

Iraq UNDAF Fund
Joint Programme/Project: 79817/P3-01
Date and Quarter Updated:
1st October 2013–December 2013 (4th Quarter 2013)

Participating UN Organization: UNDP (lead) Priority Area: Environment
UNESCO, UNEP and FAO

Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: PMAC and Ministry of Environment

Title of JP/ Project	Development of National Framework for Integrated Drought Risk Management (DRM) in Iraq				
Geographic Location	Nationwide				
JP/Project Cost	UNDAF Trust Fund USD 759,884 UNDP USD 264,833 UNESCO USD 215,001 UNEP: USD 140,000 FAO: USD 140,000 GoI USD 0 USD 150,000 In kind ‘personnel’ costs from UNDP, UNESCO, FAO and UNEP Total: USD 909,884				
Duration	Extended to March 31 2014 (UNDAF Steering Committee approved a no cost extension on 31 st August 2013) for an additional 8 months.				
Approval Date (SC)	14 June 2011	Starting Date	30 August 2011	Completion Date	March 2014 UNESCO and UNDP UNEP and FAO
JP/Project Description	<p>Recent severe drought has far-reaching impacts on Iraq’s economy, social and environmental conditions. Given its frequent occurrence in Iraq and its negative impact thus far, it is viewed as a slow-onset disaster that requires short, mid and long-term strategic interventions. Recognizing the urgency of this situation, the Government has called on the United Nations to provide support in formulating a framework for national drought risk management.</p> <p>UNDP and UNESCO are jointly implementing this programme in close consultation with other UN partners. It supports the Government of Iraq (GoI) to conduct a series of technical assessments of existing Disaster 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. Activities include exposing the GoI to international good DRM practices and mapping exercises.</p>				

	<p>Because of the strong linkages between drought, desertification and dust storms, the need for coherent-integrated approaches were proposed. In June 2012 the Prime Minister Court, the National High-Level Committee for Dust Storms (National DDS Committee) had intensified dialogue with neighboring countries (Iran and Kuwait in particular). In September 2012, the Ministry of Environment and UNEP and FAO came to the conclusion that two additional outputs to develop a national programme to combat sand and dust storms should be integrated into the current DRM programme.</p> <p>These activities will form the foundation of the national framework for integrated Drought Risk Management (DRM) and national programme to combat sand and dust storms in Iraq. This will enable the GoI and its partners to launch a coordinated multidisciplinary, multi-sectoral, and multi-level response to drought, desertification and dust storms.</p> <p>The proposed national DRM framework will be reviewed and discussed by all key stakeholders through 3-day validation workshop scheduled in January 2014 to secure programmatic support for drought risk management in Iraq.</p>
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UNDAF Priority Area Outcome:	
<p>Environmental management and compliance with actions taken on ratified international environmental treaties and obligations</p> <p>Relevant NDP Goal(s): Section 10.2.5. Goal 2: Monitoring the Environmental Status Goal 6: Environmental Awareness Goal 8: Developing and Building Environmental Capacities</p> <p>Relevant UNDP Country Programme and CPAP Outcome</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GoI has the institutional framework to develop and implement MDG-based pro-poor, equitable and inclusive socio-economic and environmental policies and strategies. 2. Comprehensive strategic frameworks at national and sub-national levels for disaster risk reduction developed. 	

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement	
<p>Outputs (JP outputs and/ or UN Organization specific)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Government of Iraq and relevant stakeholders have improved knowledge and common understanding on Drought Risk Management. 2. Iraq has a participatory, comprehensive, and inclusive national framework for Drought Risk Management in line with international good practice. 3. National partners have enhanced understanding and knowledge on the

