**United Nations Development Group UNDAF Trust Fund**

**Project: 81968: P1-02**

**Date and Quarter Updated: 1 April to 30 Jun 2015 – Q2 2015**

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| **Participating UN Organisation**: UNDP, UNICEF | **PWG: 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.** | |

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| **Title** | Family Protection, Support, Justice and Security for Survivors of Domestic and Gender Based Violence | | | | |
| **Geographic Location** | Iraq in Baghdad, Erbil and Basrah | | | | |
| **Project Cost** | USD 3,967,880 | | | | |
| **Duration** | 42 Months | | | | |
| **Approval Date (SC)** | 18 Jan. 2012 | **Starting Date** | 12 March 2012 | **Completion Date** | 30 September 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**

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| **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**

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| **Outputs** | Output 1: Policy and legislative reform supported for improved access to justice for gender based violence (GBV) survivors.  Output 2: Enhanced law enforcement response to combating GBV and supporting GBV survivors and victims of trafficking.  Output 3: National institutions strengthened to undertake social and economic empowerment and protection of GBV survivors. |
| **Activities** | Output 1: Policy and legislative reform supported for improved access to justice for GBV survivors.  1.1 Central Government and Kurdistan Regional Government are provided with legislative and policy support for improved family protection and law enforcement.  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.  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.  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.  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.  1.2 Child Welfare Commission is supported with the development of Child Protection Policy.  Output 2 Enhanced law enforcement response to combating GBV and supporting GBV survivors and victims of trafficking.  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 .  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).  2.1.2 Empowerment of female police officers working in the newly established Directorates through targeted training courses and increased awareness.  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.  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.  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.  2.1.6 Develop advocacy strategy highlighting the role of family support, justice and security.  2.1.7 Assess performance and impact of Directorates.  2.1.8 Organize multi-stakeholder workshops to disseminate lessons.  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. |

**Tranche funding for the project through the UNDAF Trust Fund**

**UNDP**

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| **Funds Committed** | USD $ 2,273,319.79 | % of approved | 92% |
| **Funds Disbursed** | USD$ $ $2,390,726.66 | **% of approved** | 96.87% |
| **Forecast final date** | 30th September 2015 | **Delay (months)** | 0 |

**UNICEF**

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| **Funds Committed** | USD $ 115,679 | **8% of approved** |  |
| **Funds Utilized** | USD$ 879,392 | **63 % of approved** |  |
| **Forecast final date** | 30th September 2015 | **Delay (months)** | 0 |

**Quantitative achievements against objectives and results**

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| Output 1  Policy and legislative reform supported for improved access to justice for GBV survivors | **UNDP**:   * Regular follow up on the operation of GBV database for tracking cases of domestic and gender-based violence at both federal and regional level. * Discussion and consultation is in progress with key counterparts (Judicial Council, Bar Association, Ministry of Justice, NGOs …etc.) to agree on the way forward for submitting the finalized draft of legal aid law to Kurdistan Parliament for adoption.   **UNICEF (1.2.1):**  During the second quarter of 2015, UNICEF, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA) and the America University of Beirut organized a training on Child Protection Policy consultation. The training covered a period of three days (18-20 May) and involved almost 60 participants coming from three main institutions: el-Kafaat, Save the Children (SC) and Popular Aid Committee (PAO). Participants from PAO are affiliated with Save the Children.  The objective of the training was to build the capacity of the participants on concepts, principles and methods of stakeholders’ consultation and engagement including data collection so they are better capable of undertaking the consultation and engagement process on the draft child protection policy.  The training involved an introductory session presenting the content of the situation analysis and the draft child protection policy, followed by an introductory session presenting guidelines and principles of interviewing and conducting focus group meetings. The afternoon of the first day and morning of the second day were dedicated to practical exercises on interviewing and focus group techniques inspired by the draft policy. At the end of the second day, the participants worked in groups to identify the stakeholders for the consultation followed by simulations and role play. The third day was dedicated to conducting focus groups with children followed by practical exercises; handled by the SC representative. At the end of the training, a wrap-up session of the main messages concluded from the training and collection of participants’ feedback on the training took place.  The following observations and recommendations were made at the end of the training to facilitate county wide consultation on Child Protection Policy:   * The consultation process will be handled by Kafaat and SC, who will cover the regions of the south and centre, and SC (together with PAO), who will cover the North. This division of labour requires that UNICEF maintains a solid coordination and synchronization by both Kafaat and SC to ensure that the consultation – including methodology and reporting - is consistent all through the different regions. * All relevant documents, including the draft child protection policy (and summary), the situation analysis, the template and the material presented during the training should be provided to both Kafaat and SC the soonest possible. * Consultation through focus groups and individuals (i.e. key information) need to be thoroughly selected especially the children category. The selection of interviewees needs to ensure the representation of different groups and categories and shall be consistent with the policy’s outcomes and relevant strategies. A meeting took place after the training between Kafaat, SC, MoLSA, UNICEF and AUB whereby it was agreed on a tentative list of individuals and partners for the consultation. The list will go under some further review in light of the total number of stakeholders and the distribution over the governorates. * The children category is very broad as it entails children of different age groups, sex and backgrounds (delinquent, displaced, dropouts, employed, etc.) and governorates. A decision needs to be taken on what level children have to be consulted within the available capacity and timeframe. It was provisionally agreed to have eight FG with children – three in the north and five in the south and center – the FG for children will cover displaced children, children in conflict with the law, working children and children in schools or summer camps (given the school year will be over soon).   There is some doubt on the capacities of the participants in managing the FG with the children. However, since the number of children in the focus groups is small, the most competent persons (one person from SC and another from Kafaat) will handle this aspect.  Consultation with children on the different policy outcomes could be made as the following: Outcome 2: All children; Outcome 3: Children from families at risk; Outcome 4: Children victims of abuse (in conflict with the law, orphans in residential institutions, etc.); Outcome 5: Children affected by emergencies and armed conflict. Outcomes 1 and 6 are not immediately relevant to children.   * It is important that the consultation process is tested as pilot first to avoid negative outcomes. It is suggested that both Kafaat and SC conduct 2-3 interviews and one focus group with the children as a test, and submit the relevant analysis to UNICEF and AUB for review and feedback before the national launch of the consultation. The pilot testing would allow for a final fine-tuning of the whole process. * The Arabic / Kurdish language barrier requires action. It was noticed that some of the participants in the training do not speak/read Arabic. This brings some doubt on the level of the participants’ understanding of the training and of the child policy and on the quality of reporting of consultation outcomes. * Both Kafaat and SC will provide a synthesis report of the consultation outcome for every governorate. The reports from the different constituents in every governorate will be compiled and analysed in one unified template for each governorate – providing a template for that might be needed. * A formal letter from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs should be provided to the participants to facilitate their access to the different stakeholders. * A selected stakeholders from those engaged in the consultation process should be invited to the national policy dialogue to deliberate, finalize and endorse the policy, while others can participate in focused meetings at the governorate level.   Nationwide consultation is ongoing and it is expected to be completed by August. Final feedback will be shared with AUB in order to finalise draft policy document for final review and validation by September. | UNDP  100 %  UNICEF 75% |
| Output 2  Enhanced law enforcement response to combating GBV and supporting GBV survivors and victims of trafficking. | **UNDP**   * UNDP provided continuous technical advisory support through daily exposure visits of UNDP project staff to work in close consultation with the staff of the FPUs and DCVAW to strengthen their capacity at central and regional level.   **UNICEF:**   * Initial discussion with Juvenile Justice Stakeholders such as Juvenile Judges, Heads of Juvenile Policy, and Prosecutors has been held in preparation of the training for Police, Social Workers and other law enforcement authorities which took place in June. The training for police officers, in particular female police, is expected to take place in September (13-17) in Basra. | UNDP 98 % |
| Output 3  National institutions strengthened to undertake social and economic empowerment and protection of GBV survivors. | **UNDP**   * On shelter policy and at regional level, a committee has been established by MoLSA with a membership of UNDP, to follow up on the shelter policy, during the Q4, four meeting have been conducted to finalize the shelter policy. On federal level; the shelter policy has been drafted to MoLSA and the task force for shelter has been formed with UNDP support. | 90% |

