



Capacity Building to Reform the Public Distribution System and Strengthen Social Safety Nets for Vulnerable Groups in Iraq

ANNUAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2011

Programme Title & Project Number <ul style="list-style-type: none">Programme Title: Capacity Building to Reform the Public Distribution System and Strengthen Social Safety Nets for Vulnerable Groups in IraqA531MPTF Office Project Reference Number:³ 00075707	Country, Locality(s), Thematic/Priority Area(s)² <p><i>Iraq – Nation wide</i></p> Sector Team Outcome(s): <p>Outcome 2: GoI has national food assistance and hunger-reduction programmes in place</p>
Participating Organization(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none">WFP	Implementing Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ministry of Labor and Social AffairsMinistry of Trade
Programme/Project Cost (US\$) <p>MPTF/JP Contribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">by Agency (if applicable) <p>Agency Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">by Agency (if applicable) <p>Government Contribution (if applicable)</p> <p>Other Contributions (donors) (if applicable)</p> TOTAL:	Programme Duration <p>Overall Duration <i>24 months</i></p> <p>Start Date⁴ 2 July 2010</p> <p>End Date 2 July 2012</p> <p>Operational Closure Date⁵ 2 July 2012</p> <p>Expected Financial Closure Date</p>
Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval. <p>Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i></p> <p>Mid-Term Evaluation Report – <i>if applicable please attach</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i></p>	Report Submitted By <ul style="list-style-type: none">Name: Ahmed ZakariaTitle: Programme ManagerParticipating Organization (Lead): WFPEmail address: ahmed.zakaria@wfp.org

¹ The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

² Strategic Results, as formulated in the Performance Management Plan (PMP) for the PBF; Sector for the UNDG ITF.

³ The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to “Project ID” on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁴ The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁵ All activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF programme have been completed. Agencies to advise the MPTF Office.

NARRATIVE REPORT

I. Purpose

The project offers technical capacities to support government efforts to reform the Public Distribution System and design and implement efficient Social Safety Net programmes in Iraq.

The project outputs will focus on the two following areas:

- A. Strengthened capacity to design and implement efficient Social Safety Net programmes; and,
- B. Strengthened Iraqi capacity to manage efficient food supply chains.

A. Strengthened capacity to design and implement efficient Social Safety Net programmes

Provide technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of the GoI to design and implement effective Social Safety Net (SN) programmes covering issues such as targeting, beneficiary selection and registration, conditionality, payments, fraud/corruption reduction, beneficiary verification, performance monitoring and impact evaluation.

In particular, the activities include training in the various aspects of the design of social safety nets (i.e. context analysis, determination of the SSN goals, targeting, conditionality, determination of size and limitations, determination of required resources), the field operations of social safety nets (i.e. beneficiary selection process, registration, verification and transfer of benefits) and performance monitoring and evaluation (i.e. M&E systems, information management system).

The outputs also include assessments on food security and vulnerability in Iraq and on the functioning of the social protection system.

B. Strengthened capacity to support efficient food supply chains management in Iraq

Through the activities supporting this output, a number of MOT staff members were planned to receive intensive capacity building in the form of Training of Trainers (ToT) on critical aspects of the food supply chain such as procurement, shipping, commodity tracking and logistics (i.e. land transport and warehouse management). The MoT trainers are expected to build the capacity for a team of Iraqi trainers to provide support services to the Iraqi private sector through business incubators and business support centers.

The activities include the development of training curricula which will form the basis upon which the training and support to the private sector will be based (refer to Annex B for more details on the curricula).

The activities also include conducting an analysis of the obstacles to commercial food trade in Iraq. This is necessary to support the development of meaningful training curricula described above.

This Programme falls under the Agriculture and Food Security Sector Outcome Team (AFSSOT) and relates directly to the AFSSOT outcome “GoI has national food assistance and hunger-reduction programmes in place”. Moreover, this programme currently falls under the UNDAF Priority # 2 and is aligned to the UNDAF outcome 2.2 “Vulnerable people in Iraq are benefiting from means-tested social transfers which stimulate economic growth and reduce dependency”.

