

## Quarterly Report to the Government of Japan

**Project Title: Immediate Stabilization and Resilience Building in Iraq**

**Project Period: 18 March 2016 – 17 March 2017**

**Project ID:** No: 00089459 for Outcome 1 and 00085156 for Outcome 2

**Description:** The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2016 estimates that over 9.3 million people in Iraq require immediate humanitarian support, which was increased from 8.2 million last year. The situation in Newly Liberated Areas (NLAs) is highly volatile and devastated, preventing safe return of internally displaced people (IDPs). In prospect of further military actions against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the number of IDPs is expected to increase in the immediate future.

Therefore, the immediate support to the rebuilding of infrastructure and the creation of immediate job opportunities both in the NLAs and areas with large displaced populations is essential. This will also help combating radicalization of the affected population, particularly the youth. This project aims to undertake immediate interventions to achieve stabilization, recovery and resilience-building in Iraq in partnership with Japan through the FY2015 Japanese Supplementary Budget Fund (JSBF), focusing on two outcomes: 1) immediate stabilization; and 2) crisis response and resilience building.

**Implementing Partner:** UNDP Iraq (Direct Implementation)

**Reporting Period Covered:** 18 March 2016 – 30 Sep 2016

### 1. Highlights of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2016

*Under **Outcome 1** - Immediate Stabilization Support Enabling Sustainable and Safe Returns of IDPs to NLAs.*

A total of 28 high-profile infrastructure projects are benefiting thousands of Iraqi men and women, boys and girls in newly-liberated areas. They are supporting the rehabilitation of the electrical network, re-opening of public health centres and schools and enabling returnees to re-start their lives. More than 500 young people were employed through cash for work livelihoods opportunities in Ramadi and Karma. This provided an essential economic stimulus to these households, helped to clear streets and public spaces of rubble, and increased citizen confidence that it is safe to return.

*Under **Outcome 2** - Enhanced self-resilience of the vulnerable populations in Syrian refugees, IDPs, and host communities and self-sustainability of the institutions and mechanisms for basic service provision to the affected populations.*

Leadership of the Government of Iraq (GoI) and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in crisis response coordination and oversight was strengthened through capacity development support to the Joint Crisis Coordination Centre (JCC) and the Coordination and Monitoring Center (JCMC). Sustainable livelihoods and social cohesion for IDPs, refugees and host communities were strengthened in Basra, Najaf, Erbil, Dohuk, Sulaymaniyah, and Salah al-Din. Five infrastructure projects are ongoing in the Governorates of Dohuk, Sulaymaniyah, Baghdad and Ninewa, aiming to improve basic services, including electricity, water and sanitation. A total of 3,018 IDPs and refugees (2,693 women and 325 men) received legal assistance on Sexual- and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) while 343 IDPs (all women) received legal assistance in Baghdad through the legal aid centres supported by UNDP.

## 2. Project Performance

### **OUTCOME 1:**

Immediate Stabilization Support Enabling Sustainable and Safe Returns of IDPs to NLAs.

#### **Deliverable Description:**

1-1: Rapid local stabilization and recovery assessments are carried out with local authorities, UN agencies and civil society actors.

1-2: Iraqi Government is supported to address the immediate stabilization and recovery needs in newly accessible areas which allows the sustainable return of IDPs, which include:

- Priority infrastructure in newly liberated areas rehabilitated.
- Local economy start-up and income generation support such as cash for work provided for vulnerable returnees for three months, particularly the youth.
- Community reconciliation and dialogue initiatives designed and implemented in the communities.

#### **Target Indicators:**

- 5 additional assessment reports.
- 22 additional infrastructure projects.
- 2,500 additional livelihoods opportunities created.
- 15 additional communities reconciliation dialogue initiated.

*Start and End Date: March 2016 – March 2017*

### **Achievements of the Reporting Period (March – September 2016):**

During the reporting period, stabilization and needs assessments were undertaken in five major locations of Anbar Governorate that were liberated in 2016 through the programme for Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization (FFIS). These included Fallujah and Karma (a joint assessment given their geographic proximity to each other), as well as Haditha, Heet and Rutba. Stabilization Needs Assessments workshops were conducted with relevant government of Iraq counterparts from all locations. These resulted in a list of priority projects for each location that forms the basis for the FFIS projects to be implemented. The formal report was published for Fallujah and Karma. The report for Haditha, Heet and Rutba has been drafted and will be published in the coming quarter after the Government review and endorsement.

