



Quarterly Progress Report

January–March 2022

Introduction

This report provides an overview of activities funded by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) for the Netherlands. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) implements activities under this agreement through the Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS). These activities aim to support the return of vibrant economic activity to Hawija, thereby encouraging returns and providing much needed source of local employment. The report includes a progress update on activities undertaken during the reporting period (January to March 2022) and a financial overview.

Financial Summary

The UNDP financial management system does not separately track funds received through multiple cost-sharing agreements signed with one donor. As such, the table below provides an interim financial overview. The information shared in this interim financial overview is based on project planning and offline monitoring against this specific contribution agreement.

Budgets for planned or ongoing individual projects are indicative, as changes may arise due to the scale or complexity of the project. Only upon the completion of each project and the release of all payments is the project's final cost confirmed.

The following is an informal overview of the financial utilisation at the end of the reporting period:

Contribution (US\$)	Received (US\$)	Committed/Spent (US\$)
1,757,546.19	1,250,000.00	1,150,516.25

Programme Context

While the impacts of the **coronavirus disease (COVID-19) global pandemic** are gradually defusing across the globe, long-term public health and socio-economic challenges continued during the reporting period (1 January to 31 March 2022). By 31 March, a total of 2,319,550 COVID-19 infections, resulting in the death of 25,164 people, had been confirmed by Iraqi health authorities.¹ Iraq received over 6 million vaccination doses through the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) Facility in 2021. While vaccination services have been significantly expanded across the country since late 2021, only 17.7% of the population were fully vaccinated by the end of March. In March 2022, the Ministry of Health launched a campaign to expand the coverage of COVID-19 vaccines and routine immunization services, employing over 1,300 mobile outreach teams across Iraq.² UNDP's implementation continues to be affected by preventive measures and persisting logistical bottlenecks as well as a global increase in cost for construction material.

Following the **ratification of the election results** at the end of December 2021,³ the newly elected parliament met for the first time in the Green Zone on 9 January 2022 to elect the parliament speaker and two deputies. However, the next step in the process, the election of a President, is in abeyance as the necessary parliamentary quorum has not been reached. Once the President is elected, he or she will then charge the nominee of the largest parliamentary bloc with the formation of a council of ministers, to be endorsed by Parliament. The stagnant government formation process following Iraq's largely peaceful elections last October is stalling urgently needed reforms, such as the implementation of the *White Paper for Economic Reform*, and creating a dangerous political and security vacuum that could be exploited by Da'esh.⁴

Attacks against diplomatic missions and convoys in Iraq and against the **civilian population and infrastructure** continued, especially in Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninawa and Salah al-Din Governorates, and remain a serious concern. In response, Iraqi security forces continued their counterterrorism operations.⁵ On 28 January 2022, rockets attacked Baghdad International Airport damaging one disused civilian airplane. The security situation in Iraq is likely to remain volatile and could be further exacerbated by rising food prices as a result of the Russia – Ukraine crisis.

According to the latest available data from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), 4,952,232 displaced Iraqis had returned to their area of origin by the end of December 2021. This represents a minor increase of 13,158 people since the previous quarter — one of the **lowest return rates since tracking began in 2015**.⁶ Iraq's 1.18 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) are hosted predominantly in Ninawa, Dohuk and Erbil and mainly reside in out-of-camp settings (85%), while the rest remain displaced in camps (15%). They continue to face challenges to return to their places of origin and have limited access to safe water, electricity and educational services while simultaneously facing discrimination due to their IDP status.⁷

The following sections detail achievements, challenges and lessons learned during the reporting period.

¹ World Health Organization (WHO), COVID-19 Iraq Portal, <https://covid19.who.int/region/emro/country/iq>

² https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Joint%20PR%20-%20UNICEF%20-%20MOH_ENG.pdf

³ S/2022/103

⁴ <https://www.un.org/press/en/2022/sc14804.doc.htm>

⁵ S/2022/103bid.

⁶ <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/>

⁷ IOM, "Protracted Displacement in Iraq: Revisiting Categories of Return Barriers", February 2022, https://iraqdtm.iom.int/files/DurableSolutions/202222793631_iom_DTM_District_of_Displacement_Profiles.pdf

Progress Update

During the reporting period, UNDP has made significant progress with one out of two activities completed and the remaining activity well under implementation.

