



# 2020 UN COUNTRY ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

UN IRAQ



الأمم المتحدة - العراق  
United Nations Iraq

March 2021



## UN ENTITIES OPERATING IN IRAQ

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FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
ILO	International Labour Organization
ITC	International Trade Centre
IOM	International Organization for Migration
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNW	United Nations Women
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UNOCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
UNDSS-I	United Nations Department for Safety and Security

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# Foreword

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On behalf of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Iraq, I am pleased to present the report of the UN's collective contribution to Iraq's achievements and development goals in 2020. Overall, the UN's work contributed to improved living conditions of vulnerable people in Iraq, strengthened equitable services delivery, and enhanced alignment of Iraq's international engagements and cooperation with the 2030 Agenda.

While progress has been made across Iraq's development and humanitarian agenda in 2020, the whole world has been gripped by the rapid onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and Iraq is facing a multitude of challenges as it recovers from 40 years of armed conflicts. The virus still threatens to overwhelm Iraq's health care system and further impact the lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable, millions of whom need humanitarian assistance due to acute hardship from conflicts and protracted displacement.

In 2020, the UN continued its critical interventions across Iraq and worked around the clock to put together a Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERP) to COVID-19 to get on with Building Back Better as quickly as possible while leaving no one behind. Through the SERP, the UN is working with other partners to support the Government's ability to provide socio-economic stability in the immediate, short, medium, and long term while mitigating the indirect socioeconomic consequences that threaten to undermine hard-won development gains and exacerbate a spectrum of long-standing challenges. Today, a total of twenty UN entities have presences in Iraq, working together to support the government and civil society actors to create conditions for the revitalization, stabilization and reform of social, economic and political life.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Iraq for its extensive collaboration and support that shows their commitment to the reconstructions of the country in partnership with the UN System.

I appreciate our development partners for their generous contributions to Iraq Fund that came from Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Sweden, United States and the European Union.

During 2020, the increased focus on gender equality and gender-based violence resulted in technical support to authorities in drafting the anti-domestic violence law. The Council of Ministers approved the draft and submitted it to the Iraqi Parliament for review and ratification.

I would like also to thank donor partners to the Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS) to carry out stabilization activities. The main contributors to FFS are the United States, Germany, Netherlands, European Union, United Arab Emirates, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, United Kingdom, and the Government of Iraq. By the end of 2020, 2,700 stabilization projects have been completed, supporting more than 11 million Iraqis in the liberated areas with basic infrastructure and services, short-term employment and social cohesion activities. The UN extended FFS to 2023 to focus on fulfilling remaining needs, ensuring our work is closely linked to the Durable Solutions efforts, and developing a clear exit strategy.

The UN system in Iraq is updating its United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2020-2024 in response to the newly articulated Iraqi development priorities such as the NDP 2018-2022, and Iraq Vision 2030 to help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The new UNSDCF will become operational from mid-2021 and is envisaged to run until the end of 2024.

# Foreword

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We look forward to working with all partners in revising the UNSDCF in the coming months, while simultaneously confronting existing and new humanitarian threats.

We recognize that success in our time is perhaps best measured by progress towards the 2030 Agenda and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The UN supported Iraq's Central Statistics Organization to develop the SDG data gap assessment report, which will strengthen the monitoring of the SDGs in Iraq and tracking Iraq's progress toward sustainable development. The UN developed in partnership with the Iraqi Ministry of Planning, an online and interactive data platform titled the Main National Platform for Reconstruction and Development. This platform is one of the key tools for planning, implementing and monitoring construction and reconstruction activities in Iraq by the Government of Iraq, the UN, and international organizations. It will allow decision-makers to efficiently avoid duplication and coordinate for better planning to improve Iraqis' lives, wellbeing and to reach those left behind or at risk of being left behind.



**Irena Vojáčková-Sollorano**

*Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq*



# UN Country Team in Iraq

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Four Strategic Priorities (SPs) were identified in the cooperation framework, that respond to the country's needs. The UN Country Team coordinates their work through joint work plans (JWPs). Within these priorities, cross-cutting issues of a human rights-based approach, gender equality, social inclusion, specific capacity development for policy formulation and results-based management and improving the overall evidence base are all being addressed.

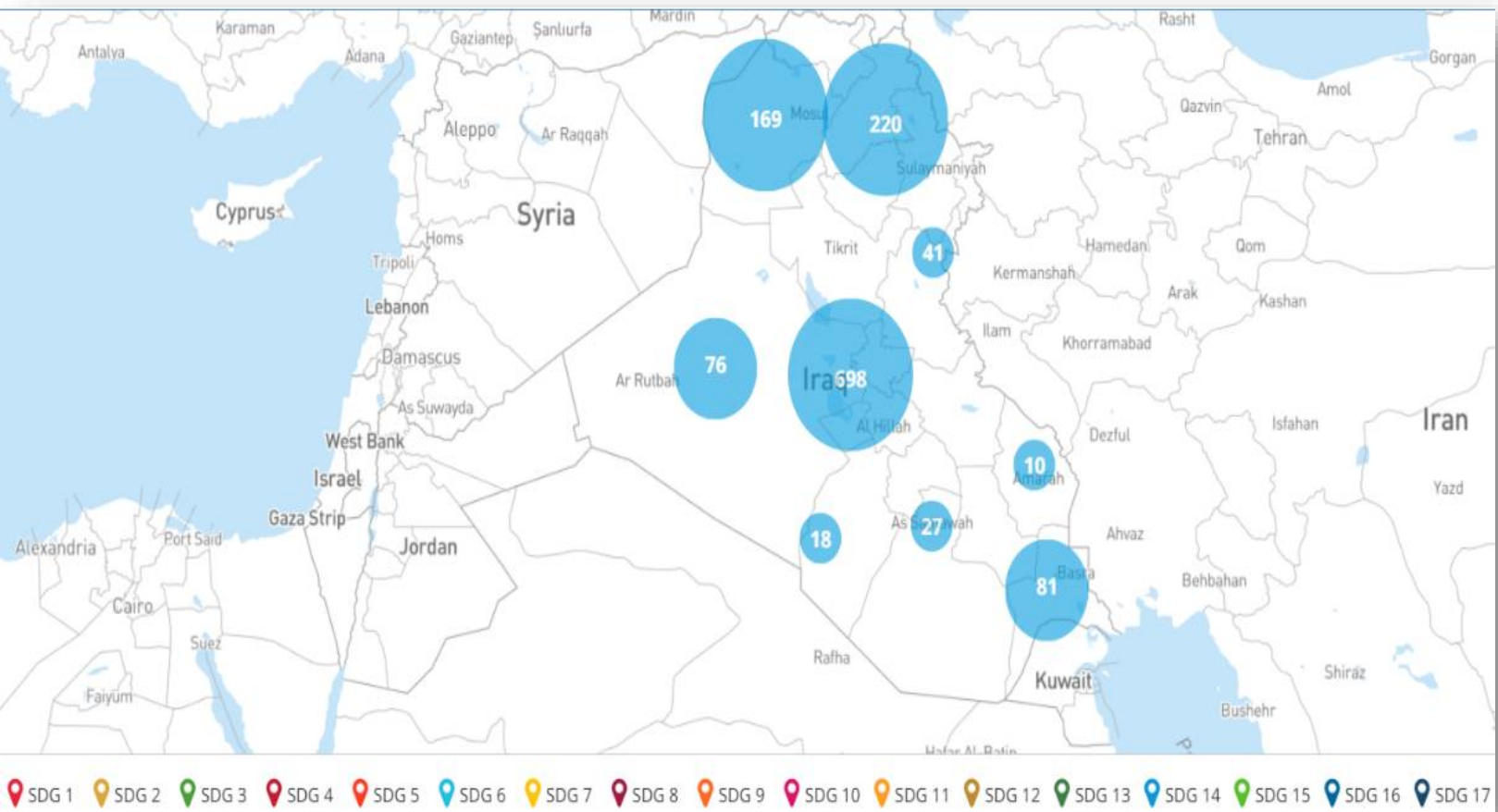
Each SP has a Priority Working Group (PWG) co-chaired by lead agencies in the thematic area, who are accountable to the Resident Coordinator and the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) for the progress of the PWG against its Joint Work Plan. The PWGs are supported by the thematic working groups, and work closely with the Programme Management Team (PMT) on issues related to planning, reporting, etc.

