

Proof of Employment of Funds:

Note: In accordance with no. 10 VV to Section 44 BHO, the Proof of Employment of Funds shall consist of a substantive report, a statement of account and a tabular list of receipts (cf analogue no. 6 ANBest-P). There is no need to submit receipts in the first instance. If necessary, the auditing agency will ask for them when examining the Proof of Employment of Funds. Receipts must be retained for at least 5 years after submission of the Proof of Employment of Funds, unless other regulations to be observed by the recipient provide for a longer retention period.

Proof of Employment of Funds

(analogue no. 10 VV to Section 44 BHO, no. 6 ANBest-P)

relating to

Allocation Agreement

dated	9 August 2017; CSA amended on 22 September 2017
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Recipient of the allocation:

€ 1,187,992 Equivalent to 1,415,231.48 USD, received on Sep 27, 2017
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Type of allocation:

Project promotion

Amount of allocation	2,375,984.00	EUR
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Type of financing:

- ◇ **Part funding**
- ◇ Deficit financing
- ◇ Fixed-sum financing
- ◇ Full financing

Intended purpose of the allocation:

1. A National Network of Civic Platforms dedicated to Reconciliation
2. Public Awareness Campaigns focused on Reconciliation
3. A Citizens' Archive of Gross Human Rights Violations

Period authorized:

from	1 July 2017	to	31 July 2017
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Report

1. INTRODUCTION

In coordination with the UNAMI's leading efforts towards political reconciliation at a national level, the UNDP has developed the "**Support for Integrated Reconciliation Project**" in close partnership with the Government of Iraq through the *Implementation and Follow-up Committee for National Reconciliation* (IFCNR) located in the office of the Iraq Prime Minister. Following the military defeat of ISIS, the Prime Minister's Office instructed the IFCNR in August 2017 to sign a partnership agreement with the UNDP to implement the Integrated Reconciliation Project.

This five-year project is now half-way through its second year after a successful launch in 2017. It has received the support of Germany, UK and Denmark, the latter both directly and through the UNDP EDRCR. With a budget of approximately \$3 million delivered during its inception year, the aim is to strategically consolidate and expand its impact whilst **bridging the period until additional funding is received during the second half of 2018**.

The project integrates three crucial lines of action in a **holistic, integrated effort** to promote reconciliation in Iraqi communities—with the initial focus on those areas most directly affected by ISIS and the massive population displacements it had caused. These three lines of efforts, or pillars, are offering support to Iraqi-led programmes focused on:

- 1) **Area-specific community-based reconciliation mechanisms and processes** to raise civic awareness of, and participation in, community reconciliation, to monitor and mitigate local conflicts, build trust and enhance social cohesion;
- 2) **Public awareness raising campaigns focused on youth** in carefully selected areas to support community reconciliation enlarging the participation of youth (including women and minorities), enhancing their leadership and influencing capacities;
- 3) **Support programmes for victims (especially women) in community reconciliation;**

Important core values bind these different, but complementary efforts together in one integrated approach. Through this project, the UNDP is supporting reconciliation processes that are:

- **Civic-led and locally-owned,**
- **Gender-sensitive,**
- **Iraq-specific** and culturally-sensitive
- **Rights and Victim-focused**

2. CUMULATIVE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TO 31 DECEMBER 2018

(Information should be given about what measures were supposed to be implemented during the project phase (= promotion period) and what measures were in fact implemented. Express mention must be made of the use of financing instruments (own funds, Federal Foreign Office financing, funds from third parties, etc.).)

After operational challenges during the first half of 2017 (initial lack of a core implementation team and optimal funding) and political challenges (GoI's process to determine the shape of reconciliation prior to defeating ISIS), the project achieved several important milestones from August 2017 onwards providing a foundation for the expansion and deepening of its impact during the remaining project implementation period.

Line of Action 1: Active and Effective networks of Community Reconciliation Platforms are created, capacitated and connected

Following an assessment of previous efforts in Iraq towards community reconciliation, the project initially identified three important weaknesses:

- Insufficient momentum was created by too many disparate, disconnected initiatives. Consequently, the impact of such initiatives, often in the form of trainings or conferences, was often soon lost.
- Citizens were not sufficiently involved as decision-makers and actors, mainly as passive recipients.
- Processes were more often than not male-dominated and gender-insensitive.

To allow these lessons to shape a new approach, the project supported the IFCNR – *Implementation and Follow up Committee for National Reconciliation* - to design a system of local peace committees which would act as a mechanism to provide momentum to a range of positive initiatives by being a locally-owned, officially recognized coordination mechanism and facilitator for community reconciliation that would also empower citizens to work with all tiers of government as active decisionmakers and that would enhance participation of women and youth as potential leaders in shaping and implementing community reconciliation.

The project delivered a range of **in-depth conflict analysis studies** for various areas (Baqubah in Diyala and Hamdaniyah, Mosul and Sinjar in Nineveh) where it aimed to make an impact. Sources for these studies included expert and special stakeholder interviews, focus groups across many parts of the country, community consultations, and actor mapping exercises by Iraqi consultants.

In an important sign of Iraqi buy-in and uptake of the project, the newly created Supreme Committee for Coexistence and Peace (SCCP), chaired by the Secretary of the Council of Ministers (COMSEC), Dr Mahdi Al-Alak, created an office for Local Peace Committees (LPCs), expressly to engage this project on establishing these mechanisms in as many conflict hot spots as possible. Dr Fa'al, previously the IFCNR coordinator for Salah Al-Din is now heading up this Unit. Throughout the implementation, the project closely coordinated its activities with IFCNR and SCCP, to build their capacity to provide adequate support to citizens of Iraq and ensure positive impact on communities.