II. Resources

Financial Resources:

- Total expenditures up till the end of 2011 amount to US\$1,894,316. This is broken down according to the table below:

ITF PROGRAMME BUDGET	AMOUNT	Actual Expenditures
CATEGORY	(US\$)	by end of 2011
1. Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport	300,000	215,000
2. Personnel	804,614	802,208
3. Training of counterparts	701,096	360,049
4. Contracts	547,231	370,000
5. Other direct costs	-	-
Total Programme Costs	2,352,941	1,747,257
Indirect Support Costs (6.25%)	147,059	147,059
TOTAL	2,500,000	1,894,316

- WFP received internal funding of approximately US\$200,000 that was used to supplement expenditures by ITF funds and in accordance with the overall project budget included in the approved project document.

Human Resources:

- National Staff: Under this project, there are 3 national officers (programme) and 3 operational support staff.
- International Staff: Under this project there is only one international Programme Manager (P5).

III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

- In March 2011 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and WFP to strengthen the national social safety net and to enhance its targeting ability.
- The programme has a steering committee headed by the deputy minister Mr. Abdulasada Shnawa with the assistant of Mrs. Khlood Tawfeeq, deputy director of Planning, and Mr. Raad Attalah Social Safety Net Deputy Director. On average, this Committee meets every six months to discuss if the

project has achieved its goals and outcomes according to the timeline agreed on by both the steering committee members and WFP staff.

- As for the implementation mechanism of the project, there is the Project Executive Committee headed by the general director of the Social Safety Net Mr.Salim Jumaa Abdulsahab with the assistant of the deputy director Mr.Raad Atallah. The Executive Committee is responsible for the day to day implementation of the project and cooperation with WFP Staff. This Committee is touch on daily basis with WFP staff to make sure that the project is achieving its maximum impact and outcomes.
- In addition, the project executive committee presents what activities have been done on the project to the steering committee which in return provides the Executive Committee with its recommendations regarding future activity implementations.
- A number of analytical reports were prepared through this project. The IKN tabulation report is one the reports that WFP depends on in producing the necessary statistical information needed in the project.
- Another report conducted by WFP and MOLSA assesses the Social Safety Net targeting policies, the operations, and the Procedures of the Social Safety Net and WFP's Recommendations to enhance them. This report was submitted officially to MOLSA as a tool MOLSA can use to improve the Social Safety net.

IV. Results

- The outcome for this project is “GoI has national food assistance and hunger-reduction programmes in place”. This outcome addresses both the Public Distribution System managed by the Ministry of Trade as well as the National Social Safety Net managed by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.
- The outputs of the project contribute to the realization of the overall outcome through supporting the capacity development of the relevant Government counterparts in evidence based design of social protection policies and interventions and increasing efficiency in their implementation.
- Activities under Output 1 “GoI has strengthened capacity to design and implement efficient Social Safety Net programmes” include mainly the implementation of training workshops and analysis of needs. This includes:
 - A Social Safety net Design was conducted in Thailand for two MOLSA Staff followed by 3 more trainings on Social Safety Net impact analysis and design in Amman, Erbil, and Baghdad for 19 MOLSA staff.
 - M&E Training for 7 MOLSA Training was conducted in Erbil. The goal for this activity is to train 15 MOLSA staff while the current achieved indicator is 7 MOLSA Staff. WFP will conduct other future M&E trainings during the first half of 2012.
 - As for the SSN Design training the indicator goal was set at training 15 MOLSA Staff while the current achieved indicator is 21 MOLSA Staff, mainly due to MOLSA requests to augment their capacities in policy analysis.

- The Food Security and Vulnerability Survey was also conducted during the reporting period and a tabulation report was published during December of 2011. The detailed analytical report is planned to be published in 2012.
- MOLSA is very supportive of WFP's development project and this makes the implementation aspect of it much easier.
- After Conducting all of these trainings MOLSA's staff is more prepared to conduct their daily jobs in a more professional manner. In addition, MOLSA's staff is more aware of how to enhance and strengthen the National Safety Net to support the Iraqi Government in achieving its poverty reduction goals.
- Activities under Output 2 "MoT has strengthened capacity to support efficient food supply chains management in Iraq" include the implementation of training workshops and the development of Supply Chain Management training curricula to be used during the Training of Trainers to be implemented during 2012. During 2012, WFP conducted the following trainings¹:
 - Public Sector International Food Procurement and Import training for 53 participants from Baghdad and the Governorates;
 - Logistics, warehouse management and Supply Chain Management for 23 participants from Baghdad and the Governorates;
 - M&E training for 27 participants from Baghdad and the Governorates.
- During the reporting period the required supply chain management training curricula were developed. It should be noted that the Pipeline Management and Logistics Curricula were merged into one curriculum. The project results framework lists these as separate.

