

**IRFFI/UNDG IRAQ TRUST FUND D2-32**

**ANNUAL PROGRAMME<sup>1</sup> NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2011**

<p align="center"><b>Programme Title &amp; Number</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme Title: Support to the Government of Iraq’s Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 4 (MICS4)</li> <li>• Programme Number (<i>if applicable</i>) D2-32</li> <li>• MDTF Office Atlas Number: 75002</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Country, Locality(s), Thematic Area(s)<sup>2</sup></b></p> <p>Iraq, nationwide (All Governorates, All Districts)</p> <p>Health and Nutrition</p>
<p align="center"><b>Participating Organization(s)</b></p> <p><i>UNICEF</i></p>	<p align="center"><b>Implementing Partners</b></p> <p>Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation/ COSIT and KRSO.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</b></p> <p>MDTF Fund Contribution: US\$ 1,480,000 <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i></p> <p>Agency Contribution US\$ 1,198,300 <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i></p> <p>Government Contribution <i>(if applicable)</i></p> <p>Other Contribution (donor) <i>(if applicable)</i></p> <p><b>TOTAL: US\$ 2,678,300</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Programme Duration (months)</b></p> <p>Overall Duration 27 months (21 + 6 extension)</p> <p>Start Date<sup>3</sup> 29 April 2010</p> <p>End Date or Revised End Date, <i>(if applicable)</i> 29 July 2012</p> <p>Operational Closure Date<sup>4</sup> Approx. June 2012</p> <p>Expected Financial Closure Date</p>

<sup>1</sup> The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

<sup>2</sup> Priority Area for the Peacebuilding Fund; Sector for the UNDG ITF.

<sup>3</sup> The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MDTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MDTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org) (<http://mdtf.undp.org>).

<sup>4</sup> All activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MDTF programme have been completed. Agencies to advise the MDTF Office.

**Programme Assessments/Mid-Term Evaluation**

Assessment Completed - if applicable *please attach*

Yes  No Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mid-Evaluation Report – *if applicable please attach*

Yes  No Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Acronyms and Abbreviations**

COSIT	Central Organization for Statistics and Information Technology
CSO	Central Statistics Office\
GoI	Government of Iraq
KRSO	Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoE	Ministry of Education
NDP	National Development Plan
PSC	Project Steering Committees
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences

## NARRATIVE REPORT for ITF D2-32

### I. Purpose

The purpose of this project is to support the Government of Iraq (GoI) to conduct 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, KRSO 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.

This activity is relevant to the UNDAF priorities and NDP strategic objectives, in particular the findings of the survey, which will inform policy makers concerning the gender gaps and provide information and tools to improve the quality of life for children and women in Iraq with emphasis on gender equity, reduction of child deaths and full access to health services. MICS4 will provide information to monitor the Millennium Development Goals against 20 of the MDG indicators. 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*, and against UNDAF Priority 5: *Investment in human capital and empowerment of women, youth and children*:

Priority 4 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: The 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; and,
- 4.6 Food & Nutrition: People in Iraq have improved food and nutrition security and food safety

Priority 5 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. Resources

#### Financial Resources

#### *Other funding resources*

Not applicable

#### *Budget revisions approved*

Not applicable

#### *Good practices and constraints of the financial process*

Over the past few years the Government of Iraq has put in place internal policies and regulations to increase transparency and reduce the opportunities for corruption. Although this is obviously a positive direction, a side effect is that processing payments through line Ministries is a very slow process. As a consequence of this the liquidation of installments to implement different parts of this project has taken much longer than expected, and hence the funds utilization is lower than should be at the current stage of implementation of this project. This may lead to an extension of the financial closure dates for this project, which would fall after the completion of its activities.

#### *Human Resources*

##### National Staff:

- 1 Knowledge Management Officer to provide logistic and technical support, liaising with the partners, and participate in monitoring activities.
- 1 Programme Assistant to assume the day-to-day the administrative and financial
- 2 Programme Officers to monitor training of interviewers and fieldwork.

