

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #:D2-26 Atlas # 00074326
3 May, 2012; Quarter 1: January – March 2012 (1st Quarter)

Participating UN Organisation: WHO

Sector: Health and Nutrition

Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Ministry of Health

Title	HIV/ AIDS Policy support and capacity building programme – Preparatory Phase				
Geographic Location	[Nationwide,]				
Project Cost	\$1,000,000				
Duration	12 months + 22 months extension				
SC Approval Date	23.02.2010	Starting Date	02.03.2010	Completion Date	02.03.2011 extended to 31.12.2012
Project Description	The project is structured around three Key Services Delivery Areas (SDAs): (i) Support to Policy Development and Planning (ii) Generation of Strategic Information (iii) Capacity Development and Training				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

The **main goal** of the project is to enhance the national HIV/AIDS response through proper policy development, information generation and capacity building. The interventions in this project demonstrate a growing UN and Government of Iraq commitment to achieve the MDGs and universal access to health and social services as envisioned in the Constitution, NDS (2007-2010) and the ICI.

The **immediate objectives** of the project are (a) development of the National AIDS Strategic Plan (b) development of M&E framework, M&E plan including surveillance plan, (c) establish surveillance system addressing most at risk and vulnerable populations and (d) capacity building of national program officers and NGO partners.

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement

Outputs	<p>Output 1.1 – Capacity of GOI and partners enhanced to develop HIV/AIDS related policies, plans and strategies in a participatory manner</p> <p>1.1.1 Enhanced capacity of the National HIV/AIDS committee and line ministries to develop a Health Sector Response Strategy on HIV/AIDS</p> <p>1.1.2 Enhanced capacity of National HIV/AIDS committee and line ministries to develop a national Multi-sectoral Strategic Plan on AIDS</p> <p>1.1.3 Enhanced institutional capacity of key ministries (Interior , Education , Displacement and migration , Women Affairs and Youth and Sports) to respond to HIV/AIDS)</p> <p>Output 1.2 – HIV/AIDS information generation system in place</p> <p>1.2.1 Enhanced capacity of the national AIDS committee and focal points at key ministries to develop an M& E plan and Second Generation Surveillance for the National Response on HIV/AIDS</p> <p>1.2.2 Support provided GOI to undertake studies and surveys on the HIV/AIDS among prisoners and IDUs</p> <p>1.2.3 Support provided GOI to undertake Qualitative and Formative Research on HIV/AIDS and Sex Work</p> <p>Output 1.3 – Enhanced capacity of the National AIDS Programme, NGO’s and Higher Committee on AIDS for better HIV/AIDS programming.</p> <p>1.3.1 Enhanced capacity of NAP officers and youth organizations on HIV/AIDS Youth Programming</p> <p>1.3.2 Enhanced capacity of women organizations to integrate gender and HIV/AIDS in development programming</p> <p>1.3.3 Enhanced capacity of MOH to integrate HIV/AIDS in MCH Programs</p> <p>1.3.4 Enhanced capacity of GOI, NGOs, UNCT and Higher Committee to better respond to the issue</p>
----------------	--

	of HIV/AIDS in Iraq 1.3.5 Capacity of humanitarian NGOs enhanced to integrate HIV/AIDS within their humanitarian Programs
Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop the NSP and conduct consensus and validation workshop for NSP development 2. Support resources mobilization through GF application by CCM 3. Conduct HIV/AIDS situation, response analysis and priority setting as part of NSP development process 4. Dialogue and advocacy meetings with the Ministries of Education, Women Affairs, Youth & Sports, Displacement & Migration and Interior on establishment of HIV/AIDS Units/focal points 5. Develop M&E framework, M&E plan with reporting tools 6. Develop protocol and implementation plan for second generation HIV surveillance activities 7. National training of surveillance officers on surveillance and M&E 8. Develop study protocols and implement assessment of HIV among prisoners and IDUs 9. Develop study protocol and implement assessment of HIV among FSWs 10. National training of NGOs and NAP officers on out of school youth programming 11. National training of NGOs and NAP officers on out in school youth programming 12. National training of women organizations on HIV and Gender 13. National training for MOH staff and NGOs on HIV integration in MCH program 14. Study tour for officers from the NAP, NGOs and Higher Committee to a country in the with good HIV program 15. National training of local NGOs in HIV/AIDS integration in humanitarian programs
Procurement	No major procurements were conducted.