JSB funds have been committed for 28 high-profile infrastructure projects that will benefit thousands of Iraqi men and women, boys and girls in newly-liberated areas. These projects include the following packages:

- Rehabilitation of six schools in Tameem, Ramadi, which was recently completed and with students and teachers returning to school;
- Supply of electrical materials for Sadiya to rehabilitate the local electricity network;
- Supply of electrical materials for Ramadi to rehabilitate the local electricity network;
- Rehabilitation of four schools in the '5 Kilo' neighbourhood of Ramadi;
- Rehabilitation and re-equipment of the Sadiyah water station in Diyala Governorate;
- Rehabilitation of the sewerage Lift Stations 'E1 and E2' in Ramadi;
- Supply of materials and equipment for Qayarah Water Directorate to re-start water supply services in the newly-liberated town;

- Rehabilitation and re-equipment of five primary health centres (PHCs) in Ramadi;
- Supply and installment of a mobile substation and electrical equipment for Sununi to provide essential electricity to Sununi and surrounding areas;
- Rehabilitation of five public health centres in Fallujah;
- Rehabilitation of water ground and towering tanks in Al Melaab neighbourhood, Ramadi.



*A rehabilitated school in Tameem neighbourhood, Ramadi, has enabled over one hundred young girls to return to school.*



*FFIS is supporting the Line Directorates of Electricity repair the local electricity network through provision of essential materials and equipment.*



*Left: Rehabilitation of a school in Anbar Governorate nearly completed. Right: Close site monitoring of progress and project quality is regularly undertaken by FFIS team in all locations.*

Re-starting livelihoods and providing immediate assistance to recently-returned households is crucial for stabilization and to promote returns. With Japan's support, more than 520 people have been engaged in cash for work activities under the livelihoods window of FFIS in the first round.

UNDP FFIS undertook cleaning and rubble removal projects in Ramadi and Karma. The first phase of these projects was completed during the reporting period: Ramadi East, reaching 130 people; Ramadi Tameem (west) reaching 130 people; and Ramadi central, reaching 156 people; and Karma reaching 100 people. The majority of these beneficiaries were young men who were employed for up to three months.

Based on the success of these projects, and the enormous need for cleaning of public spaces and removal of rubble, another round of projects are now underway to reach over 2,000 people in various neighbourhoods and cities, including: Ramadi central; Ramadi Tameem, Ramadi North, Heet central, and a livelihoods project for Ninewah which will reach over one thousand people and provide important economic stimulus to this crucial Governorate.



*With Japanese support, FFIS is providing thousands of cash for work livelihoods opportunities across several cities. This is providing an essential economic stimulus to thousands of households, helping to clear streets and public spaces of rubble, and increasing citizen confidence that it is safe to return.*

% Progress to date: 60%

**Plan for the next Quarter:**

- Continue with the ongoing assessments for newly-liberated areas and publish the Assessment Reports;
- Continue with implementation of infrastructure projects and supply of essential materials and equipment;
- Implement the next round of cash for work initiatives across liberated areas;
- Continue with the community dialogue activities to foster social cohesion in newly-liberated areas.

**OUTCOME 2:** Enhanced self-resilience of the vulnerable populations in Syrian refugees, IDPs, and host communities and self-sustainability of the institutions and mechanisms for basic service provision to the affected populations.

**Deliverable Description:**

2-1: Nation-wide crisis response coordination mechanisms operationalized at the Central, Regional and Governorate levels.

2-2: Socio-economic infrastructures constructed for sustainable and cost-effective provision of public service to the affected communities and IDPs/refugee settlements.

2-3: Greater economic resilience created for affected communities and IDPs/refugees through income generation activities, employment creation, and local Small Medium Enterprises (SME) support.

2-4: Increased access to justice and protection of vulnerable groups in refugee, IDP and host communities from(SGBV)through the provision of a legal aid model in Iraq.

2-5: Community solidarity created through participatory and inclusive dialogues and community-based activities in the affected communities with the displaced and local populations.