V. Future Work Plan (if applicable)

- In January 2012, WFP will hold a steering committee meeting with MOLSA to discuss achievements and agree on the work plan for the remaining period of the project.
- WFP will conduct a training of trainers for MOLSA on field operations, particularly for the MOLSA social workers and on the process of conducting random visits to beneficiary households and the application of the Proxy Means Test formula required to determine the percent of the beneficiaries that meet the official criteria for inclusion.
- WFP will develop and hand over a Monitoring and Evaluation Management Information System that would be installed in all Governorates (excluding KRG) and which would link the Governorate offices with the central Ministry database.
- WFP will translate the completed Supply Chain Management curricula into Arabic for handover to the Ministry of Trade and plans to conduct intensive training of trainers exercises for MOT staff.

VI. 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)
Outcome 1 GoI has strengthened capacity to design and implement efficient Social Safety Net programmes							
Output 1.1 GoI has strengthened capacity to design and implement efficient Social Safety Net programmes	Indicator 1.1.1 Number of GoI staff trained in SSN design *	0	15	21	Above target based upon request by MOLSA to increase # of trainings	Training report	
	Percentage of trained staff satisfied with quality of SSN Design training in terms of relevance and usefulness *	NA	80%	90%		Post training participants assessment	
	Indicator 1.1.2 Number of GoI staff trained in SSN Field Operations *	0	15	10		Training report	
	Percentage of trained staff satisfied with quality of SSN Field Operations training in terms of relevance and usefulness	NA	80%	95%		Post training participants assessment	
	Indicator 1.1.3 Number of GoI staff trained in SSN RBM	0	15	7		Training report	
	Percentage of trained staff satisfied with quality of SSN RBM training in terms of relevance and usefulness	NA	80%	90%		Post training participants assessment	
	Number of GoI staff participating in SSN Budgeting and Finance workshop	0	13	0		Workshop report	

	Household food security and vulnerability survey conducted	No	Yes	Yes		VAM Officer reports	
	Number of analytical reports and studies completed in collaboration with COSIT and Iraqi academic institutions	0	1	1		VAM Officer reports	
Output 1.2 MoT has strengthened capacity to support efficient food supply chains management in Iraq	Indicator 1.2.1 Number of staff trained as qualified trainers in Procurement	0	10			Training report	
	Indicator 1.2.2 Percentage of trained staff satisfied with quality of Procurement TOT training in terms of relevance and usefulness	NA	80%			Post training participants, assessment	
	Procurement Training Curriculum developed	No	Yes	Yes	Translation underway	Programme Officer reports	
	Number of staff trained as qualified trainers in Shipping	0	10			Training report	
	Percentage of trained staff satisfied with quality of Shipping TOT training in terms of relevance and usefulness	No	80%			Post training participants assessment	
	Shipping Training Curriculum developed	No	Yes	Yes	Translation underway	Programme Officer reports	
	Number of staff trained as qualified trainers in Pipeline Mgmt / Commodity Tracking	0	10			Training report	
	Percentage of trained staff satisfied with quality of Pipeline Mgmt / Commodity	No	80%			Post training participants assessment	

	Tracking TOT training in terms of relevance and usefulness						
	Pipeline Mgmt / Commodity Tracking Training Curriculum developed	No	Yes	Yes	Translation underway	Programme Officer reports	
	Number of staff trained as qualified trainers in Logistics (warehouse mgmt/land transport)	0	30			Training report	
	Percentage of trained staff satisfied with quality of Logistics TOT training in terms of relevance and usefulness	NA	80%			Post training participants assessment	
	Logistics Training Curriculum developed	No	Yes	Yes	Translation underway	Programme Officer reports	
	Study on obstacles to commercial food trade	No	Yes	No	Data collection completed, analysis pending finalization	Programme Officer reports	

ⁱ Although these trainings were not included in the planned activities as outlined in the project results framework, they were a necessary step to understand the current level of capacities in supply chain management within the MOT and an essential step in the design of the training curricula