



**Iraq United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)  
Fund Steering Committee Meeting  
18 January 2012, 13:30 – 16:00**

Co-Chairs: Dr. Thamir Al-Ghadban, Prime Minister's Advisory Commission  
Ms. Christine McNab, DSRSG/RC/HC

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**Participants** (see attached list)

The Government of Iraq (GoI) Co-Chair welcomed the representatives of the Government, the UN, and donors to the second meeting of the Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee. The GoI Co-Chair stressed on government's commitment to work with the UN to address Iraq's national priorities with full government ownership.

The GoI Co-Chair informed the participants about the establishment of the Partnership Committee in 2011 and co-financing approach taken by GoI which demonstrate Iraq's commitment and readiness to work in partnership with international organizations including donors and the UN.

The GoI Co-Chair thanked the UNCT and the UN Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq/ UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (UN DSRSG/RC/HC) for UN's efforts in establishing the Iraq UNDAF Fund. .

In her opening remarks, the UN DSRSG/RC/HC thanked the participants, and noted that the Co-Chairing of the Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee with the GoI corroborates the strong partnership, in accordance with the Paris Principles.

The UN Co-Chair noted with thanks the new contributions from Denmark and Sweden in favor of projects under the UNDAF Governance and Human Rights priority area.

**1. Update on the Iraq UNDAF Fund Funding Framework**

Mr. Bisrat Aklilu, Executive Coordinator of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Office updated the steering committee on donors' contributions and available funds under the Iraq UNDAF Fund. As of 13 January 2012, total contributions stand at US\$15 million of which US\$8.8 million were deposited into the fund's account including US\$ 2,421,995 of interest and returned funds from the UNDG ITF as un-earmarked funds.

## **Allocation of Funds**

The MPTF Office Executive Coordinator, reinforced the importance of maintaining a strong Steering Committee Support Office (SCSO) role in providing the necessary administrative and technical support to the Steering Committee and Participating UN Organizations in the process of reviewing, approving projects and ensuring operational and quality assurance support. In order to sustain this support, the MPTF Office Executive Coordinator proposed that an amount of \$421,995 of the total un-earmarked funds (US\$ 2,421,995) to be allocated for the SCSO to cover its staffing costs. He further suggested that the allocation criteria (attached) for the remaining un-earmarked funds (US\$2 million) will be based on two levels. The UNDAF fund level, funds are allocated on a proportional basis and in accordance with the UNDAF funding resources gap per priority area.

At the Programme/ Project Level, the UNDAF PWGs will themselves allocate the funds and will decide on the prioritization of joint programmes within each PWG. However any programme submitted should meet all or most of the criteria below:

- Joint programme (involving two or more agencies).
- Programme contributes to an outcome that is least funded.
- Participating UN Organizations have a clear comparative advantage.

For Essential Services, the Sub-PWGs together will be asked to identify 1-2 joint programmes which will then be presented at the joint meeting with the Government and UN Co-Chairs of the five sub-PWGs under Essential Services. The meeting will be co-chaired by the Ministry of Planning and the Resident Coordinator office.

The GoI Co-Chair pointed out that in future GoI co-funding under the proposed Partnership Fund would also be towards the unfunded portion of the UNDAF within the five priority areas.

UNDP commented that the Iraq UNDAF Fund is fully aligned with national priorities taking into consideration that UN is shifting towards technical assistance while GoI is focusing on infrastructure.

Ms. Huda Malik, GoI Co-Chair of Governance and Human Rights PWG commented that many sectors such as the Essential Services will continue to receive attention and funding from GoI. Therefore, more focus should be given to other priorities with limited funding such as Governance and Human Rights as well as Human Capital where no sufficient resources are available in the government budget.

### **Decision Taken:**

The suggested allocation and criteria was approved. Accordingly, out of the total amount of (US\$ 2,421,995), Governance and Human Rights will receive 11% (US\$ 220,000), Inclusive Economic Growth 23% (US\$ 460,000), Environment 14% (280,000), Essential Services 47% (US\$ 940,000), Human Capital 5% (US \$100,000). Based on the Iraq UNDAF Fund SC decision, the SCSO will receive US\$421,995. The Steering Committee also decided that the allocation criteria will be subject to another review once it receives additional un-earmarked funds.

## **2. 2012 Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee Membership**

The UN Co-Chair stated that the Steering Committee has rotational membership of donors, UN agencies and one line ministry. For 2012 membership, the UN Co-Chair mentioned that WFP, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT and UNOPS have expressed interest to represent the UNCT in 2012. As for the donors, Japan and Australia expressed interest in being members.

The GoI Co-Chair stated that the government will nominate a line ministry in the coming few days.

**Decision taken:** The Steering Committee agreed on the nominations of the new donors and UN Country Team representatives in the Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee for 2012. The new members will assume their functions as members of the Steering Committee as of March 2012.

## **3. Project Review and Decision**

The UN Co-Chair mentioned that three programmes are submitted for the Steering committee review and approval.

1. Empowering Civil Society Organizations in Iraq programme
2. Family Support, Justice and Security programme
3. Institutional Capacity Development of the Iraqi Anti-Corruption Academy project

She noted that the three programmes were electronically reviewed and endorsed by the Governance and Human Rights PWG members.

