2011 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT FOR PROJECT
IRFFI/UNDG IRAQ TRUST FUND (UNDG ITF)

Participating UN Organization: *(if joint programme, indicate the lead agency)* UNESCO (Lead), and UNICEF	***Old Cluster:*** **Education** ***New Sector*: Education**

Project No: B1- 35 ***Project Title***: Completion of a Comprehensive Assessment of Education Sector for Iraq	***Report Number:*** ATLAS Project Number: (*see attached list*) ATLAS Award Number: (*see attached list*)

Reporting Period: 1 Jan – 31 December 2011	***Project Budget:*** *U$ 1,132,445 (UNESCO: US$ 881,801; UNICEF US$ 250,644)*

List Implementing Partners: Government of Iraq (GoI) Ministry of Education (MOE) in Baghdad and in (Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHESR) in Baghdad and KRG	***Geographic Coverage/Scope:*** *Nationwide*

Abbreviations and Acronyms: GoI*:* Government of Iraq MOE: Ministry of Education in Baghdad and MOHESR: Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research MOLSA: Ministry of Labour and Social Services KRG: Kurdistan Regional Government	***Project Status: Duration/ Timeline Extension/Closed Project:*** • 12 Months from 27th May 2010 till 14th June 2011 • Extension till 26th May 2012

NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

I. Purpose

a. Main objectives, outcomes, outputs of the programme/project

The main objective of the project is to assess the main causes that are hindering access to and quality of education and assist the endeavors of the Government of Iraq in the reconstruction and modernization of the education sector. The planned assessment will complement the ongoing efforts for supporting Sector Public Modernization for service delivery (I-PSM Project), since the review of available data and completion of a school based survey to provide needed data for evidence based decision making purposes will enrich the structural and functional analysis of the administration of ED sector expected under I-PSM.

In addition, the project will build the capacity of relevant stakeholders in undertaking an in-depth assessment of education and provide relevant analysis on the root causes and factors that are undermining access and quality of education through the completion of internal efficiency analysis to ensure that the data and analysis produced will inform the development of National Education Strategy for Iraq (NESI) and provide solid basis for the operationalization of the Strategy.

The project contributes to the attainment of ED Sector Outcome 2 and the outputs outlined below.

Sector Outcome 2: Strengthened institutional and human capacity of the education sector to deliver quality education

- **Output 1**: Government of Iraq (GoI) better able to identify knowledge gaps within the framework of NESI
- **Output 2.1**: GoI and partners are able to assess education production function for primary education
- **Output 2.2:** GoI and partners are able to assess internal efficiency in the field of quality education, Technical and Vocational Education and Higher Education
- **Output 3**: GoI and partners are provided with knowledge and evidence for effective implementation of the NESI

b. Explain how the programme/project is relevant to the following benchmarks:
- **UN Assistance Strategy for Iraq, MDGs, Iraq NDS and ICI**

The project is ultimately expected to contribute to the Iraq National Development Strategy goal 6 of "*Ensuring minimal quality standards of teaching and learning through strengthening basic teacher training*". The project is expected to come out with the root causes hindering the provision of quality education in all the levels of education in Iraq and make appropriate recommendations.

The project will also contribute to attainment of MDGs 2 and 3 which are: MDG 2 of "*Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling*" and MDG 3: "*Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015*"

It is expected the project will come out with main obstacles to achieving full access to primary

schooling .The project will also come out with the main obstacles achievement of gender equality in all the levels of education covered by the assessment and make appropriate recommendations for the attainment of these goals.

II. Human Resources

a. National Staff & Consultants: Provide the number and role (operation/programme)

The project is supported by one consultant to support the implementation of the project in terms of ensuring that working collaboration with the project counterparts is strengthened. Three national staff provide all the logistical support required for organization of meetings, workshops, leasing with all the external Iraq counterparts to ensure they play their respective roles in the implementation of the project.

b. International Staff: Provide the number and role (operation/programme)

Currently the project has one Project Manager (International): who is in charge of the management of the project: ensuring the implementation of project activities as per the project document and as per the agreed work plan, liaising with Iraq ministry of education counterparts. Ensure participation of all stakeholders in the implementation of the project. Coordinate all the required inputs needed for the effective and efficient implementation of the project and over see data collection, data entry and data analysis of the project field data.

As analysis of data begins subsequent to the completion of field surveys, several international consultants will be recruited to support the analysis of data and preparation of the final comprehensive education sector assessment report.

