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## **United Nations Development Programme Iraq**

### **Developing Disaster Risk Management Capacities in Iraq**

# ***PROGRESS REPORT (3rd Quarter)***

- Project Title:** Developing Disaster Risk Management Capacities in Iraq
- UNDP Project #:** 00086493
- Project Duration:** July 2013 – June 2016
- Project Resources:** Total US\$ 6.519 million; BCPR, UNDP TRAC,
- UNDP Iraq Focal Point:** Md. Tarik ul Islam, DRR Specialist, Email: [tarik.islam@undp.org](mailto:tarik.islam@undp.org)  
Manal Aziza, Project Officer, Email: [manal.aziza@undp.org](mailto:manal.aziza@undp.org)
- UNDAF Outcome(s)** Outcome 4. GoI has the institutional framework to develop and implement MDG-based pro-poor, equitable and inclusive socio-economic and environmental policies and strategies
- Implementing Partner:** Counterpart Ministry: Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST)
- Responsible Partner:** Ministries of Planning, Agriculture, Environment, KR-I, 3 Governorates – Erbil, Ninawa, Maysan
- Project Location(s):** Iraq

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## Executive Summary:

The technical meeting on DRR with the counterparts, organized in Amman during 17-18 August, was very instrumental to understand the needs of the counterparts and to clarify many implementation issues of the project. A list of priority tasks has been prepared and the follow-up actions are now in place to accomplish these important tasks.

In the third quarter, the project has created significant inroads for DRR advocacy among the new parliamentarians whose role are critical for the enactment of the draft DRR law in Iraq. A draft report has been prepared (English and Arabic) during this quarter for a comprehensive briefing of the new parliamentary committee. The report highlighted the promising scope and the contributions that the parliamentarians could potentially make to address the disaster and climate risks in Iraq.

The DRR project was instrumental for the new programming at the community level to address risks and vulnerabilities with particular attention to water sector. The proposed proposal is expected to contribute to the achievement of outcome 4 (local capacity building) of DRR project and will strengthen community institutional mechanism with tools and capacities to develop local risk reduction plan. Further, in pursuit of mobilizing resources, the DRR project supported GEF consultation meeting on 25 September in Amman with the objective to catalyze new programming under GEF cycle 6 and promote DRR convergence with climate change risks and environmental degradation.

DRR project has continued to provide support to UNDP's ongoing response action to the current humanitarian crisis. The integration DRR for promoting resilient recovery has been a continuous process and the project liaised with the Surge mission closely. Missions were undertaken to Duhok during the third quarter and provided oversight to the implementation of the solid waste component.

## Context:

### Background:

Iraq is increasingly exposed to a myriad of natural and human induced disasters, which include drought, floods, epidemics, sandstorms, desertification, destruction of marshlands, soil salinization of fertile lands, earthquakes, and industrial and chemical hazards. The country's vulnerability to such hazards has been worsened by the effects of war. Modern Iraq has inherited weak policies and institutions to deal with disaster risks. The disaster vulnerable people in Iraq have been experiencing increasing number of disasters in recent past, and the country has gained painful realization of very inefficient response actions in each and every time.

### Rationale:

The Government of Iraq (GoI), despite being constrained by increasing political violence and sectarian conflicts, has recognized the importance and urgency of disaster risk management and has started reinvigorating institutional and legal systems to address this pressing challenge. A National Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction has been set up under the chairmanship of the Minister for Science and Technology, which includes high-level representation of relevant national ministries and departments. The committee has drafted a new DRM law with support from UNDP, which has proposed the establishment of a National Disaster Risk Management Centre (NDRMC) in Iraq. However, the GOI needs support for implementation of DRR measures and in setting-up the Centre, for which UNDP's assistance has now called for. A number of disasters affected governorates have also requested UNDP's support separately. In response to these requests, UNDP has designed this project with the purpose of building national capacity on disaster risk management in Iraq.

The project intends to enable the different levels of Iraqi government and communities to reduce losses and damages from natural and human-induced disasters by adopting effective mitigation and preparedness approaches. The priorities of Hyogo Framework of Action formed the basis of project's strategic results, and also the interventions were designed in line with the priorities established by the national DRR committee and the consultation with national stakeholders.

