

United Nations Development Group UNDAF Trust Fund
Project: 81968: P1-02
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Participating UN Organisation: UNDP

Sector: Governance and Human Rights

Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Ministry of Interior, Committee Number 80 leads., Ministry of Human Rights, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Women’s Affairs, High Committee of Women in KRG. Child Welfare Commission, Family Protection Directorates, Judiciary and Civil Society.

Title	Family Protection, Support, Justice and Security for Survivors of Domestic and Gender Based Violence				
Geo. Location	Iraq in Baghdad, Erbil and Basrah				
Project Cost	USD 3,967,880				
Duration	36 Months				
SC Approval Date	18.01.2012	Starting Date	12.03.2012	Completion Date	12.03.2015
Project Description	UNDP in conjunction with Iraqi stakeholders finalised the development of the Family Protection, Support, Justice and Security Programme to support the Government of Iraq’s efforts in creating a strategy to ensure that victims of domestic and gender based violence are offered refuge, reintegration and access to justice. Over the past two years UNDP has utilised core funds to increase understanding of the issues and implement limited activities to vulnerable women and children. This project will build on these initial activities and provide comprehensive technical and advisory support combined with extensive capacity development interventions for known key stakeholders, enhance capacity of formal and informal institutions to establish family protection systems and facilitate law enforcement and access to justice for the victims of violence. The project additionally looks towards mechanisms to empower victims, target groups and communities and establish mechanisms that assist reintegration back into their communities. This project will cooperate and build synergy with other UN Country Team agencies based on their respective mandates.				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

Relevant NDP Goal(s):

9.1.4 Reform the economic and legal institutions to ensure equality in rights and opportunities for men and women (family laws, protection from violence, property ownership, employment, political rights and inheritance).

Relevant UNDAF Priority Area Outcome:

Priority Area 1: Improved governance, including protection of human rights.

Outcome 1.3: Iraq has an improved legal and operational Rule of Law framework for administration and access to justice.

Priority Area 5: Investment in human capital and empowerment of women, youth and children.

Outcome 5.1: 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.

Outcome 5.5: The Iraqi state has institutionalized preventive and protective mechanisms to combat gender-based violence.

UNDP Country Programme Outcome 2:

Enhanced rule of law, protection and respect for human rights in line with international standards.

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement

Outputs	<p>Output 1: Policy and legislative reform supported for improved access to justice for gender based violence (GBV) survivors.</p> <p>Output 2: Enhanced law enforcement response to combating GBV and supporting GBV survivors and victims of trafficking.</p> <p>Output 3: National institutions strengthened to undertake social and economic empowerment and protection of GBV survivors.</p>
Activities	<p>Output 1: Policy and legislative reform supported for improved access to justice for GBV survivors.</p> <p>1.1 Central Government and Kurdistan Regional Government are provided with legislative and policy support for improved family protection and law enforcement.</p> <p>1.1.1 Specific advice and training for the core working group on how to address violence against women and children and victims of trafficking provided.</p> <p>1.1.2 Support the promotion and activities of committee 80 to ensure their impact on the legislative reform in moving forward the agenda of family support, justice and security.</p> <p>1.1.3 Support the core working group in the development of action plans and annual work and budget plans to further strategy on family support, justice and security.</p> <p>1.1.4 Support awareness raising activities to promote the KRG strategy and to ensure their impact and moving forward the agenda of family support, justice and security.</p> <p>1.2 Child Welfare Commission is supported with the development of Child Protection Policy.</p> <p>Output 2 Enhanced law enforcement response to combating GBV and supporting GBV survivors and victims of trafficking.</p> <p>2.1 Central Government and Kurdistan Regional government are supported with the referral mechanism for the new Family Protection Directorates, police support units and CSOs .</p> <p>2.1.1 Targeted training for Police from the Central Government and the Kurdistan Region. Training focuses on SOPs on how to run Family Protection Units (including study tours).</p> <p>2.1.2 Empowerment of female police officers working in the newly established Directorates through targeted training courses and increased awareness.</p> <p>2.1.3 Support the establishment of victim support units in police stations (Baghdad) to act as referral centres for the established Family Protection Directorates.</p> <p>2.1.4 Develop/adapt training material on combating violence against women and children for police officers and social workers working in Directorates to ensure continuous training and sustainability.</p> <p>2.1.5 Linkages developed between the Directorates and the criminal courts in their areas to ensure chain of evidence, i.e. testimony, preservation of physical evidence, necessary for successful prosecution - work with Criminal Court and the Social Research Department staff for capacity building in following up and handling cases.</p> <p>2.1.6 Develop advocacy strategy highlighting the role of family support, justice and security.</p> <p>2.1.7 Assess performance and impact of Directorates.</p> <p>2.1.8 Organize multi-stakeholder workshops to disseminate lessons.</p>

2.1.9 Support the development of an effective data base for newly established Directorates (design and training).

2.2 Relevant service providers have an enhanced capacity to deal with GBV cases.

2.2.1 Training for police, in particular female police officers, in interview techniques, investigations, forensics, chain of evidence, and how specifically to process cases of violence against women and children.