Great care has been taken to share information across the PWGs to maximize synergies, avoid duplication or overlap, and map complementarities with other UN planning frameworks, such as the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the forthcoming frameworks of the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq.

## Priority areas of focus for the interventions:

- 1** **Achieving Social Cohesion, Protection and Inclusion**
- 2** **Growing the Economy for All**
- 3** **Promoting Effective, Inclusive and Efficient Institutions and Services**
- 4** **Promoting Natural Resource, Disaster Risk Management, and Climate Change Resilience**

## UN's key activities in Country



The UN Country Team works at the community, governorate and national levels in all of the 18 governorates of Iraq



# Key development Partners of the UN development system in the country

The UN System has been at the forefront of the COVID-19 Development response in Iraq while continuing to support the achievement of the SDGs' goals in 2020. Making use of its extensive presence in the field and its convening powers, the UN System in Iraq has been able to leverage strategic partnership with key development actors and to steer development investments where these were most needed while ensuring complementarity and coherence across the response for the COVID-19 pandemic and implementation of development activities.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020 increased coordination with the Ministry of Health took place, which enabled the UN System to support critical activities on prevention and awareness raising and Strengthen Iraq's health systems to respond to the pandemic. 2020 was also a critical year for the IPD situation in Iraq that required strengthened coordination with the Ministry of Displacement & Migration. Also, a critical milestone was achieved with the endorsement of the Second National Action Plan on 1325 by the Government of Iraq.

A key strategic partner has been the World Bank (WB), which continued to co-chair with the UN the Development Partners Forum that engages development donors active in Iraq in discussions about strategic development issues and advocacy with 9 forum meetings taking place in 2020. Furthermore, partnerships with the WB produced joint assessments and data collection exercises related to COVID-19 such as the FAO-IFAD-WB-WFP COVID Weekly Food Security Monitor and the MoP-UNICEF-WB Assessment of COVID-19 Impact on Poverty and Vulnerability. These assessments provided demonstrable impact in public policy. Furthermore, UN System and the World Bank successfully joined and coordinated efforts in support of the Government national vaccination plan on COVID-19 and its application to COVAX programme.



# Key development Partners of the UN development system in the country

A number of bilateral donors (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Sweden and the United States) and the European Union supported immediate health activities under the COVID-19 Response in Iraq by financing the UN System and/or through other implementing partners. While there was no significant increase in Official Development Assistance (ODA) to address the breadth of recovery needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, a certain degree of repurposing of programmatic funding was agreed with UN Agencies. Donor partners continued to support the Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS), which operates under the direction of the Government of Iraq, to carry out stabilization activities in the five governorates liberated from ISIL – Anbar, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah Al Din. Thanks to the support of donor partners, the FFS delivered results rehabilitating public infrastructure and providing essential services to communities. The main contributors to the FFS are: United States, Germany, Netherlands, European Union, United Arab Emirates, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, United Kingdom, Luxembourg, Slovakia. Most notably, the Government of Iraq is one of the 10 biggest contributors to the FFS, which speaks volumes of the Government commitment to the reconstructions of the country in partnership with the UN System.

## Donor Partners



# Chapter 1: Key developments in the country and the regional context



# 2020 Key development trends and emerging issues



Photo | ILO/Iraq



## Environment

Iraq's environment has been subject to several pressures. Rising demand for water coupled with protracted conflict, severe environmental degradation brought on by poor resource-management, a lack of institutional frameworks and policies is pushing Iraq close to absolute water scarcity. The impact of the various conflicts in Iraq has led it to become one of the world's most contaminated countries of explosive ordnance, with significant environmental consequences on land access and management. Lastly, climate change is affecting Iraq, with gas-flaring a constant practice in the oil industry and summer temperatures rising.



## Economic Development

Overreliance on oil revenue makes the Iraqi economy highly vulnerable to shocks. A diversified national economy, preceded by reforms to encourage private sector investment, will make Iraq and its people more resilient to such shocks and boost employment in highly productive sectors. This will take significant investment, but it will also require a reshaping of the economy to allow for diversification of revenue streams. Partnering with the private sector, particularly in reconstruction activities but also in employment creation, will be necessary. It also needs to be complemented by a reform of the public sector, which garners a significant portion of the national budget without delivering efficient or transparent services to the people. Growing non-oil sectors, such as agriculture, tourism and import/export, while also promoting regional and international partnerships are essential to secure growth.

# 2020 Key development trends and emerging issues



UNHCR staff in IDP camp

Photo | UNHCR/Iraq



## Durable Solutions:

The Government of Iraq and its development partners are dealing with the transition from a crisis context to a sustainable development along the Nexus. Modalities for effective programming between humanitarian, recovery, stabilization and development actors are challenging and calls for a renewed approach as designed through the new Durable Solutions Coordination Framework, which is currently being piloted in 7 Districts throughout Iraq.



## COVID-19 and Health

Decades of political and economic instability in Iraq destroyed the health services and infrastructure. As such, Iraq was ill prepared to respond to a sudden onset of a pandemic like COVID-19. This has had a major impact on the capacity of health systems to continue the delivery of essential health services such as outpatient visits and vaccinations for young children, antenatal care, safe deliveries by skilled health workers and maternal, newborn and childcare.

# 2020 Key development trends and emerging issues

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Photo | UNHCR/Iraq



## Governance

Poor governance has undermined trust, quality of service delivery, and marginalized the recipients of the services – the citizens. The current weak social contract between the state and the people needs to be re-established. The Government needs to implement transparent, responsive, and inclusive structural reforms of state and civil institutions. Perhaps the most compelling evidence of this challenge is the state of basic service delivery nationwide. Impacted by conflicts over the years, compounded by underinvestment in development, and legislation no longer relevant or supportive in the current environment, the Iraqi state now must rebuild its relationship with the people.



## Social Cohesion

As a prerequisite to a stable developing society, Iraq needs to build human capital while also providing social protection, promoting inclusion and strengthening social cohesion. There is a need for reform of the social safety net to address the needs of vulnerable populations and enhance coordination across all social protection instruments. In order to ensure effective use of resources, it is necessary to move away from regressive subsidies and benefits. Reform should aim at ensuring broad coverage of the poor and the vulnerable with predictable and regular income support as a foundation for a solid social protection floor.