### Intended Objectives:

The key objectives of the project are to enable the different levels of Iraqi government and communities to reduce losses and damages from natural and human-induced disasters by adopting gender-sensitive preparedness, response and risk reduction approaches.

### Main Project Stakeholders:

The Ministry of Science and Technology being the Chair of the National DRR Committee will serve as the key counterpart of the project.

The project intends to benefit the Government and the vulnerable people in Iraq through effective partnership with stakeholders at large, which include federal ministries, Civil Defense, governorates, universities, civil society organizations and media representatives.

The project will contribute to the achievement of the UNDAF 2011-14 Outcome 3.4, which calls for UNDP support to enhancing national capacities for DRR.

**Implementation Progress (approx. 2 pages max)**

Despite the continuing political context, the DRR project has been able make significant progress in the third quarter. The project has been able to create significant inroads towards linking DRR with the ongoing humanitarian context. Some of the milestones achieved during 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter are briefly explained below:

**DRR meeting with the MoSCT during 17-18 August**

The project managed to successfully organize DRR meeting during 17-18 August in Amman. Dr. Samir Raouf, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology and the Chair of the National DRR Committee, joined the meeting along with two other key officials and reviewed progress on the institutional capacity development and DRR training plan in Iraq. Key outcome of the meeting and the follow on actions are tabulated below:

	Key decisions/discussion points	Follow on actions
1	The short technical guide prepared by the DRR project has been found very useful to guide the actions for developing disaster web-portal by the MoST. As many as 25 technical staffs are now engaged to design and support the test-run of the portal. The beta version of the portal will be shared with UNDP to review and recommend for further improvement.	MoST will share the link with Tarik/Manal once the beta version is available.
2.	An official launch of the disaster web-portal will be organized during the last quarter (November/ December) of 2014. This will be a high-visibility event where the national DRR committee will make efforts to invite the Hon’ble PM and the dignitaries including UN SRSG and UNDP Country Director. This event is expected to raise profile of DRR committee in Iraq.	UNDP will closely coordinate with the MoST and the national DRR Committee in order to make this event a success.
3.	To facilitate disaster information management, a communication strategy will be developed and UNDP will help prepare a first draft for review by MoST.	UNDP will prepare a draft to be shared with the MoST
4.	The MoST will review the draft SOP (Standing Operating Procedure) for the new Disaster Information Management Unit and will provide feedback to UNDP (Tarik/Manal) by 30 August.	Ms. Sundus Mouza will follow up and will ensure timely feedback.
5	Civil Defense is mandated for emergency coordination and it is important that the proposed ‘Disaster Information Management Unit (DIMU)’ should play a supporting role to make the national coordination more expansive and effective.	The revised SoP will appropriately reflect the role of the disaster information management unit in the SoP

6	Manal will coordinate with Sundus to reflect the feedback received from the Ministry of Defense in the final table (Annex-2) of the Inception Report soon.	Manal and Sundus to finalize the table
7	MoST has initiated the process of organizing meetings with 6 relevant ministries. The meetings will facilitate establishing the DRR focal points in those ministries. The purpose and the ToR of the DRR Focal points have been developed by DRR project which was shared with the MoST earlier. Ms. Manal Aziza from UNDP will join these meetings with the relevant ministries.	Manal to coordinate with Dr. Maath and Sundus on this.
8	DRR committee is strategically positioned to undertake DRR policy advocacy in Iraq. The committee can potentially convene thematic dialogues/ discussions /conference to influence and promote DRR actions in Iraq. For 2015, DRR committee may plan for 4-6 DRR events to highlight various thematic issues including fire accidents, school safety, enforcement of building/construction codes etc.	UNDP will provide technical support in organizing these policy events which will be financially sponsored by the GoI.
9	A report on DRR needs to be prepared for submission to the new cabinet to be formed within 10 Sept. This should be a concise report (not more than 10 pages) and should highlight historical development of DRR committee and the progress made this far. UNDP's strategic engagement may also be mentioned. It is important to articulate the needed support and the favorable decision required to be taken by the new cabinet to advance DRR agenda in Iraq. The first draft of the report will be prepared by DRR project (UNDP) to be shared with MoST by 30 August.	Tarik will prepare the report and will share with MoST by 30 August.
10	The draft training modules, particularly 'Introduction to DRR concept', was found to be of good quality and appropriate for professional group. It is important to simplify the training modules to the extent so that the beginners can get full benefit of the training. Also, DRR training modules need to be tailored to cater to the needs of different professional groups in Iraq.	The draft Training module will be revised accordingly and will be translated into Arabic soon.
11	A National Training Facilitator will be hired under DRR Project who will be engaged to translate the training module in Arabic and will impart DRR Training in Arabic.	Recruitment is under process.
12	The first DRR training will be a ToT (Training of Trainers) course targeting 15 professionals across different ministries/institutions who will later be engaged as Trainers	MoST will invite nomination from different ministries to participate in the ToT

