



**APPROVED**  
25 FEB 2013



**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT GROUP  
IRAQ UNDAF FUND**

**To:** Jacqueline Badcock, DSRSC [redacted] **Date:** 17 February 2013  
 Co-Chair – Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee

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

**From:** Bashar Al-Ali [redacted] **Ref:** SC/BR  
 Programme Specialist, Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering  
 Committee Support Office

**APPROVAL OF PROGRAMME REVISION REQUEST (B)**

<b>Project Number:</b>	P3-01
<b>Project Title:</b>	Development of National Framework for Integrated Drought Risk Management (DRM) in Iraq
<b>Participating Agency:</b>	UNDP(Coordinating Agency), UNESCO , FAO, UNEP
<b>Project Start Date:</b>	30 August 2011
<b>Project End Date:</b>	30 May 2012
<b>First Revision</b>	Time Extension until 31 December 2012

**Type of Programme /project variation requested**

- Extension of project duration *31 December 2013 ( FAO and UNEP) and 31 July 2013 for UNDP and UNESCO*
- Movement of funds between project budget components *UNDP only*
- Change of project scope *Additional activities by FAO and UNEP*
- Request for additional funds *US\$ 280,000 ( \$140,000 for FAO , \$140,000 for UNEP)*

**SCSO Comments:**

The total budget for this joint programme is US\$ 479,884. Programme is around 60% complete.

Agency	Budget(\$)	Commitments(\$)	Disbursements(\$)
UNDP	264,883	116,851 (44%)	53,766 (20%)
UNESCO	215,001	115,836 (54%)	67,684 (32%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>479,884</b>	<b>232,687 (49%)</b>	<b>121,450 (25%)</b>

**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.



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These activities form the basis for developing a national framework for integrated Drought Risk Management in Iraq that would enable the GoI and its partners to launch a coordinated multidisciplinary, multi-sectoral, and multi-level response to drought.

#### A. Request for Time Extension

##### Justification

The programme was planned to close in 31 December 2012. However, a time extension of 12 months is requested to complete remaining activities (under output 1&2) and conduct additional activities to achieve the additional outputs 3&4 related to combating sand storms as explained below:

- There were delays in data collection for the purposes to carry out the mapping and desk review and thus the capacity and vulnerability assessment. Therefore, additional time is needed to complete the data collection to be able to prepare the remaining essential studies: vulnerability assessment, desk review and mapping and the development of the National framework for DRM.
- UNDP has solicited technical and financial offer from ICARDA to carry out the vulnerability assessment and to develop the DRM framework. In addition, UNESCO has agreed to partner the IAU to undertake the mapping and desk review assignment, and to produce a report that shall be published and translated to Arabic. Accordingly, the extension of the programme will allow signing the contracts with ICARDA and IAU and completing the above mentioned activities.
- The specialised institution "National Drought Mitigation Centre" in Nibraska University that was contacted by UNESCO in order to prepare DRM best practices report has declined to take this assignment due to other engagements. Since the preparation of good practices report need thorough review of publications, reports and case studies produced on various drought management issues with specific intention to those practiced in the regional countries to ensure their applicability in Iraq, UNESCO will require additional time either to contact and visit other specialized drought centres that can undertake the task. In case this option was not possible, the assignment will be undertaken by a consultancy entity. In terms of the latter, Terms of reference and call for proposals need to be processed in the nearest time and will take minimum two months for procurement procedures and the work starts which in total require minimum five months to be completed and for a publication to be produced.
- Additional activities will be implemented by FAO and UNEP to achieve the additional outputs 3&4 and its relevant activities which will need 12 months to be implemented.

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

To able to achieve the outputs of the DRM programme, the remaining activities will require additional seven months to be implemented as follows:

1. Hold regular Programme Steering Committee and Task Force meetings (by February, April, June and July in 2013)
2. Complete the complementary desk review and mapping report (by May 2013)



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3. Conduct consultations and organize meetings and validation workshops (by end of May 2013).
5. Conduct the vulnerability assessment (by May 2013)
6. Document international good practices (by April 2013)
7. Develop DRM framework (by June 2013).
8. Conduct stakeholders consultations of the DRM framework (by July 2013).

The DRM Steering Committee has agreed (in its meeting held in Baghdad on 16 December 2012) to extend the duration of the current DRM programme for additional 12 months (until 31 December 2013) in order to complete the above mentioned remaining activities and conduct additional activities by UNEP and FAO. Therefore, UNDP (on behalf of Participating Organizations) is requesting a time extension of 7 months for UNDP and UNESCO (until 31 July 2013) and 12 months (until 31 December 2013) for UNEP and FAO.

