

United Nations Development Group - Iraq Trust Fund
Project #: D2- 31
Date and Quarter Updated: 1 October – 31 December 2012 (4th Quarter)

Participating UN Organisation: UNFPA (Lead agency), WHO, UNICEF **Sector:** Health and Nutrition
Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry:
 Ministry of Health in Iraq, Ministry of Health-KRG, in collaboration with MoE, MoHE, MoYS, MoLSA (Central & KRG)

Title	Adolescents & youth friendly health services at PHC level				
Geo. Location	Baghdad, Erbil, Missan and Babel				
Project Cost	UNFPA US \$ 1,000,716 WHO US\$ 384,891 UNICEF US\$ 150,052				
Duration	18 months				
Approval Date	Apr 11, 2010	Starting Date	Apr 28, 2010	Completion Date	Oct 28, 2011 extended to 31 Oct 2012
Project Description	The main purpose of this project is to create a youth friendly health services package within the PHC setting to better respond to adolescents and youth's health needs; thereby filling the gaps in planning for these services. Being a pilot project, the planned services will build on and develop the existing services at the PHCCs to become more accessible to the Iraqi youth, a service package will be developed in collaboration with The American university of Beirut, using the successful experiences of providing such services in the region; the package will be based on WHO/UNFPA modules. Using the results of the 2004 youth KAP Survey and the 2009 National Youth survey, an in depth research on youth health and psychological needs was conducted. The project will also cover the generation of strategic information on the dynamics of health, seeking behaviours, and the utilization of health services by youths in Iraq, this information will assist in setting the basis for drawing a National Youth Health Strategy, which is currently taking place in Iraq.				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives	
The Integrated Programme/Project Outcome(s): Enhanced Capacities of Iraqi Health system to adequately address Youth Health needs and wellbeing challenges	
The proposed project will target in and out of school Adolescents and Youth of the age group (12-24); existing within the catchments areas of 20 PHC centres in the following governorates; Baghdad (Karkh and Rusafa) Babel, Missan and Erbil. The project activities will be implemented as a pilot project at the PHC centres including health clinics within universities at the above mentioned governorates.	

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement	
Outputs	Output 1: 20 Adolescents & Youth-Friendly Health Services are operational within existing PHC centres in 4 governorates Output 2 : Demand and use of youth friendly health services is increased through community participation
Activities	Key activities for output 1 (UNFPA & WHO) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Conduct In-depth research on youth health and psychological needs, using results of the 2005 youth KAP Survey and the 2009 National Youth Survey, and define a Health service package addressing adolescents/youth health and wellbeing needs to be provided through existing PHC centres, taking into account age and sex of target group, as well as interventions of other actors in this area; b. Prepare norms, standards and guidelines for Youth Friendly Health services; and develop a training manual for Youth health providers, based on WHO/UNFPA modules c. Train a gender-balanced/sensitive teams of health providers (medical, psychologist and paramedical staff) in the selected PHC centres, and secure regular monitoring and support to the newly established AYFH services; d. Setup up an internal monitoring system of Youth Friendly Health services, in close involvement of a group of Youth volunteers e. Prepare a draft Adolescents & Youth Health Strategy, reflecting MoH contribution to the multi-sectoral/multi-dimensional National Youth Strategy. f. Conduct training of YFHS and PHCCs managers on operational guidelines developed by AUB with the support of MoH and UNFPA.

	<p>g. Ongoing trainings on YFHS manuals for MOH's medical and paramedical staff.</p> <p>h. During the reporting phase, UNFPA had been working on the preparation of an action plan with peer educators networks, in collaboration with the MOH and the Iraqi Reproductive Health and Family Planning Association. This action plan aims at the implementation of the AYFHS at the designated PHCCs and IRHFPA clinics.</p> <p>i. The Projects Directorate at MoH had agreed to provide minor rehabilitation for selected PHCCs.</p> <p>Key activities for output2 :(UNFPA,WHO,UNICEF)</p> <p>a. Conduct sensitization meetings with families, community leaders, community volunteers with in the Community Based Initiative District (CBI), schools teachers, local NGOs on the importance of having youth friendly services, and Set up network of partners, including community centres, schools, parent-teachers associations (PTA), NGOs and others;</p> <p>b. Review existing IEC materials, manuals, including those used in other countries in the region, develop and produce adapted versions, and conduct outreach activities for youth through existing youth peer volunteer's programme.</p> <p>c. Create a healthy psycho-social environment to help teachers, students and parents to develop a positive psycho-social climate through implementing school-based interventions to raise awareness of teachers on their role in providing proper emotional development of students, provide psychosocial support to students and to develop positive relations between the schools, community and PHC centre.</p> <p>d. Enhance self-esteem of youth and decrease the negative impact of living in war situation.</p> <p>e. Create community youth network to mobilize youths towards utilization of youth friendly health services, and build their capacity in peer education.</p> <p>f. UNFPA had approved a request to print and disseminate IEC materials for the training of MOH health promotion staff on YFHS, the training toolkits had been edited and finalized.</p>
Procurement	NA