2.2.2 Trainings and advocacy for Ministry staff, Parliamentary staff, judges, lawyers and judicial staff on gender sensitive/human rights based approach methodology to addressing violence against women and children in relation to the workings of the Family Protection Directorates.

2.2.3 Organize awareness raising workshops on combating violence against women and children and the link with human rights and the rule of law. Encourage target groups to participate in policy reviews and improved legislative frameworks.

2.2.4 Trainings for health care workers, i.e. medical staff, counsellors, psychologists, on dealing with victims of violence. This includes developing of referrals protocols that will support the implementation of the CVAW programme and link up with the Directorates.

2.2.7 Organize trainings on the revised JTI and Police Academy curricula and train ToTs in the respective rule of law institutions on GBV and role of FPDs.

2.3 NGOs working on providing legal aid have an enhanced capacity on family protection and violence prevention.

2.3.1 Initial mapping and capacity assessment of NGOs providing legal aid nationwide to victims of violence. This includes the Iraqi Bar Association.

2.3.2. Support establishment of an effective referral system linking NGOs with Directorates and prosecution services which includes provision of financial and logistical support to NGOs offering legal aid to victims of all forms of GBV.

2.4. Relevant NGOs have an enhanced capacity on child protection issues

Output 3: National institutions strengthened to undertake social and economic empowerment and protection of GBV survivors.

3.1 Development of shelter policy to the development of shelter policy at central and KRG level supported, participation of civil society ensured.

3.1.1 Policy advice and technical support given on shelter policy in both Central Level and the Kurdistan Region and the development of plan of action.

3.1.2 Develop a policy framework based on a situational analysis to facilitate the reintegration of shelter clients back into the community.

3.2 Female shelters and safe houses supported through institutional strengthening and capacity development.

3.2.1 Mapping of NGOs providing shelter or refuges to victims of violence, including advocacy and workshops.

3.2.2 Support to existing NGO managed shelters for victims of violence including a national conference for lessons learned.

3.2.3 Capacity building provided to shelter staff on management, budgets, resource mobilization, etc.

3.2.4 Develop/adapt training material on working with victims of violence for shelter staff

	(also to GoI). 3.2.5 Specialized training provided to shelter staff on dealing with victims of violence. 3.3 NGOs offering shelter support to women strengthened to provide referral support. 3.3.1 Provision of capacity building, financial and logistical support to NGOs providing support to women and women victim of violence that can act as referral centres. 3.3.2 Develop linkages with on-going UNCT economic empowerment/private sector development programs.
Procurement	Too early in the life cycle of the project.

Trache funding for the project through the UNDAF Trust Fund

Funds Committed	USD 338,233.75	% of approved	29.2%
Funds Disbursed	USD 137,688.82	% of approved	11.9%
Forecast final date	30 March 2015	Delay (months)	0

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results

Output 1: Policy and legislative reform supported for improved access to justice for GBV survivors	20%
Output 2: Enhanced law enforcement response to combating GBV and supporting GBV survivors and victims of trafficking.	20%
Output 3: National institutions strengthened to undertake social and economic empowerment and protection of GBV survivors.	10%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

This project has evolved out of UNDP core resources which initiated as a response to gender based violence. The earlier work as a start-up project will be built upon within this 36 month project. The summary below outlines the key achievements of the previous project which hands over to this project at initiation:

- The start-up project significantly expanded its base in KRG, Baghdad and Basrah. At the moment, this project is at full capacity in terms of human resources, which contributes positively to effective engagement with Iraqi partners and regular consultations with Government and civil society.
- In Baghdad 12 out of 16 Family Protection Units (FPU) have been established within police stations which is a temporary arrangement. A total of 42 female police officers have been appointed, representing 11% of the FPUs' cadre. In KRG, all Family Protection Directorates located outside the police station are fully operational. A total of 98 female police officers have been appointed including: 35 female officers in Sulaymaniyah, 24 female officers in Dahuk, and 39 female officers in Erbil. The establishment of the FPU contributed to the achievement of two objectives:
- A reporting mechanism has been put in place for gender based violence (GBV) victims. In the last four months of 2011, more than 2,000 cases have been reported to the FPUs in Baghdad.
- Two of the major achievements of the start-up project were the adoption of the Domestic Violence Bill (DVB) in KRG and the development of a draft Domestic Violence Law in Baghdad.
- UNDP is effectively engaged with UN Women and other UN agencies to provide comments and improve the status of the Domestic Violence Law in Baghdad.
- Currently, the criminal code is the applicable law for domestic violence (DV) and gender based violence (GBV) cases. Gender based violence victims in Iraq are frequently not willing to report cases due to the lack of an adequate legal framework. The future adoption of the DV Bill will strengthen the capacity of the justice system to provide effective, efficient, justice services; will likely encourage women and children to report their cases and build victim's confidence in the judicial system.
- A training course was organized for 34 FPUs' staff from all Governorates in Iraq, including seven female police officers which focused on mechanisms to approach domestic violence cases. This course

was conducted by seven trainers from the Jordanian Family Protection Directorate on 1-18 December 2011 in Erbil.