Rehabilitation of the electricity distribution network began in October 2021 and was completed on 19 February 2022 with the remaining electricity poles as well as all associated transformers, wires and conductors installed. In summary, the rehabilitation works entailed the following activities:

- Installation of 325 electricity poles (150 eleven-meter high-tension tubular steel poles, 50 eleven-meter high-tension lattice steel poles, 100 nine-meter low-tension tubular steel poles, and 25 nine-meter low-tension lattice steel poles);
- Installation of 20 associated transformers;
- Installation of around 25,000 meters of aluminum-conductor steel-reinforced (ACSR) cables, 12,000 meters of aerial bundle cables (ABC), stay wires as well as any other accessories required to make the network functional.

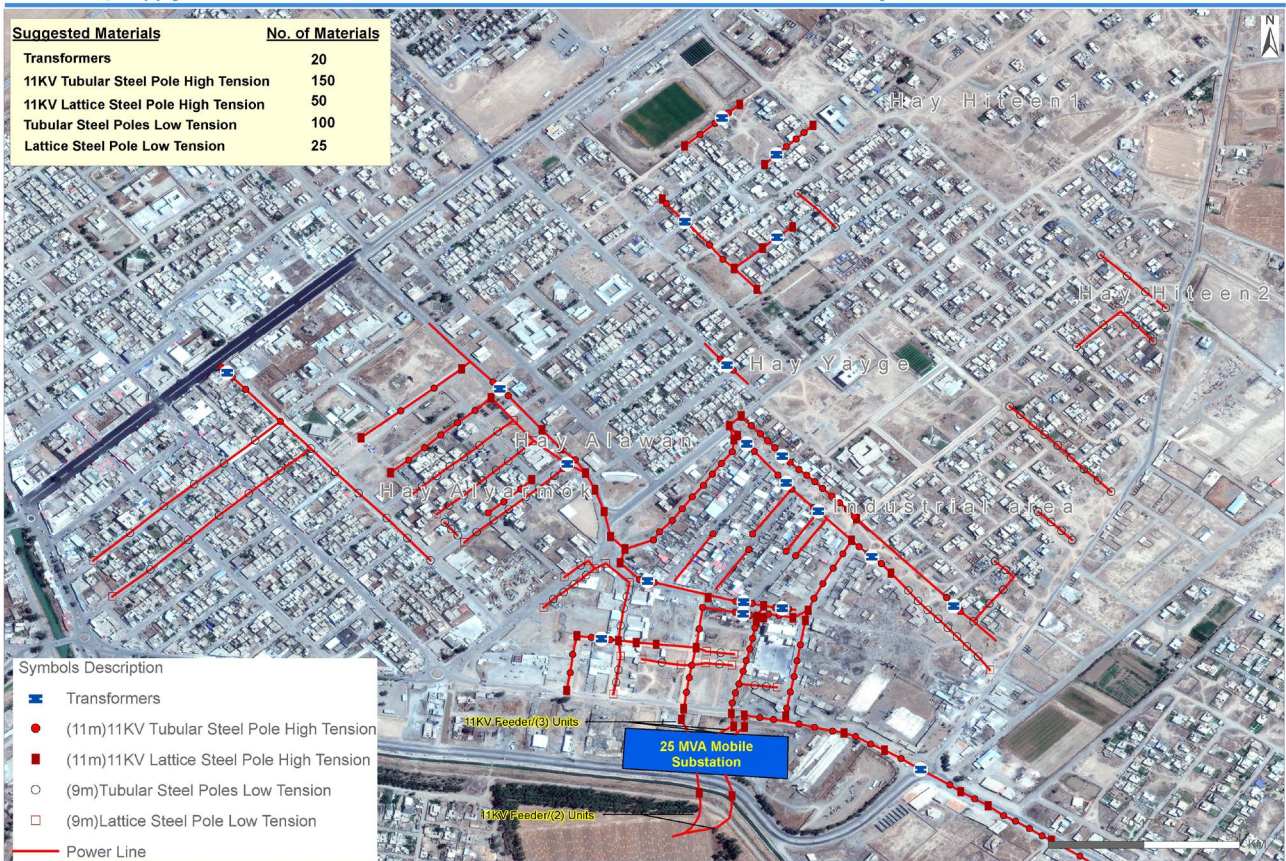
The end user has been heavily involved in the project activity and has selected the positions of each pole and transformer. Following the finalization of activities, the network was successfully tested and handed over to the end user, who will be in charge of maintenance as well as any further network extension as required.

