



**IRFFI/UNDG IRAQ TRUST FUND (UNDG ITF)  
ANNUAL PROGRESS NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT  
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY –31 DECEMBER 2010**

***Submitted by:***

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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***Country and Thematic Area***

Iraq, Agriculture and Food Security Sector

***Programme No:*** A5-27

***Programme Title:*** Strengthening the capacity of the Iraqi Veterinary Services for control of Zoonotic and transboundary animal diseases

***Participating UN Organization:***

Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)

***Implementing Partners:***

Iraq Ministry of Agriculture

***Project Budget [and revision if applicable]:***

UNDG/ITF: USD 3,000,000

Government contribution: USD 2,748,000 (in kind)

***Programme Duration (in months):*** 18

Start date: 29.01.2009

• Original end date: 29.07.2010

• First extension : 30.04.2011

## I. Purpose

The project aims to strengthen the technical and institutional capacity of the Iraqi veterinary services for effective surveillance and control of zoonotic and transboundary diseases in order to protect livestock from losses and reduce serious threats to human health and safety. Protecting livestock from epidemic and endemic diseases and increasing the local production through efficient veterinary services will increase the supply of healthy meat and other animal products (milk, eggs, etc) and will contribute to improve human nutrition, household food security and employment. Furthermore, control of zoonotic diseases in animals will decrease the risk of contamination among the farmers and general public consumers.

The immediate objectives of this project are:

1. Strengthening of the capacity of the Iraqi veterinary services in disease prevention and control
2. Effective surveillance and control of targeted zoonotic and transboundary animal diseases

The key outputs of the project are:

- 1.1 Improved veterinary organization and legislation.
- 1.2 Strengthened institutional capacity for senior veterinary managers
- 1.3 Strengthened capacity for epidemiology and disease information analysis at the central level.
- 1.4 Strengthened capacity of surveillance and response systems at the provincial and local levels.
- 1.5 Strengthened laboratory capacity for investigation, diagnosis and surveillance of major livestock and poultry diseases.
- 1.6 Strengthened capacity in veterinary border control and inspection.
- 2.1 Sound control strategies for priority animal diseases (FMD, HPAI, Brucellosis, etc) developed and agreed by stakeholders at all levels.
- 2.2 Targeted and active surveillance programmes in place and implemented for priority animal diseases.
- 2.3 Strategic disease control programmes implemented and monitored.

FAO will ensure project activities are integrated into the overall UN strategy for Iraq. This supports the Iraqi National Development Strategy while contributing to the Millennium Development Goals.

### ICI

This project is in line with the International Compact with Iraq through goal 4.6 which strives “to develop a stable, competitive and sustainable agriculture to enhance food security and rural incomes, generate rural employment, diversify economic growth and protect the natural environment.” The benchmarks of relevant in the above are:

- 4.6.4. Improve institutional and regulatory underpinning of public agriculture
- 4.6.5. Carry out investment plans

This project will contribute to the above goal through:

- Strengthen critical public support organization through capacity building for agricultural planning, monitoring, oversight, research, extension, pest and disease control, quality standard and certification. Increase income generation opportunities at community level
- Expand the middle class in Iraq through solid education and business opportunities to reduce living standard gaps, increase consumption and redistribution growth.

## NDS:

The project is designed to directly contribute to Iraq's National Development Strategy through its first pillar (Strengthening the foundations of economic growth), and the following NDS prioritized actions:

- Development of a viable agricultural research and extension service to develop and disseminate successful production practices to restore agricultural productivity;
- Increasing production and productivity and boost rural job creation.
- To a certain extent, the project is also linked with the fourth pillar (Improving the quality of life) since controlling zoonotic disease will directly impact human health. Main priority action is:
- Intensifying communicable disease control activities.

## **II. Resources**

### Financial Resources

*Other funding resources available to the project:*

The government is contributing in kind support totalling US\$ 2,748,000

### Human Resources

*National Staff & Consultants:*

One NPC from MOA staff who is coordinating between the project management and MOA and follow up the implementation of the project activities.