The outcomes of the training were:

1. The trainees learned about domestic violence and the mechanisms to systematically handle domestic violence cases and victims.
 2. Exposure to the Jordanian experience, which was considered highly relevant in the Iraqi context due to the cultural and social similarities.
 3. This was the first forum for federal and regional integration among FPU staff.
- In the KRG, advisory support was provided to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA) in developing shelter policy. MOLSA will share the resultant shelter policy framework with Shura Council for approval and adoption. This policy defines the Government commitment to establish shelters for gender based and domestic violence victims.
 - This project was approved by the UNDAF Trust Fund and initiated in March 2012.

Achievements for 2nd Quarter 2012 which was initiation of this Project

- Technical support has been provided to the Family Protection Units (FPU) to develop a strategic framework and a three year action-plan defining the mandate and the structure of the FPUs and how the FPU will engage with line ministries and civil society. The Committee Number 80 endorsed the proposed strategy and recommended immediate adoption. This Strategic Framework has been shared with the Ministry of Interior (MoI) for final approval. The Strategic Framework will strengthen the capacity of FPUs to provide efficient services and ensure fund allocation in the Federal Budget for MoI.
- During this reporting period a total of 709 cases have been reported to three FPUs in Basrah and Baghdad out of which 117 cases have been processed in Court.
- In the KRG technical support has been provided to FPU Directors to facilitate and develop respective strategies and action-plans which have been endorsed and adopted by FPUs, Directorate for Tracing Violence Against Women, MoI/ Director of the Police.
- Continuous and ongoing activities in both Central and KRG to promote the role of the FPUs and support FPUs to move forward with prevention and protection of gender based and domestic violence including Three workshops were held respectively in Baghdad, Erbil and Basrah targeting government officials and international actors. These workshops were attended by high profile Government Officials, Governorate Council members and civil society. Results have been published on the UNDP website and UN newsletter. These workshops provided a forum for Government officials and CSOs to sensitize relevant stakeholders with the roles and responsibilities of the FPUs. This will contribute effectively in developing strategy on how FPUs will engage with line ministries and CSOs.
- Under this project, UNDP supported the establishment of the Gender Based Violence and Domestic Violence Legal Aid Help Desk at the Erbil Court. UNDP, in consultations with national counterparts, secured the approval of the KRG Judiciary and the Bar Association to modify the Terms of Reference of the Legal Aid Help Desk to target and focus on GBV and DV cases. The Legal Aid Help Desk will work very closely with Directorate for Tracing Violence Against Women and the Family Protection Units to provide free legal assistance. Additionally, the Help Desk will partner with different academic institutions to further research this particular area of legal assistance and domestic violence. The recruitment of a legal aid expert for 12 months is underway to assist in the institutionalization of the Help Desk and advance legal aid services in Iraq.
- Strategic partnership has been established with the Ministry of the Interior and the Police Academy. UNDP is working in partnership with the Police Advisor on developing and supporting training for FPU staff with linkages being developed with the Police Academy for the provision of needed support. A UNDP consultant is developing the training strategy to enhance the capacity of the law enforcement

officers to investigate GBV and DV cases as well as the development of terms of reference for respective trainings. A draft document has been prepared and is under consultations with national partners. It is anticipated that the training framework may be developed and endorsed late 3rd Quarter 2012 and at that time commencement of training will initiate.

- UNDP provided support to create Intake forms for the development of the SOP for the FPU. UNDP partnered with UN Information Analysis Unit to develop the National Database, using the intake forms, and to provide for capacity building for the creation of the database. The first training course was organized in the KRG, where intake forms have been endorsed. In Baghdad, discussion is ongoing with FPU and MoI for their approval. This is considered a strategic step, the national database will assist GoI to promote prevention mechanisms and ensure proper follow up at all levels.
- The training of trainers workshop on *Access to Justice for the Victims of GBV and DV* is scheduled for 8th July 2012. The project team consulted with stakeholders about the desirability of holding two workshops, one in Erbil and one in Baghdad, due to the fact that KRG has different legal system as KRG passed and adopted the Domestic Violence Law. However, stakeholders expressed that there was value in bringing together the experiences from Iraq and the Kurdistan Region to promote dialogue and share experiences. This course will be led by Iraqi nationals and supported by an international expert.
- UNDP and partners have consulted broadly to identify potential national trainers and to ensure the availability and commitment of trainers to participate in the four month training programme that is identified in this project.
- As a result of the continuous lobby for prompting the role of the Family Protection Units (FPU), UNDP has engaged the Judiciary as an important institution in the prevention of GBV and DV. The High Judicial Council has appointed Judges for domestic violence cases in 89% of the Governorates who been assigned to resolve cases referred by Family Protection Units and other cases of gender based and domestic violence. To ensure that capacity is strengthened, UNDP has secured the approval of the Judicial Training Institute (JTI) to build the capacity of the selected Judges on handling GBV and DV cases. The training course will target Judges, including the 16 DV Judges and students of the JTI.