

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #: D2- 32 UNICEF
Date and Quarter Updated: 1 January - 31 March (1st Quarter, 2012)

Participating UN Organisation: UNICEF **Sector:** Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation (PME)
Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Ministry of Planning and Development
Cooperation, COSIT, KRSO

Title	Support to the Government of Iraq’s Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 4 (MICS-4)				
Geo. Location	Nation-wide				
Project Cost	US\$ 1,480,000				
Duration	21 months				
Approval Date (SC)	26 April 2010	Starting Date	29 April 2010	Completion Date	29 January 2012 extended to 29 July 2012
Project Description	<p>UNICEF assists countries in collecting and analyzing data in order to fill data gaps for monitoring the situation of children and women through its international household survey initiative the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS). MICS is one of the key tools used to monitor ongoing progress in the realization of children’s and women’s rights as enunciated by Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The survey is conducted globally on a three year (previously five year) cycle. To date, there have been three MICS surveys conducted in Iraq; the most recent one (MICS3) was carried out at governorate level in 2006. The majority of the indicators measured are related to health and nutrition but the data collected also includes information on education, water and sanitation, demographics, child protection, HIV/AIDS, and gender.</p> <p>The project intends to expand on the measurement of disparities across Iraq and improve planning at the local level. MICS4 will provide data that will be statistically relevant at the district level covering 36,580 households. The information gathered through MICS4 is expected to support national capacities of the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation (MoPDC) and concerned line ministries, and to update monitoring of their national Millennium Development Goals. Furthermore, MICS4 data will set the stage for trend data and updated information for policy formulation, better planning, and prioritized and targeted efforts to protect and promote the wellbeing of children and women in Iraq.</p>				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

National priority or goals (NDS2007-2010)

1. Pillar Three: Improving The quality of life
2. Goal (3): Enhancing Gender Equity and Strengthening Women Issues (page 61 of the NDS)
3. Goal (5): Reduce maternity deaths (page 62 of the NDS)
4. Goal (6): Full access to water and health services

ICI:

1. Strengthening Institutions and Improving Governance.
2. Human Development and Human Security:
 - 2.1: Improving Health and Nutrition of all Iraqis as a cornerstone of welfare and economic development.
 - 2.2: Reduce gender Discrimination, increase participation of women in public life and labour market.

The project is relevant to the UNDAF priorities and NDP strategic objectives, in particular the findings of the survey which will enlighten policy makers concerning the gender gaps and provide information tool to enhance improving the quality of life of children and women in Iraq in general and gender equity, reduction of child deaths and full access to health services in particular. MICS4 will be an important data source for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals with 20 MDG indicators collected. 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*, 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: 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
- 4.6 Food & Nutrition: People in Iraq have improved food and nutrition security, and food safety

And to monitor against the UNDAF Priority 5: Investment in human capital and empowerment of women, youth and children:

- 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

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement

Outputs	<p>Anticipated Outputs and Results: The information generated from the MICS is expected to influence resource allocation and improved planning for the social sector and assist in monitoring social sector delivery to improve the well-being of children and women. The data will be disseminated widely and used by development agencies in monitoring country development indicators. UNICEF conducts this survey globally every three years in order to have comparative data on the situation of women and children across regions and continents. As such, the tools are developed and tested by UNICEF's Headquarters and are globally recognized. The survey will furnish data needed for monitoring progress toward goals established by the MDGs and the goals set by World Fit for Children as a basis for future action and to contribute to the improvement of data and monitoring systems in Iraq and to strengthen technical expertise in the design, implementation and analysis of such systems.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Output 2: Policy makers and planners, at national and governorate levels, are better informed on the status and needs of the children and women.</p>
Activities	<p>Main activities under Output 1 Planning and preparation, sample frame development, questionnaire development, translation and pre-testing, logistics preparation, piloting survey, training of trainers (TOT) for field work and training of interviewers, conducting and monitoring the field work, and data processing include the activities under the output 1. Each step of these activities was discussed in depth with the MICS focal points (COSIT and KRSO) and line ministry participants during the one week training held in Amman during October 2009. GoI participation in the second regional workshop and technical assistance (TA) support will contribute to building the capacity of national statistical agencies on survey planning, data collection, data entry, cleaning.</p> <p>Main activities under Output 2 Data analysis and tabulation, preparation of preliminary report, conducting workshops for feedback on the report, finalizing preliminary report, producing final report in English and Arabic and Kurdish, printing and disseminating findings. Analytical survey report, including all indicator tables, in English and Arabic and Kurdish, will be finalized, disseminated and advocated.</p>
Procurement	Iodized Salt Test Kits, Measuring Boards, Weighting Scales, GPS Package & Desktop Computers. In addition, printing of supervisors and Interviewers' guide and questionnaires.

