

**United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #:F8-10b**

Date and Quarter Updated: 1 January – 31 March 2012 (1st Quarter, 2012)

Participating UN Organisation: UNICEF (Lead Agency), UNFPA Sector: Protection

Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) (federal and regional)

Title	Strengthening Protection and Justice for Children and Young People in Iraq				
Geo. Location	Governorates: Baghdad, Basra, Ninewa, Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk				
Project Cost	3,000,000 (UNICEF USD2,000,000: UNFPA USD 1,000,000)				
Duration	24 months with 12 months extension				
Approval Date	04.06.2009	Starting Date	14.08.2009	Completion Date	14.08.2011 extended until 14.08. 2012
Project Description	This project is designed to provide technical support to the Government of Iraq to strengthen the Juvenile Justice System and increase children and young people's access to justice and protection. The project uses a three pronged approach to alleviate the plight of children currently caught up in the judicial system, promote restorative justice, and develop strategic direction for juvenile justice in Iraq. First, at the national level the project works with the High Judicial Council and government ministries involved in the administration of juvenile justice on advocacy for legislative reform, reduction of pre-trial detention, introduction of diversion and alternative measures, on improvement of systems for data collection, monitoring and tracking of children who are in contact with the law. Secondly, at the community level the project focuses on actions that prevent children from coming into contact with the law, diversion projects and provides reintegration assistance to children released from detention centres and reformatories. Lastly, the project also heavily invests in developing the capacities of key duty bearers in the juvenile justice system in Iraq.				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

The developmental goal is to strengthen the Gol's capacity to improve the Juvenile Justice System and increase children and young people's access to justice and protection.

Key immediate objectives are:

- Improved functioning of the Juvenile Justice System in Iraq
- Increased capacities of families and communities in six governorates to protect and prevent children from getting into contact with the law.
- Increased capacities of key duty bearers to provide legal, judicial and reintegration services to children and young people in contact with the law.

Outputs, Key Activities and Procurement

Outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gol has reliable information to address needs and gaps in the Juvenile Justice System. 2. Capacities of families and communities in six governorates increased to protect and prevent children from getting into contact with the law. 3. Improved capacities of 100 key duty bearers in managing and monitoring detention facilities and reformatories. 4. Increased capacities of families and communities to provide care, protection and diversion services. 5. Enhanced capacity of 400 duty bearers to provide better legal, judicial, rehabilitation and reintegration services to children and young people. 6. Three hundred staff working in reformatories have an enhanced capacity to provide follow up services and reintegration assistance to children and adolescents.
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Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. Assessment of the Juvenile Justice System in Iraq 1. 2. Review of the Juvenile Care Law and another three laws related to children 2.1. Identification of factors that push children at risk into contact with the law 2.2.Awareness raising activities in communities, schools and religious institutions focusing on guidance to children, young people and their families 2.3. Educational support for out of school children and young people 2.4. Media campaigns and advocacy for awareness-raising of care providers and families on prevention, care, and protection for children 3.1.Setting up systems for providing quality care services including arrangements for case management 3.2.Setting up of information management systems and training of MoLSA and detention centres' staff 3.3.Setting up of five multi-disciplinary teams and training 3.4.Legal assistance to children and young people in detention 3.5. Life skills training to children and young people in detention 3.6.Protection and basic services to children and young people in detention 3.7. Regular monitoring of detention centres 3.8.Setting up complaint systems in the detention centres and reformatories 4.1.Setting up of community-based aftercare services for protection and diversion services in selected project governorates 4.2. Training to community members and care providers on provision of diversion services in six governorates 5.1.Training of duty bearers (juvenile judges, legal prosecutors, JTI instructors, juvenile police, staff of detention and reformatory centres, social workers, and care providers) on international standards, juvenile justice, psychosocial support etc 5.2.Module development for integration of juvenile justice in judges training curriculum 5.3.Training of reformatory managers and staff on rehabilitation and reintegration services 5.4.Provision of psychosocial, medical, educational, and basic services in reformatories 5.5.Improvement of vocational training provision with capacity development and equipment support 6.1. Develop a national multidimensional package for caring/integration of children and young people in reformatories and after release 6.2. Training provision for reformatory staff, NGO partners and community members to provide rehabilitation and reintegration services 6.3. Provision of educational, recreational, vocational and life skills development inside reformatories 6.4. Inter-ministerial/CSOs coordination and monitoring mechanism for after care services mechanisms 6.5. Support MoE & MoLSA staff to integrate Life Skills education into their respective educational & vocational activities 6.6. Training to medical, social & educational workers to detect, support and report psychological & physical disorders /abuse among children and young people inside reformatories 6.7. Develop and operationalize sectoral data collection/ reporting tools to monitor developmental status & rights of children and young people inside reformatories 6.8. Support MoLSA staff to provide continuous contact and support to families of children and young people residing in reformatories, and facilitate regular family visits 6.9. Setup multidimensional day care centres to support and follow up children and young people in contact with law after their release from reformatories including visits to their homes and families 6.10. Psychosocial /rehabilitation and follow up activities (counselling, group support, life skills education) to children & young people after their release from reformatories 6.11. Referral system of children & young people released from reformatories to existing educational & vocational services & job opportunities (if above 15yrs old)
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Procurement (major items)	Psychosocial and recreational kits for use in the detentions centres and reformatories. Based on the assessment of the existing centres, equipment and furniture will be bought to be used in the Multidimensional Day Care centres i.e. chairs, tables, computers, TVs, DVD players, LCDs etc.
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UNICEF Funds Committed	1,882,400.00	% of approved	94 %
Funds Disbursed	1,694,488.68	% of approved	85 %
Forecast final date	14.08.2012	Delay (months)	12

