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IRAQ UNDAF FUND

To: Jacqueline Badcock, DSRSG
Co-Chair – Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee *[Signature]* Date: 14 June 2012
Thamir Ghadban, Government of Iraq
Co-Chair – Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee

Through: Usman Akram *[Signature]* Ref: SC/BR
Head, Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee Support
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From: Bashar Al-Ali *[Signature]*
Programme Specialist, Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering
Committee Support Office

APPROVAL OF PROGRAMME REVISION REQUEST (A)

Project Number:	P3-01
Project Title:	Development of National Framework for Integrated Drought Risk Management (DRM) in Iraq
Participating Agency:	UNDP(Coordinating Agency), UNESCO
Project Start Date:	30 August 2011
Project End Date:	30 May 2012

Type of Programme /project variation requested

- Extension of project duration *31 December 2012*
- Movement of funds between project budget components
- Change of project scope

SCSO Comments:

The total budget for this joint programme is US\$ 479,884. Programme is around 40% complete.

Agency	Budget(\$)	Commitments(\$)	Disbursements(\$)
UNDP	264,883	67,552 (26%)	42,458 (16%)
UNESCO	215,001	35,897 (17%)	10,697 (5%)
Total	479,884	103,449 (27%)	53,065 (11%)

Background

The programme is jointly undertaken by UNDP and UNESCO in close consultation with other UN partners. It supports the Government of Iraq (GoI) to conduct a series of technical assessments of existing Drought Risk Management (DRM) capacities and vulnerabilities, and carry out a series of consultations and consensus-building activities to build a common understanding of drought impacts and risk management measures. It also exposes the GoI to international good DRM practices.



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These activities form the basis for developing a national framework for integrated Drought Risk Management in Iraq that would enable the GoI and its partners to launch a coordinated multidisciplinary, multi-sectoral, and multi-level response to drought

A. Request for time Extension

Justification

The programme was planned to close in 30 May 2012. However, it encountered several constraints that resulted in delays in implementation as explained below:

- Internal procedures within Iraqi institutions took longer than anticipated. In the first Programme Steering Committee (PSC), it was decided to hold a further meeting immediately after the nominations of the Task Force (TF) members. However, the delay in TF nominations by the 18 institutions delayed the start of the programme implementation as there were activities that required discussion and approval by both the PSC and TF. One gap identified which delayed the nominations was the need for increased communication within and between the Iraqi institutions.
- The Ministry of Environment (MoEn) focal point passed away in December 2011, which has affected the level of communication and coordination between UNDP, GoI and within the Iraqi institutions. Another focal point was nominated at the level of Deputy Minister, who in turn assigned three staff members to follow up on the programme and coordinate the work with Iraqi institutions. The three were assisted closely by the Programme Manager and the National Senior Field Coordinator.
- UNESCO-Science Sector remained with no staff after the departure of programme manager / International consultant in December 2012. This issue caused a serious staff shortage in managing and starting DRM -project activities under UNESCO's responsibility. A new UNESCO Coordinator was assigned in February 2012.
- UNDP filled the position of the National Senior Field Coordinator post instead of UNESCO using a Long Term Agreement with a consulting company to avoid further delay in recruitment. His role was essential in accelerating the nominations of the SC /TF members, organizing the meetings and assisting the programme's counterparts of PMAC and MoEn.
- A consensus building and awareness workshop for the SC and TF members was planned to take place by the end of January 2012 in Beirut, Lebanon. The cost of the workshop was to be covered by UNDP, UNESCO, ESCWA and the Iraqi institutions involved in the programme. However, it became clear that the proposed date wouldn't be met due to ESCWA's decision to limit its activities in the workshop and consequently their financial contribution for holding this workshop. In addition, it became uncertain whether the Iraqi institutions would cover the participation of their representatives in the workshop which affected the planning for this workshop and the associated financial implications. The workshop was eventually held on 26-28 March 2012.
- Arrangement for conducting a Programme Steering Committee meeting required two months in order to ensure the availability of all members. Eventually, the PSC held a



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meeting in Baghdad on 27 May 2012 and endorsed the request for time extension until 31 December 2012.

Activities to be completed during the requested extension period:

1. Hold regular Programme Steering Committee and Task Force meetings (in June, July, September, November and December 2012).
2. Complete the capacity assessment (institutional and legal), by June 2012.
3. Carry out the complementary desk review and mapping exercise (by November 2012).
4. Conduct the vulnerability assessment by November 2012.
5. Conduct exposure activities including study tours (by November 2012).
6. Document international good practices (by November 2012).
7. Conduct consultations and organize orientation workshops (by December 2012).
8. Develop DRM framework (by December 2012).
9. Conduct stakeholders' consultations of the DRM framework (by December 2012).

Therefore UNDP and UNESCO are requesting a time extension of 7 months (until 31 December 2012) in order to complete all remaining activities.

Mitigation Strategy in place to ensure compliance with timeline extension requested:

1. Invite the SC and TF members to attend meetings three weeks ahead. This will enable them to be prepared and allocate the time and arrange for the meetings.
2. The data collection is a key activity for completing the vulnerability assessment study and the complementary study on mapping of stakeholders. For this purpose it is essential that involved stakeholders facilitate the data collection from different institutions and from the field as deemed necessary. Therefore, the Ministry of Environment assigned twenty staff members to facilitate the data collection.
3. Hold frequent meetings within the programme to tackle any arising issues in an appropriate time and to accelerate the implementation of the project.

SCSO Recommendations:

SCSO recommends approval of the time extension until 31 December 2012.

Approval of Co-Chair – Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee – DSRSG	
Approval of Co-Chair – Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee – Government of Iraq	

A P P R O V E D
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