In consultation with IFCNR, and drawing on international best practice, the UNDP developed a Local Peace Committee (LPC) 'support package' to operationalise community-based reconciliation initiatives, consisting of a Charter of Values and Principles, Terms of Reference, Standard Operating Procedures, and Reporting Regimes. This document served as a main guiding tool for UNDP and IFCNR while implementing the activities.

The principles of *Do no Harm* are applied in all engagements and recruitment of LPC members while implementing partners are selected on the basis of their credibility, track record and involvement within the specific communities. The project also strengthened its training capacities to be able to develop individual capacity among IFCNR volunteers and LPC members alike, including specifically-strategic community leaders (such as the *Arfaa* in Anbar for example). Prior to any intervention in the governorates, consultations are routinely conducted with national, provincial and local government, tribal authorities, academics, NGO's, women organizations and youth leaders. This pattern has been followed in each of the four governorates where the project is currently active.

The consultations organized in Salah Al-Din, Anbar, Diyala and KRG or with minority groups in Nineveh Plains has been a new reality for Iraq because it opened space for more inclusion of communities to express and address their needs directly to the representatives of the government, which, in the end, may contribute to regaining the trust of the people in government, bigger openness of the GOI towards its citizens and concrete support to functioning of the local peace committees and implementation of their recommendations, once they are fully operational.

The project aimed to develop a first-ever **Social Cohesion Measurement Tool for Iraq** – based on the best practise UNDP work elsewhere – to act as both an early warning mechanism and a tool to measure the impact of district-level reconciliation work across the country. Unfortunately, after the initial agreement from December 2017 to continue with the implementation of the social cohesion activity, the IFCNR informed UNDP in late January 2017 that further

discussion within the Government is needed, at the same time requesting to freeze the activity until official “green light” is provided. In late February 2018 the Government informed UNDP that social cohesion activity should be put on hold citing concerns over political volatility during the elections.

Line of Action 2: Awareness campaigns to inform target communities participating in sections 1 and 3 is carried out, as well as a national awareness raising campaigns advocating for civic-led reconciliation

The overall implementation of activities in this pillar has been **considerably slower than expected**, due to a combination of factors, such as slow procurement process, late recruitment of the project’s communication specialist and lack of capacities of the implementing partner, LAPIS, to deliver requested services, after frequent changing of the programme team.

In August 2017 the project contracted LAPIS, to implement raising awareness activities, focusing on 1) production and broadcasting of TV and radio spots, 2) creation of an exemplar team of media specialists and political analysts (community champions), 3) holding series of raising awareness sessions for universities and communities and 4) initiation of social media contest. Two months after contracting the LAPIS underwent several core staff changes, which necessitated the UNDP to conduct **a critical re-evaluation of their capacity** to deliver as well as to make some strategic re-arrangement involving reshaping the scope of work and deliverables of the contractor. As a result, the initial contract amount with LAPIS was decreased by 2/3 (from \$425,105.14 to \$ 140,000), defining exactly which activities will be performed by the vendor by 31 March 2018, when the contract with the LAPIS expired and which activities will be conducted through other arrangements. After the re-evaluation of their capacity, the company was tasked to do the following: to create 4 public service announcements involving several Iraqi celebrities advocating for reconciliation in various authentic ways, train youth and journalists from 4 governorates and create taglines and messages for reconciliation awareness. Achievements are reported to in the section 2 of the report.

In parallel with the re-evaluation of the LAPIS’s capacity, the project started developing a contingency plan for public awareness. In an effort to help prepare the ground for establishing local peace committees and overcome the impediments related to the implementation of the raising awareness activities, the project collaborated with UNDP Iraq Crisis Response and Resilience Programme (ICRRP), which was based on programmatic synergies and cooperation at community level.¹ Moreover, this collaboration was necessary since the German grant became operational in October 2017 and the CSA should have expired on 31 December 2017. Therefore, the Reconciliation Project and ICRRP jointly implemented various activities in Diyala (Xanaqeen, Baquba and Jalawla) and KRG, such as community dialogues, community-based activities, conflict resolution and mediation capacity-building exercises and awareness raising actions on peaceful coexistence and reconciliation, focusing on strengthening the capacity of peace actors within the NGOs, youth, university students, imams, IDPs and host communities.

In addition, the project designed a new raising awareness strategy and the implementation plan **with an emphasis on youth and education**. **This strategy will be implemented during 2018**. The components of the strategy are the following:

- develop and launch social media strategy that would build a network of social media influencers who would attract attention of wider public on social media about reconciliation, generating more than 5000 followers
- initiate youth activities that would engage youth ideas with regards to promotion of peaceful coexistence (such as youth contest, youth peace talks caravan, live cultural events for youth etc.), reaching out up to 5000 youth
- create a partnership with media outlets, to air videos and integrate reconciliation topics in the programme scheme,
- build network of academics how to promote reconciliation in textbooks and in classes, reaching out at least 20 professors and 200 students
- train journalists and minority representatives how to promote peace and reconciliation in traditional media, generating at least 5 articles from each journalist
- organize grass root public sessions with various societal groups to activate them to promote reconciliation, generating awareness of at least 1000 citizens.

