

**FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT
IRFFI/UNDG IRAQ TRUST FUND (UNDG ITF)**

Participating UN Organization(s)
<i>(if joint programme, indicate the lead agency)</i> ESCWA

Sector(s)/Area(s)/Theme(s)
Human Development and Good Governance

Programme/Project Title
The Development of National Gender Statistics in Iraq (C10-05)

Programme/Project Number
5

Programme/Project Budget	
UNDG ITF:	USD 856,553
Govt. Contribution:	USD
Agency Core:	
Other:	
TOTAL:	USD 856,553

Programme/Project Location	
Region (s):	Western Asia
Governorate(s):	Iraq
District(s):	Nation wide

Final Programme/ Project Evaluation	
Evaluation Done	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Evaluation Report Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Programme/Project Timeline/Duration
Overall Duration June 2006 – 31April 2009 (as per donor-approved project extension dated 09 February 2009)
Original Duration 18 months
Programme/ Project Extensions Extension to 31 April 2009 (as per donor approval in 9Feb2009)

Report Formatting Instructions:

- Number all sections and paragraphs as indicated below.
- Format the entire document using the following font: 12point _ Times New Roman & do not use colours.

FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT

I. PURPOSE

- a. Provide a brief introduction to the programme/ project (*one paragraph*)
 - b. List programme/project outcomes and associated outputs as per the approved Project Document.
 - c. List the UN Assistance Strategy Outcomes, MDGs, Iraq NDS Priorities, ICI benchmarks relevant to the programme/ project
 - d. List primary implementing partners and stakeholders including key beneficiaries.
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- a. The project organizes and consolidates efforts to assist with the development of statistics and indicators needed for results-based policy formulation. In doing so, the project seeks to assess and develop the quality of gender statistics in order to make available the tools necessary for policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation of gender-mainstreaming in post-war Iraq and the strengthening of democratic principles.

The immediate objectives of the programme/project are to:

- Raise awareness on the importance of gender statistics in policy formulation and monitoring, and gender mainstreaming of statistical work
- Improve national capacities to produce, analyze and disseminate quality gender statistics

- b. (i) The expected outcomes of the programme project are:

- Increased knowledge on the importance and role of gender statistics in the development process and gender mainstreaming of statistical work
- Improved skills in the production, analysis, and dissemination of quality gender statistics
- Availability of quality gender statistics

(ii) The expected outputs of the programme/project are:

- List of critical gender issues and core statistics and indicators
- Report on the assessment of data availability
- Data compilation analysis
- Statistical publication on women and men in Iraq and related promotional materials
- Report on the results of the time-use survey
- Gender statistics website and database
- Strategic framework for enhancing national statistical capacities to produce gender statistics and mainstream gender in all statistical work
- Reports of meetings/workshops

- c. UN Assistance Strategy Outcomes

The project is in line with the UN Strategy for Assistance to Iraq in so far as it:

- Aims to enhance human and institutional capacities
- Adopts a participatory and rights-based approach
- Addresses the Millennium Development Goals, both by building statistical literacy and by promoting gender equality and women's empowerment
- Promotes the tools necessary for good governance (i.e. quality statistics) and develops human/institutional capacities in this regard (through awareness-raising and training)

The project aims at enhancing the national capacities for the development of quality gender statistics and indicators, including sex disaggregated data, and contributes toward more effective and gender-responsive MDG monitoring and reporting, and the formulation of more gender-responsive policies and strategies needed to achieve Goal 3 (Gender equality and Women's Empowerment) and its intersection with the other Goals. Furthermore, the knowledge and skills gained in data collection, compilation, analysis and presentation by the beneficiaries can be applied across various areas of statistics.

The joint UN/WB Iraq Needs Assessment Report suggested that beyond security, priority areas for reconstruction include strengthening institutions of sovereign, transparent and good governance; resorting critical infrastructure and core human services; and supporting economic and social transition conducive to development and social cohesion. The development of Iraqi national statistical capacities would facilitate transparency, accountability and good governance. It would also contribute toward effective policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and hence better delivery of services.

d. Implementing partners and stakeholders :

- Central Organization for Statistics and Information Technology - COSIT
- UNDP
- UNIFEM

Key beneficiaries:

- COSIT
- Line ministries

II. ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAMME/ PROJECT RESULTS

- a. Report on the key outputs achieved and explain any variance in achieved versus planned results. Who have been the primary beneficiaries and how they were engaged in the programme/ project implementation?

