

# PSED level bi-annual reporting

Engagement no. and title	Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS), Iraq
Implementing institution	UNDP
Project No.	2018-30126
Reporting period	April-June 2022
Reporting officer	Jan Pirouz Poulsen
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## Summary of progress and actions to be taken

At the request of the Government of Iraq, and with strong support from the Global Coalition against Daesh, UNDP established the Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS) in June 2015 to facilitate the return of displaced Iraqis, lay the groundwork for reconstruction and recovery, and safeguard against the resurgence of violence and extremism. UNDP organises FFS project interventions into four 'windows': (1) Public Works and Light Infrastructure Rehabilitation; (2) Livelihoods; (3) Capacity Support; and (4) Social Cohesion.

According to the latest available data from IOM, 4,959,714 Iraqis had returned to their area of origin by the end of March 2022.<sup>1</sup> This represents a minor increase of 7,482 people since the previous reporting period, one of the lowest return rates since 2015. Iraq's 1.18 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) are hosted predominantly in Ninewa, Dohuk and Erbil and mainly reside in out-of-camp settings (85%), while the rest remain displaced in camps (15%). They continue to face challenges to return to their places of origin and have limited access to safe water, electricity and educational services while simultaneously facing discrimination due to their IDP status.<sup>2</sup>

FFS completed 118 projects during the reporting period, bringing the total number of completed projects by FFS to 3,268. 293 projects were under implementation at the time of reporting, 131 were tendering, and 1,937 pipeline projects were under development (subject to available funding). During the reporting period, projects completed covered critical sectors of FFS work, including education, electricity, health, housing, livelihoods, municipalities, and water.

Highlights from this quarter included the completed **rehabilitation** of the **External Consultancy Clinic** at Ramadi Teaching Hospital for Women and Children in Ramadi, Anbar. An estimated 500,000 individuals will benefit from improved access to health care services. In Salah al-Din, **the rehabilitation of Central Water Treatment Plant in Tikrit** (3250 m<sup>3</sup>/hr) was completed providing improved access to clean water to 300,000 people. FFS provided approximately **500 transformers** to Khanaqin and Baquba districts in Diyala. In addition, over **200 housing units were rehabilitated** in Khalis district (Diyala). **Medical equipment** was supplied and installed in numerous **PHCs in Sinjar, Ba'aj and Mosul** of Ninewa Governorate. In Kirkuk, the rehabilitation of the Sayed Hamid School was completed during the reporting period providing access to education to over 200 children.

Rating	Progress lagging behind - Achievement of target at risk / not possible	<input type="checkbox"/> Red
	Some progress made - corrections required to achieve target	<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow
	Progress achieved as planned - target likely to be achieved	<input type="checkbox"/> Green

<sup>1</sup> IOM, Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) (as of 31 March 2022). FFS uses IOM DTM as the source of its IDP/returnee data. IOM is now updating the DTM every two months, therefore FFS quarterly reporting will utilize the data that is available closest to the end of the quarter.

<sup>2</sup> IOM, "Protracted Displacement in Iraq: Revisiting Categories of Return Barriers", February 2022, [https://iraqdtm.iom.int/files/DurableSolutions/202222793631\\_iom\\_DTM\\_District\\_of\\_Displacement\\_Profiles.pdf](https://iraqdtm.iom.int/files/DurableSolutions/202222793631_iom_DTM_District_of_Displacement_Profiles.pdf)

## Risks

Following the **ratification of the election results** at the end of December 2021, the newly elected parliament met for the first time in the Green Zone on 9 January 2022 to elect the parliament speaker and two deputies. However, the next step in the process, the election of a President, continued to be in abeyance as the necessary parliamentary quorum has not been reached. Once the President is elected, he or she will then charge the nominee of the largest parliamentary bloc with the formation of a council of ministers, to be endorsed by Parliament. In mid-June 2022, **73 Members of Parliament from Muqtada al-Sadr's bloc resigned** and 73 new members were sworn in by the Council of Representatives ten days later. The stagnant government formation process following Iraq's largely peaceful elections last October is stalling urgently needed reforms, such as the implementation of the **White Paper for Economic Reform** and creating a dangerous political and security vacuum that could be exploited by Da'esh.