for nationally led training on disaster management.	training on disaster risk management
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**Briefing Report for the New Parliamentarians**

The role of parliamentarians is very vital in ensuring the effectiveness of national DRR policy agenda and government accountability in their execution. While parliamentarians provide oversight on transparency and utilization of funds, they bring enormous experiences on people’s vulnerability and capacity and establish critical knowledge links with their own constituencies. Iraq needs parliamentarians to proactively support the DRR initiative in the country and guide the process of putting in place effective systems and capacities at all level that would potentially reduce disaster risks of the vulnerable communities in Iraq as well as recover them from the impacts of the disaster in a resilient way.

The project seized the opportunity to sensitize the counterparts for DRR advocacy targeting the new parliamentarians. At the request of DR. Samir Raouf, the Chair of the National DRR Committee, the project has prepared a draft briefing report (both English and Arabic) which is currently being reviewed by the Chair of the DRR committee. The report emphasized that the parliamentarians in their roles as legislators, people’s representatives and political leaders could potentially guide and complement the national efforts on disaster risk reduction through undertaking the following actions:

- Review, discuss and endorse the draft DRR law in the parliament
- Strengthen legislative framework to enable risk sensitive development and building resilience at national, provincial and governorate levels
- Support the institutional reform towards establishing the National Disaster Risk Management Centre (NDRMC) in Iraq with full and dedicated capacity to lead the process reducing disaster risks and vulnerabilities at all levels.
- Promote, articulate and adopt policy framework that adds coherence and mutual reinforcement of disaster risk reduction, response to climate change and sustainable development
- Ensure that Government of Iraq set certain percentage of national budget allocation and local governments set higher percentage of locally generated income for disaster and climate risk management
- Ensure coordination among and between the parliamentary committees and provide coherent guidance to create regulatory and incentive mechanisms for increased investment in DRR involving the private sector.
- Support and obtain the highest level political buy-in for the post-2015 framework for DRR

**Developing proposal for piloting local DRR:**

Due to resource constraint, the project could not mobilize action in 2014 to support local disaster risk reduction. In this quarter, the project was able to explore new programming opportunity for addressing risks and vulnerabilities at the community level. Linking the outcome 4 of the DRR project, a proposal is now under preparation to promote local DRR and enhance community resilience with particular emphasis on water resource management. A pilot project is now planned to be implemented in 5 water stressed communities in KR-I and Basra. The proposed pilot project aims to strengthen UNDP’s ongoing support to water sector through locally adapted solutions that can potentially contribute to enhance resilience capacity of the water-stressed communities in Iraq.

In doing so, a set of interventions will be undertaken to institute Local Water Committees (LWCs) and empower the local community with knowledge, tools and capacity to promote sustainable and climate adaptive practices for water resource management at the local level. Existing local volunteers under UNV (United Nations Volunteer) will be engaged to mobilize communities and stakeholders at the local level including local officials from related departments/institutions. LWCs will be engaged to carry out systematic assessment of the existing risks, vulnerabilities and future impacts of climate change with an emphasis on water resource development at the local level. The findings will then feed into developing Local Risk Reduction Plan that will help remove barriers and address risks for promotion of sustainable water management practices at the local level. The risk reduction plan will serve as the key instrument through guiding local investments in water management, climate adaptation and risk reduction and will contribute to enhance community resilience. The lessons from the project will be systematically captured to influence and contribute to shape national policies on water management.