Financial report

Budget (USD)	Committed funds (USD)	Committed funds (%)	Disbursed funds (USD)	Disbursed funds (%)
1,000,000	913,297	91%	816,713	81%

Agency share of budget

Agency	USD
WHO	614,359
UNDP	104,954
UNFPA	170,646
UNESCO	60,302
WFP	49,739
TOTAL	1,000,000

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men		0
Women		0
Children		0
IDPs		0
Others	The main beneficiary of the project will be the MOH, as it is the key duty bearer for formulation, implementation and monitoring of the HIV Control Program. Participants in the various trainings will also be direct beneficiaries.	0
Indirect beneficiaries	People living with HIV/AIDS, most at risk population, young people and institutions that would benefit from the policy and capacity building programs	0
Employment generation	This project doesn't directly generate local	0

(men/women)	employment. However, it offers opportunities for national officers and consultants to build their skills and utilize the skills gained for individual and social development.	
-------------	---	--

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNESCO and WFP implemented 100% of planned activities. Around 85% of activities assigned to WHO including responsibilities transferred from UNODC are implemented. UNDP's activities are linked to NSP development and will be completed with completion of NSP development process by May 2012. UNFPA has initiated development of TORs for initiation of assessment of HIV among FSWs. The Joint UN Team on functioning also as UNDG ITF coordination mechanism holds regular meetings every 2 months. Coordination and support among UN agencies has improved significantly. 		Overall 70%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results		
<p>WHO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In February, 27-29, a milestone was reached with the holding of a 3-day meeting for the development of the National HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Strategic Plan (NSP). The meeting took place under the leadership of the National AIDS Control Program (NAP), with the technical support of WHO and organizational support by UNDP. It was facilitated by an international consultant who is contracted by WHO to guide the process of the NSP development. The main outcomes of the 3-day meeting were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) completion of the NSP framework, 2) identification of priority areas and priority target groups, 3) collection of additional information on HIV/AIDS interventions in Iraq by other stakeholders, and 4) the selection of a Task Force to continue the development of the NSP together with the international consultant. The meeting was attended by the representatives of the following institutions: NAP, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Health – KRG HIV focal persons from Sulaimaniyah, Duhok and Erbil, the Iraqi Red Crescent, other local NGOs, ILO, UNAIDS and UNESCO. By the end of the Quarter, 40% of the work on the strategy was completed (the Epidemiology, Situation and Response Analysis, and the NSP framework). Next steps and dates were agreed on with the Task Force to complete the Results Framework, M&E plan, Operational Plan with costing. The meeting also provided a good forum for side-meetings between the different participants, especially between UN agencies and the ministries. Specifically useful was a side-meeting between NAP Manager from Baghdad with HIV/AIDS focal points in KRG and other MoH-KRG officials. The official communication channels between the two governments are witnessing tensions, and personal interaction resulted in a good level of exchange of information on the situation of HIV/AIDS in KRG and the rest of Iraq. The pre-surveillance assessment on Most at Risk Populations (MARPs) is now in its final stage. Data is currently collected from primary key informants as identified in the previous two assessment stages. The data collection team had received a refresher training course locally in Q4 of 2011. The findings of the pre-surveillance assessments among injecting drug users and prisoners will be highly informing to the national HIV strategy development. <p>UNESCO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDG – ITF activities finalized and report submitted. <p>WFP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDG – ITF activities finalized and report submitted. 		

UNDP

- UNDP has provided organizational and logistical support to the organization of the above mentioned workshop for the development of the National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS Control and Prevention. UNDP took charge of all arrangements.
- In addition, UNDP has already information on next steps towards the implementation of the NSP and is already preparing for the upcoming needed events.

UNFPA

- The recruitment of the consultant to conduct formative assessment on HIV/AIDS among female sex workers is under way.

Main implementation constraints & challenges (2-3 sentences)

- A main challenge remains implementing the planned HIV assessments among female sex workers in Iraq. General challenges relate to the administrative division of the Iraqi public health sector between the GoI and KRG. Decision taking processes at the central level are often not implemented in KRG, or decisions are taken in KRG for the three governorates only. The unintentional support to the creation of parallel systems needs to be avoided and efforts should be directed, at the level of this project, to encouraging joint decision making and implementation between the different administrative regions. The workshop for the NSP development mentioned above has demonstrated the importance of face-to-face meetings between officials of the two ministries to exchange information and coordinate.