Photo | UNHCR/Iraq



Photo | UNEP/Iraq



**CHAPTER 2**  
**UN IN IRAQ SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**PRIORITIES**



## Chapter 2: UN development system support to national development priorities through the Cooperation Framework

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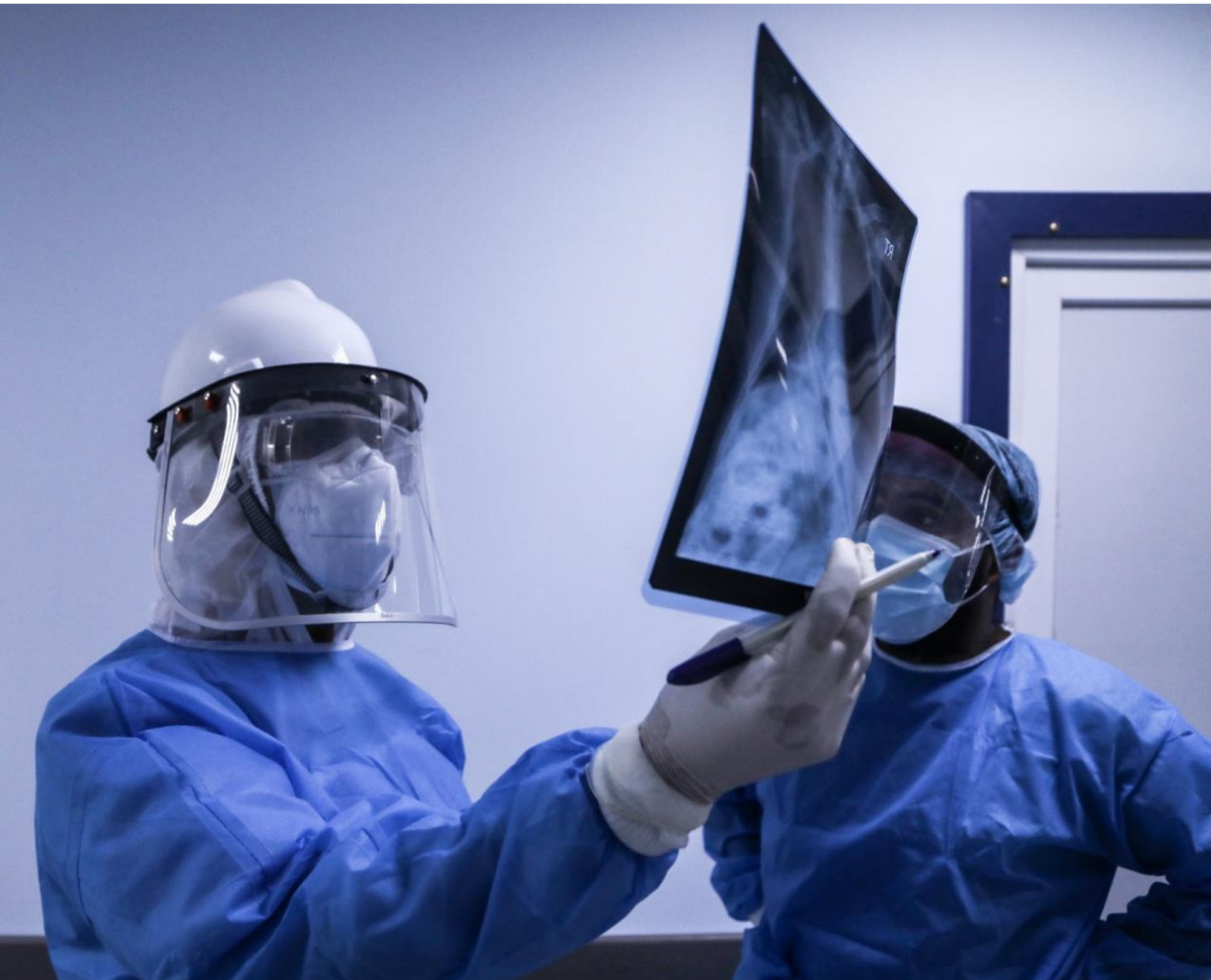




Photo | UNHCR/Iraq

## 2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

### Achieving Social Cohesion, Protection and Inclusion

In regards, to priority area Achieving Social Cohesion, Protection and Inclusion in 2020, the focus was on immediate social cohesion, peace-building, protection and social protection issues emerging from the humanitarian situation as well as more entrenched issues that have not been fully addressed to date, such as Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE). Priority was given to the engagement of marginalized and/or vulnerable groups, including refugees, into processes that impact their quality of life.

Despite emerged COVID-19 outbreak in the first half of the year, in 2020, UN supported adoption of two laws (Private sector law and Law on Support to Yazidi Women Survivors) that strengthened national and sub-national frameworks for social cohesion, and build capacity of over forty four Government Institutions, to advocate and implement protection services, peace building and social cohesion programs. Overall, UN support with social protection services reached 24.5% of people in need and those targeted by UN reached 85 %. In regards to vulnerable groups 25% people in need was reached by social protection services and 56% of children, women and girls received GBV and child abuse case support services in 2020.

National poverty rate affected by heavy restrictions on movement, increased by 7% or additional 3.9 million fell under poverty and reached estimated poverty rate of 31.7% in 2020 from 20% in 2018. Currently, 25% of women hold parliament seats and government committee and over 15,426 women, adolescents/youth, were supported to engage and participate in leadership, decision making and peacebuilding mechanisms nation-wide. In addition, over 625 national specialists received capacity development in peace-building and social cohesion. Over 258,657 community members were actively engaged in resilience program including on prevention of COVID-19. Over, 40,000 youth were actively engaged in awareness raising on prevention of COVID-19 in nine governorates of Iraq. In 2020, the focus of UN and Government of Iraq was on prevention and response to COVID-19, by distributing PPE to service providers, awareness rising sessions and social protection.

In 2020, overall UN spent 2,460,298 USD covering all interventions under this priority area.

In 2021, UN will continue to support Government of Iraq to achieve immediate social cohesion, peace-building, protection and social protection issues in addition to support with responding to COVID-19, especially marginalized and vulnerable groups



Photo | UNHCR/Iraq

## Growing the Economy for All

One of the challenges for any nation emerging from ISIL is the regaining of economic momentum. This challenge is exacerbated by other external factors, such as global markets, price fluctuations, and trade agreements, as well as internal challenges and deficits. Iraq has depended traditionally on the oil and gas sector as its primary source of revenues and growth. However, 2020 has shown the precarious nature of the oil market as prices have plummeted and soared, which, when combined with national and regional instability, makes it difficult for the country to consistently and substantially invest in development.

To mitigate the situation will require greater diversification and investment in non-oil productive sectors, as well as strengthening of partnerships and relationships, within Iraq and outside. Priority actions included:

- expanding and strengthening non-oil productive sectors through skills training, investment, innovation, entrepreneurship development, and job creation, SMEs and access to marketing and financial services;
- improving coverage of energy and ICT infrastructure networks;
- promoting regional and international partnerships;
- supporting education for employment, and private sector development

In 2020, the UN assistance helped to create 16,639 jobs and also support additional 4,735 people with livelihood support services. The UN also supported 1,564 youth with technical and vocation training to be better prepared for employment. However, due to the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent mobility restrictions, adolescents and youth became unable to enrol in interactive face-to-face sessions which caused significant disruptions in addressing the needs of young people to build skills. Access to needed skills-building opportunities for vulnerable young people came about through a shift to digital access and online platforms. In doing so however, assistance had to consider the digital divide as well as unequal access to devices and the internet based on age, sex and other social factors through making sure that online programs reach those most vulnerable. On policy level, in 2020, the UN supported the Government of Iraq for development of one law and two strategy documents. Labor force participation rate in 2020 was 44.5% for both sex, the male labor force participation was 80% and female 20%.

In 2020, overall UN spent 18,106,323 USD covering all interventions under this priority area.

In 2021, UN will continue to support Government of Iraq to achieve greater diversification and investment in non-oil productive sectors, as well as strengthening of partnerships and relationships, within Iraq and outside.



Photo | UNDP/Iraq

### **Promoting Effective, Inclusive and Efficient Institutions and Services**

Fundamental to the development of any nation is its institutions and its ability to deliver inclusive services to its people, including the marginalized and vulnerable. Over the past years Iraq's institutions have undergone significant pressures, and faced challenges in delivering against obligations while the country is in conflict. However, as the country emerges from the aftermath, institutions need to refocus and recommit to meeting their obligations to the people of Iraq. As a nation, aside from its Constitution, Iraq is signatory to a number of international treaties, conventions and protocols, and as such is beholden to its people to meet the obligations and actions required therein. At the same time, it is paramount to restore popular confidence and trust in institutions as well as create space for people to participate in the decisions that determine the quality of their lives and the opportunities they will have for self-empowerment, safe and dignified quality of life, and equitable access to quality services.