**Target Indicators:**

- 5 capacity building trainings conducted for JCMC/JCC and relevant government staff.
- 4 additional infrastructures constructed.
- 2,140 additional refugees/IDPs/host community members supported through livelihoods activities.
- 3,000 additional refugees/IDPs/host community members received legal services on SGBV.
- 5 communities engaged in social cohesion dialogue.

*Start and End Date: March 2016 – March 2017*

**Achievements of the Reporting Period:**

The activities in the five key areas for resilience building, namely (1) Government crisis response coordination capacity; (2) basic public services; (3) livelihoods; (4) SGBV protection; and (5) social cohesion, are being implemented under the Iraq Crisis Response and Resilience Programme (ICRRP). ICRRP also expanded its activities in the newly liberated areas where post-liberation dynamics are complex and difficult.

Under **Activity Component 2.1**, a capacity building training for 14 staff from the JCC and JCMC was conducted on the critical aspects of project management in emergencies.

Under **Activity Component 2.2**, UNDP continued to support KRG as well as GoI to address the immense demand for basic services and infrastructure vis à vis local communities and local governments. ICRRP has been supporting the following infrastructure projects in IDP camps and the host communities, working closely with the Governorate offices in Dohuk, Baghdad, Ninewah and Sulaymaniyah with a total budget approx. US\$0.6 million in total.

- Rehabilitation of the electricity network in Lalish, Dohuk;
- Provision of x-ray machine to Shikhan hospital, Dohuk;
- Additional work for the Baghdad water treatment plant, Baghdad;
- Provision of medical equipment to Wana Hospital, Ninewah;
- Rehabilitation of water supply in Dokan, Sulaymaniyah.



*Infrastructure projects for sustainable provision of public services to the areas affected by a protracted stay of refugees/IDPs. (Photos from the left: water project in Dokan/Sulaymaniyah, Naharwan/Baghdad, Lalish/Dohuk.)*

Under **Activity Component 2.3**, four livelihoods projects are on-going with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), for approx. US\$1.3 million in total. These projects provide livelihoods opportunities to IDPs residing in camp and non-camp across the KRI covering Erbil and Dohuk as well as newly liberated areas, such as Salah al-Din. Furthermore, cash for work activities for 1,000 households are being planned in South Diyala through OXFAM.

- Support to economic independence, resilience and self-reliance of abused Yezidi women and SGBV/trafficking victims through increase of economic opportunities and risks mitigation of social tension in Dohuk governorate (partner: French Red Cross – FRC);
- Piloting resilience building models for Syrian refugees and host community in three camps in Kurdistan Region of Iraq (partner: UNHCR and Action Contre la Faim- International (ACF));
- IRAQ Re:Coded (partner: New York University – NYU);
- Cash for work for stabilization agriculture activities in Dhuluiya, Salah al-Din Governorate (partner: Human Relief Foundation – HRF).

Recent research and reports show that ISIL has been perpetrating and continues to perpetrate human rights violations, including SGBV, particularly targeting women from diverse religious and ethnic communities, such as the Yezidi community. The project implemented in partnership with FRC in Sumel district targets 150 vulnerable women who will benefit from small grants and business start-up support. In the reporting period, a draft report for a market assessment and a skills assessment was finalized. The report aims to identify job opportunities for women as well as beneficiaries' livelihoods skills and barriers to job markets.

To enhance self-reliance of Syrian refugees in the camps, ICRRP in collaboration with UNHCR has been implementing greenhouse agro-business project with ACF in Gawilan, Darashakran, and Arbat camps. In Gawilan camp, installation of 10 greenhouses has started. In addition, water system has been upgraded for 15 existing greenhouses in Arbat camp. A field research with the KRG Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources identified suitable varieties of plants and cucumber that would grow during fall season in moderate/cold conditions in Gawilan area as well as dry/very cold conditions in Arbat area. A total of 32,760 cucumber plants, of which 19,224 seedlings of sillon variety, will be distributed in Gawilan and Arbat areas. In Darashakran camp, the wall construction for the greenhouses has started. A total of 41 labours have been working in all the three camps.