*International Staff:*

One International Project Manager, based in Amman, who is in charge of the implementation of all the project activities in coordination with the NPC, MOA and the local councils, and who is preparing monthly, quarterly and yearly reports to the FAO headquarters and donors.

## **III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements**

This project is executed by FAO and implemented jointly by the project management and Ministry of Agriculture (MOA). FAO assists the veterinary body of the MOA, the State Veterinary Company, in strengthening its capacity at central and regional branches for zoonotic and trans-boundary disease control and surveillance. These activities are considered as "public goods" and therefore fall under the responsibility of the government. In addition, FAO is providing technical assistance, expertise and management services. The project is implemented with full participation and significant resource inputs from the Iraqi MOA and allied institutions. The development and delivery of the project is achieved through a participatory approach including consultations and interactions with key national veterinary staff and training of trainers who, in turn, will train regional veterinary staff.

Inter-agency and Sector Outcome Team (SOT) cooperation is sought concerning the exchange of data and information. In particular, FAO is cooperating and exchanging data with WHO concerning zoonotic diseases transmissible to humans.

Due to the prevailing poor security situation at present in Iraq, management by international staff is done from FAO-Iraq offices in Amman, Jordan. Management decisions are influenced by periodic progress reports from the field. The Project Manager stationed in Amman will be in constant communication with the National Project Coordinator (NPC) in Iraq via telephone, e-mail and video conferencing and will visit the field whenever it is possible. The NPC will also travel to Amman when necessary to discuss programme planning, monitoring, and technical specification and bids evaluation review on procurement

issues. The Project Steering Committee also meeting in Amman, will provide guidance on the implementation of activities and recommend alternative course of actions when required.

*Te procurement procedures utilized:*

The standard FAO procurement procedures, consisting of tendering through an invited bidding process, are being applied for procurement of all goods and services for this project. However, during the needs identification and procurement process, the endorsement from the Iraqi Ministries for FAO purchases for all equipment and/services is obtained in order to assure maximum ownership, transparency and appropriateness of goods being procured.

MOA's involvement in FAO Procurement Process is as follows:

- FAO and MoA Identification of inputs or services required
- Preparation of detailed specifications, drawings, delivery time and destination
- Listing of local potential suppliers provided by Iraqi Line Ministry and FAO Procurement Service;
- Tenders launched by FAO inviting local and international potential suppliers;
- Technical review of the offers received and preparation of recommendation carried out jointly by FAO/Iraqi Line Ministry;
- Purchase Orders or Contracts issued by FAO.

*Te monitoring system:*

For regular monitoring and follow up on implementation of the project, the following monitoring systems will be used: telephone calls, e-mails and reports as well as periodic visits to Amman of NPC and the counterparts (national counterparts and MOA) and to Iraq by the project manager (whenever it is permitted) and continuous copying of the chain of events and correspondence to all pertinent parties.

For reporting purposes, a monthly progress report from the NPC in the field is received by the PROJECT MANAGER who in turn prepares a quarterly monitoring report consisting of parameters, such as project activities as outlined in the work plan, projected dates for the completion of the outlined activities and current status of each project activities both in terms of time and status of work. The Project Manager then submits the reports to the OIC of FAO-Iraq Programme for necessary action and on-forwarding to the Operations Division at headquarters

#### **IV. Results**

- a) The equipment provided to MoA has better enabled them for livestock and poultry disease investigation, diagnosis, and surveillance, using the extension time. This will help MoA to use equipment effectively after all training sessions are completed. Such equipment is not available in the local market easily and therefore international tenders have already been issued to purchase and install the equipment. In addition, Chemical, regents and kits were also delivered.
- b) Training has been an important component of the project, with a successful training for two veterinarians from GSCVS on Brucellosis was undertaken for four weeks in FAO/WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Brucellosis/OIE Brucellosis National Reference Laboratory /Veterinary Laboratories Agency/Weybridge/UK. Four veterinarians from GSCVS/MOA have joint a training course on Rabies for four weeks from 21/9/2010 in Morocco. The training is conducted by Hassan Second Agronomy and veterinary Medicine in Rabat. Second National workshop on Rabies disease was conducted in Baghdad. More than 150 veterinarians from all governorates of Iraq participated.