The supply and installation of the electrical network will benefit the mechanical shops and vehicle shops of Hawija's industrial area. Thanks to the installation of the 20 transformers, it was already noticed that power usage in the area has already stabilized. Once the mobile substation will be installed, the network will be further stabilized as the available power can be better regulated. This will allow for all equipment to be used without damaging them. Since a stable supply of electricity is especially crucial for the kind of high voltage equipment often used to repair agricultural machinery, the project, once completed, will ensure the full functioning of the electrical distribution network within the catchment area and enable the workshops to operate throughout the day

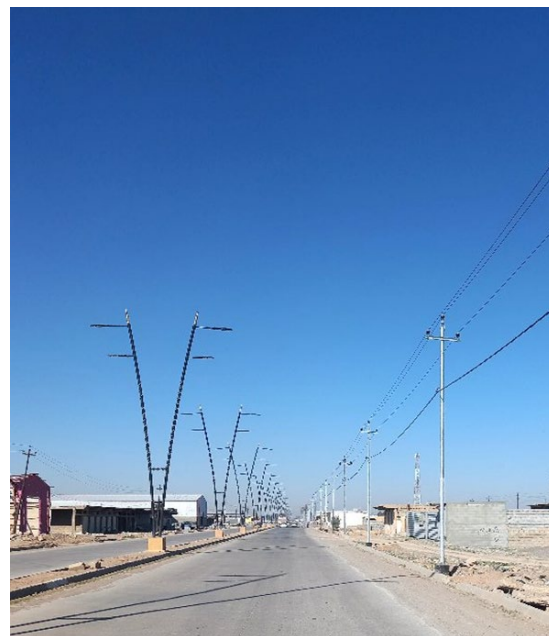


Parts of the electricity distribution network prior to rehabilitation (left) and after the completion of works (right).

Suggested Materials	No. of Materials
Transformers	20
11KV Tubular Steel Pole High Tension	150
11KV Lattice Steel Pole High Tension	50
Tubular Steel Poles Low Tension	100
Lattice Steel Pole Low Tension	25



Electrical distribution network with the location of the installed electricity poles.



The fully rehabilitated electricity distribution network in Hawija.

The contract for the supply and installation of the **mobile substation** was awarded in November 2021. Construction then Manufacturing of the substation at the factory started in December. Ninety-one per cent of the submittals for the different components of the substation were approved and completed by the end of the reporting period. Once the submittal of a component of the substation has been approved, this part is then manufactured at the factory in Turkey. Manufacturing began in mid-December 2021 and currently stands at a 23% completion rate. Civil works to prepare the site in Hawija will commence one month prior to the anticipated delivery of the substation.

Outlook

As previously reported, the completion of all works is anticipated for Q3 2022 due to the delayed disbursement of funds. UNDP has been expediting all activities and implementation is on track with the remaining activity expected to be completed as per the tentative work plan in Annex 1.

Implementation Challenges

The Iraqi government recently changed the rules for tax exemptions insisting that any items imported into the country via the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) have to be administratively cleared in Baghdad as well as in Erbil, which might slow down implementation. UNDP has considered this (to the extent possible) in its work plan.

At the time of reporting, no significant implementation challenges were encountered. However, unforeseen events may delay implementation. In such event, UNDP will inform the MoD in a timely manner.

Annex 1. Tentative Work Plan

		2021		2022			
		Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Supply and Installation of Electrical Network							
1.	Supply of material (poles, conductors, cables, etc.)		■				
2.	Excavation works for poles and cables		■	■			
3.	Foundation works for the poles		■	■			
4.	Installation of poles, conductor, transformer and cables		■	■			
5.	Test commission and finalization of works			■			
Supply and Delivery of Mobile Substation							
1.	Supply of equipment		■				
2.	Assembly of mobile substation at factory, testing and transportation		■	■	■	■	
3.	Site preparation			■			
4.	Supply and installation of pre-fabricated cabins			■	■	■	
5.	Electrical works				■	■	
6.	Test commission and finalization of works					■	