UNFPA Funds Committed	348,233	% of approved	35%
Funds Disbursed	313,192	% of approved	31%
Forecast final date	14.08.2012	Delay (months)	12

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men		
Women		
Children		
IDPs		
Others		
Indirect beneficiaries		
Employment generation (men/women)		

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results		
JP Output 1: Gol has reliable information to address needs and gaps in JJ system of Juvenile Justice system (UNICEF)	1. The report on the comprehensive assessment of the Juvenile Justice System implemented in partnership with the INGO <i>Development Management International</i> (DMI) has been reviewed and requires further improvement. The development of a draft regional Child Law is being technically supported by UNICEF; a second draft incorporating inputs from the consultative workshop in December 2011 is now ready for discussion (consultation is planned in the next quarter).	76%
JP Output 2: Capacities of families and communities in 6 governorates increased to protect and prevent children from getting into contact with the law (UNICEF)	1. Since access to MoLSA detention centres in Baghdad was denied, the planned assessment on reintegration services was not conducted. 2. ToT on life skills for teachers was completed. Based on a request from non-targeted schools in Ninewa, additional basic life skills training was extended to 32 new teachers (17 female; 15 male) in three additional schools. 3. 532 children (373 boys and 159 girls) participated in Out of School interventions during this period, organized through youth centres. During this quarterly period, 100 children (64 boys and 36 girls), as well as four youth centre staff (1 male; 3 female) participated in life skills training, reaching to 1,275 children (939 boys and 336 girls). 4. An advocacy strategy to raise awareness on Justice for Children issues has been discussed between UNICEF and its partner (Heartland Alliance), and is being developed for the Kurdistan Region. Public awareness materials to prevent children from coming into contact with the law are being prepared and reviewed.	62%
JP Output 3: Improved capacities of 100 key duty bearers in managing and monitoring detention	1. The results of the reintegration assessment (see output 2) would inform a better case management system. However, due to the lack of access to the detention centres, this activity was not implemented.	47%