In order to achieve this, priority actions included:

- strengthening delivery of and equitable access to quality services
- promoting and strengthening partnerships between government and civil society, and the private sector

- strengthening delivery on obligations such as international conventions and national strategies
- promoting accountable, inclusive and transparent institutions that inspire trust
- promoting women's leadership in decision-making processes

In 2020, the Government-led containment measures in response to the political situations and COVID-19 pandemic – such as curfews, restrictions on movement and border closures – negatively impacted access to social services. Socio-economic repercussions, including loss of livelihoods and service disruptions, along with the drastic drop in oil prices and the consequent constrained fiscal space and severe economic downturn, sharply heightened poverty and vulnerability, especially among children and young people. In order to tailor appropriate responses to the immediate needs created by the COVID pandemic and design longer terms programme to build back better the institutional delivery systems.

In 2020, The UN has supported fourteen institutions both at the federal level and KRI, with adoption of evidence- and needs-based legislation and policies to deliver inclusive, gender and age responsive services. These were: MoE, MoH, MoLSA, MoP, and general directorates in ten governorates.

The UN also strengthened thirteen country information management systems and innovative digital platforms, 13 standard of procedure and guidelines, and 17 study and surveys were conducted in 2020. In addition, seventy five recommendations arising from human rights reports were implemented with UN assistance. As a result, 77% of health sector and 80% of education sector budgets were utilized by the end of 2020.

On strengthening service delivery system, in 2020, the UN supported development of fifteen policies, strategies and legislation including their implementation that have strengthened institutional and response capacities and assisted 41% of specialist with capacity building interventions.

In 2020, the UN supported eight initiatives to Government bodies to promote women's leadership and participation and trained on CEDAW implementation.

As a result, women currently hold 23.5% parliament seats who advocate for women participation in decision making and over 4.3% managerial position both in public and private sector.

The UN actively supported participation of citizens in improving the service delivery system. In 2020, the UN has supported 214 administrative units and infrastructure projects resulting in increased access to services in priority sectors, facilitated 14 partnership engaging in sustainable development, conflict prevention and mitigation processes, 1,195,720 vulnerable people reached in fragile setting

In 2020, overall UN spent 117,899,274 USD covering all interventions under this priority area.

In 2021, UN will continue to support Government of Iraq to improve the capacity and system to deliver inclusive services to its people, including the marginalized and vulnerable.



Photo | UNHCR/Iraq



Photo | UNIDO/Iraq

## Promoting Natural Resources and Disaster Risk Management

Iraq is a nation rich in natural resources such as oil and gas, but challenged in others areas such as water resource management and conflict related environmental contamination. As such, care must be taken to protect the environment and human population at the same time, in order to preserve resources for future generations, as well as to prevent/mitigate climate-related and or climate-induced displacement. Such efforts require long term commitments from the government and the people, as well as (trans-boundary) agreements with those external entities which depend upon/share resources outside of Iraq's territory.

The primary partnership strengthened between the state and the people regarding how resources are sustainably used and managed, as well as ensuring equitable access to the same quality of resources. With the strains of displacement on local resources, inter-communal partnerships will also be promoted to avoid conflicts arising over access to resources. This will require UN partnering with national and subnational authorities, scientific and technical institutes, as well as community leaders and communities themselves.

Focusing on reaching the last person first, UN partnerships also emphasize meeting the needs of the most marginalized and vulnerable, while also building partnerships between the population and government.

In 2020, the UN supported the implementation of two DRR strategies, one policies on Iraq's international commitments to mitigate climate change and thirty emergency response plans successfully completed. - Under the partnership with Norway's Oil for Development programme training was provided on reducing methane emissions from the oil and gas sector. A total of 206 ministerial staff were trained on management of natural resource. At community level, 350 youth were reached with social and civic engagement on climate resilient water, three low-cost water projects introduced and implemented to fit with the needs of local communities and three emergency alert and communication systems (EACS) networks were set up. In addition, eleven medical wastewater systems constructed to fit with the needs of local communities. - Innovative solutions to recycle conflict debris, facilitate safe returns and create emergency livelihoods were implemented in conflict-affected areas.

In 2020, overall UN spent 17,698,444 USD covering all interventions under this priority area.

In 2021, UN will continue to support Government of Iraq to build capacity to withstand and recover from climate-related and/or climate- induced displacement and shocks will be improved.



Photo | UNHCR/Iraq

## 2.2. Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs

### Achieving Social Cohesion, Protection and Inclusion

**Priority** - By 2024, all people in Iraq, particularly the most vulnerable populations (including refugees and Iraqis living in protracted displacement), will benefit from protection and social protection, and live in peace.

**National Priority and SDGs** - Contributing to national development priorities: 3, 8, and 9 and SDGs 5, 8, and 10.

#### Results Achieved

##### Outcome 1.1:

- A new private sector law was approved in 2020 by the Council of Ministers
- Iraqi Council of Representatives adopted the Law on Support to Yazidi Women Survivors
- UN presented to the Iraqi government a Policy Position Paper on the Iraqi Violence against Women Draft Law. The position paper called for the adoption of the Anti-Domestic Violence Law following the rising rates of domestic violence reported during the COVID-19 related lockdown and movement restriction. This action was following the advocacy on the Anti-Domestic Violence Law enactment at the parliament.

##### Outcome 1.2:

- Technical support to build capacity of 32 Government Institutions providing GBV services and 22 actor on registering the GBV cases nation-wide.
  - UN supported the expansion of social protection to vulnerable households, Government led COVID-19 cash transfer “Minha”
  - UN supported MOLSA to adopt a new MIS and database to address social protection bottlenecks .
  - UN developed a new partnership grant model for explosive hazard management (EHM) and explosive ordnance risk education (EORE)
  - This partnership model is a mentorship between international and national NGOs to increase the capacity and skills of national operators to localise the mine action response in Iraq and rely less on international actors.
1. The UN cleared 1,017,333 square meters of land and provided 1635 explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) sessions to over 20,000 people in 2020.



Photo | UNHCR/Iraq

•UN supported the conduct of the three comprehensive studies on the impact of COVID 19 on the economic, political and social protection scene in Iraq from a gender perspective.

#### Outcome 1.3:

•UN supported Social and advocacy initiatives reached 6,791 youth in nine governorates on leadership. Nearly 40,000 young people led offline and online COVID awareness sessions and responses

• Social cohesion and reconciliation was promoted by UN through regular engagement of community-based mechanisms, such as Youth Groups (4), Women's Groups (3), and Local Peace Committees (19). These mechanisms designed and led 85 initiatives to further engage their respective communities in social cohesion and respond to identified needs. The initiatives engaged 129,832 people in four governorates.

• UN engaged with the Community Coexistence and Peace Committee (CCPC), mandated to lead on social cohesion in Iraq. Consultations were also held with the National Security Advisory on support needed to implement the PVE Strategy.

• Development of the UN-Joint Approach on dealing with families perceived as affiliated with ISIL and the Technical Coordination Committee has been an active coordination platform in 2020. The UN-Working group on National Dialogue and Community Cohesion was established.

• UN successfully established the Special Investigation Unit in the Ministry of Interior to ensure proper investigation measures are taken to protect journalists.

#### Key Challenges

• Fragmentation in decision making process and fragmentation across social protection schemes prevents the development and progressive implementation of a coherent and integrated medium plan of reforms for the social protection sectors.

• Sudden and none voluntary return of IDPs and political stalemate at federal level impacted the overall protection environment for women and children.

• COVID-19 created a state of emergency and forced government to shift its focus to response away from rolling out reform of social protection and social services.





Photo | UNHCR/Iraq

## Lessons Learnt

- UN agency collaboration was key for leveraging expertise to conduct context and data analysis for informing decision making and programming.
- COVID-19 containment measures presented operational challenges for humanitarian communities to ensure continuity of services delivery. The timely adaptation of various guidelines and approaches enabled remote delivery of services using digital and social media platform.
- The availability of front-line workforce recruited and deployed from IDPs and refugees, by implementing partners, was crucial enablers for ensuring continuity of services delivery under COVID-19 containment measures.
- With limited access to communities and difficulties maintaining physical interaction due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of technology to engage and interact with community members proved to be vital.

## Growing the Economy for All

**Priority** - By 2024, people in Iraq, including the marginalized and vulnerable, will have greater opportunities for employment and sustainable livelihoods both in and out of the oil sector.