#### **B. Budget Revision Request (UNDP)**

Movement of funds are requested as follows:

- ✓ Decrease Personnel by US\$ 36,441 (36%)
- ✓ Increase Contracts by US\$ 32,208 (23%)
- ✓ Increase Other Direct Cost by US\$ 4,233 (56%)

#### **Justification**

- Movement of funds from Personnel to Contracts budget line is requested in order to cover the costs of contracting ICARDA to carry out the vulnerability assessment, DRM framework and validation workshops instead of hiring an international consultant under personnel budget line.
- Movement of funds from Personnel to Other direct costs budget line is requested in order to cover other direct costs during the requested extension period.

#### **C. Request for Additional DRM Outputs, Activities and Funding.**

Because of the strong linkages between drought, desertification and dust storms and the need for coherent and integrated approaches to address these issues, it was agreed that integrating dust storms into the existing DRM will be the most cost-effective approach to ensure speedy delivery of support activities needed. UNEP and FAO are requesting additional funding of US\$ 280,000 to implement two the following additional outputs:

JP Output 3: National partners have enhanced understanding and knowledge on the causes and trends of sand/dust storm affecting Iraq

JP Output 4: Development of national programme to monitor, combat and mitigate dust/sand storms and enhance regional cooperation.

#### **Objective and Purpose**

The objective of the additional support is to enhance the coordination and communication between Gol mandated institutions on drought, desertification and sandstorms and assist in the development of the national programme to combat sand storms from degraded land as



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highlighted in the National Strategic Plan for Desertification Combat and in close coordination with the high-level national committee on dust storms and desertification. The programme intends to address the following key areas of response to issues of drought and sand/dust storm: a) to develop better understanding on sand / dust storm particularly its linkages with other factors like drought; b) train MoWR and MoA and relevant GOI staff in drought and sand/dust storm monitoring and management skills and to better understand role of drought in intensification of sandstorm incidences; c) Recommendations on follow-up actions presented and discussed with PM Office, MoENV and MoA Iraq and a future action plan agreed to improved management of land and water to help reduce intensity and incidences of sandstorm caused from drought conditions.

**Activities to be implemented under each output are listed below:**

JP Output 3. National partners have enhanced understanding and knowledge on the causes and trends of sand/dust storm affecting Iraq;  
Identification of ecosystem-based vulnerability indices on land degradation and drought

- Preparing compendium of land use and agriculture practices
- Mapping of areas of highest potential sources for dust/sand storms (hot spots and sensitive areas)
- Identify data/information and capacity gaps and recommend appropriate measures
- Analyse trends of dust/sand storms based on historical observational data to the extent possible
- Cross-reference results of the above in terms of frequency, intensity and transportation paths with results of output
- Collaborate with other centres in the region (e.g Kuwait, Iran, etc) to compare results of the trend analysis to find out historical patterns
- To the extent possible, develop climate models to predict future frequency and intensity of the dust/sand storms
- Suggest elements of national early warning system on dust storm, procure small sample of measurement instruments

JP Output 4: Development of national programme to monitor, combat and mitigate dust/sand storms and enhance regional cooperation.

- Stakeholder analysis and institutional mapping
- Suggest institutional mechanism to address dust/sand storms
- Develop the logical framework for the action plan highlighting causes, impacts and responses
- Describe the major components of the programme and their ultimate results
- Suggest implementation arrangement for the programme with estimation of capacities and resources needed

Note: Revised work plan, results frame work and budget of the programme are included in the request



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

The implementation of the additional activities will be launched immediately after approving the programme revision request and receiving the funds from the Iraq UNDAF Fund. To ensure that there is no delay in starting up and keeping with the timeline of the programme, UNEP and FAO already initiated preliminary consultations with the Ministry of Environment and the DRM members on the contractual arrangements, the potential international and national experts who will be involved in the programme implementation. More importantly, the implementation will build in a timely manner on the results and recommendations of the National Committee on Dust Storms and Desertification.

The additional requested activities will be mainstreamed into the existing programmes on land management and climate change in UNEP and FAO. Therefore there will be no need to set up a new management structure.

**SCSO Recommendations:**

SCSO recommends approval of the request for movement of funds , time extension until **31 December 2013** and additional funding (US\$140,000 FAO and US140,000 for UNEP) as per the following table :

Participating UN Organization	Received Funds/Current Budget (Iraq UNDAF Fund)	Requested funds (Iraq UNDAF Fund) (US \$)	Total Iraq UNDAF Fund (US \$)
UNDP	264,883	0	264,883
UNESCO	215,001	0	215,001
FAO	0	140,000	140,000
UNEP	0	140,000	140,000
<b>Total Budget (US \$)</b>	<b>479,884</b>	<b>280,000</b>	<b>759,884</b>

<b>Approval of Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee</b>	The request was reviewed and approved electronically by the Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee on 3 February 2013.
<b>Approval of Co-Chair – Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee – DSRSG</b>	<div style="border: 1px solid red; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>
<b>Approval of Co-Chair – Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee – Government of Iraq</b>	

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