


NOTE TO FILE**Date:** 21/NOV/2023**Subject:** **Operationalizing FFS (00095684) extension in Quantum**

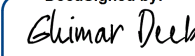
From: Raj KAMAL
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Endorsed by: Ghimar DEEB
Deputy Resident Representative (P), UNDP Iraq

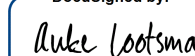
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Approved by: Auke LOOTSMA
Resident Representative, UNDP Iraq

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Reference is made to the Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS) Programme (00095684), which was scheduled to close on 31 December 2023.

On 4 April 2023, UNDP participated and contributed to the D-ISIS Coalition Stabilization Working Group (SWG) Meeting in Berlin. The SWG endorsed the stabilization requirements to address the most urgent needs in the liberated areas and recommended a post-stabilization consolidation phase of the programme for the period 2024-2026 to prevent the re-emergence of ISIL, and to prevent secondary displacement. This called for an extended transition phase for the FFS.

Given the above outlook, UNDP initiated consultations with the Government of Iraq (GoI) for the suggested extended transition of FFS to address residual stabilization needs of the liberated governorates and to address the causes of non-return of remaining IDPs. Approximately 1.16 million IDPs remain and continue to face multiple challenges to return to their places of origin. Among them, social cohesion and reconciliation issues are persistent, which calls for increased efforts. Camp closures and returns from Al-Hol should also be addressed in a sustainable way. If social cohesion and reintegration efforts are not accelerated, this could lead to increased tension, as well as ISIL resurgence and new displacement. Climate change continues to be a serious threat and is acting as a multiplier to the already fragile environment, security, political and economic landscape.

Following the consultation with the government, in response to UNDP Letter # (0349-023) dated 16 April 2023, ComSec informed UNDP about the approval of the Prime Minister of Iraq to extend FFS duration by three years to 2026. This was communicated by ComSec through an official letter Ref. no. 20301 dated 8 May 2023.

Further, in June 2023, UNDP participated in consultations in Washington DC to seek renewal of the US commitment for stabilization and strengthen partnerships with development partners for stabilization in Iraq. The US Senate Appropriations Committee released its version of the FY 2024 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, recognizing UNDP's ongoing work in Iraq and supporting continued contributions to the FFS through 2026. The Committee recommended that funds made available by the act for assistance for Iraq be provided to UNDP's FFS and ICRRP to address the stabilization and humanitarian needs of displaced Iraqis,



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including Yazidi populations and Iraqi returnees from Syria. The Committee agreed to continue funding for the FFS through 2026 and recognized the necessity of such programs to prevent the resurgence of ISIS and other extremist groups in Iraq.

At the end of the current FFS period to 31 December 2023, there would be ongoing infrastructure rehabilitation projects which will spill over to 2024 and an estimated timeframe of one year is required to complete the spill over works. Further, the extended period for implementation of FFS Transition Strategy 2024-2026 will include the following key elements among others:

1. Addressing residual stabilization needs.
2. Targeted addressing of the causes of non-return of remaining IDPs.
3. Supporting Government efforts for the return and reintegration of Iraqi families from Al-Hol.
4. Stabilization focus on special areas (e.g., Sinjar).
5. Enhancing the sustainability of FFS interventions through O&M Capacity Development.

This extension (2024-2026) will provide UNDP with the time and resources needed to successfully complete pending programme activities, document achieved results and lessons learned, and implement the extended Transition Strategy, ensuring a seamless transition of the FFS Programme from UNDP to the GoI.

In view of the above, further consultation meetings were held to disseminate the purpose of FFS extended transition strategy.

UNDP held a consultation meeting with Local Governments and donors/partners on September 11 and September 13, 2023, respectively to inform them about the purpose of the three-year extension of the Programme. Minutes of the two consultation meetings of September 2023 are enclosed herewith.

Finally, the meeting of the FFS Steering Committee was held on 5 November 2023 which acknowledged the three-year extension of FFS and provided guidance regarding the focus areas for FFS implementation during the extended Transition Strategy period 2024-2026. Minutes of the Steering Committee meeting are enclosed herewith.

This Note to File (NtF) is recorded to seek approval to operationalize FFS (00095684) extension to 31 December 2026 in Quantum.

Annexed to this NTF includes:

- Annex 1: FFS prodoc
- Annex 2: Approval of Office of the Prime Minister for FFS extension to 2026
- Annex 3: Minutes of consultation meeting with FFS governorates 11/SEP/2023
- Annex 4: Minutes of consultation meeting with Donors/Partners 13/SEP/2023
- Annex 5: Minutes of FFS Steering Committee 05/NOV/2023