ESCWA and COSIT assume joint responsibility for project implementation and supervision, including coordinating and collaborating in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of project activities. National project personnel report directly to COSIT, however, their work plans are agreed upon in consultation with ESCWA. International and national project personnel communicate daily via telephone and email on the implementation of project activities and the status of project outputs. Additional activities and outputs were implemented in consultative manner and approval of both parties.

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results		
Establishing a gender statistics Unit and equipping it	Gender Unit at COSIT was established in mid 2007. 1 National expert and 2 Research Assistants and 1 Administrative Assistant were recruited in 2007. By end of project in 2009 three staff were working in the Gender Unit at COSIT.	100%
Procurement of IT equipment	Refer to section on procurement	100%
5 Training workshops (1 st and 2 nd National; Time-Use Survey; NSDS & Gender; DevInfo)	<p>1- First National Workshop on Gender Statistics, Amman, December 2007:25 users and producers of statistics trained on production of gender statistics;</p> <p>2- National Workshop on Gender Statistics and Time-Use Surveys, Amman, 4-6 November 2007: 7 national statistical staff from the Gender Statistics Unit and COSIT trained on concepts, definitions, methodologies and the analysis of time-use data and report writing</p> <p>3-Training on the statistical software DevInfo: 7-10 July 2008: 6 representatives of the National Statistical Office in Iraq were trained on the statistical software DevInfo v.5.0</p> <p>4-Second National Workshop on Gender Statistics, Beirut, November 2008:24 users and producers of statistics trained on production of gender statistics; and on developing a strategic framework for enhancing national statistical capacities and mainstreaming gender in the statistical work.</p> <p>5- Workshop on Mainstreaming Gender in Labour Statistics, Turin, December 2008: 30 users and producers of statistics trained on mainstreaming gender in labour statistics.</p> <p>6- Workshop on the Design of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics: Mainstreaming Gender in Sectoral Statistics Istanbul, 24-26 March 2008: 7 representatives of the National Statistics office were trained on the PARIS21 guidelines for the development of statistics and how to mainstream the gender perspective in sectoral statistics.</p>	100 %
Study tour	<p>- 2 fellowships from the national statistical cadres trained on statistical software (Regional Training on Dev Info, Cairo, 5 days in September 2007);</p> <p>- 5 fellowships were granted a study visit to the Jordanian Department of Statistics and Jordanian Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (Amman, 7-8 November 2007)</p> <p>-3 fellowships were trained in the Community System Foundations in India, December 2008 on the development of databases using the DevInfo application.</p>	100%

Issuance of outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - List of critical gender issues - Set of core gender statistics and indicators - Report on the assessment of data availability - Men and Women publication - Flyer on Gender Statistics Unit - Photo Gallery - Gender Statistics Website (to be launched) - Gender Database - Report on the results and analysis of TUS - Strategic framework for enhancing national statistical capacities, developing gender statistics and mainstreaming gender in all statistical work (completed/incorporated in NSDS being finalized by COSIT) - Reports of meetings and workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final Report on the First National Workshop. - Final Report on the Time-Use Survey Workshop. - Final Report on the Second National Workshop - Final Report on DevInfo Training - Final Report on the Workshop on Mainstreaming Gender in Labour Statistics - Final Report on Design of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) Workshop. 	100%
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b. Report on how achieved outputs have contributed to the achievement of the outcomes and explain any variance in actual versus planned contributions to the outcomes. Highlight any institutional and/ or behavioural changes amongst beneficiaries at the outcome level.

All the planned project outputs/activities were implemented. Additional activities and outputs were implemented in consultative manner and approval of both parties.

c. Explain the overall contribution of the programme/ project/ to the ICI, NDS, MDGs and Iraq UN Assistance Strategy.

The project succeeded in enhancing the human and institutional capacities in Iraq through engaging a number of experts from a variety of disciplines and through adopting and implementing a participatory and rights-based approach.

The project clarified and enhanced concepts related to MDG, by building both the statistical literacy and promoting gender equality and women's empowerment through effective and gender-responsive MDG monitoring and reporting, to facilitate formulation of more gender-responsive policies and strategies needed to achieve Goal 3 (Gender equality and Women's Empowerment) and its intersection with the other Goals. Moreover, it enhanced capacities in monitoring and reporting on MDGs and gender issues through compilation of sex-disaggregated data and conducting gender analysis in Iraq socio-economic factors. The completed activities contributed to promoting the necessary tools for good governance (i.e. quality statistics) through development of both human and institutional capacities and enhancing related skills and raising awareness in importance of mainstreaming gender in all activities and outputs.