The Re:Coded programme uses a low-cost blended learning approach (part face-to-face, part digital instruction) to train participants over a six month period in computer programming skills (web development), English language and a mix of soft skills including written communication skills, entrepreneurship, critical thinking and teamwork before being placed in employment with private sector partners (Microsoft and Guru). Participants that complete the Re:Coded programme (Syrian refugees, Iraqi displaced people, host community aged 17-30) will be able to generate an income immediately and compete in the regional and global job market as web developers, as long as they

have access to a computer and the internet. Through an innovative sustainable livelihoods approach, this intervention goes beyond other vocational training programmes because of its content and the ability to provide opportunities to work with companies around the world despite the transience of displaced populations. In the reporting period, the programme started with an initial cohort of 40 students. In addition, the training facility in Erbil is being equipped to deliver the Re:Coded training curriculum.

In the reporting period, selection of beneficiaries and sites started in Dhuluiya with regard to the preparation of agricultural lands, greenhouse repairs, rubble removal, street cleaning as well as institutional building repairs. In total, it is expected that 1,000 households will benefit from cash for work interventions.



*ICRRP is linking its livelihoods projects with the markets. IDPs and refugees are enhancing their computer skills (left) and greenhouses are established in Gawilan camp (right).*

Furthermore, UNDP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Toyota Iraq on 17 July to train and place displaced youth in jobs. Through this MoU, Toyota Iraq will provide vocational training in vehicle mechanics and maintenance to IDP trainees. After the trainees graduate, ICRRP will facilitate job placement in local companies and businesses.



*MoU between UNDP and Toyota Iraq was signed by Mr. Ryusuke Miyake, CEO, Toyota Iraq, and Ms. Lise Grande UNDP Resident Representative and UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq.*

Under **Activity Component 2.4**, legal aid services are being provided to displaced people in the KRI and in Baghdad.

Five legal aid centres inside the main IDPs and refugee camps in the three Governorates of the KRI started to operate: one in Sulaymaniyah inside the Ashti IDPs camp, two in Erbil inside the Baharka (IDPs) and Kawrgosk (refugee) camps, and two in Duhok inside Shariya (IDP) and Domiz (refugee) camps. While the centres in Duhok and Erbil will be run by NGO partners with support from the Directorate of Combating Violence Against Women (DCVAW) and the Independent Board of Human

Rights (IBHR), the centre in Sulaymaniya will be gradually handed over to DCVAW to ensure long-term sustainability of the legal aid service provision.

Furthermore, five investigation units are fully operational (one within each legal aid centre) and they are jointly run by local NGOs, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and IBHR. They provide legal and social support, as well as investigation and follow-up services to the refugee population inside the camps with a special focus on women and girls survivors of SGBV and trafficking. In addition, a legal mobile team is operational in Erbil providing similar services to the IDPs and refugees in-camps and off-camp when necessary.

During the reporting period, a total of 3,018 IDPs and refugees (2,693 women and 325 men) received legal and social services such as legal support, legal representation, social counseling and referral to other service providers. In addition, 23 awareness raising workshops were conducted for 1,117 IDPs and refugees.

In Baghdad, 343 IDPs (all women) received legal and social services by the legal aid centre supported by UNDP, such as legal consultation, legal representation, and social counseling. A draft Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) has been completed.

Under **Activity Component 2.5**, National Youth Volunteers have been supported to implement inclusive dialogue sessions in nine communities in Basra, Najaf, Erbil, Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah, as follows:

- Water for our families project – Abo sukhir community, Basra;
- Children's education project in Al-Zubair community, Basra;
- Improving environment for children in Al-Salam community, Najaf;
- Summer programme in Kurani Ainkawa community, Erbil;
- Social gathering in Kasnazan community, Erbil;
- Promoting social cohesion in Summel community, Duhok;
- Summer programme phase 1 and 2 in Khak community, Sulymania;
- Integration of IDPs and refugees in Summel and Shekhan communities, Duhok;

% Progress to date: 50%



*Based on consultations among IDPs and host community, volunteers were mobilized from host community members and youth to undertake community-based activities in Abo-Sukhir, Basra (Photo: Upper Left), Al-Salam, Najaf (Photo: Upper Right) and Kasnazan, Erbil (Photo: Bottom)*

**Plan for the next Quarter:**

- Finalize capacity building programme for JCC and JCMC;
- Complete infrastructure projects in KRI and NLAs;
- Strengthen livelihoods interventions in KRI and NLAs;
- Continue supporting the legal aid centres inside the camps in KRI and Baghdad;
- Continue supporting the communities in Basra, Najaf, Erbil, Duhok and Sulaymaniyah to implement community-based activities.

