**Quarterly Report to the Government of Japan**

 **Project Title: Resilience Support for Non-camp Syrian Refugees and Host Communities in Kurdistan Region of Iraq**

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| **Project Period: March 2014 – Feb 2015****Project ID:** No: 00080048 (Output ID: 00089889)**Description:** This project aims to enhance resilience and strengthen capacities of local and refugee populations for a sustainable and robust response to the Syrian Refugee Crisis in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq by utilizing Japan’s FY2013 supplementary budget fund. The proposed project activities focus on three interlinked areas: (1) institutional strengthening for improved basic service delivery; (2) economic empowerment and livelihoods enhancement; and (3) social inclusion and cohesion. **Implementing Partner:** UNDP Iraq (Direct Implementation) **Period Covered: 3rd Quarter of 2014 (July-Sept 2014)** **1. Highlights of the 3rd Quarter of 2014**The project rolled out its activities in the 3rd quarter.  During the 3rd quarter, the project made a remarkable progress. Under Output 1: Multi-sectoral plan, UNDP has played a leading role to develop Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) for 2015, addressing needs for longer-term and sustainable solutions and ensuring synergies with the Kurdistan Vision 2020, a development strategy of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). The 2nd round of needs assessment for Syrian refugees is under preparation, whose scope is now expended to cover host communities and survey questions on resilience issues with UNDP’s technical inputs. It is expected that the findings of the assessment will provide a solid basis for designing of a government plan for longer-term response to the Syrian refugees and host communities. The KRG initiated establishment of a coordination body for crisis response, both for the Syrian refugees and IDPs, and UNDP provided technical support to strengthen coordination mechanisms of crisis response in the KRG. Under Output 2:Liveihood Enhancement, the job placement activities with Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has been on-going, and the training for job-search skills was completed with high satisfaction of the participants from Erbil and Dohuk. For Output 3:Socail Cohesion, pilot communities were identified in all three governorates and community volunteers were mobilized. Not only Syrian refugees but also IDPs in the community will be included in dialogue exercise, which expected to mitigate the risk of escalation of tensions between local and displaced populations in the communities.  |
| **2. Project Performance**  |
| **OUTPUT 1**: Multi-sectoral plan established to support the Government capacity to provide sustainable and robust basic services to Syrian refugee population and alleviate socio-economic impacts on KR host communities**Deliverable Description:**.A multi-sectoral refugee response plan formulated through participatory planning process with all key stakeholders from local and refugee populations **Target Indicators** Multi-Sectoral Plan formulated Start and End Date: April 2014-Feb 2015 |
| **Achievements of the Reporting Period:** Consultations with UNHCR on possible approaches to formulation of government-led overall Syrian refugee response plan, addressing resilience aspects of refugee support. At corporate level, UNDP and UNHCR agreed to jointly lead formulation of Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) for 2015. UNDP has participated in Regional Workshop for 3RP with other sector lead agencies/organizations held on 4 and 5 September, providing inputs in formulation process of 3RP as well as exchanging experience and views on how to strengthen resilience support in refugee response planning with the representatives from the other countries affected by the Syrian crisis. UNDP has been providing policy advice to the government, Sector-leads, humanitarian organizations, and other key stakeholders to address and integrate resilience priorities into 3RP for Iraq. UNDP continued consultation with UNHCR and other research organization (e.g., REACH) to jointly conduct multi-sectoral needs assessment on the displaced population (both refugees and IDPs) and host communities to assess the situations related to the key resilience issues. Also, UNDP and UNHCR agreed to explore possibility to transform one or two selected refugee camps to more sustainable housing settlements to demonstrate transition from humanitarian phase to development stage, starting with identifying of target camps and conducting a feasibility study. Technical advice has been provided through to the Department of Foreign Relations (DFR) of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) as well as the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Planning to strengthen coordination mechanisms of crisis response in the KRG. UNDP has also consulted the governorate offices in Erbil, Dohuk and Sulaymania to identify their needs to manage and coordinate responses both to the Syrian refugees and IDPs. Introductory training on crisis management and planning to their staff was suggested as the priority. % Progress to date: 15% **Plan for the next Quarter:** * Support finalization of 3RP, ensuring resilience issues are adequately addressed in the plan with technical advice and consultation with UNHCR and relevant stakeholders
* Design assessments on resilience and host community needs
* Design and conduct training for the governorate offices.
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| **OUTPUT 2: Greater livelihood opportunities in affected communities for both Syrian refugees and host communities for inclusive local economic development in the KR****Deliverable Description:*** Employable skills acquired by 900 of vulnerable refugees, women, youth, and disables in host communities through vocational training
* At least 90 Micro-businesses and SME (MSMEs) created to provide more job opportunities for the local and refugee populations in the host communities

**Target Indicators:** * At least 900 refugee trained (500 in Duhok, 300 in Erbil and 100 in Sulaymanyah), out of which minimum 40% are female and/or youth
* At least 90 MSMEs received business promotion support (50 in Duhok, 30 in Erbil and 10 in Sulymania), out of which minimum 20% are female and/or youth