**National Priority and SDGs** - Contributing to national development priorities: 2, 4, 6, and 7 and SDGs 4, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 17.

## Results Achieved

### Outcome 2.1:

- In support to the economic reform agenda of the Government of Iraq (GoI), policy and technical advisory services were provided by to the Prime Minister's Economic Reform Unit (ERU). Seven frameworks and assessments for economic growth were also developed for GoI (Budget Restructuring and Credit Guarantee scheme feasibility study) and KRG (Economic Reform, Public Private partnership, Social Safety Net Regulatory Framework, Electricity Sector Law and Public Pension Standard Operating procedure).
- UN Country Team agencies also supported the government to draft the TVET law that was endorsed by the Shura Council and is now awaiting final endorsement by the parliament. In parallel, the UN supported the government to develop the Public Private Partnership framework which was endorsed and will be effective once the laws is passed by the parliament.
- UN Country Team members also supported the drafting of the National Women's Strategy on the Enhancement of the Status of Iraqi Women (2019-2022), which is currently a work in progress. The UN continued to support the advancing the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda in Iraq by providing technical and financial support for the development and adoption of the second National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325. The second NAP was launched in the third week of December under the patronage of the Prime Minister Mr. Mustafa Kathimi.



Photo | UNHCR/Iraq

#### Outcome 2.2:

- A number of individuals benefited in different ways in 2020 despite the challenges of operating in the context of COVID-19. A total of 16,639 (11,904 male and 4,735 female) people benefitted from direct employment support. This includes 4,583 that benefitted from livelihoods assistance/employment including cash for work, apprenticeships, skills training opportunities and support to small businesses through asset replacement and small business grants in non-oil sectors. This injected critically needed cash into local economies amidst the economic crisis and enabled vulnerable communities to meet their basic needs. Skills-development included life skills, citizenship, teambuilding, communication, leadership and creativity skills. Four new LSCE modules were finalized with technical support from FHI-360, focusing on Active Citizenship, Learning, Employability, and Personal Empowerment, which will result in enhanced employability through multiple pathways. The UN also supported 358 SMEs in 12 governorates by providing them with enterprise development grants to start or expand their business.

UN Country team members also provided support to smallholder farmers through support with forage seeds for promoting fodder crops.

Through the government's "National Strategy for the Advancement of Rural Women" to mainstream gender equality, UN programmes also targeted women to benefit from the Livestock & Livestock Processing SME support. Support included improving farmer's knowledge and skills and introducing new technologies which enable farmers to improve their productivity and production. In parallel, UN Country team members rehabilitated several parts of Al-Jazeera Irrigation System, in addition to the completion of 84 infrastructural projects intended to enhance local markets, irrigation infrastructure, and other bottlenecks. In addition, the provision of cash through CfW programme has provided 650 vulnerable local households with assistance.

- In line with COVID response activities, the UN has also initiated two partnerships with local private sector to contribute to the provision of hand hygiene facilities and supplies to affected people in healthcare facilities, schools and IDPs camps. Market assessments and context analysis, including 31 labor market assessments, two panel studies on the impact of COVID-19, and reporting on durable solutions, have also been published. And finally, in collaboration with the UN, the Government of Iraq also launched the National Food Security Project in Iraq (2020-2022).



Photo | UNHCR/Iraq

### Key Challenges

COVID-19 created a state of emergency and forced Government to shift its focus to response away from rolling out reform of important sectors key to economy, inclusion, and human development including social protection and social services. Additionally, fiscal space constraints and the inability to approve the federal budget for 2020 caused a constraint and slowed implementation of agreed activities as well as government response to COVID and to advancing implementation of joint workplans. The COVID-19 pandemic remains a significant concern for both economic, social and health sectors, while significant challenges were encountered in the implementation of WASH planned activities due to nationwide curfews, lockdowns, movement restrictions and social distancing. This context presents a great opportunity for building back better more resilient WASH services, behaviors and facilities by incorporating climate risk and engaging private sector.

The absence of a comprehensive Water Law also prevented legal guidance or formal coordination between different entities. the underdeveloped private sector, along with the financial crisis as a result of the significant decline in Oil prices. limit the capacity of the national WASH sector to deliver sustainable services at scale and negatively affected the scaling up of UN Country team and partner interventions.

### Lessons Learned

UN made use of its strong engagement on evidence and support to Iraq's poverty reduction strategy to mobilize during the early days of the pandemic and generate evidence to inform on the situation of poverty. This work has opened several opportunities to bring back the focus on the need to reform important sectors and link it to ongoing short-term responses to COVID-19.

An evidenced based and multi-pronged approach to create livelihoods and employment opportunities and access is essential to support the diversified needs and socio-economic vulnerabilities across the country. This includes a focus on for example on emergency support (cash for work and cash grants) and medium/longer term focused support (skills and knowledge building, job placement, business development support and small grants for business owners). Short-term livelihood support such as cash for work was identified to help mitigate the economic shock posed by the fiscal and COVID-19 crises and provide an emergency cash flow to local communities, including those in the areas formerly under the control of ISIL..



Photo | UNHCR/Iraq

## Promoting Effective, Inclusive and Efficient Institutions and Services

**Priority** - By 2024, all people in Iraq will be included in all aspects of service delivery and institutional decision-making.

**National Priority and SDGs** - Contributing to national development priorities: 1,8,10, and 11 and SDGs 1-4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12 and 16.

### Results Achieved:

Outcome 3.1:

- The UN and the World Bank provided technical and financial assistance to the Ministry of Planning, to undertake an assessment of COVID-19 socio-economic impacts on poverty and vulnerability;
- UN provided technical support to the MoP for the design and roll-out of a one-time ad hoc cash transfer to households affected by COVID-19 socio-economic impacts. This social protection scheme, called “Minha”, benefited 2.1 million households. While providing this immediate relief, the UN continued to work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs at federal and KRI levels to address the deep-rooted challenges of the social protection system and ensure sustainability of response. As a result, UNICEF developed, in synergy with the World Food Programme (WFP) and ILO, a joint programme to accelerate the reform of social

protection over the period 2021-2024, focusing on development of a social protection strategy and reform roadmap, scalable cash transfer scheme for pregnant women and children, and the establishment of a single register.

- The UN and the International Trade Centre (ITC) jointly have conducted 2 rounds of assessments to analyse the pandemic’s impact on small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Iraq.

Findings showed that COVID-19 has negatively affected production and employment, with an average reduction of 67 per cent and 27 per cent respectively. The pandemic also increased the gender gap in the labour market.

- Data driven solutions were supported through innovative approaches promoted through the a data collection application for the Karbala Governorate, an online platform for awareness raising and symptoms tracking on COVID-19 and mapping signal of change, while the SDG Data Gap Assessment Report developed by the Central Statistics Office has been key to identifying the gaps that need to be addressed to promote and monitor the progress towards the SDGs.

- Three branches of the Iraqi Government at federal and regional levels were supported to review the anti-corruption strategy, the conflict of interest law and the Law of the Supreme Council for Combating Corruption and Public Reform. The National Security Strategy (NSS) review and Security Sector Reform Programme (SSRP) implementation continued; 148 police officers (14 W) were trained on crime prevention, criminal investigations and police management.



Photo | UNHCR/Iraq

#### Outcome 3.2:

- Despite a challenging environment, improved access to learning opportunities was made possible by quickly bolstering available infrastructure for online platforms and upgrading the education television to a satellite channel. Taking cognizance of inequitable internet connectivity in households, The UN also provided self-learning materials (SLM) for primary grade children, especially in IDP and refugee camps.
- In 2020, moving towards achieving SDG 6 "clean water and sanitation for all" and related goals, WASH interventions in Iraq started shifting towards WASH Climate Resilient programming to encounter the effects of climate change that became an important topic nowadays to prevent its future impacts. The UN longstanding support to the Government of Iraq resulted in increased access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, benefitting. Continuous awareness-raising and community engagement efforts have helped reduce preventable child mortality and morbidity from water-borne diseases, bolstered environmental health and promoted IPC during the COVID-19 pandemic..
- The UN support was instrumental in improving immunization coverage in Iraq as well as preventing and addressing the risks of COVID-19, ensuring continuity of services, improving quality of care and health system resilience.