The UN Co-Chair stressed the importance of the first programme as the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are playing a key role in Iraq. As for the second programme, she noted that the gender based violence is a global challenge that needs to be uprooted. Regarding the Anti-corruption project, she pointed out that UN has a unique role to play in sensitive areas such as anti-corruption which is an enormous challenge that hinders development in Iraq, as in many other countries.

Ms. Rini Reza, the UN Governance PWG Co-Chair introduced the three programmes. This was followed by presentations of the three proposed programmes (presentations attached).

**First Programme: Empowering Civil Society Organizations in Iraq (UNDP and UNOPS) Budget: US\$ 3.24 million (total), UNDP US\$ 2.22 million and UNOPS US\$ 1.025M (bilateral funding), 18 months)**

Presented by: Richard Cox, Programme Manager (UNDP)

**Discussion**

Ms. Huda Malik, GoI Co-Chair of Governance and Human Rights PWG mentioned that the three projects are well designed and provide good situational analysis. She commented on the need for a national compact that would govern the relationship between the people, CSOs and the government. She also pointed out that CSOs should be partners in the policy making process.

Mr. Abbas Qatti Advisor, Council of Representatives reaffirmed CoR's support to the empowerment of CSOs and noted the need to establish partnerships with CSOs in other projects as well. Furthermore, he stressed on the importance of having a good Government-CSO relationship, whereby CSOs should oversee the performance of government and act as partners in the development process of the country.

Mr. Adel Abbas, Ministry of Human Rights and GoI Co-chair of the Governance PWG noted that there is a need for thorough selection criteria of CSOs, and that selected CSOs should be officially registered.

WHO commented that there should be a fair representation of CSOs in the five priority areas.

Mr. Mahmoud Uthman, the KRG representative in the Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee, pointed out that the three projects are relevant and important as they take into consideration the fragile democracy in Iraq and the recent developments in the region. The CSOs programme is particularly important as it attends to the legitimate grievances of the people.

UNESCO suggested establishing a link between CSOs programme and the ongoing Public Sector Modernization (PSM) programme especially in the field of service delivery. This link would strengthen the programme further and make it more sustainable with results beyond the 18 months programme duration.

UNDP programme manager responding to the comments/questions raised during discussion clarified that the amounts quoted against the contracts budget line is high as UNDP will be awarding grants to CSOs pointing out that the selection of CSOs will be done through a committee and according to a selection criteria. He also mentioned that the programme will pay special attention to women NGOs and intends to allocate a minimum 15% of the programme budget to such NGOs. As for the service delivery work, he pointed out that CSOs involvement in services delivery would be through advocacy and lobbying.

**Decision Taken:** The programme was approved with the following comments:

- The selection criteria and process of CSOs grants needs further elaboration.
- The programme should work to enhance building partnership between CSOs and the government and the involvement of CSOs in policy making process
- The programme should assist in the development of a national compact that would govern the relationship between the people, CSOs and the government

**Second Programme: Family Support, Justice and Security (UNDP, UNICEF, Budget: US\$ 3.97 million, 36 months)**

Presented by: Nahid Hussein, Programme Manager (UNDP)

**Discussion**

Ms. Huda Malik, GoI Co-Chair of Governance and Human Rights PWG noted the need for legislation reform concerning gender issues.

UNDP programme manager pointed out that the programme will review all legislations concerning women and will cooperate with other ongoing projects implemented by UNDP and other agencies. She also mentioned that the project is coordinating with the Committee 80 on Human Rights.

**Decision Taken:** The programme was approved with the following comments:

- The work on legislation reform concerning gender issues needs further elaboration.

**Third Project: Institutional Capacity Development of the Iraqi Anti-Corruption Academy project (UNDP, Budget: US\$ 2.73 million, 30 months)**

Presented by: Emad Alemamie, Project Manager (UNDP)

**Discussion**

Dr. Sami Metti, Deputy Minister of Planning commented on the high personnel and contracts costs under this project and inquired on the type of contracts that will be executed under this project.

The UN Co-Chair noted that the high personnel costs are normal as UN is shifting from infrastructure projects to capacity development which involves bringing in international expertise and knowledge that can be costly at times.

The UN Co-Chair for Governance and Human Rights PWG informed that UNDP will bring several international experts on anti Corruption to provide technical assistance to the

Anti-Corruption Academy noting that personnel budget line includes travel and security costs.

**Decision Taken:** The project was approved with the following comment:

- Provide additional explanation and details on international experts/ consultants under the personnel budget line.

In closing, the DSRSG/RC/HC thanked the members and noted that in days to follow another project on participatory governance will be submitted to the Governance and Human Rights PWG for its review and then submitted to the Steering Committee for its final review and approval.

The GoI-Chair thanked the members and presenters and suggested having an electronic review of the project, and, if needed, the Steering Committee will convene another meeting at a mutually agreed time.

## List of Participants in Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee Meeting 18.01.2012

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21	Richard Cox	UNDP PM, Empowering CSOs in Iraq	richard.cox@undp.org

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