Furthermore, the knowledge and skills gained in data collection, compilation, analysis and presentation by the beneficiaries can be applied across various areas of statistics and will facilitate transparency, accountability and good governance. As a result these achievements will contribute toward effective policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and hence better delivery of services.

d. Explain the contribution of key partnerships including national, international, inter-UN agency, CSO or others towards achievement of programme/ project results.

COSIT is the key partner in undertaking all project activities including selection of consultants, the planning of training workshops, and the preparation of project outputs. A strong commitment on behalf on COSIT has been pivotal for ensuring the project activities are being implemented on-time.

e. Highlight the contribution of the programme/ project on cross-cutting issues:

- Were the needs of particularly vulnerable or marginalised groups addressed?
 - How did men and women benefit from the programme/project? How were gender inequalities handled?
 - Were environmental concerns addressed including environmental impact/risk assessment where relevant?
 - Were there any specific issues in relation to the security situation?
 - Did the project contribute to employment generation (gender disaggregated)?
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- Gender: The ratio of female to male training beneficiaries was 41:33 which ensures that the project integrates women and men alike in its development and delivery.
- Human Rights: The project incorporates a rights-based approach in so far as it promotes the development of quality gender statistics as tools for enhancing accountability and transparency in the development process; involves beneficiaries in every level and stage of the project; adopts a participatory approach; and aims to raise-awareness on gender equality and equity.
- Employment: No replacement for the national statistical expert to the Gender Statistics Unit at COSIT could be made due to reluctance on behalf of short-listed candidates to assume the job. However this did not impede delivery of outputs as consultancies were awarded to local expertise to prepare study on Assessment of Data Availability and the development of the National Gender Statistics Website. In addition, recognition is made to the Gender Unit for their commitment to the delivery of set outputs and activities, namely the National Gender Statistics Website and Database.
- Security and Environment: n/a.

e. Provide an assessment of the programme/ project based on performance indicators as per approved project document using the template in Section IV

III. EVALUATION & LESSONS LEARNED

- a. Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken relating to the programme/project and how they were used during implementation. Has there been a final project evaluation and what are the key findings? Provide reasons if no evaluation of the programme/project have been done yet?

Evaluation exercises were implemented for each of the workshops and their summaries are available in the Final Reports. There, however, was no final project evaluation due to end of project extension time line and limited time to identify a suitable and available consultant.

- b. Indicate key constraints including delays (if any) during programme/ project implementation

Political insecurity in the country contributed to the late kick off and delays in the implementation of project activities. This included deteriorating and unstable security conditions in Iraq that impeded the movement of persons and transport of goods; limited and strained resources of COSIT that resulted with inadequate, inconsistent and untimely response to queries and follow-up action; cumbersome/lengthy bureaucratic processes in Iraq that produced delays in securing customs clearance documents and the issuance of new and valid passports needed to process the contracts of the Gender Unit staff and to initiate their travel arrangements to training/study visits, and to fulfil the requirements of the new security procedures for Iraqis travelling to Amman; and poor/unreliable access to information and communication technology that hampered timely dissemination of information.

In July 2008, ESCWA and COSIT met in Beirut to discuss the delay in implementation and rescheduling of pending outputs and with new timeline and adjustments to meet all objectives by project end date. A slight extension of the duration of the project up till 30 April 2009 was requested to finalize outputs in pipeline. A redeployment of funds between budget lines was also requested to facilitate the finalization of the remaining project activities and outputs in terms of finalizing pipeline consultancies and contracts of project personnel.

- c. Report key lessons learned that would facilitate future programme design and implementation.

The project trained 109 participants from 15 different line ministries in Iraq; namely, the Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Industry and Cooperation, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Electricity, the Ministry of Women's Issues, the Ministry of Housing and Construction, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Oil, the Ministry of Agriculture.

Two thirds of the trained participants were women (66%) and the remaining trainees were men (34%). A total of 5 workshops and meetings were organized in Amman, Ankara, Turin, Delhi and Beirut during 2006-2009.

In addition, to setting up a Gender Statistics Unit within COSIT which included hiring of three staff, furnishing and equipping the Unit, the project succeeded in completing all 15 planned outputs¹ and 15 activities². Moreover, some of those activities are considered as best

¹ List of critical gender issues, Set of core gender statistics and indicators, Report on the assessment of data availability, Statistical publication and other materials on status of women and men in Iraq, Gender statistics website and database, Report on the results and analysis of Time-Use Survey, Strategic framework for enhancing national statistical capacities, developing gender statistics and mainstreaming gender in all statistical work, Reports of meetings and workshops.