This encouraged the uptake of routine preventive care (immunization, antenatal and skilled delivery care) and a significant upturn in vaccine coverage rates - 100 per cent on average – in the last quarter of 2020, as per the official data from the national Health Management Information System.

- UN's strong engagement was crucial in shaping the Durable Solutions Framework in Iraq. This is strengthening humanitarian and development linkages and providing positive coping mechanisms to the most vulnerable while promoting system strengthening and resilience building. The Area Based-Coordination is being rolled out to operationalize the Durable Solutions following the sudden camp closures. The UN provided training to 44 Mol local police officers, including eight females, on explosive hazard first responder, explosive ordnance disposal and improvised explosive device disposal to strengthen the national mine action response.

#### Challenges:

- COVID-19 has highly impacted the development agenda in Iraq and shifted the government priorities toward addressing the immediate needs and consequences of the COVID 19 pandemic. The containment measures, including lockdowns and restrictions on movement between governorates, resulted in significant delays in project implementation and very limited monitoring of activities on the ground. This affected data collection for monitoring and evaluating programmes, accessibility of beneficiaries, accessibility of respondents for the impact of Covid-19 monitoring.

- In the Education sector, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in school closures across the country and rendered an estimated 10 million children without access to learning. Due to inadequate human and financial capacities, alternative mechanisms of education TV and online learning took time to be established. The challenge of equitable access to quality learning especially through the alternative systems persists and will require MoE to invest more resources including capacity building of teachers

**Lessons learned:**

- During 2020, because of the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an increasing need for a programmatic focus on humanitarian support (including for GBV survivors) and economic empowerment interventions. Coordination with the UN agencies was fundamental to ensure that response to COVID-19 effectively addressed the needs and demands of the Iraqi people and government.
- Through investment in policy and technical advisory inputs to review priority policies, frameworks and

strategies, great emphasis is being placed to support and address structural deficiencies such as discrimination, centralization and deteriorating infrastructure, particularly for youth and women

- Improved coordinated efforts for conducting assessments leveraging comparative expertise of UN and other development entities, and mechanisms for data analysis and greater dissemination is vital to overcome duplication of efforts and improved use of data for decision making.
- Sustained investment even amidst a crisis situation in service delivery to is important for citizens to meet their basic needs and have confidence in governance systems.
- The Covid-19 context presented a great opportunity for building more resilient WASH services, behaviours and facilities by incorporating climate risk in the design of the provided services in communities, schools and HCFs, one shared responsibility is one of the main principles in line with agenda of the triple nexus (Humanitarian-Development-Peace)



Photo | UNDP/Iraq



Photo | UNHCR/Iraq

## Promoting Natural Resources and Disaster Risk Management

**Priority** - By 2024, Iraq will have increased resilience to climate change, environmental stress and natural hazards, and man-made and natural disasters

**National Priority and SDGs** - Contributing to national development priorities: 3-11 and SDGs 9,13-17

### Results Achieved:

#### Outcome 4.1

• In line with UNDP efforts to Promoting a stronger enabling environment policy to fight climate change, UNDP support resulted in the National Determined Contribution (NDC) policy of Iraq being developed. This policy is considered the umbrella of climate change in the country and the agenda of 2020-2030. As a priority government policy, this encouraged the Iraqi Parliament to ratify the Paris Agreement and recognized Iraq's efforts in the Climate Ambition Summit in December 2020 where His Excellency the President of Iraq endorsed the ratification in his speech. This landmark achievement demonstrates the improving trend of national commitment and capacities to promote the climate change solutions. The National Designated Authority (NDA) was also established and the country programme and the no-objection procedure developed, resulting in creating opportunities for investment in the green economy by using the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

• The UN supported Disaster Risk Reduction in which Emergency (Preparedness Plans, Volunteer networks created, and Government capacity building), moving towards achieving SDG 6 "clean water and sanitation for all" and related goals, the WASH programme 2020-2024 was designed to support capacity development and system strengthening, strengthen partnerships and engagement of private sector and young people, leverage innovation, and; strengthen convergence and cross-sectoral linkages. The interventions were prioritized to achieve results on different settings and on the three WASH pillars of enabling environment, service delivery and behaviour change.

• UNEP is supporting environmentally sound solutions for chemical management. With this support Iraq has compiled inventories of Mercury and other Persistent Organic Pollutants including. It enabled Iraq to effectively implement two major international agreements: the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

• UNEP, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Environment, launched the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process. Funded by the GCF, the NAP is the first national-level attempt to mainstream adaptation into planning processes. It seeks to strengthen institutional, technical and financial capacities and assess and bridge existing gaps in climate knowledge across relevant ministries, as these gaps constitute a barrier to long-term climate planning across local, regional and national planning processes in Iraq. The project will assist Iraq in identifying and planning for technical support activities and multi-sectoral cooperation to formulate and implement the NAP process.

- UNEP continued its support through the Ministry of Environment to sustain the compliance with the obligations under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Support included the provision of policy advice and capacity building combined with the required technical assistance for updating the regulatory and institutional setup and related practices to facilitate the promotion and adoption of ozone and climate friendly technologies.

**Outcome 4.2:**

- The UN is strategically focusing on building resilience of refugees and strengthening of durable long-term WASH activities for refugees in camps and in urban, peri-urban and rural areas. Four refugees camps in Erbil have been equipped with solar powered water supply, and under the ongoing activities of the joint blueprint initiative UN agencies are working to include other camps and extend their interventions for out of camps setting as well.

- The UN is implemented Eleven projects are ongoing including the rehabilitation of wastewater treatment systems in seven hospitals in Basra (Maternity and Children's Hospital, the Specialized Children's Hospital, Al Zubair Hospital, Um Qaser Hospital, Al Faw Hospital, Al Shefa'a and Qurna Hospital), three in Duhok and one in Baghdad / Abo Ghriab.

- UNEP is establishing an Environmental Information System for the Synergistic Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in Iraq where an analysis of the existing infrastructure and systems including GIS databases and links to global and regional platforms have taken place.

- UNEP is supporting the Government of Iraq in establishing an Effective and Sustainable Protected Areas Network for Iraq, this project aims to assist Iraq in establishing a network of protected areas as well as declaration of two pilot sites, Dalmaj and Teeb. Field surveys have been carried out for the two sites that were initially selected and approved by the National Committee of Protected Areas. A legislation review and technical guidelines were developed as well as an initial design of the network agreed through stakeholder consultations.

- UNEP is currently developing the project document for submission to the GEF to guide the implementation of a GEF-funded project for the Promotion of Integrated Biodiversity Conservation and Land Degradation Neutrality in Highly Degraded Landscapes of Iraq.



Photo | UNEP/Iraq



- The UN is also working with the Government of Iraq to reverse land degradation processes, conserve and sustainably manage land and water resources in degraded marshland ecosystems in Southern Iraq for greater access to services from resilient ecosystems and improved livelihoods.

Progress against the use of SLM practices will be monitored in 2021 to inform government and producer decision-making. Additionally, to improve animal health services and diseases surveillance, in 2020, the UN trained technical experts on the surveillance approach and methodology, including the Surveillance Evaluation Tool (SET), the Event Mobile Application (EMA-i ) implementation approach as well as the Laboratory Mapping Tool (LMT) approach and completed the assessment of veterinary services, electronic disease reporting systems and legislative policies conducted

- UN in cooperation with Stockholm institute for Water (SIWI) conducted CCRA workshop covering AL Najaf and Al Muthanna governorates. The workshop delivered the strategic framework of climate risk assessment in those governorates and reflected the most urgent issues and challenges on the local and national level. The workshop was later on followed by “Bottleneck Analysis Tool” (BAT) aiming to integrate the result of CCRA into more systematic and analysed tool through the WASH BAT.