III. Methods of Operating

a. Summarize the implementation mechanisms primarily utilized and how they are adapted to achieve maximum impact given the challenging operating context.

First, a desk review was undertaken to obtain knowledge gaps. The gaps were used in designing the questionnaires to obtain information and data in areas where there are gaps. A Pilot Survey is being undertaken to test the tools after which the survey tools will be revise before being used for the final field survey. Relevant consultations with key stakeholders are also been undertaken coupled with field visits and consultation meetings on the implementation of the project. Despite the prevailing security situation in the field, efforts have been made to involve members of the steering committee as required.

b. Provide details on the procurement procedures utilized and explain variances in standard procedures.

n/a

c. Provide details on the monitoring system(s) that are being used and how you identify and incorporate lessons learned into the ongoing programme/project.

Regular meetings on project implementation are held regularly to review progress vis a vis the work plan and address any obstacles to the smooth implementation of the project with a monthly progress report prepared and disseminated. Field visits are regularly planned to check on implementation.in the field within existing security/spacing limitations.

d. Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken relating to the project and how they were used in support of the project(s).

Desk reviews were carried out as part of the project; the principal concern was to identify the knowledge gaps and hence focus the preparation of survey tools in those areas where there were major knowledge gaps in October 2011.

A pilot survey has been undertaken to ensure that the final field assessment survey being undertaken is comprehensive and the samples used are representative in November 2011.

IV. Results

a. Report on the key outputs achieved in the six month period including # and nature of the activities (inputs), % of completion and beneficiaries. Please also fill the table in section VI on six monthly performance indicators assessment.

1. Progress of Project:					
Outputs expected as per approved project document	Status of Achievement				
	Fully achieved	Partially achieved	%	Not achieved	Explanation
Output 1: Government of Iraq better able to identify knowledge gaps within the framework of NESI		X	50%		Pre-assessment report identifying knowledge gaps completed. Training materials are developed and training activities are to take place during the 1st quarter of 2012.
Output 2: GoI and partners are able to assess internal efficiency and education production functions in the field of quality education, Technical and Vocational Education and Higher Education	X		100%		All data collected, reviewed, cleaned and entered.
Output 3: GoI and partners are provided with knowledge and evidence for effective implementation of the NESI		X	30%		Data verification and analyses as well as reports (analytical) drafting and finalizing are ongoing. To be completed by July 2012

b. Report on progress made toward the achievement of specific medium-term outcomes of the programme/project as a result of the achieved short-term outputs during this reporting period and explain any variance in achieved versus planned outputs and outcomes during the stated reporting period.

It was important to focus on the quality of education in all implemented activities since most of the educational planning in Iraq is based on quantitative indicators aiming at increasing access to education. This might be acceptable during the emergency phase but since we were moving to the recovery phase quality of education become a priority too. This was considered during the planning phase of the project by the project management as well as the GOI partners; accordingly, there has been adequate sensitization and government active identification of the education needs and priorities of the education sector for the different levels of the education system. There is also evidence of high expectations by government counterparts that the project will come out with detailed analysis of education sector needs for the different levels of the education system and concrete recommendations for enhancing the provision of quality of education in Iraq. That is why the achieved outcomes will definitely contribute to

achieving the outputs of the project and the final recommendations of the formulated technical reports will most certainly have a positive impact on the Iraqi educational system.

c. Explain, if relevant, delays in programme/project implementation, the nature of the constraints and actions taken to mitigate future delays and lessons learned in the process.

The political situation was a major reason for serious delays in addition to the security conditions, movement constrains and GOI usual bureaucracy. To avoid these constrains in the future, the project management decided to hold all training activities in Erbil instead of Baghdad, request all GOI nominations, approvals...etc a long time prior to events / activities and increase follow up and coordination with Iraqi counterparts. Different scenarios for implementing each activity were also planned to avoid sudden constrains.

d. List the key partnerships and collaborations, and explain how such relationships impact on the achievement of results.

The project is being implemented in collaboration with UNICEF and the Iraqi Ministries in Baghdad and KRG: Ministries of Education, Ministries of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Central Statistics Office (formerly COSIT, Baghdad) and Kurdistan Statistics Office (KRSO). The partners represent all the levels of the education covered by the project and CSO and KRSO are key players with regard to statistical data and collaboration between the partners listed will ensure comprehensive coverage and hence comprehensive data essential for a detailed analysis of the education sector in Iraq.

e. Summarize achievements against planned results for cross cutting issues: security, gender, human rights, employment (including # of short and/or long-term jobs created), and environment.