**Consultation meeting for new programming:**

The risks associated with environmental degradation, climate change and disasters shocks have become increasingly complex and interconnected. An integrated 'resilience-based approach' is therefore important for Iraq to address the short, medium and long term development needs of the country. To catalyze new programming under GEF Cycle 6 (July 2014 to June 2019), DRR project took the initiative and organized a consultation meeting in partnership with the Ministry of Environment (MoEN) and the UNEP. Experts and senior officials from the MoEN, the UN Agencies and the GEF Secretariat met in Amman at the Kempinski Hotel on 25 Sept 2014, and discussed on the way forward for GEF Cycle 6 programming in Iraq on environment and climate change over a period of 4 years from July 2014 to June 2018. Dr. Kishan Khoday, Practice Leader for Energy and Environment, UNDP/RBAS, joined the event and facilitated technical discussion for shaping the strategic directions for GEF 6 programming in Iraq.

**Support to UNDP's efforts for responding to humanitarian crisis:**

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, DRR project has been involved with and supported UNDP's ongoing response actions to the humanitarian crisis. The project brought the DRR insights to the crisis response plan developed by the Surge Mission and contributed to the response programming in the areas of solid waste management and livelihoods.

DRR specialist joined two field missions to Duhok during this quarter and provided oversight to the ongoing response activities, particularly the construction of two new tube-wells in Dawodia camp site. During discussion, the local authority was sensitized on the importance of DRR. Accordingly, the training activities on DRR have been mobilized now which is scheduled to be held in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter targeting the Mayors and the Deputy Mayors in Duhok.



## Challenges (approx. 1 page max)

Due to limited option for travelling to Baghdad, the meetings with the counterparts by the DRR Specialist have now been difficult which pose a significant barrier for effective partnership and smooth implementation.

There has been significant delay in the recruitment of consultant and also for the position of programme associate. These have impacted negatively in the effective execution of the project.

A diverse range of activities are now emerging under EECC portfolio and the DRR project remains as the only option available within EECC portfolio to support these activities. Due to resource constraint, the project continues to run without any project team in place as provisioned in the approved Prodoc.

## Lessons Learned (approx. 1 page max)

Engagement of the counterparts, on regular basis, has become critically important for quality preparation of the deliverables under this DRR project. The project needs to make the arrangement and allocate resources for regular meetings with the counterparts in Iraq.

In humanitarian context, DRR helps bring lasting solutions and promotes resilient recovery. Efforts need to be in place to review and explore the ways for ensuring sustainability of the ongoing UNDP response and recovery efforts. DRR project is well placed to support UNDP for effectively addressing this issue.

## Future Plans (approx. 1 page max)

In the fourth quarter, the project is expected to make progress on the tasks listed in the table in earlier section. Many of these tasks require thorough consultation and inputs from the counterparts and it will be a challenge to receive the support under the current security context.

In collaboration with the Surge Team, DRR training has been planned to be organized in Duhok in November for the mayors and deputy mayors.

**Financial Section:**

**Table 1: Funding Overview**

Donor	Commitment (Currency of the Agreement)	Received (Currency of the Agreement)	Received (USD)	UNORE	Balance (Currency of the Agreement)
UNDP TRAC	100,000\$	100,000\$	100,000\$		-
BCPR TRAC	704,080.00\$	352,028\$	352,028\$		352,0524
Total	804,080.00\$	452,028.00\$	452,028.00\$		352,0524

Table 2: Expenditure Status (by activity)