### Key Challenges:

- The transition in Government of Iraq (GoI) institutions that took place in 2020 resulted in the loss of institutional memory among the key partner institutions.
- The World Resources Institute classifies Iraq as a “high water-stressed” country, and Iraq faces mounting social, political, and economic pressures due to water scarcity and climate change. Working to achieve SDGs targets needs for aligned action and inclusive public-private partnerships, through which different sectors and actors can leverage their respective capabilities and resources in response to rapidly evolving and complex scenarios.
- The absence of a comprehensive Water Law prevents legal guidance or formal coordination between different entities and the private sector along with the financial crisis as a result of the significant decline in Oil prices parallel and governance issues including limited managerial capacity, poor financial resource administration, corruption and weak institutions, all limit the capacity of the national WASH sector to deliver sustainable services at scale and negatively affected the scaling up of UNICEF and partners interventions.
- The COVID-19 pandemic remains a significant concern for both economic, social and health sectors, while significant challenges were encountered in the implementation of WASH planned activities due to nationwide curfews, lockdowns, movement restrictions and social distancing, this context present a great opportunity for building back better more resilient WASH services, behaviors and facilities by incorporating climate risk and engaging private sector.



Photo | WFP/Iraq

- Main barriers to achieve the SDGs are related to the outdated regulatory and policy frameworks of Iraq that do not coherently mainstream sustainable land management and ecosystem service maintenance. Additionally, farmer support systems do not have the capacity to identify and incentivize the adoption of SLM production practices and information and knowledge management systems required for informed decision-making and incentivize sustainable production practices regionally are inadequate. To reverse the constraints it will be necessary to assist the Government to build the capacity required to support a comprehensive SLM program and invest upon generating a platform for learning and building incentives for agriculturalists to gain exposure to and experience with more production practices that generate SLM benefits.

### Lessons Learned

- Climate change represents one of the important areas of success. Policy and downstream support for climate mitigation and adaptation will be increased. Pilot areas vulnerable to climate change will be supported to increase community access to water and promote eco-tourism. Initiatives that focus on waste management, pollution and energy efficiency will also continue to expand programming opportunities including in partnership with UNEP to meet several SDGs.

- One of the learning lessons gained, is to emphasize on the Early planning and design stages through involving all potential/relevant partners to the intervention aimed to be implemented, taking in consideration what a severe impact of potential risks could be on the implementation of projects designed, there should be always a very well designed and detailed contingency plan;

- Amidst of water scarcity and as Iraq's population grows and rapidly urbanizes, requirements for additional water resources and services will only increase. Hence, the generating of green energy power and harvesting rainwater will contribute protecting the environment.

- MBR is proven technology to treat hospitals wastewater. It can be very valid solution to address the wastewater treatment problem in Iraq due to the fact that the MBRs are compact, easy to install and operate and not required a lot of space which is very important factor due to limited area available in most of the Iraqi old hospitals.



Photo | UNHCR/Iraq



Photo | UNHCR/Iraq

## Progress in reaching those left behind

### Achieving Social Cohesion, Protection and Inclusion

- UN fully implemented the principle of Leaving No One Behind by reaching out to population groups and addressing gender basic and practical needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, including women and girls refugees, internally displaced, returnees and host community. Specific attention was ensured to the rights of widows, women with disabilities and female-headed households in urban and rural areas in sixteen Iraqi governorates
- UN supported 80,000 women and girls to receive GBV protection services
- 632,360 individuals were provided with child protection services.
- 3,295 children received birth registration and civil documentation services and 3,047 children benefitted from child-friendly legal representation, including 224 foreign children accused of ISIL affiliation, who were repatriated to their countries of origin.
- UN provided protection and advancing the Housing, Land and Property rights of ethnic and religious minorities that have suffered historic institutional discrimination and were particularly targeted by recent violent conflict.

### Growing the Economy for All

- UN supported vulnerable youth to gain new skills in entrepreneurship, including in technical software development and design for improved employability (98 girls/15-24 years) including IDPs, poor and other socially excluded groups. A Youth Incubator Boot camp Challenge held, with 120 young entrepreneurs (55 girls/15-24 years) who individually or in groups designed innovative ideas about the provision of services that support local communities and the response to COVID-19. 54 young people (22 girls/15-24 years) received seed funding and implemented social/business entrepreneurship initiatives, and 60 youth (25 girls/19-24 years) received paid and unpaid internships with selected private-sector companies.
- A total of 1,564 (1,564 male and 191 female) young people, including IDPs, poor and other socially excluded groups, also completed offline and online skills development.

### Promoting Effective, Inclusive and Efficient Institutions and Services

- Despite a challenging and complex operational environment due to COVID-19, the political stalemate and the humanitarian situation, The UN continued to provide lives development and humanitarian programmes to support the most vulnerable in Iraq.

- Addressing the impact of COVID-19 was the main priority of the education programming in 2020. The UN supported the Ministry of Education (MoE) – both at the Federal and the Kurdistan Region

levels – in establishing alternative education services within the context of COVID-19, ensuring access to learning opportunities for an estimated 2.9 million children and young people across Iraq.

- The UN agencies were the forerunners in advocating for the use of a blended approach to ensure continuity of learning for 144,000 (45 per cent girls) vulnerable children in formal and non-formal education settings. This strategy was adopted by the MoE in launching education programmes for the academic year 2020-2021.

- In 2020, an additional 1.5 million people were reached, including 555,000 children, over 800,000 girls and women, and over 52,000 people with disabilities.

- In 2020, 1,195,720 vulnerable people in fragile setting were reached

### Promoting Natural Resources and Disaster Risk Management

- The UN scaled up WASH programme response to climate crisis including water scarcity, based on the successful implementation of new water catchment in Erbil rural areas on 2019. It is planned to replicate the same in other governorates suffered from acute water crisis such as Muthanna governorate. The UN supported online training sessions on WASH/IPC for over 350 youth and adolescents to promote their awareness on WASH IPC and with support from the community, they directly contributed to the COVID-19 response through disseminating critical key messages on hand washing and sharing basic information on WASH/ IPC and rumour tracking platform in addition to capacity building activities.

- Reports from the Iraqi Ministry of Health and Environment indicate that bacteriological contamination in the water supply varies between governorates, ranging from 2.5% up to 35%. The average of 18% bacteriological contamination highly exceeds the Iraqi National Drinking Water Standards and WHO Guidelines for drinking (less than 5%). Hence the ongoing works to mitigate the impact and eliminate the hazardous of the untreated effluents of hospitals will protect and preserve the environment from the risk of contamination and prevent the transmission of water borne diseases. Over 1.5 million individuals benefit from the completion of the aforementioned projects.



