprising of senior officials from MoLSA, High Judicial Council, MoI, MoJ, MoHR, MoE, MoH, CWC, UNICEF, UNAMI HRO and UNFPA. The first meeting was convened on the 26<sup>th</sup> July and chaired by the MoLSA to discuss on possibility for adding more members from other ministries to the SC and plans for programme implementation. The members agreed on the TOR for the SC and Technical Committees (TCs), comprising of the representatives from the relevant ministries as well as heads of detention centres for Baghdad and Erbil. The guidance note for the SC and TCs has been developed, awaiting approval from the MoLSA. Programme Management Unit (PMU) consisting of implementing agencies and partners has met twice to update on the progress, to discuss challenges and to identify areas of collaboration. PMU is to provide progress reports to the SC and TCs as well as to bring issues that are required the SC and TCs' guidance and support.

The assessment on Juvenile Justice has commenced. Based on an agreement with the MoLSA, the data collection started in September. Six teams of two experts were trained and are conducting the interviews with the representatives from the relevant ministries, judges, lawyers, police officers, social workers, juvenile detainees, community and family members mainly in Basra and Baghdad; other assessments covered the KRG. The first draft report is expected at the end of November.

UNICEF has been providing technical support to the Regional Government of Kurdistan to develop a draft regional Child Law, which is now being reviewed to be in line with the international law and standards. MoLSA requested UNICEF to support the development of a federal Child Law in 2012.

Due to delays in signing the MoU between MoLSA and UNICEF Implementing partner-IMC, all activities planned were not fully implemented> However, IMC managed to provide preventative and protective assistance to children in detention centres and in communities (please see below on the constraints). Community members have been supported and increased their capacity in preventing children from being in contact with the law through a number activities; Advanced TOT trainings on life skills development in children were conducted in Baghdad and in Basra, participated by 94 teachers,exceeding the original target; children at youth centres participated in various out of school activities; youth centres in Basra provided activities with an average of 25 boy and 30 girl participants per activity ( note, the same youth can participate in several activities); 388 children (277 boys and 111 girls) that is a total of 857 children since the beginning of the project, have participated in life skills training in three governorates; local stakeholders and community police officers continue to have open dialogue to address risks and threats to children in Baghdad, Basra and Ninewa. The newly developed pamphlet on the importance of children's IDs was endorsed by

the Child Welfare Commission and the Iraqi Jurists' Union. 1,200 copies were widely distributed to increase awareness of children and community members in the three governorates.

Seven detention centres (both pre and post trial) in Baghdad, Basra and Ninewa are regularly monitored except for the centres in Basra and Ninewa after children are transferred to other locations. In the detention centres, 42 children (boys) increased their understanding of child rights (a total of 148 children). 22 children (boys only) gained life skills and conflict mediation skills (a total of 118 children). As well, eight (male) detention centre staff participated in child rights training (a total of 19 staff) while three (male) detention centre staff participated in life skills training (a total of 21 staff). A legal rights awareness workshop was conducted for 39 boys and five staff in two detention centres to increase understanding of Iraqi constitutional rights, especially during the arrest and detention, criminal court procedures, and restorative justice. Due to the transfer of children in Basra, 41 children who participated in IT training did not continue receiving the service.

During this quarter, 15 children (6 boys and 9 girls) released from detention centres have participated in vocational training). Three new children (boys) participated in paid apprenticeship which means a total of 21 children were supported in order to reintegrate into society. 20 other children have been provided with psychosocial assistance by IMC staff to ease negative impacts caused by being in detention centres and support their reintegration into society.

To improve reintegration services within the detention centres, in August, UNFPA organized a consultative meeting inviting relevant Ministries and UN agencies to review and learn other countries experiences and good practices on the services inside reformatories, such as vocational training, education and health services, life skills education, and psychosocial support. The recommendation from this meeting was to design a special reintegration programme. Based on the recommendation, UNFPA in collaboration with ILO, has been developing two modules in life skills; one module for duty bears in detention centres (post trial), and another module for juvenile detainees to increase their knowledge in life skills. In addition, based on the assessment conducted by UNFPA, the needs for vocational training was identified as very high; therefore, with technical support from ILO, a component of "employability skills" will be integrated into life skill modules for juveniles.

To promote restorative justice, diversion and alternative to detention, the University of Baghdad and IMC signed a MoU to establish a Restorative Justice Research and Training Center (RJRTC) within the University of Baghdad School of Law; this occurred in July. This is a major step towards promoting this new concept as the current criminal justice system relies heavily on a punitive approach. Ideally, deprivation of liberty is not used as a last resort. Under the current system, children are almost automatically sent to the detention centre/ prisons. In Basra, to support diversion at the community level, six community mediation rooms were established within six youth centres.

A new agreement with Heartland Alliance and UNICEF has been entered, which will expand the Justice for Children Programme to the three governorates in the KRG.

### **Main implementation contrains & challenges (2-3 sentences)**

Although the security situation in Iraq is relatively improving, it still remains unpredictable. As a result, adequate caution has been exercised in the movement of national and international staff to the project sites. To address this concern, close co-operation with key Ministries and their Directorates, local authorities and participation of community members while building their capacities to implement the project will be an important consideration.

The MoU between the MoLSA and UNICEF's implementing partner, IMC, was signed on 27 July, and neither UNICEF nor IMC were informed of this prior to mid August; an official copy of the MoU was forwarded to IMC at the end of September. This process delayed a number of planned activities during this quarter.

During this quarter, in Basra and Ninewa, juvenile detainees were transferred to another location. This disrupted provision of services, especially legal and reintegration services resulting from the change to central authority (from MoLSA to MoJ), thus requiring official agreement to continue providing assistance to juvenile detainees. After a series of discussions with the GoI, it was agreed that our implementing partner could continue programming for juveniles in prison, which is expected to restart in November.

Even though establishing a Restorative Justice Research and Training Centre in the University of Baghdad is a major step, the promotion of restorative justice and the introduction of alternative measures to and diversion from formal justice system will be a challenge as Iraq is used to punitive justice; it will be difficult to ensure the acceptance of these relatively new concepts in Iraq. Increasing awareness, training to increase capacity of service providers and extensive coordination among the relevant Ministries and partners will be essential.