c) Workshop about veterinary Epidemiology and Animal Disease Surveillance for fifteen MOA/GSCVS officials successfully conducted in Amman during 23-25/11/2010.

d) An international FMD and Legislation workshop are also going to be conducted using the extension period. Virology training will be last component of training outputs with vaccination campaign to follow.

e) Lab equipments, chemical, regents, glassware and the extra list of equipments submitted by GSCVS have been delivered to MOA.

f) Second Project Steering Committee Meeting held in Amman on 13 – 14 January 2010

After a comprehensive discussion on the project document including all activities addressed on this project, it was agreed by all participants on the following:

- Additional list of equipment and supplies was prepared according to MOA request and the second PSC decision to assist in the disease surveillance component of the project.
- Negotiations have conducted with the Brucellosis Unit at AFSSA France to hold the training on Laboratory Diagnosis of Brucellosis. The institute contacted FAO that the LOA cannot be signed until approval is given by the AFSSA administration which may delay the process for months. FAO started to look for alternative institutes in Spain (Zaragoza) and UK (Weighbridge). Successful contact was maintain with “FAO/WHO Collaborating centre for Reference and Research on Brucellosis” in UK.
- Representatives from MoA requested that additional supplies be procured to assist in the disease surveillance.
- Surveillance and awareness field activities related to the project will be covered by the project budge under output 1.4.
- Training indicated in output 1.2 (strengthening institutional capacity for senior veterinary managers) will be covered under a number of workshop in amman on more technical aspects such as risk based surveillance, veterinary legislation and control strategies remaining to be developed for certain selected key diseases.

g) Third Project Steering Committee Meeting held in Amman on 13 – 14 January 2010.

The meeting decision is listed hereunder:

- Regarding the output 1.2 (strengthening institutional capacity for senior veterinary managers), it was decided that two workshops to be conducted, the first will be training course for the field veterinarians, while the second will be a high level meeting for experts and senior veterinarian officials along with a representative from MoA legal office, where they will cover through this meeting technical aspects.
- FAO will explore with UN the possibility to obtain”Approval” on the construction of new FMD center in Iraq.
- FAO follow up on the FMD proposal with the EU and share again the latest submitted proposals with MoA.
- The Virology training proposed to program to be sent by National project Coordinator.
- According to MoA request the project Steering Committee (PSC) endorsed 4<sup>th</sup> nominee from the MoA to be on the Project Steering Committee.

*Te key outputs achieved in the reporting period including # and nature of the activities (inputs), % of completion and beneficiaries.*