**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. The security situation in Iraq is likely to remain volatile and could be further exacerbated by **rising food prices** as a result of the Russia – Ukraine crisis. Since the beginning of April 2022, Iraq has been severely affected by unusually frequent **dust storms** grounding flights and hospitalizing thousands of people.

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 30 June, a total of 2,345,893 COVID-19 infections, resulting in the death of 25,239 people, had been confirmed by Iraqi health authorities. Iraq received over 6 million vaccination doses through the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) Facility in 2021. While vaccination services have been significantly expanded since late 2021, uptake of the vaccination has been 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. By the end of June, a total of 7,609,777 people had been fully vaccinated – about 18.9% of the Iraqi population, with 26.9% of the population having received at least one dose.

UNDP continues to implement COVID-19 mitigation measures. Possible delays include difficulty importing specialised equipment for large projects and delays in obtaining exemptions and permits from government agencies (e.g., tax exemptions, permission for UNDP and contractor personnel to engage in inter-governorate travel).

Impact on risk change to programme	Significant	<input type="checkbox"/> Red
	Major	<input type="checkbox"/> Orange
	Minor	<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow
	Insignificant	<input type="checkbox"/> Green

## Lessons learned

During the reporting period, FFS continued to put its **adaptability** to the test through the implementation of a multi-pronged, localised approach to respond to COVID-19 in Iraq. UNDP is working alongside the Government of Iraq to help manage the pandemic and alleviate pressure on the Iraqi healthcare system. Under UNDP's COVID-19 response package, the rehabilitation of healthcare facilities and provision of medical equipment and furniture is being undertaken in Anbar, Babil, Basra, Dhi Qar, Diwaniya, Diyala, Dohuk, Erbil, Karbala, Kirkuk, Missan, Muthanna, Najaf, Ninewa, Salah al-Din and Wasit. The package also includes increasing laboratories' testing capacity, providing personal protective equipment to healthcare workers, promoting social cohesion, and undertaking assessments to establish post-COVID-19 socioeconomic recovery strategies.

As the mandate for FFS coming to an end in December 2023, UNDP is in the process of preparing an **Exit Strategy**. Following initial consultations with partners, a revised draft of the strategy was discussed with partners in late June.

FFS continues to strengthen its integrated response and coordination to ensure that available resources are optimally utilized, avoiding duplication and filling critical needs.