Line of Action 3: Preparatory work towards the establishment of a Citizens Archive

During the first year of the implementation, the project intended to initiate an Iraqi-endorsed process of building a Citizens Archive through recording personal narratives of victims of gross human rights violations—aiming over time to become a national archive that would function both as historical record (which could provide evidence for future transitional justice endeavours) and personal acknowledgement and hopefully the eventual public memorialisation of victims —once the safeguarding and operational mechanisms are established by the UN and Government of Iraq (GoI), specifically through the Council of Ministers and the IFCNR, Iraq’s official state mechanism for reconciliation. The

¹ Given the reality that the German grant became operational in October 2017 and given the new priorities of the Government of Iraq (GOI), focusing on IDPs return and provision of protection services to victims of human rights violations, with particular focus on women and girls victims of war and gender based violence, the Reconciliation Project needed to re-adjust some of the activities and the implementation strategy, in order to be more responsive to the pressing needs of the GOI within the lines of action established by the agreement

preparatory work during the first year should have entailed a programme of preliminary consultation, political buy-in, pilot projects and the design of a detailed project plan.

However, the project undertook the revision of the output in line with the request from IFCNR to deviate from the narrower Citizens Archive human rights documentation approach, originally proposed within the SIRI project, as there have been concerns raised by government partners about the extent to which such an evidence-orientated fact-finding model is appropriate at this juncture. In parallel, the project needed to undertake review of implications of the Citizen Archive activities on the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2379 in order not to interfere in the work of the Independent investigative team to help in holding ISIL (Da'esh) accountable for its actions in Iraq.

However, given the GOI willingness to support an initial focus on the victims of ISIS, with a commitment to broaden the approach to include other victim groups over time, the project developed the following actions: instead of focusing on forensic documentation of human rights violations with a view to prosecution, the project developed a series of pilot projects to explore the **practise of story-telling as a form of victim support**. This almost spontaneously developed into a very strong gender focus, given the reality of sexual and gender-based crime, as well as the disproportionate burden on women and girls during the ISIS occupation. At the same time an opportunity opened to **test these strategies on scale**, when the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs approached the UNDP to support its network of approximately 1000 social workers in developing more capacity to handle the demand for victim support across the country. Therefore, the **project reviewed activities, focusing on rights and protection of victims and vulnerable groups in post-ISIS Iraq**, with a special focus on women at the same time **promoting the role of women in community reconciliation process**.

It is essential to distinguish between this initiative and a transitional justice process. The focus here is firmly on better supporting victims, a reality which continues to confront MOLSA in their social support work. The idea is not for this to become a quasi-transitional justice mechanism yet, but to provide more efficient support to victims and also learn applicable lessons.

Given the importance of women involvement in reconciliation, the project promoted a network of community influencers to build peace and advocate for reconciliation in their communities, particularly focusing on women role. Consequently, the project supported a first ever national conference for “**Women in Community Reconciliation**” and followed up on the conclusions of the conference by establishing Women Peace Groups in Diyala and Nineveh. It is envisioned to form similar women peace groups in Salah Al-Din and Anbar.

Another tool for enhancing women role in reconciliation and provision of victim support was developed in the form of a UNDP **Women’s Centre in Tikrit** where specialised assistance is rendered to victims of GBV and other forms of violence (including psycho-social, legal and livelihood support). Within the first two months, **over 500 women** benefited from support. It is envisaged that a network of such centres will be developed across Iraq to offer community-based victim support where it is needed most.

Capacity to Deliver

1. Fund raising

During 2017 the project managed to raise approximately \$ 4.8 million USD. The following donors contributed to the project:

- Germany – € 2,375,984, ranging \$ 2,830,463 (the CSA covered period between 1 July 2017-31 December 2017)
- The UK – £ 1,000,000, ranging \$ 1,249,858 (the CSA covered period between January 2017 – 31 March 2018)
- Denmark – 3,500,000 DKK, ranging \$ 561,617 (the CSA covers period between 18 December 2017-31 December 2018)
- UNDP TRAC - \$ 130,704.00

Since August 2017, when the pro-doc was officially signed, until 31 December 2017, the project managed to deliver approximately \$ 3 million. Though a significant contribution was received from Germany, the resources became operational in October 2017, without possibility to extend the CSA on a no-cost extension basis beyond December 2017, due to administrative regulations. This time constraint made very difficult to implement all received resources, combined with other impediments that are reported in detail below. Project funding was later affected when the United Kingdom decided to withdraw further support.

However, the project signed a cost sharing agreement with Denmark in December 2017 and received sources from UNDP EDRCR², which secured implementation of priority activities during 2018. Denmark has indicated a strong interest to support the project with additional resources. The project is, also, in communication with other potential donor partners, such as EU, Sweden, Germany, etc.

2. Staff and implementing partners (contingency plan)

Throughout 2017, the project was facing significant staffing challenges. Though at some point the project had built a **core team of professionals comprising 6 international staff, and 9 national staff**, the project has not been able to consolidate the core team at its full capacity, after two core international staff and one core national staff left the project. In order to overcome these challenges, the project has implemented a human resources contingency plan. Namely, 1) the UNDP Country Office Gender Expert has supported the implementation of the new gender focused activities under the civic archive component, together with the newly recruited project Gender Officer, who led the implementation under this output; 2) local peace committee activities have been directly managed by the project manager, with the team of 5 local facilitators, who were deployed in Diyala, Nineveh, Anbar and Salah Al-Din in November 2017, on this way replacing the costly implementing partner's modality. Contingency plan has enabled the project to continue working at full capacity despite the vacancies. The contingency plan also considered employing three more local facilitators, who will be deployed in the Governorates and districts, based on the IFCNR priority plan.

In addition to its own team, the project procured the services of several implementing partners. These include: SANAD, Partners Global, Center for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development (SeeD), Women's Center in Tikrit, and LAPIS. Cooperation with some of the implementing partners was challenging due to various reasons. Some of the implementing partners, such as LAPIS, which was tasked to implement awareness raising campaign, or SeeD, that was tasked to conduct a social cohesion survey, have not delivered what has been contractually agreed. Those two cases are different.

