



Quarterly Progress Report

October -December 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 a much-needed source of local employment. The report provides a progress update on activities undertaken during the reporting period (01 October to 31 December 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.

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	1,757,546.19	1,757,546.19

Programme Context

Following the **ratification of the election results** at the end of December 2021,¹ 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. On 27 October 2022, the government of Mohammed Shiya Sudani was sworn in after a protracted government formation process that lasted over a year. The stagnant government formation process following Iraq's largely peaceful elections last October highlights the crucial need for 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.²

The security situation in Iraq is likely to remain volatile. **Attacks against diplomatic missions and convoys** in Iraq and against the **civilian population** and **infrastructure** continued, especially in Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al-Din Governorates, and remain a serious concern. In response, Iraqi security forces continued their counterterrorism operations.³ On 28 January 2022, rockets attacked Baghdad International Airport damaging one disused civilian airplane and on 12 March 2022 and on 12 March 2022 several missiles landed near the U.S. Consulate in Erbil.

On 20 July, artillery shells struck in the Zakho district of the Duhok governorate. **On 18 October 2022, an airstrike hit Sinjar governorate.** On 19 October 2022, the Kurdistan region's special forces' unit in Garmyan region was struck by Improvised Explosive Devices (IED). Civilian casualties were reported in some of the attacks.

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. By 23 December 2022, a total of 2,464,997 COVID-19 infections, resulting in the death of 25,369 people, had been confirmed by Iraqi health authorities.⁴ Iraq had received over 6 million vaccination doses through the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) Facility since 2021. While vaccination services have been significantly expanded since late 2021, uptake of the vaccination remains relatively low. 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.⁵ As of 21 December 2022, a total of 19,552,980 people had been fully vaccinated – about 19.5% of the Iraqi population. 27.8% of the population had received at least one dose.

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

¹ S/2022/103

² <https://www.un.org/press/en/2022/sc14804.doc.htm>

³ S/2022/103bid.

⁴ World Health Organization (WHO), COVID-19 Iraq Portal, <https://covid19.who.int/region/emro/country/iq>

⁵ https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Joint%20PR%20%20UNICEF%20-%20MOH_ENG.pdf

Progress Update

During the reporting period, UNDP continued to make significant progress.



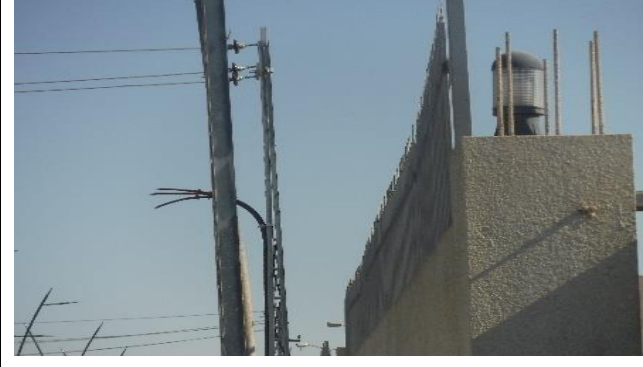

As previously reported, the **rehabilitation of the electricity distribution network** was completed in February 2022. The supply and installation of the electrical network is already benefitting shops in Hawija’s industrial area. It was observed that power usage in the area has already stabilized as a result of the installation of the 20 transformers. The 20 transformers are strategically positioned beside heavy usage workshops. Once the mobile substation is tested and commissioned, the network will be further stabilized as the available power can be regulated better. Since a stable supply of electricity is especially crucial for the kind of 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 without disruption throughout the day. This will allow the use of high voltage equipment to repair three phase equipment such as lathes, allowing a better variety of equipment able to be repaired than now.

The implementation of the remaining activity, the **supply and installation of the mobile substation**, currently stands at completion rate of 97 percent. While the final inspections are underway, during the reporting period, the FFS completed the construction and the civil works of the location where the mobile substation will be parked. Further, the concrete pad was earthed. As a critical measure at the stage of design, the testing of the site soil was completed. The testing measures the resistivity of the soil in which the earth grid is to be buried. Soil resistivity, along with soil layering, has a direct connection to the resistance of the earth grid. Subsequently, the earthing network was inspected and tested, resulting in a reading below 1 ohm which indicates suitable resistance value. Finally, the fence and the operators’ cabins were installed while awaiting to receive the two trailers.

Following the final factory test that was completed in early September in Turkey, the mobile substation arrived in Hawija on 18 October 2022. The mobile substation is consisted of two trailers, the first has the main 25MVA transformer, which converts the power supply from 33KV to 11KV along with the auxiliary transformer which supplies power to the mobile substation itself, along with lighting. The second trailer houses the switch gear, batteries and battery charger, and outgoing feeder lines.

Currently, the FFS is awaiting final Government approval through the Ministry of Electricity to endorse the use of oil for the substation. Subsequently, the endorsement will be shared with the line directorates to the end user in Kirkuk. Once the endorsement is received, the final testing and commissioning will be completed.

	
<p>Mobile substation has a control room consisted of two trailers: transformer trailer and control room trailer</p>	<p>Transformer trailer in place</p>

	
<p>Inside control room: 33 KV switchgear. 33 KV switchgear controls the incoming cables to the transformer.</p>	<p>Inside control room: 11 KV switchgear. 11 KV switchgear controls the outgoing cables that will feed industrial area.</p>
	
<p>11 KV cable awaiting connection to the 11 KV grid to feed the industrial zone. Earthing points guarantee safety from electrical shocks.</p>	<p>Operator cabinet in the premises of the mobile substation.</p>

Outlook

The mobile substation in Hawija is ready to be connected to the national grid by the end of the reporting period. At the end of the reporting period, UNDP awaits the final Government approval through MoE to endorse the use of oil for the substation. Once endorsed by MoE, the approval will be shared with the line directorates to the end user in Kirkuk.

While making the best efforts to expedite the above process, UNDP recognizes the risk that the issuance of letter and transmission of the paperwork through the respective government channels to the end user in Kirkuk may go beyond 31 December. In this context, as a cautionary measure and to be prudent, on 14 December, UNDP submitted a request to extend the agreement until 28 February 2023.

The estimated date of completion of all works is scheduled for February 2023. Following the installation on site, the substation will be connected to the grid, tested, and commissioned. UNDP will then finalize the handover to the DoE in Hawija and issue the final payment to the contractor. During the handover process, the substation will already be operational.

Implementation Challenges

After the substation arrived in Hawija on 18 October 2022, a Kirkuk Electrical engineer noted that the oil was not as stipulated in the initial BoQ and had requested Baghdad main office for their views. The type of oil was upgraded as the brand recommended at the time of BoQ is no longer manufactured. At the end of the reporting period, UNDP's request to endorse the use of upgraded type of oil is under review at MoE. UNDP is in close coordination with relevant officials following up on this request.

Annex 1. Tentative Work Plan

		2021		2022				2023	
		Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
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 prefabricated cabins			■	■	■			
5.	Electrical works				■	■	■		
6.	Test commission and finalization of works							■	■