## Outcome reporting

Outcome	Conditions improved for the safe return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in newly liberated areas.	
Outcome Indicator	Increase in percentage of internally displaced persons returning to liberated areas.	
Time	Planned (Aggregate values over time)	Actual (with date), <u>including reflection on whether outputs are met on time</u> (for Danida ODA funding attach printout of output status from PDB to this document)
2018	Baseline	3,904,350 people returned to their homes in Iraq. Ninewa has received the largest number of returns (1,464,240 people), followed by Anbar (1,264,890), Salah al-Din (543,456), Diyala (221,598) and Kirkuk (Bashir and Hawija) (82,470).
2019		
2020	80% of displaced persons have returned to their areas of origin.	End 2020: 4,831,566 people have returned to their areas of origin in Iraq. In Ninewa, 1,889,154 people have returned home. In Anbar, 1,504,632 people have returned. In Salah al-Din, 708,744 people have returned. In Kirkuk, 346,350 people have returned, and in Diyala, 236,574 people have returned.
2021		31 March 2022: 4,959,714 people have returned to their areas of origin in Iraq. Ninewa has received the largest number of returns (1,929,636 people), followed by Anbar (1,543,152), Salah al-Din (740,880), Kirkuk (352,002) and Diyala (239,382). <sup>3</sup>
Output 1	Iraqi Government in newly liberated areas is supported to address immediate challenges for the return of IDPs.	
Output Indicator 1.1	Number of infrastructure projects for basic services (water, health, electricity, education and municipal services) which have been rehabilitated in FFIS-targeted areas.	
Output Indicator 1.2	High-impact, medium-size infrastructure projects are rehabilitated to sustain stabilization gains.	
Time	Planned (Aggregate values over time)	Actual (with date), <u>including reflection on whether outputs are met on time</u> (for Danida ODA funding attach printout of output status from PDB to this document)
2018	Baseline	1.1. 1,211 projects completed, with 423 under implementation (1,634 projects in total). 1.2. 85 medium-size infrastructure projects completed, with 17 under implementation (102 projects in total).
2019	1.1. 2,500 projects completed.	End 2019: 2,042 projects completed. <u>Note</u> : Target not met largely due to funding challenges and a proportionately larger number of FFES projects (Indicator 1.2), which typically have a longer implementation period.
	1.2. 55 medium-size infrastructure projects completed.	End 2019: 116 medium-sized infrastructure projects completed.
2020	1.1. 2,500 projects completed.	End 2020: 2,373 projects completed. <u>Note</u> : This indicator refers only to FFIS projects in specified sectors: water (194), health (380), electricity (254), education (931), municipal services (380), housing (83), roads and bridges (42), sewerage (109). Progress delayed due to COVID-19.

<sup>3</sup> Latest available IOM/DTM data (31 March 2022).

	1.2. 123 medium-size infrastructure projects completed.	End 2020: 119 medium-sized infrastructure projects completed, with 5 under implementation. <u>Note</u> : Progress delayed due to COVID-19.
2021	1.1. 2,500 projects completed. <sup>4</sup>	30 June 2022: 2,892 projects completed. <u>Note</u> : This indicator refers only to FFIS projects in specified sectors: water (242), health (497), electricity (326), education (1,069), municipal services (489), housing (107), roads and bridges (49), sewerage (113).
	1.2. 124 medium-size infrastructure projects completed.	30 June 2022: 123 medium-size infrastructure projects completed, with 2 under implementation.
<b>Output 2</b>	<b>Support livelihoods by jumpstarting local economy and generating income (Window 2)</b>	
Output Indicator 2.1	Number of immediate livelihood opportunities created for individuals, including women and youth, in the target areas.	
Time	Planned (Aggregate values over time)	Actual (with date), <u>including reflection on whether outputs are met on time</u> (for Danida ODA funding attach printout of output status from PDB to this document)
2018	Baseline	Total of 30,115 job opportunities created, including 3,035 for women and 12,046 for youth (between the ages of 18 and 24).
2019	Total of 50,000 people engaged through cash-generating job opportunities (23,000 youth and 10,000 women).	<p>End 2019: 32,516 people engaged through cash-generating job opportunities, including 13,794 youth and 4,952 women.</p> <p><u>Note</u>: FFS has made progress in the implementation of livelihood-targeted activities. Despite reaching a significant number of individuals through CfW initiatives, the prioritisation of projects in other Stabilization sectors meant that funding was not available to reach the targeted 50,000 individuals in 2019. The target of 50,000 was extrapolated from the experience of the programme in earlier years of operation, where demand for rubble removal and clearance projects constituted a large proportion of the requests we received through the PCCs. This allowed FFS to mobilise large work brigades to undertake the work and provide immediate cash liquidity to vulnerable returnees. Over time, the need for rubble removal type cash-for-work projects has lessened and Government counterparts have turned to other priorities when requesting FFS support.</p>
2020	Total of 40,000 job opportunities created (15,000 youth and 5,000 women)	<p>End 2020: 35,920 job opportunities created, including 14,793 for youth and 5,562 for women.</p> <p><u>Note</u>: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, cash-for-work projects were suspended from March 2020. By June, UNDP authorised the resumption of cash-for-work activities on a case-by-case basis to inject money into the local economy while simultaneously ensuring adherence to COVID-19 prevention measures.</p>
2021	Total of 40,000 job opportunities created (15,000 youth and 6,000 women). <sup>5</sup>	30 June 2022: 46,093 job opportunities created, including 17,845 for youth and 7,931 for women.