<b>Quantitative achievements against objectives and results</b>		
General - training	Identification of training needs	100
	Preparation of ToRs for courses	80
	Identification of training institutes	80
<b>Outputs 1.1</b> Strengthened veterinary institutional capacity	Preparation of ToRs	100
	Review veterinary organization and legislation	560
	Prepare paper and present/circulate to PSC meeting	50
<b>Output 1.2:</b> Strengthened institutional capacity for senior veterinary managers	Identification of training site (workshops to be organized by FAO in Amman)	80
	Contracting of trainer/institute	50
	Selection of trainees	20
	Implementation of training	0
<b>Outputs 1.3</b> Strengthened capacity for epidemiology and disease information analysis at the central level	Identification of required equipment	100
	Procurement of required equipment	80
	Identification of training site	100
	Contracting of trainer/institute	100
	Selection of trainees	100
<b>Outputs 1.4</b> Strengthened capacity of surveillance and response systems at the provincial and local levels	Identify information gaps and technical knowledge needs	100
	Identification of training site	100
	Contracting of trainer/institute	100
<b>Outputs 1.5</b> Strengthened laboratory capacity for investigation, diagnosis and surveillance of major livestock and poultry diseases	Identification of required equipment	100
	Procurement, installation of equipment in selected labs	80
	Identification of training site	100
	Selection of trainees	100
	Contract IZSVE/Italian	100
	Training implementation	100
<b>Outputs 1.6</b> Strengthened capacity in veterinary border control and inspection	Assess key strategic crossings: functioning, volumes, needs, etc	80
	Identification of training site (ToT)	0
	Contracting of trainer/institute	0
<b>Outputs 2.1</b> Sound control strategies for priority animal diseases (FMD, LPAI/ND, Rabies, Brucellosis) developed and agreed at all levels	Prepare checklist/criteria to identify priority animal diseases	100
	PSC to agree on priority animal diseases	100
	Prepare brief justification for MoA priority diseases	100
	Identification and recruitment of consultant(s)	100
Brucellosis training	Identification of training institutes	100
	Selection of trainees	100
	Contractual process of the training course on Brucellosis with FAO/WHO Collaborating centre for Reference and Research on Brucellosis OIE Brucellosis National Reference Laboratory, Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Surrey, ongoing	100
Rabies training	Identification of training institutes	100

	Selection of trainees	100
	Successful contract was maintained with Veterinary Laboratories Agency in Weybridge, UK. Negotiations regarding TOR; training programme nomination; nominees CVs, logistic arrangements and budget required and conducting the training are completed.	100
<b>Outputs 2.2</b> Targeted and active surveillance programmes in place and implemented for priority animal diseases	Planning of sero-surveillance campaigns for targeted diseases	100
	MOA official team selection	100
	4 National workshops to be conducted in Baghdad for the 400 veterinarian nominated to this programme	50
<b>Outputs 2.3</b> Strategic disease control programmes implemented and monitored	Field workshops and meeting have occurred.	100
	Eight posters and folders with 8,000 copies to be designed, printed and distributed nationwide	100

*Explain, if relevant, delays in programme/project implementation, the nature of the constraints actions taken to mitigate future delays and lessons learned in the process (if relevant):*

Some delays developed because of difficulties in obtaining entry visas for the Iraqi trainees in many counties, be it because of restrictive visa policies, long and time consuming procedures or because of absences of embassies in Baghdad where to apply for visa. Since many training courses are on dangerous zoonotic diseases, also vaccination, health and antibody checking protocols as imposed by the training institute are not easy to comply with in the Iraqi context.

Also the identification of required equipment and the subsequent preparation of technical specifications for large amounts of equipment and supplies, through the agreed collaborative process between FAO and MOA experts, was important but time consuming.

This project is being extended in order to conduct additional training and procurement of laboratory equipment. Most of the training that was outlined under the objectives and outputs has been completed, and the remaining budget is allocated for procurement of modern disease diagnosis equipment, however with remaining budget and emergency need for training on rabies, virology, FMD, and additional training sessions have been planned in the next 4 months.

The additional equipment, which MoA has requested to better enable them for livestock and poultry disease investigation, diagnosis, and surveillance, is urgently required to be completed, using the extension time. This will help MoA to use equipment effectively after all training sessions are completed. Such equipment is currently not available in MoA or in the local market easily and therefore international tenders have already been underway to purchase and install the equipment.

In light of the above, the project has been extended for nine to complete the remaining project activities.

*The key partnerships and collaborations, and explain how such relationships impact on the achievement of results.*

The project is implemented with significant resource inputs from the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture and allied institutions. FAO assists the veterinary body of the MOA, the State Veterinary Company, strengthening the capacity at all its central and regional branches for zoonotic and trans-boundary disease

control and surveillance. These activities are considered as “public goods” and therefore fall under the responsibility of the government.

