



APPROVED  
05 AUG 2013



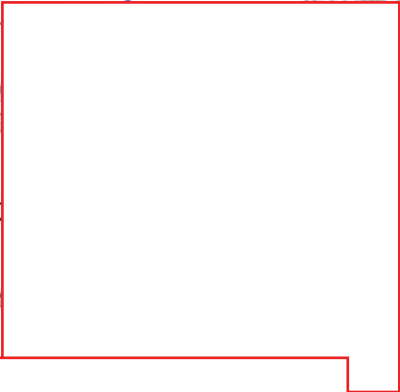
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
IRAQ UNDAF FUND

To: Jim Pansegrouw, RC a.i  
Acting Co-Chair – Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee

Thamir Ghadban, Government of Iraq  
Co-Chair – Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee

Through: Simon Strecher  
Head, Iraq Office

From: Bashar A. Al-Sayid  
Programme Management Committee



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APPROVAL OF PROGRAMME REVISION REQUEST (C)  
FINAL EXTENSION

Project Number:	P3-01
Project Title:	Development of National Framework for Integrated Drought Risk Management (DRM) in Iraq
Participating Agency:	UNDP(Coordinating Agency), UNESCO , FAO, UNEP
Project Start Date:	30 August 2011
Project End Date:	30 May 2012
First Revision	Time Extension until 31 December 2012
Second Revision	Time Extension until 31 July 2013 (UNDP & UNESCO) and until 31 December 2013 (FAO & UNEP), Movement of funds, Change of Scope and Request for Additional Funds (UNEP & FAO)

Type of Programme /project variation requested

- Extension of project duration **31 March 2014**
- Movement of funds between project budget components
- Change of project scope
- Request for additional funds

SCSO Comments:

The total budget for this joint programme is US\$ 759,884. Programme is around 50% complete.

Agency	Budget (\$)	Commitments (\$)	Disbursements (\$)
UNDP	264,883	208,466 (79%)	65,087 (25%)
UNESCO	215,001	135,947(63%)	107,293 (50%)
UNEP	140,000	40,000 (29%)	40,000 (29%)
FAO	140,000	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>759,884</b>	<b>384,413 (51%)</b>	<b>212,380 (28%)</b>



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### Background

The programme is jointly undertaken by UNDP and UNESCO in close consultation with other UN partners. It supports the Government of Iraq (GoI) to conduct a series of technical assessments of existing Drought Risk Management (DRM) capacities and vulnerabilities, and carry out a series of consultations and consensus-building activities to build a common understanding of drought impacts and risk management measures. It also exposes the GoI to international good DRM practices.

Because of the strong linkages between drought, desertification and dust storms, the need for coherent-integrated approaches were proposed. Therefore, additional two outputs (implemented by UNEP and FAO) were integrated into the current DRM programme in March 2013.

#### A. Request for Time Extension

A time extension of 8 months is requested ( until 31 March 2014) to complete remaining activities to achieve output 1&2 ( implemented by UNDP and UNESCO) and 3 months for UNEP and FAO (until 31 March 2014)

### Justification

UNDP and UNESCO activities were planned to be closed by 31 July 2013. However , both agencies encountered several constraints that resulted in delays in implementation as explained below:

#### UNDP

- Staff turnover within the programme has delayed the process to sign the contract with ICARDA, which had an agreement in previous discussion with UNDP. Direct contract with ICRDA was signed earlier; however the long-term contract (LTA) agreement with the institute was expired while absence of the programme staff. Therefore, a new TOR/RFP had to be prepared. Due to the reasons above, the programme was delayed for 3 months (including, advertisement, technical and financial evaluation, and contract agreement with new service provider)
- The Contract Asset Procurement (CAP) meeting was postponed for three weeks in May for the approval process due to the unavailability of the CAP's Committee. ELARD, selected consultants, had some concerns on UNDP clauses and Procurement department sought help to UNDP HQ to clarify the terminologies. The process were delayed for another two weeks in order to be resolved.