##### International Staff:

- 1 MICS4 Regional Office Consultant to provide technical support and to organize participation of the team in the data validation workshop held in Belgrade, November 2011.
- 1 Regional Office Consultant to provide support in the review of the data entry program and the data process applications.
- 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.

### **III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements**

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

The project management team in UNICEF is comprised of staff from the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) unit of UNICEF Iraq, the UNICEF Regional Office, and Headquarters. PME unit in UNICEF Iraq has been 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. It has also been responsible to produce financial and progress reports as required. The PME unit has reviewed the progress of the project, planned ahead and solved problems and bottlenecks; an international consultant under this unit coordinates

all these activities. Regular contacts are maintained and both partners overview the progress and agree on next steps.

COSIT and KRSO were specifically responsible for day-to-day data collection and data entry, staffing and logistics of all activities. UNICEF provided support to both CSO and KRSO and maintained close collaboration with all Steering Committee members to engage them in each stage to support the execution of all program components. UNICEF also ensured that the survey tools used by the two main partners, CSO and KRSO, were consolidated and followed MICS global standards. UNICEF has ultimately assumed responsibility for overall coordination of the project.

The field teams, comprised of GoI staff, were trained and deployed by COSIT and KRSO according to the survey plan as was done in other MICS surveys. UNICEF provided close field support through its network of MICS experienced facilitators. An international consultant provided technical support for data processing, analyses, data interpretation and reporting. A workshop in Belgrade held in November 2011 gathered international experts from different substantive areas; all of them assessed the MICS4 data collected in Iraq and in six other countries. Iraq data was assessed and validated, and was of good quality and could provide information to monitor MDG and national planning frameworks as intended.

#### Procurement procedures utilized

In 2010 there was procurement of supplies (weight scales, measurement boards, salt test kits, and GPS devices) to conduct the survey. The procurement procedures used were compliant with UNICEF standard procurement procedures.

#### Monitoring system(s) and lessons learned

Progress is being monitored against expected outputs and indicators as detailed in the results framework of this project document. CSO and KRSO report on challenges faced and progress of activities according to the MOU. The MICS international consultant hired by UNICEF provides regular updates to the project coordinator and provides technical and logistic support to implementing partners as required. The PME unit is responsible of the monitoring system and reports to the 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 UNICEF's Field Offices in north, south and central zones, and the Governorate-based facilitator network and field staff. 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 MICS international consultant. Experienced facilitators, accompanied by UNICEF national staff, undertook field visits during the preparation of the fieldwork and the interviewing process.

Once the freezing period was lifted, which occurred for 5 months due to the implementation of the Iraqi Census in 2010, KRSO resumed activities and initiated the training of enumerators and fieldwork (earlier than did the CSO). UNICEF monitored the progress in the three KRG governorates through international and national staff that could access the field; lessons learned were shared with CSO and incorporated into similar CSO activities conducted thereafter.

Data processing was also monitored with visits from UNICEF national staff to the CSO office in Baghdad, and with visits from the international consultant to the KRSO office.

*Data entry, KRSO, March 2011*



*Data entry, CSO, April 2011*



### Assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken

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 making improvements consists of including commodities that are specifically owned by the least wealthy households: then wealth will not only be the measured by the number of commodities owned, but also based on which commodities are owned. This is expected to produce a wealth index more sensitive to the lowest levels of wealth. UNICEF coordinated several meetings with CSO and KRSO technical staff to discuss this issue, which resulted in the modification of the questionnaires

adding three new commodities to the MICS4 household questionnaire's list of commodities. The results of the first analysis with the newly collected data show that the wealth index discriminates much better among the wealth levels of Iraqi households than in previous studies.