One of the biggest issues that the project has been facing in terms of staffing and delivery was inefficiency to achieve results with regards to the raising awareness output. Finally, an international Project Specialist joined the team in late October 2017. The first action that he undertook was assessing the capacity of the implementing partner (LAPIS) to deliver. Therefore, he came up with recommendations how to review the contract with the implementing partner and started to implement a contingency plan, to achieve results. Impediments with LAPIS were already explained above.

In August 2017 the project contracted SeeD to identify social cohesion and reconciliation needs in Iraq (SCORE Index). This action should have been implemented beyond the CSA with Germany. The vendor timely delivered all preparatory deliverables, including organization of the focus groups discussions, creation of questionnaires in English, Arabic and Kurdish and recruitment of the survey staff by mid-January 2018. However, the challenge in delivery appeared when the Government, who agreed to implement the social cohesion activity in its adoption of the project document, changed its decision in late January 2018 requesting additional consultations within the government. In February 2018 the government requested UNDP to postpone the activity implementation for the period after elections, due to political and security risks that social cohesion survey may affect. At the beginning of February, in order to overcome delays caused by political reasons, the project, together with SeeD, created alternative two approaches how the activity can be performed, including the further clarification for the government, how the risks can be mitigated, either by strengthening existing SCORE processes and efforts in preparation for the full-fledged SCORE post-elections, or secondly by strengthening the pilot and piloting feedback, or thirdly by concentrating on the revision of QNR, Model & Preliminary Findings. According to this plan, in March 2018, the final questionnaire was piloted in a second series of consultations. As mentioned, the project will start another round of discussion after formation of the new GOI in order to implement originally planned activity, if resources are available for such an activity.

² The Project received two instalments from UNDP EDRCR ranging \$ 1,070,000. First instalment (\$ 570,000) was received in January 2018, while the second instalment (\$ 500,000) was received in June 2018

3. ACHIEVEMENT OF THE DESIRED PROJECT AIMS:

(Here it should be stated whether and to what extent the project aims have been achieved. The desired and actual effects of the project on the target group should be described in quantitative terms where possible, otherwise in qualitative terms. If the project aims were only partially attained, reasons must be given.)

Results Area 1: Community Reconciliation

As stressed, following an assessment of previous efforts in the Iraq towards community reconciliation, the project shaped a new approach and supported the IFCNR to design a framework and a system of local peace committees, which would act as a mechanism to provide momentum to a range of positive initiatives by being a locally-owned, officially recognized coordination mechanism and facilitator for community reconciliation. That system of LPCs would also empower citizens to work with all tiers of government as active decisionmakers and would enhance participation of women and youth as potential leaders in shaping and implementing community reconciliation.

In concrete terms, during the implementation period, the following achievements were reached:

- A LPC ‘support package’ was developed by the project and approved by IFCNR, to guide the implementation of community-based reconciliation initiatives, consisting of a Charter of Values and Principles, Terms of Reference, Standard Operating Procedures, and Reporting Regimes.
- The LPC structure was designed: LPCs typically have between 10-15 members, out of which 3 will be directly designated by IFCNR (i.e. head of the committee, a committee member who will be responsible for services and a committee member who will be dealing with security institutions). Other members of the committee will be selected from community champions and local government. The final decision on the committee membership will be based on recommendations from IFCNR. Some local peace committees may have subcommittees which would be formed to resolve a specific, sensitive issue.
- In November 2017 the project adjusted methodology based on lessons learnt to streamline the establishment of LPCs and appointed five Local Area facilitators within the priority governorates where the project is currently active (Salah Al-Din, Nineveh, Anbar and Diyala).³ Currently, UNDP is able to directly support 12 LPCs (4 in Nineveh, 4 in Salah Al-Din, 2 in Anbar and 2 in Diyala) through the services of 5 local facilitators who were trained independently, together with counterparts in the IFCNR.
- IFCNR, in coordination with the project, identified 26 priority districts in liberated areas, in Nineveh, Salah Al-Din, Diyala, Anbar, Kirkuk and the Baghdad belt, where local peace committees should be formed. The main criteria for the districts’ selection were based on conflict resolution and conflict prevention, i.e. impact of the war with ISIS and ethnic and religious distance between citizens in the given areas, that can generate further conflicts.
- 15 LPCs were formed in Anbar (12) and Salah Al-Din (3).⁴
- More than 560 men and women participated in consultation processes that led to the establishment of the 12 LPCs in Anbar;
- Identified community leaders for 7 more LPCs in Salah Al-Din (Samara), Nineveh (Sinjar, Nineveh Plains, Mosul and Tal Afar) and Diyala (Moqdadiyah and Baqubah) were surveyed and await official government approval.⁵
- 65 LPC members in Salah Al-Din upgraded their skills during 3-day training programmes covering topics such as analysing types of conflict, conflict components, conflict drivers, active listening, facilitation skills and problem-solving techniques, general concepts of mediation, mediator preparation and roles, active mediator conceptions etc.). They also gained insights how to design a dialogue process and establish local peace structures and how to communicate with the public. Finally, they got insight on workflow, creation of strategic and action plans, how to follow up on recommendations to support their work activities. These trainings further included discussions, brainstorming, interactive presentations, working groups, experience sharing and case studies.⁶

³ In this way, the project managed to increase the pace of implementation considerably, considering that each local facilitator will be able to support functioning of 2-3 local peace committees. Based on the successfulness of the approach, three more facilitators will start working in July 2018.