<sup>4</sup> Target revised from 2,800, as mentioned in the revised FFS project document (11/2020).

<sup>5</sup> Target revised from 38,464 job opportunities, as mentioned in the revised FFS project document (11/2020).

<b>Output 3</b>	<b>Technical and capacity support is in place at the governorate and local levels to facilitate the Government of Iraq's ability to prioritise, implement, monitor and coordinate stabilization activities in the target areas.</b>	
Output Indicator 3.1	Number and type of technical advisory support capacities in place to support Authorities in target areas to plan and execute stabilization activities.	
Time	Planned (Aggregate values over time)	Actual (with date), <u>including reflection on whether outputs are met on time</u> (for Danida ODA funding attach printout of output status from PDB to this document)
2018	Baseline	3 Area Coordinators and 3 Stabilization Advisors in place to support stabilization planning and communications; 7 Municipal Stabilization Advisors embedded.
2019	2 Area Coordinators and 4 Stabilization Advisors in place to support stabilization planning and communications; minimum of 10 Municipal Stabilization Advisors embedded.	End 2019: 2 Area Coordinators and 3 Stabilization Advisors in place to support stabilization planning and communications; 7 Municipal Stabilization Advisors (MSAs) embedded, with the recruitment of 3 additional MSAs ongoing. No change in this target for 2020.
2020	2 Area Coordinators and 4 Stabilization Advisors in place to support stabilization planning and communications; minimum of 10 Municipal Stabilization Advisors embedded.	End 2020: 4 Area Coordinators and 3 Stabilization Advisors in place to support stabilization planning and communications. 8 Municipal Stabilization Advisors (MSAs) embedded.
2021	2 Area Coordinators and 3 Stabilization Advisors in place to support stabilization planning and communications; minimum of 10 Municipal Stabilization Advisors embedded.	30 June 2022: 6 Area Coordinators and 3 Stabilization Advisors in place to support stabilization planning and communications. 11 Municipal Stabilization Advisors (MSAs) embedded.
<b>Output 4</b>	<b>Strengthen the process of stabilization in the newly liberated areas by empowering the women, men and youth in the target communities, and strengthen their capacities to resolve existing, and mitigate emerging, conflicts.</b>	
Output Indicator 4.1	Number of women and youth engaged in leading/promoting social cohesion in the newly liberated areas.	
Time	Planned (Aggregated values over time)	Actual (with date), <u>including reflection on whether outputs are met on time</u> (for Danida ODA funding attach printout of output status from PDB to this document)
2018	Baseline	No social cohesion or community reconciliation activities in place; no women or youth engaged in leading/promoting social cohesion
2019	100 youth and 50 women engaged in promoting social cohesion.	End 2019: 735 individuals engaged through social cohesion activities, of whom 179 were women.
2020	8,000 people to participate and benefit from social cohesion activities with at least 40% women. <sup>6</sup>	End 2020: 19,053 individuals engaged through social cohesion activities, of whom 8,323 were women.
2021	20,000 people engaged in social cohesion activities (8,000 women). <sup>7</sup>	30 June 2022: 61,393 individuals engaged through social cohesion activities, of whom 26,220 were women.

<sup>6</sup> The 2020 target for Output Indicator 4.1 was increased in the 2020 revision to the FFS project document, from 200 youth and 100 women engaged in promoting social cohesion (original) to 8,000 individuals (3,200 women) (revised).

<sup>7</sup> Target revised from 40,000 people engaged in social cohesion activities (16,000 women), as mentioned in the revised FFS project document (11/2020).