## IV. Results

### Summary of Programme progress in relation to planned outcomes and outputs

The project consists of three phases: planning, implementation, dissemination and advocacy. The first two phases embrace all inputs conducive to the achievement of Output 1 (COSIT, KRSO and relevant partners have increased capacity to develop, design, implement and supervise large surveys, such as MICS4, and to obtain quality household data), while Output 2 (Policy makers and planners, at national and governorate levels, are better informed on the status and needs of the children and women) should be achieved once the third phase is completed. At the end of December 2011 all the activities in the planning and implementation phases were completed, and relevant partners had increased capacity to develop, design, and implement large surveys such as MICS4, and to obtain quality household data. The partners' success in developing, designing, and implementing MICS4 in Iraq was acknowledged by the international survey experts and MICS Global Team that met in a workshop in Belgrade, Serbia, in November 2011.

UNICEF is currently supporting CSO and KRSO to finalize the data analysis, preparing the reports and dissemination to ensure access to the information for policy makers and planners on the status and needs of children and women across the country. The first draft of the Preliminary Findings Report is completed and under discussion with partners.

#### *Training of Enumerators, February 2011*



### Key outputs achieved

*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.
- On the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of 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 with UNICEF Iraq's 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 Needs
    - 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 were 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 in May 2010. The four staff in CSO-KRSO responsible for MICS4 data processing that attended the training built and customized the

standard MICS4 data entry and analysis programs in Census and Survey Processing System (CSPro 4.0); they learned how to adapt the standard MICS tabulation programs using SPSS 18.0 and became familiar with how to customize the standard survey archive using the International Household Survey Network toolkit (IHSN).

The translated questionnaires and manuals were reviewed, and listers were trained in May 2010.

From June 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 a Training of Trainers was held in Amman. The two MICS4 coordinators in CSO and KRSO, plus 21 supervisors attended this training aiming to prepare them to further train the enumerators. The training assisted them to fully understand and administer 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 the 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 resumed in December 2010: the questionnaires were translated Arabic-English and Kurdish-English and they were reviewed again.

Training of Trainers refresher had to be scheduled to refresh the Trainers' skills, which was held in Amman from January 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Immediately after the training, two days were taken to pretest the questionnaires and adjust where necessary by CSO and KRSO.

The Training of Enumerators was held in KRSO from January 29<sup>th</sup> to February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and in the CSO during March 13<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011. A pilot survey was conducted the last two days of the training.

Training of editors and data entry clerks was undertaken by KRSO February 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011, and data collection was completed in the three KRG governorates from February 13<sup>th</sup> to March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Data processing (verification, editing, and entry) and cleaning has been completed by KRSO from March 27<sup>th</sup> to July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011. CSO initiated the data processing for the 15 governorates in central-south Iraq by June 19<sup>th</sup> and finalized in August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Data exporting to SPSS format datasets was completed in 21st September 2011. Data cleaning using SPSS datasets to identify inconsistencies and going back to CsPro datasets and filled questionnaires. Initiated in September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011.

Data and tabulation validation was completed in Belgrade in November 2011, and a first draft of the Preliminary Report was prepared in December 2011.

*Training of Trainers Refresher, January 2011*



*Chlorine testing during interview, March 2011*



*Household Interview, March 2011*



*Pilot Survey, February 2011*



*Salt iodization test during interview, March 2011*



*Measuring child during an interview, Mar 2011*



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

- Preparation of survey archive documents to validate survey results with international experts was completed in October 2011: programs/spreadsheets used for sample weight calculations, programming used for recoding data sets, such as wealth index, logic files to produce indicators, the final MICS4 questionnaires in English, Arabic and Kurdish; the complete set of the MICS4 tables including data quality and sampling error tables (output tables based on customized tabulation plan).
- Participation of CSO, KRSO, and UNICEF Iraq at the MICS Global Workshop on Data Dissemination and Further Analysis, in November 2011, Belgrade, Serbia to assess overall data quality and identify potential dissemination messages and tools.
- The English version of the Preliminary Findings report has been finalized and it is under evaluation in order to be disseminated. Simultaneously CSO and KRSO are reviewing it and preparing the Arabic and Kurdish versions.
- The Arabic version of the Final Report is being drafted simultaneously. Minor final adjustments to the data are completed as required to make all data publicly available.