	<p>causes and trends of sand/dust storm affecting Iraq</p> <p>4. Development of national programme to monitor, combat and mitigate dust/sand storms and enhance regional cooperation.</p> <p>UNEP and FAO will implement part of outputs 3 and 4 through Q3 and Q4.</p>
<p>Activities</p>	<p>Output 1 –<i>Government of Iraq and relevant stakeholders have improved knowledge and common understanding in Drought Risk Management</i></p> <p>1.1.Research/Study–Mapping of relevant stakeholders and their respective mandates and initiatives; existing laws, policies, and programmes; review of Iraq’s progress and status with regard to relevant international and cross border DRM agreements; identifying DRM tools and mechanisms in place; identifying the specific impacts of drought by agricultural, environmental and water sectors.</p> <p>1.2.Consultation and Consensus-Building–Continuous efforts to support the development of a consensus on the definition and causal and cross-sectoral linkages of drought, and on appropriate approaches to DRM.</p> <p>Output 2–<i>Iraq has a participatory, comprehensive and inclusive national framework for Drought Risk Management in line with international good practice.</i></p> <p>2.1.Technical Assessment and Consultation–Conducting vulnerability assessment of drought impacts on agriculture, environmental and water sectors, with a focus on gender sensitivity aspects. Plusidentifyingappropriate risk reduction approaches to DRM by various GoI institutions and bodies, and of the importance and relevance of a DRM framework to many development issues in Iraq.</p> <p>2.2.Technical Planning Assistance – Provision of guidance by technical specialists on different aspects of DRM framework formulation, including exposing Iraqi partners to international DRM frameworks, tools, and techniques.</p> <p>Output 3-<i>National partners have enhanced understanding and knowledge on the causes and trends of sand and dust storm affecting Iraq.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing a 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>Output 4-Development of national programme to monitor, combat and mitigate dust and sand storms and enhance regional cooperation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>UNEP and FAO will implement Outputs 3 and 4 through Q3 & Q4</p>
<p>Procurement (major items)</p>	<p>UNDP: (1) TOR/RFP advertised and awarded ELARD as a Services Provider to conduct;(2) Vulnerability assessment study;(3) Development of draft DRM framework.</p> <p>UNESCO: (1) Contract for preparing a document on international and regional best practices in drought management (prediction, preparedness and mitigation); (2) Desk review and Mapping of agricultural, meteorological, environmental, and economical data.</p> <p>UNEP: 1) Contract with international and national consultants to undertake the mapping and programme development, 2) contract with collaborating centre to assist with the identification of hot spots and integration of ecosystem-based design of mitigation interventions.</p> <p>FAO: FAO will contract two national consultants to assist with mapping and programme development.</p> <p>NB: no procurement of equipment will take place since GoI will purchase monitoring instruments from its own resources based on WMO-UNEP advice on specifications and standards.</p>

<p>Funds Committed</p>	<p>UNDP: USD 261,012.61</p> <p>UNESCO: USD 145,960</p> <p>UNEP: \$100,000</p>	<p>% of approved</p>	<p>UNDP: 98.57%</p> <p>UNESCO: 67.89%</p> <p>UNEP: 70%</p>
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	FAO:\$120,000		FAO: 85.7%
Funds Disbursed	UNDP: USD 111,834.09 UNESCO: USD 145,960 UNEP: \$80,000* FAO: \$101,536	% of approved	UNDP: 42.84% UNESCO: 67.89% UNEP: 57% FAO 72.5%
Forecast final date	March 2014	Delay (months)	22 months

* UNEP mobilised co-finance from Norwegian Fund to support the second workshop

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men	Total population	
Women	Total population	
Children	Total population	
IDPs	Total population	
Others	Total population	
Indirect beneficiaries	Total population	
Employment generation (men/women)	n/a	

Quantitative achievements against JP outputs/ UN Organization outputs		
UNDAF Environmental management and compliance with actions taken on ratified international environmental treaties and obligations		
Output 1. Government of Iraq and relevant stakeholders has improved knowledge and common understanding on Drought Risk Management.	% of planned	UNDP: 100% UNESCO: 90%
Output 2. Iraq has a participatory, comprehensive, and inclusive national framework for Drought Risk Management in line with international good practice.	% of planned	UNDP: 75% UNESCO: 90%
Output 3. National partners have enhanced understanding and knowledge on the causes and trends of sand/dust storm affecting Iraq.	% of planned	FAO: 50% UNEP: 100%
Output 4-Development of national programme to monitor, combat and mitigate dust/sand storms and enhance regional cooperation.	% of planned	FAO: 20% UNEP: 60%

Qualitative achievements against JP outputs/ UN Organization outputs	
Output 1. Government of Iraq and relevant stakeholders have improved knowledge and common understanding on Drought Risk Management.	