The project achieved the planned results of output 1 completely and some of the expected results of the other outputs. During the 1st quarter of 2012, the expected results of output 2 will hopefully be achieved and by the 3rd quarter of 2012 all expected results will hopefully be achieved. All implemented activities and achieved results considered the security conditions, gender and human rights. On the other hand, it can be said that consultation with our Iraqi counterparts on the project implementation and discussions particularly on gender considerations brought out by the survey tools highlights its importance which will become more evident in later stages during the analysis of data and recommendations for future actions.

V. Future Work Plan

a. Summarize the projected activities up to the end of December 2012 indicating any major adjustments in strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs planned.

The projected activities are provided in the table below.

Project Outputs	Major Activities	Time Frame (by activity)				Remarks
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
JP Output 1: Government of Iraq better able to identify knowledge gaps within the framework of NESI						
Output 1: GoI better able to identify knowledge gaps within the framework of NESI	Training Workshop on data collection and data analysis indicators - 140 participants (groups of 35 persons) x 5 days training for each group	**X**				
JP Output 2: GoI and partners are able to assess internal efficiency and education production functions in the field of quality education, Technical and Vocational Education and Higher Education						
Output 2: GoI and partners are able to assess internal efficiency in the field of quality education, Technical and Vocational Education and Higher Education	Review and finalization of Survey Questionnaires	**Completed**				
	Field work and data collection	**Completed**				
	Completion of Data entering in the developed database	**Completed**				
	Cleaning of Data Set	**Completed**				
JP Output 3: GoI and partners are provided with knowledge and evidence for effective implementation of the NESI						
Output 3 GoI and partners are provided with knowledge and evidence for effective implementation of the NESI	Follow up coordination meeting on validation of database and produced data (12 participants from MOE, MOHESR, COSIT, KRSO - Erbil)	**X**				
	Completion of Final Needs Assessment Report with key recommendations based on collected data		**X**			
	National meeting to validate report and identify follow-up strategy			**X**		
	Final External Evaluation			**X**		

VI.   Annual Performance Indicators assessment

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baselines	Planned Indicator Targets	Achieved Indicator Targets	Means of Verification	Comments (if any)
JP Outcome 2 **: Strengthened institutional and human capacity of the education sector to deliver quality education**						
Output 2.1 Government of Iraq better able to identify knowledge gaps within the framework of NESI	Indicator 2.1.1 No of Pre-assessment report including identified knowledge gaps and indicators completed		1 Pre-assessment report with knowledge gaps and identified indicators completed	100%	Report on knowledge gaps and survey questionnaires	Knowledge gaps identified, pilot survey conducted, final survey conducted, data collection and entry completed
	Indicator 2.1.2 No of staff of MOE & MOHESR trained in data collection and data analysis for policy planning purposes		140 MOE & MOHESR statisticians and planners trained	0%	Attendance Sheets	Training experts prepared the training material. Logistics requirements completed.
	Indicator 2.1.3 Percentage of those trained satisfied with relevance and usefulness of trainings		90% of those trained satisfied with relevance and usefulness of trainings	-	Trainees Evaluation Sheets	-
IP Output 2.2 GoI and partners are able to assess internal efficiency and education	Indicator 2.2.1 No. of schools covered in the national survey		200 schools in north center and south of Iraq;	100%	Data Collection Sheets and Survey Report	
	Indicator 2.2.2 No. of educational institutes and universities covered in the national survey		150 technical and vocational schools; 20 universities at national level	100%	Data Collection Sheets and Survey Report	

production functions in the field of quality education, Technical and Vocational Education and Higher Education	Indicator 2.2.3 No. and type of developed questionnaires		4 questionnaires covering schooling, higher and TVET education	100%	The questionnaires themselves	
Output 3 GoI and partners are provided with knowledge and evidence for effective implementation of the NESI	Indicator 1.3.1. 1Consolidated report on the assessment of ED sector produced and validated by GoI		1 Consolidated Report produced and validated	-	-	-
	Indicator 1.3.2. Completed Report produced and disseminated in Arabic and English Languages		1 Final Report Printed and disseminated	-	-	-