*Delays in programme implementation, constraints and actions taken*

The project has been extended for six months until July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The uncertainty of the dates to conduct the Census forced a delay of five months from June to December 2010. The postponement also had an effect in the partners' Action Plans that implied a rescheduling of other data collection activities, and as a consequence the fieldwork for MICS4 had to be conducted in different intervals: with KRSO starting on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and CSO in March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. All activities planned just after the fieldwork had to be rescheduled for effective contribution towards achievement of the planned outputs.

The unstable security situation in Iraq and the slow pace of decision-making are the major risk factors that can impact the plans to complete the implementation of this project. In order to prevent further delay in the finalization of the project, currently in its dissemination of results stage, due to those adverse conditions, UNICEF is ready to provide continuous and close support to CSO and KRSO through the usage of readymade templates for MICS4 dissemination products. These templates have been prepared by UNICEF HQ to effectively communicate MICS4 results to policy makers and planners.

*Key partnerships and collaborations*

The Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation's Central Statistics Office (CSO, formerly COSIT), and Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office are the major partners of the project. They implemented the project and coordinated the PSC members to provide overall guidance to the project. Both have staffed field workers (statisticians), data clerks, supervisors. They adapted the MICS global standards into the country context, maintaining the quality levels established in the standards.

A close collaboration with the Ministry of Health has been fundamental to provide technical staff (doctors and measurers) for the fieldwork 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 participated actively during the initial stages to identify information gaps, to help avoid duplicities and cross-fertilize with other data collection activities. They also provided their expertise to review the questionnaires, and especially to discuss some of the results. An event will be held in April to scrutinize all results in detail.

The collaboration with the Nutrition Research Institute has been fundamental in logistics, especially to assure that supplies for the field would be available to the implementing partners during the fieldwork.

### Highlights and cross-cutting issues

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.

### Assessment of the programme/ project based on performance indicators

Please refer to table on pages 13 to 15.

## **V. Future Work Plan**

### Projected activities and expenditures for the following reporting period (1 January-31 December 2012)

The main activities that will be completed in 2012 are:

- Complete data analysis and tabulation, including estimation of precision by February 2012
- Release of Preliminary Findings Report by beginning April 2012;
- Collect feedback on the results as shown in the Preliminary Findings Report by April 2012;
- Produce the Final report (Arabic, Kurdish, and English) and feedback by May 2012;
- Adjust and Print report, by May 2012;
- Prepare dissemination plan and distribute/disseminate report by May-June 2012.
- Carry out advocacy interventions, by May-June 2012.

### Major adjustments in strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs

The postponement of the survey due to the Census affected the budget because additional activities had to be planned, specifically the updating of the field households sample and the refresher of the Training of Trainers conducted in January 2011. UNICEF unfolded its own coping strategies to raise additional funds to overcome this situation.

## VIII. INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

	<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Indicator Baselines</b>	<b>Planned Indicator Targets</b>	<b>Achieved Indicator Targets</b>	<b>Means of Verification</b>	<b>Comments (if any)</b>
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	0				

	data analysis					
	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	
IP Output 1.2 Policy makers and planners at both national	Indicator 1.2.1 MICS4 report finalized in English,	No	Yes			To be completed

and governorate levels are better informed on the status and needs of children and women	Arabic and Kurdish					
	Indicator 1.2.2 Number of Iraq government and Civil Society Organization (CSO) representatives participating at the MENA regional workshop on disseminating survey main findings	0	40			To be conducted
	Indicator 1.2.3 % of workshop participants who find MICS4 informative and useful.	0	100			To be conducted
	Indicator 1.2.4 Number of final MIC4 reports disseminated	0	2,500			To be completed
	Indicator 1.2.5 Number of advocacy interventions at governorate and national level (international level as well)	0	25			To be completed