Funds Committed	US\$ 737,133	% of approved	50%
Funds disbursed	US\$ 720,952	% of approved	49%
Forecast final date	29 July 2012	Delay (months)	6

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men		
Women		
Children		
IDPs		NA
Others	MPDC (Central Statistics Office and Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office), and MoH staff have their capacity developed. All participating institutions in Iraq and organizations working with child protection and women rights issues.	80%
Indirect beneficiaries	All children in Iraq and women aged 15-49 years.	80%
Employment generation (men/women)	This project is not directly concerned about employment generation; although there will be an increase in temporary employment during the survey. However, the survey would provide 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.	100%

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results		% of planned
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	OVERALL OUTPUT	100%
	ACTIVITIES: 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.	100%
	The two Project Steering Committees were established and have met regularly to oversight and provide strategic and technical directions.	100%
	In 16-17 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, together with UNICEF Iraq office 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 IraqWHO Iraq supported 13 days training course on data entry and CSpro programme for 15 participants from MoH, MoP in Baghdad and Kurdistan region from 29-31 January 2011.	100%
	UNICEF organized the MICS4 Data Processing training in Amman, 9-16 May 2010. The 4 staff in CSO-KRSO responsible for MICS4 data processing that attended the training built and customised the standard MICS4 data entry and analysis programs in CSPro 4.0; learnt how to adapt the standard MICS tabulation programs using SPSS 18.0; and became familiarised on how to customise the standard survey archive using the IHSN toolkit.	100%
	The translated questionnaires and manuals were reviewed, and	100%

	<p>listeners were trained along May 2010.</p> <p>From 1-10 June 2010 the Training of Trainers was held in Amman. The 2 MICS4 coordinators in CSO and KRSO, plus 21 supervisors attended this training aiming to prepare them to further train the enumerators. The training helped them fully understanding and administering the MICS4 questionnaires; gaining familiarity on the survey methodology and the field operations; acquiring familiarity and developing skills with participatory training mythologies and interviewing skills; gaining ability to organize the training of enumerators, and to develop and use standard tools to train enumerators.</p> <p>The questionnaires were back translated Arabic-English and Kurdish-English, and they were newly reviewed Training of Trainers refresher had to be scheduled to refresh the Trainers' skills (due to postponement of fieldwork because of Census fieldwork), and it was held in Amman in 8-14 January 2011.</p> <p>Immediately after the training, in 16-18 January 2011 the questionnaires were pre-tested and adjusted by CSO and KRSO.</p> <p>The Training of Enumerators was held in KRSO during 29th January – 10th February 2011 and in CSO during 13-25 March 2011. Pilot survey was conducted the last two days of the training.</p> <p>Training of editors and data entry clerks was undertaken by KRSO in 13-18 February 2011; by CSO in 3-14 April 2011.</p> <p>Data collection was completed in the three KRG governorates from 13th February to 19th March 2011. CSO conducted the fieldwork from 27th March to 9th June 2011.</p> <p>Data processing (verification, editing, and entry) and cleaning has been completed by KRSO from 27th March to 10th July 2011. CSO initiated the data processing for the 15 governorates in central-south Iraq by 19th June and finalized in 25th August 2011.</p> <p>Data exporting to SPSS format datasets was completed in 21st September 2011.</p> <p>Data cleaning using SPSS datasets to identify inconsistencies and going back to CsPro datasets and filled questionnaires. Initiated in September 22nd 2011.</p>	<p>100%</p> <p>100%</p> <p>100%</p> <p>100%</p> <p>100%</p> <p>100%</p> <p>100%</p> <p>100%</p> <p>100%</p>
<p>Policy makers and planners at both national and governorate levels are better informed on the status and needs of children and women</p>	<p>Preparation of survey archive documents to validate survey results with international experts: programs/spread sheets used for sample weight calculations, programming used for recoding data sets, such as wealth index, make files; 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).</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>100%</p> <p>100%</p>

