



Iraq United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)

Fund Steering Committee Meeting

20 March 2014

11:30 – 12:30

Co-Chairs: Dr. Thamir Al-Ghadban, Chairman Prime Minister's Advisory Commission
Dr. Jacqueline C. Badcock, DSRSG/RC/HC

Participants (see attached list)

The Government of Iraq (GoI) Co-Chair, Dr. Thamir Al-Ghadban welcomed the participants and apologized for the absence of Government representatives who had other commitments or were out of the country. He stressed the necessity to move forward since the Steering Committee (SC) has not met for a while. He made an overview of the meeting agenda by underlining the importance of the I-PSM Programme, the UNDAF Fund extension and the approval of the project on Social Protection Floor (SPF) submitted. On I-PSM specifically, he recognized the programme implementation challenges but also commended the progress made by drawing down a clear road map and a 2014 Annual Work plan agreed by UN and the Government at federal and regional levels.

On the UNDAF Fund extension, he reminded the participants about the end of the current UNDAF by December 31, 2014 and in principle all programmes should close by that date. Taking in consideration the new UNDAF 2015-2019 under finalization, he encouraged the SC to agree on the Iraq UNDAF Fund extension. He welcomed the discussion on the SPF project.

In her opening remarks, the DSRSG/RC/HC thanked the Government Co-chair for making this meeting happen and requested to agree on pursuing the meeting even if the quorum is not reached and to seek approval of decisions electronically from the full Steering Committee in due time. She endorsed the extension of Iraq UNDAF item and expressed her wishes to see UNDAF Fund extended up to the end of the next UNDAF 2015-2019 if funds are quickly made available. In the meantime, she recognized the current resources mobilization limitation to keep the fund running. Agreeing with the GoI Co-Chair, she also underlined the importance of extending the I-PSM in consideration of the recent Government of Iraq roadmap approval. The I-PSM roadmap sets important goals to reach that will change the whole set up of the Iraq Administration Sector for the benefits of Iraq citizens at all

levels. The DSRSG/RC/HC expressed her hope to organize other Iraq UNDAF Fund SC meetings in the near future further to the signing of new UNDAF 2015-2019. Finally both Co-Chairs agreed to proceed and inform the other members on the meeting outcomes. The agenda was adopted without change and the meeting proceeded.

Decision taken:

Meeting proceeded without a quorum. The minutes will be shared with all members and participants for the full SC endorsement in due course.

Iraq UNDAF Fund extension

The Steering Committee reviewed the item under the lens of the UNDAF 2011-2014 resources mobilization results. In fact, the Iraq UNDAF Fund did not mobilize enough resources as initially thought. A limited amount of US\$ 12,612,527 was mobilized as fresh resources in addition to the interest earnings and unspent reversals from the IRFFI – Iraq Trust Fund. If there is no additional funds mobilized for the Iraq UNDAF Fund by end of 2014, UNDG-MPTF has technically advised to extend the current fund for a maximum of one year and close it by 31 December 2015.

Further to these limited achievements on resources mobilization for Iraq UNDAF Fund; the SC members agreed to change the strategic approach for the new UNDAF 2015 -2019 and in particular to review the possibilities of extra-funds beyond the current co-financing mechanism. And additionally, the SC urged to review the co-financing mechanism and to make it more effective. The Iraq UNDAF Steering Committee is of the impression that if the Government of Iraq shows clear commitment by contributing to funding joint programmes with UN, there are possibilities that donors will be in better position to add needed additional funds. The Steering Committee also recommended exploring the resources mobilization from the private sector (companies, associations, etc.). In preparation of the implementation of UNDAF 2015 – 2019, the SC also recommended to develop a new resources mobilization strategy. Additionally, the Steering Committee encouraged UN agencies to explore the bilateral funding with the government since the approach seems to better work than the co-financing mechanism under Iraq UNDAF Fund. With the suggestions made, the SC hopes to mobilize additional funds before starting the new UNDAF.

Taking also in consideration the current programmes under implementation and more particularly the I-PSM with its new roadmap, both Co-Chairs suggested extending the current Iraq UNDAF Fund up to 31 December 2016. In the meantime, all efforts should be done to continue mobilizing resources for joint programmes either from a modified co-financing mechanism allowing government funds to be transferred to UN and from donors' contributions. The Steering Committee strongly encouraged all UN agencies to make additional efforts to get additional bilateral funds to ensure the Fund extension till end of 2016.

The UN Co-Chair thanked the Government Co-Chair for his continuous support and expressed her hope to see the new adjusted co-financing mechanism finalized as agreed during the high level UNDAF meeting Government of Iraq - UN held on 13 January 2014. The GoI Co-Chair informed the

SC members the co-financing mechanism only be reviewed after the 2014 budget adoption in the parliament.

Decision taken:

The Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee approved the Fund extension up to 31 December 2016. To facilitate this extension, the SC also agreed to intensify efforts for mobilizing additional resources. Efforts also will be made to make the co-financing mechanism more effective further to the 2014 GoI budget approval.

Social Protection Floor (SPF) MoLSA – WFP/ILO Project proposal

Despite the absence of MoLSA-WFP/ILO, the GoI Co-Chair opened the floor on the proposal stressing its importance in relation the whole package of the Social protection. He questioned to what extent this proposal would go in light of the limited amount vis-à-vis the proposal goals. Unfortunately all raised issues would remain unanswered since proposal initiators were not present.

UNDP suggested that this proposal development should have been more consultative since there are a number of areas that are not considered in the proposal as well as the linkage with other existing initiatives and programmes on social protection. The project should also be linked to the poverty line and should include a Social Safety Net component in relation to the 38,000 families living under the poverty line.