<p>facilities and reformatories</p> <p>(UNICEF)</p>	<p>2. The administration and maintenance of children’s data on children in detention centres is being discussed with MoLSA KRG to allow UNICEF and its partners to provide technical support. The Basra Central Prison (BCP) requested technical assistance from UNICEF and its partners to strengthen the current data management system.</p> <p>3. Training for a multi-disciplinary team in Basra and Ninewa was completed as part of cascade training on Justice for Children.</p> <p>4. In Baghdad, Mosul and Basra, meetings were conducted with representatives of the Higher Judicial Council, the Iraqi Bar Association and the Iraqi Jurists’ Union, to increase coordination and referral of cases between duty bearers. 147 children in contact with the law are being provided with legal assistance in Baghdad, Basra, Ninewa and the KRG, including 64 new cases for this period.</p> <p>5. A second life skills manual for adult caregivers had been developed and is currently being reviewed to incorporate feedback and lessons learned from the first life skills manual and to focus on working with children with disruptive behaviour.</p> <p>Child rights training sessions were extended to 12 female prison staff in Badoosh during this period reaching 40 detention centre staff (22 men; 18 women) in total.</p> <p>A Children’s Day Event was organized in Basra Central Prison (BCP) for 80 boys and their families. On International Women’s Day, an event was organized at Al-Maqal prison for 31 girls and children of incarcerated mothers.</p> <p>6. See 4 and 5.</p> <p>7. The Juvenile Justice System assessment demonstrated that there are more facilities where children are detained. Therefore, visits to juveniles in detention centres have been extended to Erbil, Duhok, Sulaimanyha, and Najaf, and regular visits to Basra, Baghdad and Ninewa continued but with limited access.</p> <p>8. Discussions for the development of a complaints system in the detention centres and reformatories are ongoing.</p>	
<p>JP Output 4: Increased capacity of families and communities to provide care, protection and diversion services</p> <p>(UNICEF)</p>	<p>1. Five meetings were conducted in Baghdad, Basra and Ninewa, participated by 126 community members including children and police officers. During this period, 35 university students (13 male; 22 female) participated in training on conflict mediation and life skills at the University of Baghdad. 314 parents were trained on conflict mediation and life skills development in targeted schools. Student mediator elections were held in February 2012, resulting in 57 new mediators (24 boys; 33 girls) – a total of 877 student mediators were elected in Baghdad, Basra and Ninewa.</p> <p>To promote the restorative justice, during this reporting period, 173 persons, targeting lawyers and law students, participated in four awareness workshops in Baghdad and Basra.</p> <p>2. Six local mediation rooms were established and used in Basra within six youth centres to support diversion of children from the formal judicial system.</p> <p>Rehabilitation of the restorative justice training room has been completed.</p>	47%
<p>JP Output 5: Enhanced capacity of 400 duty bearers to provide better legal, judicial ,</p>	<p>1. 20 trainers who became the master trainers received the ToT on Justice for Children in Erbil in December 2011 conducted cascade training in their ministries and departments in Baghdad, Basra and Ninewa. As of today, 271 government officials have participated in</p>	55%

<p>rehabilitation and reintegration services to children and young people</p> <p>(UNICEF)</p>	<p>the training.</p> <p>2. 94 persons (70 boys; 17 girls; as well as 7 parents (1 father; 6 mothers) are currently receiving or have received psychosocial follow-up support) in Baghdad, Basra, Ninewa, Erbil and Duhok. Community Case Managers also continue to work to identify appropriate educational programs, vocational training, and job placement opportunities for youth.</p> <p>3. A total of 32 business owners (10 women; 22 men) participated in the paid apprenticeship program with the aim of facilitating the access to employment of released youth. During this period, 48 new children (in detention centres and outside after being released) participated in vocational training sessions to build youth skills and sense of empowerment. The vocational training was also extended to the family members of the released children who are not at the employable age (7 adults). 38 children, of which 32 are new in this quarter, participated in a paid apprenticeship in order to be placed in the job market; two boys were less than 15 years of age thus their mothers participated instead. BCP developed a three month IT course and enrolled 10 juveniles.</p> <p>Child friendly packages consisting of recreational materials for children have been provided for detention facilities in Ninewa and Basra.</p> <p>Regarding educational opportunities for children in the MoJ facility, DoE, prison management, UNICEF and its partners discussed and agreed to the need to provide caravans (portable classrooms) and teachers to enable children to continue their education. As well, DoH agreed to extend health service to Juvenile Police detention centre.</p>	
<p>JP Output 6: Enhanced capacity of 400 duty bearers to provide better legal, judicial, rehabilitation and reintegration services to children and young people</p> <p>(UNFPA)</p>	<p>An analysis of the assessment on vocational training needs has been finalized and vocational needs have been determined.</p> <p>Preparations are completed for commencing a four month training course for 26 juveniles from the reformatory school in Erbil. The training is expected to start in May 2012.</p> <p>A psychosocial module was developed by the American University of Beirut and shared with UNFPA and first draft will be finalized soon.</p>	<p>22%</p>