² Pre-meeting, Data assessment, compilation and analysis, Establishing a gender statistics Unit and equipping it, Preparation of a statistical publication and other materials on the status of women and men in Iraq, Training workshops, Study tour, Development of a national gender statistics website, Development of gender database.

practices and modules that many countries will be following. Iraq undertook thorough assessment of gender data availability and produced a publication considered to be the first in the region. It became a pioneer when developed a detailed gender statistics database disaggregated at the sub-national level and a dedicated national gender statistics website. All three initiatives received were commended upon in the 2nd Inter-agency and Expert Group Meeting in the Arab Countries held in Beirut in 2009. Iraq also succeeded to implement the Time Use Survey and publish an in-depth study on its results. In addition, Iraq succeeded in producing its first Women and Men publication and included a dedicated chapter on violence against women in line with recommended concepts and standards.

The project was managed with a priority to achieve quality of work and share information. The outputs, resources and training are all a wealth of resources that can be used at the sub-national level, as well as by other countries, and can be accessed through the Gender Statistics Website. The team work and the periodic reviews by ESCWA and COSIT, the Steering Committee, contributed to effective management, adaptation of work plan when and where needed, and cost-effectiveness in delivery of outputs despite the many obstacles faced during the implementation period.

Finally, the project was adapted to accommodate user's needs and requirements during its execution. As a result, savings were used to add further activities and outputs to mainstream gender statistics in the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics, a major achievement of the Project.

IV. 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)
IP Outcome 1							
Raise awareness on gender mainstreaming in statistical work and the importance of gender statistics in policy formulation and monitoring among users and producers of statistics from various statistical departments, ministries, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and academia and research centers.							
IP Output 1.1	Indicator 1.1.1	(1) Participants in the workshops, training and study tour who expressed improved knowledge of gender statistics and gender mainstreaming	5 national statistical cadres outside of Iraq (10 days)	10 fellowships implemented for 11 days	Additional fellowships were implemented upon approval of COSIT	(1) Results of the evaluation questionnaires completed by participants in the workshops, training and study tour	- 2 fellowships from the national statistical cadres trained on statistical software (Regional Training on Dev Info, Cairo, 5 days in September 2007); - 5 fellowships were granted a study visit to the Jordanian Department of Statistics and Jordanian Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (Amman, 7-8 November 2007) -3 fellowships were trained in the Community System Foundations in India, December 2008 on the development of databases using the DevInfo application .
IP Outcome 2							
Improve national capacities to produce, analyze, and disseminate quality gender statistics.							

IP Output 2.1	Indicator 2.1.1	(2a) Iraqi nationals expressing improved skills in the production and analysis of gender statistics	2 Training workshops by ESCWA/consultants for 25 participants each= total 50 participants	6 workshops implemented for total of 109 participants; 72 women and 37 men.	4 Additional workshops were conducted upon approval of COSIT	(2a) Results of the evaluation questionnaires completed by participants in the workshops	-Final Report on the First National Workshop. - Final Report on the Time-Use Survey Workshop. - Final Report on the Second National Workshop - Final Report on DevInfo Training - Final Report on the Workshop on Mainstreaming Gender in Labour Statistics -Final Report on Design of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) Workshop
	Indicator 2.1.2	2b) Number of gender related outputs produced by the end of the project	8 outputs 1-List of critical gender issues and set of core statistics and indicators 2-Report on the assessment of data availability 3-Statistical publication and other materials on status of women and men in Iraq (i.e. wall chart, flyer, pocketbook, and photo gallery) 4Gender statistics website and database 5-Strategic framework for	15 outputs completed	7 outputs were completed upon approval of COSIT	(2b) Availability of gender-related outputs (e.g. publication, database, website)	1- List of critical gender issues 2- Set of core gender statistics and indicators 3- Report on the assessment of data availability 4- Men and Women publication 5- Flyer on Gender Statistics Unit 6- Photo Gallery 7- Gender Statistics Website 8- Gender Database 9-Report on the results and analysis of TUS 10-Strategic framework for enhancing national statistical capacities, developing gender

			<p>enhancing national statistical capacities, developing gender statistics and mainstreaming gender in all statistical work</p> <p>6-Report on the results and analysis of the gender barometer survey</p> <p>7-Reports of the meetings and workshops (2)</p>				<p>statistics and mainstreaming gender in all statistical work (completed/incorporated in NSDS being finalized by COSIT)</p> <p>And 5 workshop reports</p>
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