#### UNESCO

- UNESCO attempted to finalize activities (the mapping exercise and best practices) by end of July 2013. However, taking into consideration that the holy month of Ramadan followed by the EID-holidays, the workshop will not be organized before September/October 2013. Therefore, UNESCO recommends extending the program till end of March 2014 in line with UNDP, UNEP and FAO to provide the consolidated outcomes to the Task Force Members to finalize all joint activities planned and most importantly to share with the Iraqi partners the outputs of the programme.





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UNEP

- Programme payment transfer was made in March 2013 and the planning process (including the contract) took three months, therefore the extension until March 2014 is requested in order to provide deliverables in a timely manner.

Immediately after receiving the programme installment in March 2013, UNEP initiated the planning process of the programme with FAO and the Ministry of Environment. The inception workshop took place from 3-5 July 2013 with the participation of 11 members of the Science Group drawn from the DRM Task Force nominated by the Ministry of Environment and PMAC. UNEP conducted preliminary literature review on the subject through a regional assessment prepared by UNEP and World meteorological Organization (WMO). The Lead consultant for the national programme formulation has been contracted. The climate modelling study has been initiated from the Barcelona Supercomputing Centre. Iraq participated effectively in the regional technical meeting on sand and dust storms held in Abu Dhabi, 6-7 May 201. Based on the recommendations of the meeting and regional assessment report, the Ministry of Environment initiated contacts with NASA to establish a dust monitoring system. in Iraq linked to a regional network.

FAO

- FAO has initiated contact with the Ministry of Agriculture to land-use and vegetation cover mapping exercises, in addition to beginning the process for a comprehensive literature review on these topics. However, due to the current instability within the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture (due to the multiple changing of Ministers), the process of appointing counterparts in the Ministry has till date proved difficult. The situation in the Ministry has since stabilized and we will be soon restarting our contact with them.

**Remaining activities to be completed during the extension period**

UNDP

1. Complete Drought Vulnerability Assessment, by September 30, 2013.
2. Organize the Vulnerability Assessment validation Workshop in Amman, Jordan, scheduled for October 6-8, 2013.
3. Develop the foundation of the national DRM framework, by December 13, 2013.
4. Conduct the Final Validation Workshop , scheduled for January 17-19, 2014
5. Submission of the final report, by February, 2014.

UNESCO

1. Comprehensive mapping exercise of DRM-related intuitional stakeholders and Initiatives, by 31 July, 2013.
2. International DRM good practices applicable in Iraq, by beginning of August, 2013.
3. Presentation/sharing of above findings, from 6-8 October, 2013.
4. Final Validation Workshop in Amman, Jordan, January 17-19, 2014.

UNEP and FAO (As per the work plan with a delay of three months because of the late effective start date for the programme (date of payment transfer of 7 March 2013). Main activities are as follows :

1. UNEP & FAO will initiate recruitment of national and international experts, by August 2013
2. Draft Assessment report, by November 2013.



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3. Draft National SDS Programme, by December 2013.
4. Conduct the final Validation Workshop with the NTF, scheduled for January 17-19 2014.

Therefore, UNDP (on behalf of all Participating Organizations) is requesting a time extension of 8 months for UNDP and UNESCO and 3 months for UNEP and FAO (until 31 March 2014) in order to complete all remaining activities under this programme and conduct the final validation workshop together scheduled in January 2014.

**Mitigation Strategy in place to ensure compliance with timeline extension requested:**

With a number of interventions ongoing under the line Ministries, there could be a fatigue among several officials causing a limited cooperation. Mitigating this risk will require careful explanation to build understanding of how critical and imminent issue of drought sand/ dust storm is, and its direct relation to stakeholders.

Inception meeting with concerned ministries invited was held in Amman, Jordan between July 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 to map out the timeframe the programme implementations. Forthcoming meetings and workshops have been already set as above mentioned schedule agreed among Task Force Members, UNDP, UNESCO, UNEP and FAO.

International and national experts will be directly in touch with the Ministry to expedite the process of the development of the DRM framework.

**SCSO Recommendations:**

SCSO recommends approval of a FINAL t

Approval of Co-Chair – Iraq UNDAF Fund  
Steering Committee – Resident  
Coordinator a.i

Approval of Co-Chair – Iraq UNDAF Fund  
Steering Committee – Government of Iraq