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

Output 1. Gol has reliable information to address needs and gaps in the Juvenile Justice System (UNICEF)

During this period, the project faced a number of challenges. In the Kurdistan Region, the process for the selection of the new cabinet started in January 2012, which created uncertainty as to whom future activities should be discussed with and the Minister of MoLSA is not expected to change. At the same time, pressure to approve the Child Law at the regional level was significant; however, UNICEF and its partners advocated the Gol to allocate enough time to conduct consultation with children. The second draft of the Child Law has been drafted incorporating the inputs from the 1st consultative workshop conducted in December 2011 as well as comments from UNICEF.

The third draft report on the comprehensive assessment of the Juvenile Justice System implemented in partnership with *Development Management International (DMI)* was submitted to UNICEF; the report requires improvement.

Output 2. Capacities of families and communities in six governorates increased to protect and prevent children from getting into contact with the law (UNICEF)

An assessment on the identification of factors that push children at risk into contact with the law in the KRG is in process. The assessment form has been drafted and is being reviewed. The planned assessment on reintegration services in detention centres has been interrupted due to a lack of access to the MoLSA detention facilities.

A number of awareness raising activities to prevent and protect children coming into contact with the law have been conducted mainly through schools and youth centres. With a request from teachers in non-targeted schools, life skills training was extended to 32 new teachers (17 female; 15 male) from an additional three schools. The training was conducted by the teachers from the targeted schools who have received the life skills training by UNICEF and its partner in 2011. This demonstrates that the life skills training was considered effective and useful by teachers. The fact that the training was conducted by the trained teachers, illustrates the effectiveness of transferring skills to others and strengthening their own capacity.

532 children (373 boys; 159 girls) participated in Out of School interventions during this period, organized through youth centres. In Basra, some youth centres offered vocational training for drop out youth who are at risk of coming into contact with the law. Because a significant number of legal aid cases involving youth in traffic accidents, with technical support from UNICEF and its partner organization, youth centres in Basra also organized awareness raising on road safety and traffic awareness.

Life skills training continued in Baghdad for 100 children (64 boys; 36 girls), as well as four youth centre staff (1 male; 3 female) participated in life skills training, reaching a total of 1,275 children (939 boys; 336 girls).

In terms of raising public awareness, UNICEF and its partner organization in the Kurdistan Region have initiated discussion to develop a communication and advocacy strategy on the issues related to the Justice for Children. Originally the dissemination of key messages on Justice for Children in the newspaper was proposed. Based on a media survey in Iraq, TV is the most effective way to reach the population, followed by radio and newspaper. In the coming months, UNICEF will discuss with the Gol to further develop this strategy to find the most effective use of media to prevent children coming into contact with the law and to increase the understanding of the juvenile justice system. Development of the final student newsletter and conflict mediation/restorative justice pamphlets were designed and is being discussed with the partners.

Output 3. Improved capacities of 100 key duty bearers in managing and monitoring detention facilities and reformatories (UNICEF)

Regular visits to juveniles in detention were conducted by UNICEF and its partners in Baghdad, Basra, Najaf, Ninewa, Erbil, Duhok and Sulaimanyha. The Juvenile Justice System assessment informed that

there are more facilities where children are detained, mostly under the authorities of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) or Ministry of Interior (Mol). UNICEF began visiting those facilities to understand the situation of children in conflict with the law, and to inform the government in appropriate services. UNICEF raised concerns to MoLSA and members of parliament over poor conditions in the Badoosh prison after 150 children were transferred there from the MoLSA Observation House in Mousel in 2011. UNICEF also observed that girls are often detained together with adults in female prisons. It was also reported that children are often detained more than 24 hours at public police stations before being brought to the juvenile police. In order to have a common approach in monitoring juveniles in detention centres, UNICEF developed a monitoring form for detention centres, which has been shared with the partners including MoLSA KRG.