⁴ In Q1 and Q2 of 2018 the project facilitated establishment of the 3 additional local peace committees in Nineveh, in Tal Afar, Sinjar and Nineveh Plains. An official memo for the establishment of a LPC in Mosul is under preparation. However, due to high requests, number of LPCs in Nineveh can increase: one LPC in Mosul may be divided into three (Mosul West, Mosul East and Mosul South), while LPC in Sinjar may be divided into two (Sinjar and West Nineveh).

⁵ LPC members represent all major groupings in the community. They are credible, reconciliatory leaders (from civic structures, faith groups, academic institutions, tribes, and local government), who are prepared to give of their time on a voluntary basis to develop effective processes of community reconciliation. They have no history of violence or corruption. They live in the community they represent, where they are trusted and accepted and have influence there, as well as with the authorities.

⁶ During Q1 and Q2 of 2018 the project organized trainings for 48 representatives of 12 LPCs in Anbar and 57 potential members of LPCs from Nineveh Plains, while trainings in other districts of Nineveh, Salah Al-Din and Diyala are under preparation and will be implemented during Q3 of 2018.

- Although the following results fall beyond the scope of the Cost Sharing Agreement, it is important to mention them, because those are concrete outcomes achieved based on the project's facilitation and preparatory actions implemented during the period covered by the CSA.
 - In Anbar communities started submitting their concrete concerns and recommendations regarding community reconciliation to the Mayoralty of each district, which are then passed on to the LPCs for review. For issues related to tribal conflict, LPCs have begun to conduct reconciliation sessions between the two parties in front of the local *Aarfa* (wise man). For example, this process facilitated the submission of cases related to the safe return of ISIS-families to Aarfa Kamal Hammad Al - Mujel, member of a Central Anbar local peace committee, as acknowledged by the administrative Order No. 1080 on 14/1/2018 issued by the governor of Anbar province.
 - Qa'em LPCs in Anbar mediated safe and sustainable return of 76 families, around 600 men, women, boys and girls, from Habanya camp in Qa'em District. The LPC and the team of the Governor's Advisor for Tribal Affairs registered all the families, organized their transportation and coordinated with the security institutions to grant them safety.
 - LPCs in Amyryat al -Sumoud and Khalidya and central LPC in Ramadi mediated conflict resolution between families from the Albu-Khalifa tribe, allegedly affiliated with ISIS and families from the Albu-Eissa tribe. During the conciliation session it was concluded to allow families from Albu-khalifa to return to their areas of residence, while the alleged perpetrators should be prosecuted by the Iraq court system, in line with Iraq's criminal legislation.
 - 19 members of the Central, Ramadi and Fallujah LPCs, coordinated by the Anbar's chief "Arfaa" (Wise Man) successfully mediated a dialogue process between Sheiks from the Ubaid tribe, counterparts from the Jumaila tribe, local government officials, and other eminent persons from the Ksirat village in Anbar. In this village, the Jumaila tribe had been clashing with the Ubaid, Aljawana and Al-Muwali tribes over the return of displaced Jumaila families to the area. The conflict erupted after ISIS was defeated in the area and 57 families from Jumaila tribe were displaced, due to alleged affiliation with ISIS. The consensus was reached allowing all properly vetted families to return safely, whilst 9 individuals from a Jumaila clan have been refused to return, due to their direct affiliation with ISIS. 57 these families returned with the protection and support of all local sheiks.
 - In Salah Al-Din, LPCs organized consultations with communities, defining their most vital issues pertaining to reconciliation: 1) in Tikrit, release of detainees; 2) in Balad, the safe return of around 1,500 citizens; and 3) in Dujail the formation of a high-level operations room to coordinate activities of all security forces.
- With regard to minority concerns in Nineveh, in September 2017 a series of in-depth roundtable sessions were convened with each ethno-religious community and in all key cities in the Nineveh Plains, bringing together community and religious leaders, political figures, civil society and representatives of the private sector. More than 100 Christians, Yezidis, Kakaies, Shabaks and Turkmens (Minority Groups) were involved in the consultation process. The roundtables were purposely designed to understand and openly discuss the political, security and social challenges at the district and sub-district level from the perspective of each ethno-religious community. Interlocutors were encouraged to propose feasible solutions categorized into urgent, medium and long-term options, which were submitted to the Prime Minister. Some of their most important requests are listed below:
 - Initiate the reconstruction of key public and private infrastructure (schools, government buildings, health centres and homes);
 - Create job opportunities for representatives of minorities;
 - Government to prioritize investments in Nineveh Plain, particularly in the agricultural sector;
 - Curricula to be reviewed and freed from sectarian violence;
 - Security forces to be under state command and increase number of minorities enrolled in security forces;
 - Increase government presence in Nineveh Plains for better cooperation with minorities and fulfilment of their needs and secure quota for minorities in government institutions;
 - Prosecute ISIS members and initiate community reconciliation activities;
 - Facilitate free passage of IDPs and return process.
- Although the following result falls beyond the scope of the Cost Sharing Agreement, it is important to mention it, since it is the follow up action on the minority consultation process. The highlight of the minority consultation process was a subsequent national minorities' conference to launch the Social Cohesion Road Map for the Nineveh Plains in Bartela, in March 2018, under the personal auspices and presence of the Prime Minister, involving more than 300 participants representing different minorities and ethno-religious groups, religious leaders, political figures, civil society and representatives of the private sector. The participants signed the first Social Cohesion Compact in the Nineveh Plains. The Road Map aims to rebuild confidence among ethno-religious groups in the Nineveh Plains and facilitate the return of displaced people. Given the successful outcomes, this model of fostering social cohesion at local level will be replicated in other areas strained by social and political tensions. After the conference GOI adopted 16 action points that frame immediate needs of conflict-affected minority groups, such as basic service delivery, improved security, job creation, enabling environment for safe and sustainable return of Internally Displaced