WHO

Funds Committed	222,684	% of approved	58%
Funds Disbursed	125,175	% of approved	33%
Forecast final date	October 28, 2012	Delay (months)	N/A

UNFPA

Funds Committed	389,780.69	% of approved	39%
Funds Disbursed	359,550.00	% of approved	36%
Forecast final date	October 28, 2012	Delay (months)	N/A

UNICEF

Funds Committed	67,425.00	% of approved	45%
Funds Disbursed	0	% of approved	0%
Forecast final date	October 28, 2012	Delay (months)	N/A

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results

Output 1: PHC managers and providers have improved capacities to provide Youth-Friendly Health Services in targeted governorates

UNFPA input

<p>Conduct research on youth health/psychological needs and perceptions among in and out-of-schools youth, and determinants of youth health seeking behaviour.</p>	<p>In preparation for the launching of the Adolescents Youth friendly Health services, UNFPA has entered into agreement with the American University of Beirut – Regional External Programs Unit (AUB-REP) in December 2009, to identify a culturally sensitive model, and a suitable modality for AYFHS in Iraq, in addition to writing a report on the youth needs and analysing the situation of Iraqi health facilities, where the AYFHS will be put into action.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNFPA with MOH and 3 national consultants have conducted a research in both Bagdad and Erbil, on perceptions and needs of the Iraqi youth; the report on the findings of the study was finalized in close coordination between the implementing parties. - The results of the study were presented in a workshop that was held in Beirut – Lebanon from 4 to 7 March 2010 with the participation of UNFPA, MOH, AUB, 	

	<p>representatives from 3 countries (Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt) with experiences on AYFHS, and participants from UNFPA Lebanon and Palestine Offices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During the 3-days workshop, the participants identified the essential package of services to be delivered and presented an adequate model commensurate with the situation and the cultural context of Iraq. <p>The above mentioned activities took place before the final approval of the project and the transfer of funds. UNFPA along with its partners had taken the necessary steps to set grounds in preparation for the project's start.</p>	
Organize workshop to define an Iraqi adapted Health service package addressing adolescent/Youth health and wellbeing needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A workshop in Beirut took place in July 2010 to Prepare norms, standards and guidelines for Youth Friendly Health services, including list of drugs provided to PHCCs level, based on WHO/UNFPA modules, in the workshop the titles and chapters of the modules were identified. - A questionnaire was developed in the same workshop to be used to collect information from youth inside Iraq. 	
Select 20 PHC centres in designated 4 governorates based on defined criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visits were conducted by MOH (Baghdad and KRG) to PHC centres using an assessment tool that was agreed upon. - The assessment resulted in identifying a list of PHC centres to implement the project's activities. 7 of these PHCCs will implement YFHS. 	
Prepare norms, standards and guidelines for Youth Friendly Health services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A validation workshop was held in Beirut in collaboration with the American University in Beirut (AUB) on October 20-22 with participation of the MOH Baghdad and KRG representatives of youth programs and all future trainers from AUB. - Between October and end of December AUB team had worked on the same activity (Part 2) 	
Develop a training manual for Youth health providers, based on WHO/UNFPA modules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At the end of the last quarter of 2010, all norms, standards and manuals were developed and are ready to be utilized for the upcoming TOT. - 2 days workshop held at Erbil to discuss and develop operational guidelines and topics discussed in details(mission, organization, route, horary, responsible, registration, M&E, integration and communication) - Operational guideline draft sent to MoH and waiting for final comments for finalization. 	
Conduct a training of trainers on norms, standards and guidelines for Youth Friendly Health services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A 7-day workshop was conducted to create a core of trainers at the central and the KRG levels. - With MOHE participation through a team of academicians of Iraqi universities and technical assistants from the AUB, a high quality workshop was conduct on YFHS modules, communication skills, facilitation, and guidelines for both managers and health providers - Training on operational guidelines had taken place during the reporting phase 	
Select 6 PHC centres in selected 4 governorates based on defined Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Several visits were conducted, through which the following objectives were achieved: - Depending on the design criteria, 6 PHCCs were selected to implement YFHS: two in Erbil and one for each DOH in Baghdad-Kharh, Baghdad-Rusafa, Babil and Missan. - At the same time minor rehabilitation plan for these PHCCs was designed. - Budget estimated and process is on-going - New PHCC was selected at Baghdad Al-Khark to implement YFHS, budget estimated and process ongoing, total number will be 7 PHCCs. 	
Identify a team of health providers from each selected PHC centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All partners agreed to train all heath providers at selected PHCCs on YFHS services which will lead to an increase in the utilization of services - A Technical meeting was held at UNFPA office to plan for the next steps in project implementation. - All training modules were agreed upon, and a final version is ready for editing. 	
Conduct training of providers teams (medical, psychologist and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Six training courses for health providers were conducted at Erbil and Baghdad and another two courses for managers were planned. - Operational guideline training for mangers was conducted. 	