Activity	Budget  (A)	Donor	Cumulative Expenditure Status at [Date, i.e. end of preceding quarter]		Expenditure in Reporting Quarter		Quarter Total Expenditure  (F=D+E)	Total Expenditure  (G=B+C+F)	Budget Balance  (H=A-G)	Delivery Rate  (% I =G/A)
			Commitment  (B)	-Expenses + full asset cost  (C)	Commitment  (D)	Expenses + full asset cost  (E)				
Act1	269,682.00	12	0	\$119,722.97	\$0.00	\$36,925.56	\$36,925.56	\$156,648.53	\$113,033.47	58%
Act2	66,673.00	12	0	\$19,245.17	\$14,278.00	\$9,335.68	\$23,613.68	\$42,858.85	\$23,814.15	64%
Act3	65,673.00	12	0	\$19,115.16	\$11,770.00	\$12,856.14	\$24,626.14	\$43,741.30	\$21,931.70	67%
Act4	10,000.00	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0.00	0%
Act5	40,000.00	12	0	\$9,707.50	\$14,000.00	\$30,455.47	\$44,455.47	\$54,162.97	(\$14,162.97)	135%
GMS	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	452,028.00		0	\$167,790.80	\$40,048	\$89,572.79	\$129,620.85	\$297,411.65	\$154,616.35	66%

Table 3: Expenditure Status ( by donor )

Donor	Budget	Activity	Expenditure Status as [30 September, 2014]		Expenditure in Reporting Quarter		Quarter Expenditure	Total Expenditure	Balance	Delivery
			Commitment	Disbursement	Commitment	Disbursement				
00012	\$452,028.00	Act 1,2,3,4,5	0.00	\$249,115.51	\$40,048	\$109,935.10	\$129,620.85	\$297,411.6	154,616.35	%66
GMS	0.00									
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$452,028.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$249,115.51</b>	<b>\$40,048</b>	<b>\$109,935.10</b>	<b>\$129,620.85</b>	<b>\$297,411.6</b>	<b>154,616.35</b>	<b>%66</b>

Note:

The budget was increased by 85,000USD from TRAC UNDP Trac, and there has been a major change in the way BCPR assistance is provisioned in the revised work plan. Further, a reversal of budget of USD 34,000 is underway to Shiori's project. The new change is found to be appropriately reflected in the prescribed table. This will be discussed and settled in consultation with the finance colleague.

## Annexes

### Annex I: Performance Tracking Matrix

(This will be prepared once the problem in the financial statement is fixed.)

## Annex II: Risk Log:

Project Title: Developing Disaster Risk Management Capacities in Iraq							Award ID:	Date: April 2014	
#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact and Probability	Counter measure/ Mitigation Strategies/ Management Response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
1	Delay in the startup of the program	December 2012	Operational	There would be subsequent delays in the implementation of program activities and challenges in resource mobilization.  P = 1 I = 5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure flexibility in program design to accommodate possible delays;</li> <li>2. Organize launching workshop as an opportunity to develop detail implementation plans involving Member States</li> <li>3. Continuously monitor</li> </ol>	MoST, UNDP		March 2014	<p>The project stepped into implementation without securing resource commitment from any sources except the support from BCPR for a full time DRR Specialist.</p> <p>A revised implementation strategy has been developed in consultation with the counterparts which include flexibility and also pursuing DRR results through ongoing</p>



									possible funding of DRR project. Follow on discussion needs to follow once the new government is formed and the national budget is approved by the parliament.
4	The Iraqi government, ministries, governorates and urban authorities don't provide funding to implement the recommendations made by the experts	December 2012	Strategic	Advocacy to National DRR Committee to mobilize support from GOI to allocate funding for implementation of recommendations  P = 2 I = 5	Bilateral meeting with other organizations (donors) providing support to GOI/governorates	MoST, UNDP Project Manager			This has been discussed and some in-kind support are being mobilized.
5	Delay in the Implementation due to lack of project staffs/personnel	March 2014	Operational	There would be subsequent delays in the implementation of program activities  P = 1 I = 5	Revise the work plan and ensure flexibility in program by drawing a new implementation strategy against each outputs involving counterparts and stakeholders	MoST, UNDP			A revised implementation strategy has been developed and also the ToRs for at least one national expert and one associate have been developed for submission.