Persons (IDPs), **including fostering the conditions for reconciliation through the establishment of Local Peace Committees in Nineveh Plains and Sinjar**

- As part of UNDP's commitment to support processes of sustainable peace and reconciliation in Iraq through fostering inclusive political processes, a national roundtable on the role of parliaments and constitutions in fostering social cohesion was organized in December 2017, in Baghdad. The purpose of the workshop was to explore national dynamics and the crucial roles that parliaments, constitution-making bodies, and civil society actors need to play in order to establish measures aiming at advancing social cohesion among citizens and between citizens and the State. The event brought together over 60 Iraqi stakeholders, including more than 30 representatives of the Council of Representatives and MPs. To achieve national and community reconciliation in Iraq, the participants agreed on the following:
 - Amendment of the constitution is one of the most pressing needs, since the current constitution contributes to the ongoing crisis;
 - Victims needs to be compensated;
 - Reconciliation process must be inclusive of minorities, women and other societal groups in Iraq;
 - New legal framework supportive to the national reconciliation should be adopted;
 - Curricula should be changed, supporting ideas of peaceful coexistence and social cohesion;
 - Academics should research more in the field of reconciliation;
 - Women MPs should be more engaged in community reconciliation work.
- The project produced 4 in-depth conflict analysis studies for Baqubah, Hamdaniyah, Mosul and Sinjar, based on expert and special stakeholder interviews, focus groups discussions, community consultations, and actor mapping exercises (August 2017), that contributed to understanding conflict dynamics and as a basis for those communities' reconciliation.

Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index (SCORE)

As stressed, due to political reasons the project was not able to deliver originally planned result, which is establishment of social cohesion and reconciliation Index for Iraq (SCORE), but the activity was implemented in line with the contingency plan. After formation of the new government, the project will re-start another round of discussion with it, in order to implement originally planned activity, if resources are available.

The following was achieved with regards to the SCORE activity, based on the original and the contingency plans:

- Original plan: During October to December 2017, focus groups to inform the fieldwork methodology and questionnaire content were conducted and reports produced in selected governorates (Baghdad (men only), Baghdad (women only), Sulimaneyah (men only), Sulimaneyah (women only), Dohuk, Basra, Anbar, Karbala and Salaheddin). This initial consultation process was followed by two expert workshops where the formal calibration process was completed, with the first focusing on the conceptual modeling and validation, and the second on producing an integrated conceptual model and extensive actor maps. This was followed by the completion of a penultimate questionnaire tool which was piloted during January 2018 with 50 respondents mainly in Baghdad. Based on this process, a final questionnaire was drawn up in three languages (Arabic, Kurdish and English).
- Contingency plan: The more concrete results were achieved after the CSA expired. According to contingency plan, in March 2018, the final questionnaire was piloted in a second series of 12 focus groups in 10 governorates (thereby bringing the total number of governorates covered in the conceptual phase to 18). Additionally, 110 respondents answered the final questionnaire. The top four challenges expressed by the focus groups participants across 18 governorates, were:
 - Declining economy and high youth unemployment leading to crime, loss of livelihood, disintegration of families/communities and economic insecurity.
 - Failing health and education sectors, voiced more strongly by women participants.
 - Corruption, linked to sectarianism, nepotism, intergroup tension, armament and lack of trust/confidence in governance institutions
 - The failing public sector, and particularly failing law enforcement/security sector linked both to ineffectiveness, lack of capacity and corruption.
- Other key findings included youth issues which were predominantly related to substance abuse, poor provision of education, lack of socialization opportunities and high unemployment. Forced underage marriages were noted in Babil and harmful religious rituals/practices were noted in Thi'Qar. Severe marginalization and harassment of Sabian and Romani youth and women were noted in Qadissiya. In general, women's priorities are more focused on youth, health and education. For the most part coexistence was appreciated and accepted across the country and diversity is celebrated, except in Babil and Wassit, but also to an extent in Diyala. Yet sectarianism and provocative/exclusionary narratives in addition to prevalence of firearms and economic insecurity were highlighted as stressors. Government and leaders were blamed for exacerbating the situation and creating tensions in communities, as well as corruption and nepotism.

Result area 2: Raising Awareness

The project underdelivered results with regards to this output. As stressed, the main reasons are:

- lack of capacity of the implementing partner, LAPIS, to deliver contractual requested services and
- late recruitment of the Project Specialist, who joined the team in late October 2017.
- Late operationalization of the German grant

The following results have been achieved, under raising awareness output:

- A first round of four focus group discussions with women activists, youth organisations, media professionals and academics were organised in August and September 2017 to discuss about the expectations and collect ideas and inputs for the development of taglines and key campaign messages. Based on the initial focus group discussions, 9 taglines and 10 key messages were developed. As per the discussion with the IFCNR, during Q4, the project further tested the messages during the second round of four focus groups discussions involving 40 youth from different religious background (self-classifying themselves as Sunni and Shia Muslims), which resulted in creation of a tag line and three key messages that have been given a “no objection” status by the Government. During the focus groups discussion there were equal number of men and women - two focus groups gathered women, two focus groups gathered men. It was decided to conduct the focus groups separately, to provide a context where respondents can share freely their thoughts and perceptions.
- Some of the initially planned results were implemented during the Q1 of 2018, based on the preparatory actions that happened in the last quarter of 2017.
 - The project, in coordination with the implementing partner developed four public service announcements (PSAs) involving four Iraqi celebrities advocating for reconciliation and peaceful coexistence. The celebrities are: Zainab Al-Eqabi, a public figure who survived a bomb explosion that resulted in losing her left leg; Fareed Lafta, a civil pilot and athlete, the first cosmonaut from Iraq and the first skydive who climbed and reached the top of Mount Everest (recorded in Guinness World Records); Ghadad Rasul, an Iraqi novelist from Mosul and a professor at the Mosul University; Noor Sabri, one of the most famous goalkeeper in Iraqi football history. The links of the videos can be found here:
 - [Ghada Rasol](#)
 - [Zainab El Aqabi](#)
 - [Noor Sabri](#)
 - [Fareed Lafta](#)
 - Five roundtables with a total of 21 journalists from Baghdad, Diyala, Basra, Najaf and Mosul were organized in January 2018, to build their capacities how to cover reconciliation themes. In total, 9 articles were published in newspapers (Koul el Akhbaar, Tareek el Shaab and Ad Dustur), an audio-visual documentary about the Basra event was produced by the Iraqi Media Network, while NEC, a NGO from Basra, covered the Basra event in live on its Facebook page, reaching out more than 400 views. The links of the Facebook coverage of the Basra event can be found here:
 - [Facebook page](#) of the partner local NGO in Basra (NEC training)
 - [Facebook live coverage 1](#); [Facebook live coverage 2](#)
 - In order to disseminate the discussions during the “Women in Community Reconciliation Conference” a short video was prepared to highlight, in their own words, the various ideas and hopes ordinary Iraqi women have for reconciliation in their local communities. The link of the video can be found here:
 - [Video](#)
 - As follow up on the conference “Women in Community Reconciliation” the UNDP started producing videos in a series of “Voices of...”, featuring Iraqi citizens from different components of the society (women, academics, youth etc.) who will share their visions on community reconciliation. The first video features Women’s Stories of community reconciliation. The link of the video can be found here:
 - [Video](#)
- In Diyala, in an effort to help prepare the ground for establishing local peace committees and overcome the impediments related to the raising awareness component, the project collaborated with UNDP ICRRP to implement community consultations, community-based activities, conflict resolution and mediation capacity-building exercises and awareness raising actions on peaceful coexistence and reconciliation, focusing on strengthening the capacity of peace actors within the NGOs, youth, university students, imams, IDPs and host communities. This collaboration was based on programmatic synergies and cooperation at community level. The engagements took place in Xanaxee, Jalawla and Baquba. The process began with a community consultation which produced a baseline study for these areas, drawing on data gathered in 15 focus group sessions, 30 individual interviews and 128 questionnaires (in total involving around 400 individuals). This report informed two training courses which trained around 120 peace actors, covering a range of relevant topics, such as conflict resolution, peace building, mediation techniques, role of NGO in conflict resolution, project cycle management etc.
- Around 1700 people were involved in 8 community dialogues that also coincided with the celebration of the International Day of Peace and 16 days of activism. The sessions were focused on raising

awareness and building capacity of the community on peaceful co-existence and social cohesion. The community dialogues and celebration of the 16 days of activism and the International Day of Peace were particularly focused on activating youth participation in reconciliation and on the rights and needs of girls.

- 14 community-based activities have taken place in Diyala so far, involving more than 2000 people directly. These activities included cultural and artistic activities, such as “Art for Peace”, and sporting events, bringing opposing groups together.
- Three social centres were established in Xanaqeen, Baquba and Jalawla to share spaces with other key actors from government and civil society. The centers started providing space for all the groups to gather, spend social time through entertaining and cultural activities, with the aim to target more than 1000 people.
- Since the KRGs governorates are increasingly also experiencing social tensions (as was evident during the elections), and could possibly be one of the next areas where the project will become more systematically engaged, some preparatory work was undertaken in collaboration with ICRRP, similar to that in Diyala, focusing on NGOs, youth and university students, imams and IDPs. One of the priorities was to improve relationship between IDPs and host communities. In the selection of the beneficiaries, a focus was also placed on gender balance and youth who have resorted to violence or who have been victims of family and gender based violence. The results are the following:
 - 2,228 religious leaders across all the three governorates (867 from Erbil, 451 from Duhok, and 910 from Sulaymania) were trained on tolerance, peace building, and coexistence. The separate evaluation assessment was conducted indicating that 72% of imams reported that their knowledge about social cohesion and peace in Islam increased. They confirmed that the discussed topics assisted them in weekly speeches. One of the mullahs, referring to training, said, "I have changed my style of choosing weekly speech topics and the way of sharing my knowledge with people."
 - One art exhibition in Erbil for promoting peace through art was implemented. The exhibition was attended by around 120 individuals.
 - In Arbat⁷ UNDP provided psychosocial and legal support to IDPs and at the same time built their mediation and facilitation capacities to mitigate conflicts, resolve problems and strengthen social cohesion. 5 Trainings for more than 100 participants from civil society, IDPs, local government, IDP camps’ management on GBV, mediation, psychosocial support, legal support etc, were organized. More than 900 individuals participated on more than 40 raising awareness sessions focusing on GBV, legal support, legislative framework, psychosocial support and similar topics, while around 3000 raising awareness materials on the same topics were distributed. Around 600 students participated in after school activities (sporting and artistic activities, sessions on social media etc). More than 800 youth and adults attended Arabic and English language courses, computer courses, handicraft courses, reading activities, food making courses and other non-formal educational activities. More than 150 members of civil society, particularly youth, participated on conflict resolution, non-violent communication and mediation sessions. 41 victims of GBV received psychosocial and legal support.

Results Area 3: Preparatory steps towards a Citizens Archive

As stressed, during the first year of the implementation, the project intended to initiate an Iraqi-endorsed process of building a Citizens Archive through recording personal narratives of victims of gross human rights violations—aiming over time to become a national archive that would function both as historical record (which could provide evidence for future transitional justice endeavours) and personal acknowledgement and hopefully the eventual public memorialisation of victims.