**Qualitative achievements against objectives and results**

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| The summary below outlines the key achievements during the reporting period:  **UNDP**   * After finalizing and official launching of GBV database on both federal and regional level for tracking cases of domestic and gender-based violence, continuous follow up on the operation of the data base took place with both FPUs and DCVAW to overcome any possible difficulties that they may face during the functioning the database. The database is a milestone in Iraq’s efforts to tackle violence against women. Evidence-based information is pivotal to bringing changes at policy and community levels. The national database constitute the single detailed source of information on domestic and gender-based violence to inform law enforcement, regional statistics and policy-making   **Shelter policy:**  At federal level:  Following sharing the draft of shelter policy by UNDP with MOLSA last January for review, the ministerial committee was established, headed by MOLSA and held its monthly meetings facilitated by UNDP.  UNDP received comments and input from Shelter task force (the ministerial committee) on the first draft of shelter policy. Revising the policy by UNDP through integrating the comments and inputs is in process, it is expected that the final draft of the policy will be finalized by end of July.  A study tour to India is planned for the assigned ministerial committee working on Shelter policy to examine the best practices and experience on the shelter, hotlines, and referral services that provided to the victims of GBV.  At regional level:  As an outcome of the meeting organized on 18th March 2015 between UNDP and a Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, to highlight the importance of having a shelter policy in which it will protect the staff and the hosted women, his excellency appreciated the support and recommended a creation of a committee to discuss the shelter policy, UNDP emphasized on a participation of a representative of related ministry. A mentioned committee is established on April 22nd 2015, UNDP assigned as a member at this committee.  The mentioned committee organized four meetings on 14th, 28th April, 04th and 26th May 2015, with a representative of Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Judicial Council, and UNDP, The committee outlined the services that expected from each related ministry and drafted role of each related ministry . Adrafted shelter policy is finalized by a committee and is awaiting review from MOLSA to be endorsed.  It is recommended to arrange a mini conference with Civil Society organizations prior submitting the shelter to council of Ministers for approval. This will enable the CSOs to provide their inputs and to be implemented at the governorate level after approval.  **UNICEF**   * In partnership with the American University of Beirut, UNICEF has completed the training for local partners in Child Protection Policy. This constitutes a crucial step in the process of finalisation of the policy document. Policy consultation among policy makers, implementers and beneficiaries, such as children and communities, is important to ensure the view of different actors is taken into consideration in the final policy document. |

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| Main implementation constraints & challenges |
| The current political and security situation resulted in the ISIS war imposed serious limitations and delay in the implementation of some activities. The project team will continue to implement the activities as planned, particularly those are related to establishment of shelter policies and adoption of legal framework.  UNICEF:   * Limited capacity of the local partners who shall be part of the Child Protection Policy consultation; local partners are an extremely relevant resource to operationalize Child Protection services, but lack of adequate staff with experience in policy analysis and policy making. To address this challenge, UNICEF has identified alternative options, partnering with Save the Children International (SCI) to lead National Consultation. UNICEF and SCI have agreed on the next actions to complete the Child Protection Policy consultation process. |
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