Inter-agency and SOT cooperation is sought concerning exchange of data and information. In particular, FAO seeks cooperation and exchange data with WHO concerning zoonotic diseases transmissible to humans.

*Other highlights and cross-cutting issues pertinent to the results being reported on.*

Cross cutting issue pertinent to the results can be indicated only after complete the implementation of the activities, however the ultimate beneficiaries of the proposed project will be the sedentary and the nomadic livestock owners of Iraq, currently estimated at 575 000 households, who will benefit from the delivery of effective disease prevention and control services to their animals. Their communities will face lower risks from zoonotic diseases such as Brucellosis.

#### Employment generation:

In the short-term:

One of the measures to be taken by the GOI for the surveillance and control of Avian Influenza is the establishment of village surveillance networks of so-called “epidemic guards” drawn from village farmers and dwellers. A total of 400 veterinarians will be recruited and employed in all governorates to support these “epidemic guards.” Policies are furthermore aimed at contracting private veterinarians for the implementation of vaccination campaigns, which will further stimulate the private veterinary sector. This way, an estimated 500 private veterinarians could benefit from the programme.

In the longer term:

In the longer term, an efficient control and surveillance disease programme will reduce mortality of animals and increase the national herd and production of domestic livestock production, which will generate associated farming and employment opportunities. This will generate further indirect employment in the production of fodder and roughage requirements, dairy processing, marketing, etc.

#### Gender equality

The labor force in the rural farming community comprises of both men and women, with the latter traditionally having an important role in livestock rearing and management of farm animals. Therefore, both will be specifically targeted in the extension and awareness campaigns. A considerable number of women are also being employed in the Veterinary Department. As already occurred in previous projects interacting with this Department, the project will continue to assure that women are invited and will actively participate in human resource development activities such as workshops and technical and managerial training courses.

#### Key environmental issues

Appropriate management of the herds in terms of hygiene and health care will result in enhanced productivity, better fertility and higher reproductive efficiency of the cows together with lower mortality of the calves. Improvement of production and food intake efficiency will diminish soil and ground water contamination by waste and excess nitrates and phosphorus excretion. However, animal byproducts and manure will enable organic farming as organic fertilizer can replace chemical fertilizers.

Furthermore, a safe and healthy livestock will generate a safe environment for workers and farmers by reducing the risk of zoonotic disease infection.



## Human rights

Adequate nutrition and income are basic and fundamental human rights essential for human dignity. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, clearly states that everyone has the right to a standard of living that is adequate for their health and wellbeing, including food. The project seeks to contribute to raising the health status of farm animals (and thereby their productivity and income for the farmer) as well as of the Iraqi population (by reducing the incidence of zoonotic diseases in animals and humans).

## **V. Future Work Plan**

The balance activities to be completed during the reporting period are summarised as follows:

1. Capacity building ;
  - a- Strengthened veterinary institutional and managerial capacity
  - b- Strengthened diagnosis and control of FMD.
  - c- Strengthened capacity of surveillances and responses systems at the provincial and local levels
  - d- In-country training rapid outbreak response processes and procedures
2. Finalize review of veterinary legislation
3. Strategic diseases control programme implemented and monitored
4. Diseases information centre functioning and supported
5. Sero-surveillance campaigns for targeted diseases fully implemented
6. Procurements of laboratory equipments, chemicals and supplies.

## **VII. Abbreviation and Acronyms**

*List the main abbreviations and acronyms that are used in the report.*

TAD	Transboundary animal diseases
AI	Artificial Insemination
ET	Embryo Transfer
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
HPAI	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
GSCVS	General State Company for Veterinary Services
GOI	Government of Iraq
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
NDS	Iraq National Development Strategy
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NPC	National Project Coordinator
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOI	Ministry of Industry
PSC	Project steering committee
SOT	Sector outcome team
OIC	Officer in charge