<p>1.1 Research / Study – Mapping of relevant stakeholders and their respective mandates and initiatives; taking stock of existing laws, policies, and programmes; review of Iraq’s progress and status with regard to relevant international and cross border DRM agreements; identifying DRM tools and mechanisms in place; identifying the specific impacts drought has had on multiple sectors in Iraq.</p>	<p>UNESCO finalized report. The official launching took place in November 2013 in Baghdad in presence of all relevant stakeholders. The executive summary and a version of the full report are currently being translated into Arabic.</p>
<p>1.2 Consultation and Consensus-Building Continuous efforts to support the development of a consensus on the definition and causal and cross-sectoral linkages of drought, and on appropriate approaches to DRM.</p>	<p>UNDP: The capacity assessment study finalized in May 2013 and outcomes shared among stakeholders and identified the gaps in the existing institutional and technical capacities in response to drought risk reduction measures and recommendations will be incorporated into the development of the DRM framework.</p>
<p>Output 2. Iraq has a participatory, comprehensive, and inclusive national framework for Drought Risk Management in line with international good practice.</p>	
<p>2.1 Technical Assessment and Consultation– Conducting vulnerability assessment of drought impacts by agriculture, environmental and water sectors with a focus on gender sensitivity aspects and identifying appropriate risk reduction approaches to DRM by various GoI institutions and bodies, and of the importance of a DRM framework to many development issues in Iraq.</p>	<p>UNSCO: The best practices report was finalized in December 2013</p> <p>UNDP: with other agencies held the workshop in Amman, Jordan from December 3rd to 5th 2013 to report findings of the said technical studied agreed by the stakeholders in the meeting in July 2013. UNDP and consultants provides the results of the vulnerability assessment focusing agriculture and environmental sectors along with remote sensing mapping exercise. Based on the indicators presented, the DRM working group identified sensitive areas (hotspots) in the region for further investigating the vulnerability of drought:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Duhok in the North 2- Mosul in the North 3- Maysan in the South

	<p>During the meeting, the DRM working group agreed upon the key components of the DRM framework to be included as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Work methodology: conducting further study on drought impact particular in soil and water (quantitative approach) in agriculture sector 2) Governance: establishment of higher committee connecting with departmental units to deal with drought management in selected ministries (e.g. MoWR, MoA and MoEN) both at the national and governorate level 3) Policy: implementation of the drought monitoring measures and coordination mechanism to be incorporated in drought reduction policies. 4) Policy: identification of overlapping and synergic areas between existing environmental programs and DRR activities 5) Knowledge management: upgrading institutional capacities and providing expert missions for training and monitoring at the ground level 6) Knowledge management: strengthening the communication network between researchers, practitioners and stakeholders 7) Civil society's empowerment: support of active participation and engagement of community groups to promote modernized irrigation approach 8) Knowledge management: provision of safety nets and economic incentives 9) Resource mobilization to support the implementation the framework including capacity building, institutional settings and technically of drought mitigation measures.
<p>2.2. Technical Planning Assistance – Provision of guidance by technical specialists on different aspects of DRM framework formulation, including exposing Iraqi partners to international DRM frameworks, tools, and techniques.</p>	<p>UN agencies discussed the revised work plan and proposed the following schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drought Vulnerability Assessment completed, September 30, 2013 • Workshop in Amman, Jordan (three days), October 6-8, 2013 • Foundation of the national DRM framework developed, December 13, 2013

