

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #:D2-26 Atlas # 00074326
22 July, 2012; Quarter 2: April - June 2012

Participating UN Organisation: WHO (Lead) in partnership with UNDP, UNFPA, WFP and UNESCO **Sector: Health and Nutrition**

Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Ministry of Health

Title	HIV/AIDS Policy support and capacity building programme – Preparatory Phase				
Geo. Location	Nationwide				
Project Cost	\$1,000,000				
Duration	12 months + 16 months extension				
Approval Date (SC)	23.02.2010	Starting Date	02.03.2010	Completion Date	02.03.2011 extended to 30 June 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</p>
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	<p>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 of HIV/AIDS in Iraq</p> <p>1.3.5 Capacity of humanitarian NGOs enhanced to integrate HIV/AIDS within their humanitarian Programs</p>
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	829,128	83%	685,758	69%
Delay (months)				

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,	0

	implementation and monitoring of the HIV Control Program. Participants in the various trainings will also be direct beneficiaries.	
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 (men/women)	This project doesn't directly generate local employment. However, it offers opportunities for national officers and consultants to build their skills and utilize the skills gained for individual and social development.	0

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results	% of planned
<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. UNFPA has progressed initiating local partnerships and a cooperation agreement with the American University of Beirut which will both speed up the implementation of UNFPA project components. The last Joint UN Team on functioning also as UNDG ITF coordination mechanism held its regular meeting on 4 July 2012. Coordination and support among UN agencies has improved significantly. 	85%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results
<p>Since UNESCO and WFP have already finalized their components in this joint projects, the below is a description of the status of the project's remaining components by objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS Control (WHO and UNDP): By early March 2012, the strategic framework, the guiding principles of the strategy, and partner organizations to participate in national response were identified in a multi-sectoral national workshop held 27-29 February, 2012, facilitated by an international expert. The development of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) is ongoing. A 7-member task force was selected during that meeting to finalize the drafting of the NSP and its M&E plan. Further planned meetings of task force with external consultant were suggested to be held in Beirut or in Istanbul (outside of Iraq) in order to ensure presence of an external technical consultant who would not be able to travel to Baghdad because of security situation and restriction of movement for UN international staff and consultants. The suggested meetings could not convene in the first instance, because UNDP requested solution for workshop to be held inside Iraq in compliance with GoI directives to hold workshops inside Iraq. Erbil was suggested, but MoH did not approve that the workshop be in Erbil. To continue with the process, NAP-MoH is going to organize a local workshop in Baghdad to discuss and analyze the outputs of previous workshops, consultative discussions, and meetings, and to set up the next steps for finalization of the NSP. This workshop will find its continuation in Beirut under the guidance of the American University of Beirut. The option of utilizing the expertise of the AUB in Beirut without travel to Iraq is also agreed by NAP. The technical assistance is guaranteed through UNFPA's long-term agreement with the AUB. WHO and UNDP will jointly support the organization of the workshop to facilitate the nomination of the task force members to attend the meeting workshops in Baghdad and in Beirut. WHO, UNDP and UNFPA will ensure to optimize international and national staff inputs to NAP through intensified meetings with relevant authorities during their missions to Baghdad. Completion of the study on HIV/AIDS in Injecting Drug Users (IDUs) and prisons (WHO): The study on HIV/AIDS in Injecting Drug Users (IDUs) and prisons has been completed: the field work related to the study has been completed. The remaining task to complete the IDU and Prisons study is data analysis. For this purpose, a contract with the HIV Collaborative Center in Zagreb, Croatia, was signed to receive technical assistance for data analysis and report writing. In addition, the UNODC office in Egypt is providing technical support to the process.

- **Formative research among female sex workers (UNFPA):** the delay in the implementation comes from the difficulty of locating this hard-to-reach group because of high criminalization and stigmatization by local authorities and communities. In order to implement such focused formative research involvement of local NGOs is essential to locate and reach the target group. Because of the nature of the study which requires contacts with female sex workers (FSW) on the highly stigmatized subject of HIV, finding local partners (NGOs) who are willing to get involved as well as having at the same time the capacity to implement were major challenges. A second challenge in the implementation of this study was obtaining the specialized technical assistance to develop the study protocols and the research tools in the context of Iraq while travel of the technical assistance to Iraq was hindered because of the security situation. Agreement with the American University of Beirut has been signed by UNFPA to provide technical assistance to complete formative research among female sex workers, and two national consultants were recruited to supervise the field work. In addition, four local NGOs (Iraq Reproductive Health and Family Planning, the Iraqi Red Crescent, Salam Al-Rafidan, and Women Leadership Institute) under the coordination of Tajdid (NGO) are involved in the implementation of the field study in a way that ensures reaching this not easily accessible population group without stigmatization and criminalization by the local authorities.
- **Enhanced capacity of women and youth organizations to integrate gender and HIV/AIDS in development programming (UNFPA):** ToT trainings followed by 2 orientation workshops need to be conducted for the selected trainers from the 19 local NGOs on how to integrate HIV/AIDS into their programming.

Main implementation constraints & challenges (2-3 sentences)

1. The development of the **National Strategic Plan (NSP):** There have been difficulties in obtaining consent from MoH on convening the follow-up task force meetings to finalize NSP. Please see above for mitigation strategy.
2. **Formative research among female sex workers (FSW):** The main challenge was difficulty of locating this hard-to-reach group due to high criminalization and stigmatization by local authorities and communities. In order to implement such focused formative research, involvement of local NGOs is essential to locate and reach the target group. Because of the nature of the study which requires contacts with female sex workers on highly stigmatized subject of HIV, finding local partners (NGOs) who are willing to get involved as well as having at the same time the capacity to implement were the major challenges. A second challenge in the implementation of this study was obtaining the specialized technical assistance to develop the study protocols and the research tools in the context of Iraq while travel of the technical assistance to Iraq was hindered because of the security situation.
3. **Enhanced capacity of women and youth organizations to integrate gender and HIV/AIDS in development programming:** The challenge was identifying NGOs who are willing to include HIV planning into their programming, and also to find a local NGO (Tajdid) that could be assigned with coordination with the selected 19 NGOs on the ground to ensure trainings achieve their objectives.