The support to case and data management is being discussed with the manager of BCP. UNICEF and its partner will provide technical support in developing a simple data management system to track the juvenile cases in the prison, and provide training for staff members.

While lawyers continue to face bureaucratic roadblocks and other challenges delaying their investigations and the legal proceedings, 147 children in contact with the law are being provided with legal assistance in Baghdad, Basra, Ninewa and the KRG, of which 64 cases are new.

In terms of capacity building for detention centre staff, during this quarterly period, 12 female detention centre staff at Badoosh Prison participated in children's rights training. A life skill manual for adult caregivers to be used also for the detention centre staff was developed and is currently being reviewed to incorporate feedback and lessons learned from the first life skills manual and to focus on working with children with disruptive behavior.

A long awaited event for children in detention centres was organized at the BCP for 80 children and their families. Another event was organized on International Women's day at the Al-Maqa prison for 31 girls and children of incarcerated mothers. Since there has been no age appropriate services were provided for those children of incarcerated mothers, this event was an opportunity for them to engage in psychosocial activities.

Output 4. Increased capacities of families and communities to provide care, protection and diversion services (UNICEF)

Community based prevention actions are on-going with the mobilization of communities and police forces to address risks and threats to children. Five meetings were conducted in Baghdad, Basra and Ninewa, participated by 126 community members including children and police officers. During this period, 35 university students (13 male; 22 female) participated in training on conflict mediation and life skills at the University of Baghdad. Parents are first and foremost responsible to prevent children coming into contact with the law. As of today, 314 parents were trained on conflict mediation and life skills development in the communities where the targeted schools are located in Baghdad, Basra and Ninewa. Student mediator elections were held in February 2012, resulting in 57 new mediators (24 boys; 33 girls) – a total of 877 student mediators were elected in Baghdad, Basra and Ninewa. Student mediators are said to be playing an important role in helping to peacefully resolve conflicts in the classrooms.

The training for Community Police in Baghdad and Juvenile Police officers faced challenges as the approval from the Mol has not granted. Specific equipment for community police has been designed; however, the agreement in the budget has not been reached with the vender. To promote the restorative justice, during this reporting period, 173 persons, targeting lawyers and law students participated in four awareness workshops in Baghdad and Basra.

Two awareness workshops were conducted with 71 lawyers at the Iraqi Bar Association (IBA: 23 men; 7 women) and the Iraqi Jurists Union (IJU: 36 men, 5 women) in Baghdad, while two workshops were also conducted with 101 law students (53 men and 48 women) as well as one male professor at the University of Basra College of Law and at the Shat Al Arab College of Law.

Six local mediation rooms were established within six youth centres to support the diversion of children from the formal judicial system and are continuously used in Basra.

Rehabilitation of the restorative justice training room has been completed. However, since the changing of the Dean of the College of Law, the process to establish the Restorative Justice Training and Research Unit has been halted. UNICEF and its partner conducted a meeting at the University of Baghdad to discuss the way forward and agreed to develop workplan to establish the Unit.

Output 5. Enhanced capacity of 400 duty bearers to provide better legal, judicial, rehabilitation and reintegration services to children and young people (UNICEF)

Cascade training has begun during this quarter after the training of trainers conducted for 16 government officials and 4 representatives from UNICEF's partner organization. As of today, 271 government officials have participated in the training, from DoI, DoJ, MoYS and DoYS, MoHR and DoHR, MoE and DoE, DoHE, MoH and DoH, HJC, DoLSA, and governorate council from Basra, Ninewa and Baghdad.

94 persons; 87 children (70 boys; 17 girls); as well as seven parents (1 father; 6 mothers) are currently receiving or have received psychosocial follow-up support in Baghdad, Basra, Ninewa, Erbil and Duhok. Monthly home visits are conducted with all children and their families. Community Case Managers also continue to identify appropriate educational programs, vocational training, and job placement opportunities for youth.