paramedical staff)		
Conduct follow-up sessions for trained providers	- Tools for M&E of training courses was developed and used during courses. (Pre and post-test, trainer evaluation and courses evaluation).	
Monitoring system of quality of care is defined and operational, with youth participation	- Youth participation mechanisms were discussed during a 2 day “Operational guidelines” work shop that was held in Erbil.	
Develop a data collection tools for YFHS and support its utilization within established 20 YFHS	- Client registration Form was developed and agreed on with MoH. - Several technical meetings were conducted to match the data collected from YFHS to the Health Information System that is already being used by MoH. - Develop Youth participation action plan in collaboration of MoH, MoE, MoY and local NGOs.	
Identify a group of Youth volunteers and train them on administrative Tasks and health education techniques.	- Group of youth volunteers identified and an orientation meeting conducted. - A plan was developed and a meeting was held with youth volunteers to discuss the modality of implementation.	
WHO input		
20 Adolescents & Youth-Friendly Health Services are operational within existing PHC centres in 4 governorates	- 2 days technical meeting with MCH/RH ,HIV/AIDs and school health programme focal points at the central level(MOH) to discuss the joint activities targeting the adolescents age group at PHC centers and secondary school and agree on the main topics that need to be handled during the training course and advocacy meeting at community level for adolescents and youth friendly services within the coming biennial work plan for 2012-2013. - 3 days workshop for teachers at secondary schools on healthy life style, and Sexual and reproductive health	60%
Demand and use of youth friendly health services is increased through community participation	- 2 advocacy meetings for 35 community and religious leaders ,in the targeted areas of the piloted PHC centres to provide information related to Adolescents health and the main key health issues - one training course for 35 teachers at secondary on mental health issue and psycho social support for students with behaviour changes	45%
UNICEF input		
Community leaders, families, and teachers, are better able to promote utilization of youth friendly health services	Based on the researches/studies that have been done on youth health/psychological needs and perceptions among in and out-of-schools youth, and determinants of youth health seeking behaviour and subsequent workshops and meetings with MOH focal points, as well as, the selected governorates and PHCs to implement the - pilot project – as a first step; the essential package of services to be delivered and presented have been identified in line with the cultural context of Iraq. UNICEF initiated the discussion with the youth focal point in collaboration with health promotion department; the first proposal would be submitted in July on supporting training of peer educators at youth and PHC centres level and the second one to be submitted in October for peer educators at school level.	15 %
	UNICEF negotiated with MOH the development /adoption of training and IEC materials and toolkits for youth peer educators including the number per module per governorate (samples agreed upon and request for printing will be sent to UNICEF next week).	10%
	UNICEF will implement training sessions for the peer educators at the youth and vocational training centres level in the third quarter of 2011(awaiting receiving government proposal very soon).	5%
	As UNICEF is traditionally the lead in social mobilization activities, hence, it will support MOH to create community youth network to mobilize youth / advocate for utilization of the available services through conducting outreach activities targeting out-of-school youths, as well as in monitoring the implementation in October 2011(with the beginning of new academic year), Proposal will be submitted to UNICEF in September 2011.	5%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

Close coordination with MoH/ Department of Primary Health care/Maternal ,child and Reproductive Health to discuss the health education messages and IEC materials for the project in relation to youth and Adolescents
Identify group of Peer educators and volunteers to elaborate youth participation through community mobilization.

Main implementation constrains & challenges (2-3 sentences)

WHO:

Main challenges is that WHO couldn't start implementation of the activities within the project plan till the end of February 2012 due to the delay in receiving the extension approval and inability to transfer the funds and carry forward the Award to the new biennial work plan financial system 2012-2013.

UNFPA:

The main challenge at this stage is to involve other agencies and youth groups, to develop and integrate their activities (Output 2).
UNFPA had faced administrative constraints from the MOH side regarding the rehabilitation activities