**Project Management:**

**Deliverable Description:**

Effective and Efficient Project Management

*Start and End Date: March 2016 - March 2017*

**Achievements of the Reporting Period:**

A signing ceremony for the FY2015 JSB fund was organized and a joint press release with the Japanese Embassy was issued:

<http://www.iq.undp.org/content/iraq/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2016/03/28/undp-and-japan-partner-to-support-stabilization-and-resilience-in-iraq1/>). The press release was broadcasted by several local media. The UNAMI Facebook article on the event recorded over 100,000 views.

Furthermore, a press release was issued on the MoU signing with Toyota Iraq for IDPs vocational training(<http://www.iq.undp.org/content/iraq/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2016/07/17/hundreds-of-families-to-benefit-from-undp-s-new-partnership-with-toyota-iraq.html>) as well as with Sulaymania Governorate for Dokan Water Project

(<http://www.iq.undp.org/content/iraq/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2016/08/07/undp-is-helping-to-ensure-safe-water-for-over-one-million-people-in-the-governorate-of-sulaimaniyah/>)

The FFIS and ICRRP were staffed to ensure regular monitoring of all field projects and timely contracting and payment for contractors based on deliverables.

**Plan for the next Quarter:**

- Continue conducting regularly monitoring visits.

% Progress to date: 50%

**3. Updates on Project Risks and Issues**

Project issues and risks during the reporting period	Suggested solutions/counter measures
Fluid political environment whereby changes in Government positions could lead to invite changing opinions on priorities or leadership gaps.	Ensure strong relationships are maintained at high political level, and high-level decisions on FFIS/ICRRP are documented through the Steering Committee. FFIS and ICRRP works with provincial Control Cells and respective governorates.

Sectarian and tribal tensions increase, and violent conflict breaks out in areas UNDP is engaging.	Engage with Government at all levels to ensure UNDP activities are conducted in a manner that promote fair distribution of projects among tribal or sectarian groups. Conduct conflict analysis to develop shared understanding of situation. International community to raise concerns at highest level.
Anti-ISIL military operation and poor security impeded access to the project sites.	UNDP has utilized partner NGOs to reach the project sites.
At the end of June 2015, a large number of people were displaced due to increased violence by armed groups in Nineveh and its neighbouring areas and entered into the KRI. Urgent needs to provide humanitarian assistance to IDPs emerged in addition to support for Syrian refugees.  The sudden increase of displaced populations in the KRI imposed a significant pressure on the government and community resilience capacity.	UNDP has been monitoring the situation for refugees, IDPs and the host communities closely and will continue to do so.  UNDP has been expanding the coverage of social cohesion activities to cover IDPs in the target communities. It also included IDPs for livelihoods interventions and will continue to do so. UNDP has also developed a contingency plan to continue implementation in case the security situation gets worst
Due to the fiscal crisis in the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), the government financial resource to provide maintenance and operations for the IDP camps became extremely limited.	UNDP will continue to dialogue with the government to explain that UNDP's funding cannot be used to substitute the government financial obligations and regularly collect the information on the status of the government fiscal position.
Human rights violations committed, property issues are unresolved, and other grievances lead to feelings of impunity and growing frustrations of the returning population.	Document protection concerns and share them with international community. Advocate with high level decision makers to raise awareness and tackle the sensitive issues.
Lack of substantive and effective stabilization planning prior to engagement.	Provide technical support to Governorates to prepare for stabilization effort. Task Force with PMO and Steering Committee convened regularly as a platform to raise concerns. Build trust with the governors and their advisors/deputies to provide support to planning and coordination.

#### 4. Financial Summary (in US\$)

The table below show the expenditure made from March 2016 to September 2016 in US\$. The expenditure figures are provisional and subject to change upon reconciliation of accounts.

Output	Revenue	Opening Balance (April 2016)	Expenses (incl. Outstanding Commitment)	Balance (as of end of Sep 2016)
Outcome 1 Stabilization (00095684)	16,087,140	16,087,140	12,526,459	3,560,681
Outcome 2 Resilience (000100018/99756)	7,412,860	7,412,860	3,895,517	3,517,343
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,500,000</b>	<b>23,500,000</b>	<b>16,421,976</b>	<b>7,078,024</b>