A total of 32 business owners (10 women; 22 men) participate in the paid apprenticeship program with the aim of facilitating the access to employment for released youth. The owners included a blacksmith, a restaurant owner, and three carpenters. During this period, 48 new children (in detention centres and outside after being released) participated in vocational training sessions to build youth's skills and sense of empowerment. The vocational training was also extended to the family members of the released children who are yet to be at the employable age or wish to continue their education (a total of 7 adults supported). 32 new children and 2 mothers of boys (less than 15 years old) participated in paid apprenticeship, reaching a total of 38 children to be placed in jobs. They will be placed in sectors with employment opportunities (sewing, hairdressing, photography, IT maintenance, maintenance of electric material); referrals for children released from detention will be facilitated.

During this period, IT training for children in detention centres was not conducted by UNICEF partner organization; however, because of the training courses provided by UNICEF and its partner organization, the BCP initiated and developed its own IT course (three months) – the computers are provided through this contribution. As of today, 10 juveniles have completed the course, and other 10 juveniles are currently taking the course. IT training will be expanded to another prison in Basra to reach female juveniles.

Child friendly packages consisting of recreational materials for children have been provided to detention facilities in Ninewa and Basra.

Regarding educational opportunity for children in MoJ facility, DoE, prison manager, UNICEF and its partners discussed and agreed to advocate the provision of caravans and teachers to enable children to continue their education. As well, DoH agreed to extend health services to Juvenile Police detention centres. These two initiatives are the successful outcome of the coordination of different departments working on Justice for Children in Basra.

UNICEF will further strengthen its partnership and explored new partnership in Baghdad, Ninewa, Basra, Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Duhok, and will visit other governorates such as Missan, Thiqr, Dyala and Kirkuk. In the KRG, UNICEF and its partner organization conducted three days training on Justice for Children for three local organizations and a representative from MoLSA.

Output 6. 300 Reformatory staff have an enhanced capacity to provide follow up services and

reintegration assistance to children and adolescents (UNFPA)

During this quarter, access to the MoLSA detention centres was not granted and the selection of the target detention centres was not completed, except for in the KRG.

In the KRG, Erbil Reformatory School was selected as the target facility. The results of the assessment on vocational needs by juveniles in the KRG showed that most of juveniles are interested in participating in training on electricity and air conditioner maintenance. As of today, 26 juveniles have expressed their interest in participating in vocational training. This is a four month course, comprising of vocational training, life skills and “know about your business” (a training methodology to provide entrepreneurship education to reduce youth unemployment). The vocational training is planned to be conducted in a MoLSA vocation training centre outside of the reformatory school due to lack of space within the reformatory school. The training is expected to start in May 2012.

UNFPA contracted the American University of Beirut to develop a psychosocial module as part of multi-dimensional package to enhance the psycho-social, health and education services in the reformatories. A draft module has been shared with UNFPA.

Main implementation constraints and challenges (2-3 sentences)

Departure of the US military forces pose a challenge and the security situation remains unpredictable as indiscriminate attacks on civilians including children occur daily basis all parts of Iraq. . The Arab Summit took place in Baghdad which brought ten leaders of 22 members of Arab league in late March; no major incidents were reported during the summit (only one explosion on the day of the opening of the summit). UNICEF continues to conduct direct monitoring of detention facilities, and to increase coordination and collaboration with local and international NGOs in order to better monitor the situation of children.

Since the beginning of 2012, bureaucratic procedures in resolving internal problems within the MoLSA have interrupted the implementation of the majority of the activities related to both UNICEF and UNFPA despite both organizations’ efforts in advocating the programme to be resumed so that children in detention centres can continuously receive the services and staff can receive trainings. MoLSA did not permit UNICEF, UNFPA and its partners to implement any activities within its detention facilities and did not allow its staff to conduct cascade training. This caused significant delays in the implementation of the programme.

Children in contact with the law are first dealt by Juvenile Police officers; however, due to the low number of officers, which are all located in the capital city, children are often detained at public police stations. It became more evident that capacity building of police officers is imperative as to provide assistance at the first place where children are exposed to the justice system. To address this issue, in coming months, we will first train Juvenile Police officers as well as community police officers for them to be equipped to deal with juveniles. This requires an approval from the Minister of the Ministry of Interior, which UNICEF and its partners are now advocating for.

In addition to the above mentioned, delay in the project implementation was caused by continuous changes in decision makers in the administration of the reformatories. Further efforts in advocacy to new managers and staff are required for the smooth implementation of the programme.