Similar observations were made by UNWOMEN and UNFPA on tackling the gender issues in relation to the social protection of widows. The project monitoring was also raised as not clearly sorted out in the proposal in relation to the revision of the current food basket for better targeting of those who are effectively in needs.

The GoI Co-Chair requested to precise MoLSA role and responsibilities on the proposal but also as the driving body for the implementation.

Ms. Huda A. Malik requested to review the outputs formulation to make them more specific and specifically to limit them on the dialogue process since the proposal is very focused.

The SC agreed that the project should be broader and encompasses main aspects in which UN is engaged. The proposal should also consider linkages between various social protection components either under review and/or being reformed (e.g. pension fund) or to be reviewed and/or to be supported.

Discussions could not go further since stakeholders were not present. Further clarifications and explanations should be provided accordingly to better embed the project in the current social protection context prevailing in Iraq.

Decision taken: The proposal is approved in principle provided the following:

- a. While noting MoLSA's leading role in the proposal, outline the nature of coordination with other Social protection components;
- b. Redraft the proposal outputs to give more emphasis to the awareness raising process.
- c. While the proposal is limited to few areas, clearly identify the linkages with other social protection components and pinpoint the broader context;
- d. Resubmit the proposal providing a clearer and greater role for UN agencies involved in social protection, so that the analysis and formulation of the road benefits from their technical inputs;
- e. The final proposal will be approved provided above conditions are met.

Iraq Public Sector Modernisation Programme (I-PSM)

Luay Shabaneh, the leader of the I-PSM Joint Management Team, made an introductory presentation justifying the programme change of scope, the additional funds and programme extension. The main goal to be addressed is UN to accommodate the adopted new I-PSM roadmap including the 2014 common annual workplan.

Further to the sectoral assessments conducted during the initial stage, the Government of Iraq has decided to move ahead and develop an implementation roadmap at federal and regional levels. On UN perspective, initially 3 additional years were approved for the phase one. Based on the new developments, it is critical to add to 6 additional months to put the programme on the implementation track and 6 other additional months to ensure the reporting finalization.

The additional funds are needed to secure the technical assistance for most of involved UN agencies including the Joint Management Team. The current funds cover the posts till mid-May 2014. There is a need to secure the existing technical expertise that would move somewhere else in case of doubt. The needed amount is US\$ 1.5 million broken down among participating agencies as per budget review provided. These funds are needed from the Iraq UNDAF Fund since the US\$ 4.5 million Government co-financing funds are for other budget lines excluding the technical assistance.

The programme extension depends much on the Iraq UNDAF Fund extension. The programme extension request is to secure the availability of required technical expertise to put on track the programme implementation while Iraq authorities are progressively taking over for implementing the roadmap as developed.

Thorough discussion was conducted during which present UN agencies (UNFPA, UNWOMEN, WHO and UNDP) justified the additional funds they need in addition to the next tranche. The SC agreed that the principle to justify additional funds was to have a disbursement rate beyond 50% and 75% of funds commitment at least. All present UN agencies (UNDP, UNFPA, WHO and UNWOMEN) requested to review the commitment and disbursement figures to reflect the current situation that has significantly changed. Since presented figures reflected the situation at the same period (December 2013), the SC approved them as right basis for decision-making.

Four (4) UN agencies (UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA, WHO) have disbursed more than 50 % and committed 75% or more and therefore are eligible for receiving additional funds. The Joint Management Team Leader argued that all UN agencies need additional funds now in consideration of the new road map and the programme implementation even if it shows low budget execution rates. UNDP added the additional funds needs that may come out with the requests from the programme implementation at governorate levels and specifically in Basra and Najaf.

The SC kept its position of the disbursement and commitment rates as conditions to add funds. For UNWOMEN, due to the particular areas of intervention and the need to promote these areas, it was recommended to increase their budget despite being below 50% of disbursement and 75 % of commitment. For the other UN agencies that have less than 50% of disbursement, the SC agreed to put on hold the additional funds request and to reconsider it if needed once they have reached 50% of their disbursement.

Decision taken: Based on the Iraq UNDAF Fund approved extension up to 2016, the Steering Committee agreed to extend I-PSM to 31 December 2015 and to allocate the following additional funds per agency:

• UNDP + JMU:	\$ 500,000
• UNESCO:	\$ 200,000
• UNFPA:	\$ 150,000
• UNWOMEN:	\$ 100,000
• WHO:	\$ 250,000
Total:	\$ 1,200,000

Any other business

The current Steering Committee governance structure is supposed to hold till 31 December 2014 as per closure of the UNDAF 2011-2014. Therefore, the suggestion of keeping the current membership was approved by all participants. Any change would be considered in relation to the new UNDAF 2015-2019 governance structure.

The Steering Committee also agreed to hold the next meeting by June –July 2014. The date for the meeting will be suggested as soon as possible and communicated to all members to ensure their participation.

Participants

	Name	Title/Organization
1	Mr. Thamar Ghadban (Co-Chair)	Chairman, Prime Ministers Advisory Commission
2	Ms. Jacqueline C. Badcock	DSRSG/RC/HC – UNAMI
3	Ms. Huda A. Malik	DG, Prime Ministers Advisory Commission
4	Rania Hadad	Programme Management Analyst, UNWOMEN
5	Khaled Ehsan	Head of PMSU, UNDP
6	Mohammed Al-Robayee	Project Officer, UNDP
7	Dr. Ezechiel Bisalinkumi	Senior Technical Officer, WHO
8	Luay Shabaneh	I-PSM Programme Management Chief, RCO-UNDP
9	Ms. Dina Zorba	Programme Officer, OIC UNFPA
10	Mr. Prosper N. Nyandagazi	Programme Coordination Officer, RCO-SCSO
11	Mr. Mohammed Al-Hamadani	Humanitarian affairs Officer, ICODHA