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Validation Workshop scheduled in mid-March, 2014 • Submission of the final report, March 2014.
<p>Output 3. National partners have enhanced understanding and knowledge on the causes and trends of sand/dust storm affecting Iraq</p>	
<p>Output 3.1: National partners are able to map-out sources and locations of dust and sand storms based on assessment of land degradation, drought and associated practices.</p>	<p>FAO: Prepared draft report for potential indicators of sources and locations of dust and sand storms.</p>
<p>Output 3.2: National partners able to undertake assessment of dust and sand storms transportation paths and dynamics within Iraq.</p>	<p>UNEP conducted the inception workshop on the SDS Programme on 3-4 July 2013 in Amman with the participation of the national Task Force members who are also serving as the Team of Experts established by the Government. The inception workshop reviewed the on-going activities that need to be linked and built upon in formulating the SDS programme. It also discusses in details the methodology and the inputs needed in terms of expertise, data, knowledge and national and regional processes. The outline for the SDS programme was also discussed. Participants in the workshop agreed on a tight work plan to prepare the SDS programme. Three inter-ministerial and multidisciplinary expert sub-groups (EGs) were formulated to lead the three aspects of the Programme:</p> <p>EG-1: Climatology of SDS EG-2: Land Resources EG-3: Institutional Issues and Drafting Team</p> <p>UNEP recruited two international consultants to help the EGs. The EG on Climatology already advanced their work. Climatic Observed data were collected and now being analysed and modelled. A closer collaboration with the Spanish Meteorological Authority (AEMET) and its research centre in Tenerife (well-known dust observation and modelling centre) and the Barcelona Supercomputing Centre. A scientific visit of the EG team under preparation by UNEP.</p> <p>Update: Q4 The report on dust storms climatology completed by national experts supported by international experts at AEMET. A second technical workshop was conducted 2-5 December 2013 in</p>

	Amman. The report findings were discussed and main conclusions and recommendations agreed upon. Hot spots of dust sources were identified in six areas agreed by the Task Force. The visit has been postponed till first quarter of 2014.
Output 4-Development of national programme to monitor, combat and mitigate dust/sand storms and enhance regional cooperation.	
Output 4.1: National partners are able to undertake institutional and stakeholder mapping on the integrated approaches to monitoring and combatingsandstorms.	FAO: In line with the recommendations of the preparatory workshop, FAO prepared an initial list of recommendations in monitoring and combatting sandstorms.
Output 4.2: Iraq able to develop national programme (with medium and long- term plan of action) to combat sand storms including prevention, monitoring, mitigation and early warning system.	More specific requirements for the report were included into the TORs of the EGs and the international consultants recruited for the programme. UNEP: The outline of the national SDS programme was proposed and agreed by the Task Force during the 2-5 December workshop in Amman. Content of each section was discussed and responsibilities for drafting these sections were assigned to national experts. The international consultant will compile inputs from national experts and prepare the first draft by end of February. The validation workshop will take place by mid March 2014 in Istanbul.

Key implementation constraints and challenges (2-3 sentences)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Due to the limitation of data availability and accessibility of the required information, the vulnerability assessment provided the result with best available indicators and significance of the impacts related to drought. The DRM framework will highlight comprehensiveness in response to drought incidents. 2. The Best Practices' Toolbox/Guideline could not be developed in full due to given budget constraints. This had been communicated accordingly with the stakeholders who were approached to seek additional funding to finalize the toolbox. So far, GoI has not corresponded to UNESCO's recommendation to have this important work completed in order to provide a first of its kind reference for Iraq and adjacent regions/catchments. 3. Timing of inputs from the three SDS Expert Groups may not adhere to the work plan because of different timing of their formal establishment were not the same. 4. The drafting national team find difficulties in gathering needed information and put them in a concise report, the team still needs more support in terms of writing skills for policy documents 5. The FAO draft technical report on the impact of sand and dust storms on agricultural impact could not be developed in full capacity due to given budget constraints. However, it was developed in a manner that the prepared report can be used as a foundational tool for future projects that seek to mitigate the impacts of SDS on agricultural impact.