However, given the GOI willingness to support an initial focus on the victims of ISIS, with a commitment to broaden the approach to include other victim groups over time, the project developed a series of pilot projects to explore the **practise of story-telling as a form of victim support**—an almost spontaneously this developed a very strong gender focus. Therefore, the project reviewed activities, focusing on rights and protection of victims and vulnerable groups in post-ISIS Iraq, with a special focus on women at the same time promoting the role of women in community reconciliation process.

During the implementation period, the following achievements were reached:

- On 7 December 2017, the UNDP in collaboration with IFCNR jointly organized a first ever national conference for “Women in Community Reconciliation”, under auspices of the PM office. 151 (47 male – 104 female) Iraqi citizens from different backgrounds and governorates participated in the conference. The main goal of the

⁷ Arbat is a town located 20 km southeast of Sulaymaniyah and is surrounded by two camps for IDPs mainly from Salah Al-Din (Arbat and Ashti camps) hosting around 16000 people and one camp for Syrian Refugees (Barika camp) hosting around 7000 people. IDPs are composed of Arabs (majority Sunnis from Salah Al Din and s Mosul), Yazidiis, Shabaks (Shiaa) and Turkman families from Nineveh.

conference was to discuss challenges and opportunities to bolster women interests and roles as peacemakers in community reconciliation; and to underline the pain and suffering that women experienced during ISIS's occupation. The conference gave floor to minority and displaced women to share their experiences, helping to identify paths for enhancing their role in post-ISIL Iraq. The participants agreed on the following:

- Network of women champions in communities should be formed;
 - Future transitional justice programme should include women perspective and needs;
 - School and university curricula to include positive images on gender perspective in community reconciliation;
 - Centre for Women Studies of the University of Baghdad should conduct research on women's role in community reconciliation;
 - A taskforce to enhance the role of women in community reconciliation should be established. The taskforce will include 15 delegates who volunteered to develop a road map for a more active role for Iraqi women in community reconciliation, together with UNDP and IFNRC.
- In order to disseminate the discussions of women voice in community reconciliation conference, a short video was prepared to highlight, in their own words, the various ideas and hopes ordinary Iraqi women have for reconciliation in their local communities. The women included in this video are not known beyond their own communities, but are all active in forwarding reconciliation in some small way locally.⁸
 - As follow up on the Women conference, the project organized consultations with more than 30 women from Diyala (December 2017) to establish Women peace groups and network of women community influencers to advocate for reconciliation in their communities. Outcomes focused on skills development as well as on strategic planning and participants divided the roles and responsibilities amongst them.⁹
 - The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA) has offered its nation-wide network of social workers as a key implementing tool for the project's victim support work, as part of the preparatory work towards dealing more responsibly with the impact of violence on society and on women specifically. The training happened in Baghdad from 10-14 December and involved 35 young female social workers—hailing from Baghdad, Wasit, Babil and Diyala.¹⁰
 - the UNDP in coordination with the Association of Right Owners (NGO) supported the establishment of a special centre for women and girls in Tikrit.¹¹ A critical part of the task of the centre, in addition to offering victim support (legal and psycho-social services), is to empower the women members to participate confidently and effectively in rebuilding of trust within their communities. The building itself was an in-kind contribution from the local government. On a daily basis, the centre is managed by the Association of Rights Owners. Technical guidance and supervision was provided by the project through the UNDP Gender Expert, who was technically leading the NGO towards establishment and full functioning of the Centre.
 - In the first month it was able to offer assistance to 520 of women and girls. This number of total beneficiaries breaks down as follows:
 - Trainees: 150
 - Psycho-social interventions: 225
 - Legal aid: 50
 - Students: 75
 - Microgrants: 20

⁸ As a follow up action, a second video was produced in Q2 of 2018, featuring women from different part of Iraq and from different ages and backgrounds who would share a simple word, sentence, sign, drawing or artefact in order to express their hopes and ideas for reconciliation in Iraq.

⁹ Another such group was established in Nineveh in February 2018, and will be followed by groups for Salah Al-Din and Anbar during the second half of 2018. Women Peace Group in Nineveh started with their first activity, by conducting Community Reconciliation Bazar in Mosul University in Nineveh, in March 2018. The objective of the Bazar was to advocate for peace, reconciliation and social cohesion through the women-crafted local art works. The art works were sold during the Bazar. More than 200 students and teachers attended the Bazar.

¹⁰ Though it falls beyond the cost sharing agreement it is necessary to mention that similar trainings continued to be organized during the first quarter of 2018, based on the lessons learnt, from the first one. In Q1 of 2018, follow up trainings for 81 female social workers were organized between 25-27 February in Baghdad and 21-23 March in Erbil. Participants were from Nineveh, Anbar, Tikrit, Kirkuk, Baghdad, Najaf, Karbala, Basra, Muthana, Dhi Qar, Misan etc. This brings to the total of 116 trained social workers. All trainees passed through advanced training on techniques and methodology to conduct interviews and record needs of the victims, enabling women to tell their stories, make their demands in safe and culturally appropriate settings, at the same time handling potential challenges such as re-traumatization of victims.

¹¹ In March the centre held the final festival of the Women Centre project in Salah Al Din, attended by many local government officials in Salah Al din province, and many civil society organizations, as well as the civil activists in the province. There were 158 persons who participated in this celebration. The event focused role of the participating women in the centre, and their impact which led to have many success stories, and opened many job opportunities to enhance the role of women in society and empower them economically and socially.