Start and End Date: April 2014-Feb 2015 |
| **Achievements of the Reporting Period:** UNDP and Danish Refugee Council (DRC) organized a livelihood sector workshop on 1 September to jointly develop a strategic direction for the livelihood sector and coordinate livelihood interventions among various actors. UNDP has led formulation of Livelihood Section of 3RP, coordinating with sector members. UNDP continued implementation of job placement facilitation initiative with DRC. Total of four sessions of job-search skill training were conducted in Erbil and Dohuk and 98 Syrian refugees and host communities members successfully completed the training to enhance their employability. The official from the Japanese Embassy attended one of the training certificate awarding ceremonies in Erbil. The major findings on the training include: * Result shows that the UNDP training course has equipped a clear majority of the beneficiaries with practical support and knowledge to pursue new employment opportunities.
* The majority of the beneficiaries claimed that the training content would considerably help them improving their search in the job market (91% in Dohuk, 84% in Erbil).
* Almost every participants stated that the training course has changed their thinking about employment opportunities (100% in Dohuk and 92% in Erbil). The most common reason is that they have learned the practical step to create a CV and apply online, which has enhanced their skills to be more active and more motivated in job searching. A clear majority of the beneficiaries favored the session “How to search for employment” and "Economic Overview of the Kurdistan Region".
* The rate of beneficiaries willing to look for jobs after the training course is high; 91% in Dohuk and 92% in Erbil of the beneficiaries claimed that they would search for work after the training course.
* A clear majority of the beneficiaries were satisfied with the trainer and his knowledge on the training content, motivating them to ask questions. 91% stating that he was outstanding in focusing his attention towards all the trainees.

UNDP also initiated consultation with other potential implementation partners for local business promotion, such as FORAS, Erbil Chamber of Commerce (ECOC), and Association of Kurdish Businesswomen (AKB). Livelihood Expert was recruited and assumed her duties. UNDP also deployed another livelihood expert on its SURGE scheme, who is also supporting the livelihood activities under this project. % Progress to date: 25%**Plan for the next Quarter:** * Complete job placement of the participants of the job search training
* Develop and start implementation of business promotion activities
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| **OUTPUT 3: Enhanced social cohesion between local and refugee populations in refugee-affected communities and areas****Deliverable Description:** * Multi-cultural/community solidarity activities or events organized
* Local Volunteers, particularly the youth and women, mobilized and trained as “change agent” in the host communities and community awareness activities carried out

**Target Indicators** * 300 people participates in events (100 per event ×3 events)
* 50 people mobilized for programmes, out of which minimum 40% volunteers are female

Start and End Date: April 2014-Feb 2015 |
| Achievements of the Reporting Period: In accordance with the Activity plan for social cohesion initiatives “Community Solidarity through Volunteerism Developing the Community Volunteers Corps as Agents of Change,” a total of 11 communities (3 in Sulaymanya, 4 in Erbil and 4 in Dohuk) were identified as pilot communities. Over 70 local volunteers are deployed from the host communities (6-7 members per community) and one third of them are female. A dialogue session has started in the communities in Erbil. In addition, the community in Kurani Ankawa in Erbil, which has been supported by other UNDP-UN Habitat for housing improvement, was added to pilot communities for social cohesion initiatives. The social cohesion project by Kurani Ainkawa Multi-Purpose Center (KAMPC) was approved to conduct inclusive dialogue and implement community projects with host community and the increasing displaced people (e.g., Syrian refugees and IDPs). Kurani Ainkawa community will serve as excellent pilot case for community mobilization activities for local and displaced populations because the community has already established dialogue platform under the existing housing project. The training for 8 community dialogue facilitators was conducted and representatives from Syrian refugee and IDP groups were selected. National UNV Community Mobilization Officer for Erbil was deployed. The recruitment process for Duhok and Sulaymanyah is on-going. Plan for the next Quarter: * Roll out community dialogue activities to all 11 communities
* Develop and implement community solidarity activities in 11 communities (including community advocacy/volunteer campaign to cerebrate International Volunteer Day in Dec)
* Deploy local UNVs for Dohuk and Sulaymaniya

Start and End Date: April 2014-Feb 2015% Progress to date: 25% |

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| **Project Management:****Deliverable Description:** Effective and Efficient Project Management Start and End Date: March 2014-Feb 2015 |
| **Achievements of the Reporting Period:** Project management has been administrated without major hindrance. In addition to Project Manager, two key expert positions for livelihood and social cohesion component were filled. Monitoring visits to Dohuk and Sulaymania governorates as well as the project activities sites in Erbil were regularly conducted during the reporting period. A financial delivery plan was developed with projection of future commitments and expenditures to ensure timely disbursement before March 2015. **Plan for the next Quarter:** * Continue to undertake sound project management
* Conduct monitoring visits
* Continuously monitor expenditure and fanatical delivery

 Start and End Date: April 2014-Feb 2015% Progress to date: 50% |

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

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| **Project Issus and Risks during the reporting period** | **Suggested Solutions/Counter measures**  |
| At the end of June, a large number of people are displaced due to increased violence by armed groups in Ninewa and its neighbouring areas and entered into the KR. Urgent needs to provide humanitarian assistance to IDPs emerged in addition to support for Syrian refugees. | UNDP will closely monitor the situations on IDPs and the host communities.UNDP will expand the coverage of social cohesion activities to cover IDPs in the target communities. It also consider including IDPs for livelihood interventions.  |
| The sudden increase of displaced populations in the KR may impose significant pressure on the government and community resilience capacity |  |

**4. Financial Summary**

It should be noted that all list figures are tentative. Some of the outstanding payments made in the 3rd quarter will be reflected in the following months when the actual transaction is undertaken. The total amount of USD31,320 is budgeted for the 1st quarter of 2015.

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| **Output** | **Fund** | **Donor** | **Budget** | **Expenses & Asset cost****Incl. Commitments and Advance payment**  | **Balance** |
| Output 1Multi-sectoral plan  | 32045 | 00141 Japan | 274,320 | 0 | 274,320 |
| Output 2Livelihoods | 32045 | 00141 Japan | 1,130,760 | 149,180 | 981,580 |
| Output 3Social Cohesion  | 32045 | 00141 Japan | 197,640 | 183,146 | 14,494 |
| Project Management  | 32045 | 00141 Japan | 365,960 | 79,916 | 286,044 |
| **TOTAL**  |  |  | **1,968,680** | **412,242** | **1,556,438** |