	<p>The English Preliminary Findings Report was finalized in December 2011 using new templates provided by UNICEF HQ. After reviewing the report, the GoI proceeded using the old template for the Preliminary Findings Report. The final translation and reviewed version was completed in April 2012. The Launch event for the MICS-4 preliminary findings is planned for May 2012.</p>	80%
	<p>The first version of the Arabic Preliminary Findings Report was completed in February 2012. The Arabic version of the Final report was drafted in parallel: draft zero completed in March 2012. English version draft zero in April 2012.</p>	50%
	<p>Minor adjustments to the data were made as required and advocacy interventions are planned based on the results.</p>	95%
	<p>Preparation of an evidence-based dissemination plan with specific advocacy interventions is ongoing.</p>	75%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

- The postponement of fieldwork activities forced by the Census meant that a refresher of the Training of Trainers had to be scheduled. This has been an opportunity to consolidate skills of the trainers and resume the project with a fresh view and review of the survey tools: questionnaires, manuals, data entry program.
- Availability of supplies and equipment has been facilitated through the cooperation and coordination between governmental and public bodies, especially between CSO and KRSO, the Nutrition Research Institute, and the Ministry of Health and Directorates of Health.
- The questionnaires used in the fieldwork were excellent tools for data collection: not a single major mistake in the editing/printing occurred.
- Monitoring and support activities by UNICEF have informed quality control and at this moment have already informed a Lessons Learned report covering training, fieldwork, and editing.
- A team from MICS4 Iraq composed by CSO, KRSO and UNICEF Iraq staff, with technical and managerial profile participated in the MICS Global Workshop on Data Dissemination and Further Analysis in 13-19 November 2011, Belgrade (Serbia). The international experts and facilitators in the workshop assessed the overall quality of the data and concluded that MICS4 Iraq is good quality data.

Main implementation constraints & challenges (2-3 sentences)

Accessing the field by international staff due to the security situation is one of the main challenges that will have to be overcome. UNICEF Iraq relies heavily in the national staff and the network of national experts that support UNICEF's activities as facilitators. Support and field monitoring activities will be conducted by that staff with guidance from international staff in ICO and in RO. Direct contact with the partners will be promoted whenever possible, especially in KRG, or in activities such as Training workshops organized in KRG and even abroad. The timing of the fieldwork had to be modified due to the insecurity situation in some areas of the country, especially in the governorates of Ninewa and Baghdad; and due to difficulties to access certain areas in Abu Ghraib.

Iraq is experiencing a complex transition process that affects and will reshape the governance bodies and procedures. In this context there is currently no fluid and regular communication flow between and within line ministries, and between federal and lower level bodies. This situation affects the timing and conditions of implementation.

Political and security instability might have an impact in the scheduled activities under Output 2. UNICEF Iraq is ready to mitigate that impact through the preparation of a dissemination plan with the internal section Strategic Communications for Advocacy and Partnerships. A request to extend the 6 months the timeline of this project (5 months due to postponement caused by Census planning and 1 month for contingencies) has already been submitted to the UNDG-ITF and is currently under evaluation.