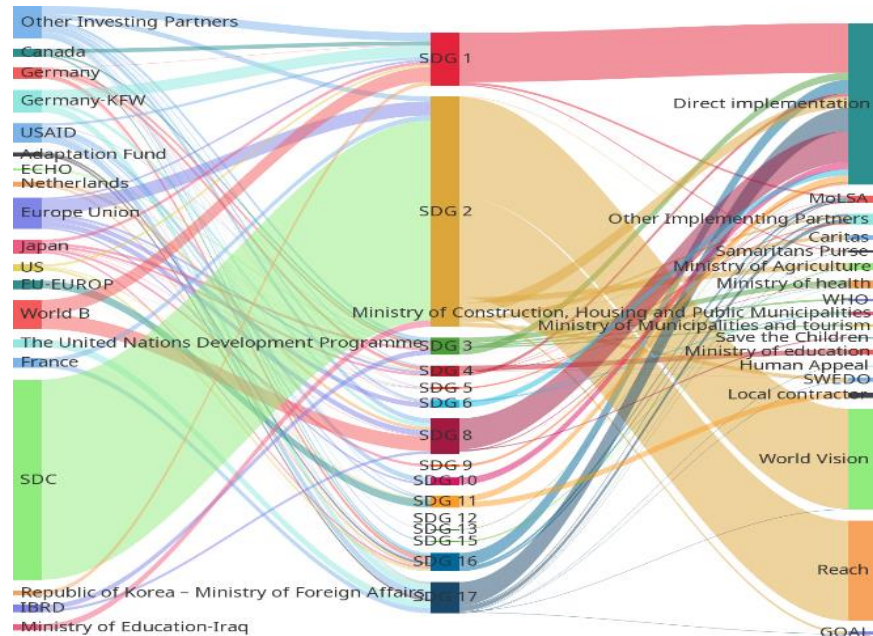
Photo | UNHCR/Iraq

## 2.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

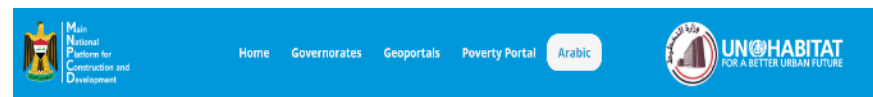
The UN has continued building strategic partnerships in support of the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs goals. This required involving policymakers and planning departments of the government, the private sector, and the civil society, in finding innovative solutions to development challenges that became even more acute with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To this effect, the UN strengthened its coordination and data sharing capacity with Government of Iraq, reached out to private sector partners, NGOs, universities and research centers in the governorates most in need of development.

The UN, in partnership with the Iraqi Ministry of Planning, developed an online and interactive data platform titled Main National Platform for Construction and Development. This platform is one of the key tools for planning, implementing and monitoring construction and reconstruction activities in Iraq, both by the Government of Iraq as well as UN and international organizations. It has contributed to the achievement of SDGs by sharing information on ongoing, planned and completed projects and activities, and allowing relevant actors to avoid duplication and coordinate for better planning, especially in conflict-affected areas where many actors are operating to improve people's lives.



Linking Investments Partners and Implementing Partners with the Sustainable Development Goals



### THE MAIN NATIONAL PLATFORM FOR CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

It is a platform to monitor and manage recovery, resilience and development projects based on a completed spatial database for different projects either the implemented or planned projects by Iraqi governments, or the international community. The platform contains analytical outputs, final dashboard reports, statistical tables for project data, as well as a community interaction window, and interactive maps of projects locations. The Geoportal is the up-to-date web-based GIS data system of the main platform; it can be accessed through the main website with specific access authorities to enable users using multiple tools to monitor and extract statistics and info-graphs in smart and advanced methods. The main platform containing a specific portal for the projects of Executive Directorate for Poverty Reduction.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Ministry of Planning thanks the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for their sincere efforts and their active contribution in providing technical and logistical support during all the implementation stages of the National Recovery, Reconstruction and Resilience Data Platform Project. It looks forward to future contributions and wishes the Programme success in their future endeavours.



### REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

Geography position : Middle East  
Area : 438,317 km2  
Capital : Baghdad  
Government : Federal parliamentary republic  
Currency : Iraqi dinar IQD  
Time zone : GMT+3  
Internet TLD : IQ  
Calling code : +964  
Natural resources: oil, gas, phosphate, sulfur, iron and red mercury

### PLATFORM OBJECTIVES

The Platform is primarily aimed at maximizing the use of the provided spatial information for clarifying the State's priorities and needs in terms of projects to be fully accessible for decision makers.

The Government seeks to achieve a clear future vision for the situation of projects and services. Therefore, the Platform is designed in accordance with the best international standards to support sustainable development efforts.

The Platform provides multiple analytical tools that enable users to access spatial statistical information, dashboards and detailed maps.

The Platform seeks to strengthen local governance by enabling people to engage in interactive panels and feedback on projects, services and reforms.

The UN also sought to expand its partnership with the private sector, the Mitsubishi Corporation, successfully implementing a project to improve women's access to economic opportunities through targeted vocational training in four different skills. These training were conducted by the certified trainers of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) based in Basra Vocational Training Centre (VTC). Overall, 128 out of the 133 enrolled trainees successfully completed the training, indicating 96 percent successful completion rate across all the three cycles of the courses. Furthermore, building on this first successful partnership experience, a new project was initiated and is still ongoing that supports social inclusion of persons with disabilities. The project works with 5 local Iraqi organizations for people with disabilities on capacity building and awareness raising.

Striving to incorporate true innovative programming for the achievement of the SDGs in Iraq, a pilot project was implemented to produce a quick crop-type map using frontier technologies that can be used as a proxy of food availability and in-turn inform the child poverty. The project was implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Planning and collected training data from three districts in three different food security zones in Iraq. It helped in exploring a machine-learning model using high resolution satellite data (Sentinel2) and training data from the field to generate crop-type maps twice during the cropping season. The lessons learned from the exercise has helped in optimizing the training data collection process and improving the accuracy of the model if expanded to other districts. Further analysis and research is needed to analyses the linkages of the outcomes and the child poverty.



Pilot project – frontier technologies for crop-mapping

## 2.4. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency

### Operating as One

In early February 2020, Iraq's Operations Management Team (OMT) started an ambitious plan to update its Business Operations Strategy in the online platform (BOS 2.0) with the purpose of eliminating duplication among the agencies, leveraging the common bargaining power of the UN and maximizing economies of scale.

Through the productive collaboration of UN AFPs in the areas of procurement, HR, finance, ICT, logistics and administration, the Operations Management Team was able to increase system efficiencies, supported by the completion of the first online Implementation Plan for operations, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, under the Opportunity analysis, 29 service lines were identified by the UN AFPs and the UN Mission for harmonized and collaborative delivery of services. Additionally, against a financial requirement in supporting the BOS budget of approximately \$1 Million, a total of USD \$7,516,672 was estimated as the cost avoidance for the period 2020/2021.

In the area of travel, the Team conducted in 2020 a survey to determine the most appropriate Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) rate for non-UN participants in national training activities (NTA) held inside Iraq, to ensure equal participation in the UN organized events. As a result, in 2021 the UN AFPs agreed on a harmonized rate.

Additionally, in the spirit of increased economies of scale, reduced transaction costs, agility and improved relations with contractors several steps have been taken to carry out Common Procurement Actions, including joint solicitation to leverage buyer power to achieve rates and prices that no single organization could obtain individually, thereby increasing value for money for all participating parties. In this regard, several tenders were jointly prepared by the Procurement, Admin, Finance and ICT Working Groups: "conference and event management services", "customs clearance and exemption services", "travel management services", "in-land transportation services", "contract management for banking services" and "internet services" have resulted in LTAs or are under process.

To harmonize the implementation of the Administrative Guidelines for Offices on the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and to adopt in Iraq a common approach on the most important aspects of administering staff members during the COVID-19 pandemic, the HR working group, while focusing on the quality of conditions of staff, conducted several surveys that resulted in benefits management.

With the introduction of the Business Operations Strategy 2.0 signed off in August 2020, these results are expected to be further institutionalized in 2021.

## Communicating as One

Communications at UN Iraq were further strengthened during 2020. The UN Strategic Communication Group was expanded during the year by full participation of all resident agencies.

In the first year of the UN Sustainable Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) in Iraq, the agencies, mission and funds partnered even more closely on joint communications initiatives. From inception on International Women's Day through to the last day of the #UN75 youth campaign on 31 December, the spirit of ONE UN communications remained alive throughout, despite most staff working remotely since March due to COVID-19 and not meeting in person for most of the year.

UN Strategic Communications Group assumed a coordinative role in joint communications with development partners on COVID-19. Public information campaigns on preventing the spread of the pandemic and the need to increase public awareness of its consequences upon vulnerable groups were addressed through more frequent and more issue-focused communications. A more focused and result-oriented communication approach was applied across issues, especially on promoting gender equality, youth involvement in development and advocacy efforts for child protection and to eliminate gender-based violence.

August marked International Youth Day, when UNAMI, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP joined together to create a short series of voices of youth role models, both on the UNAMI website, and in social media posts and tweets which were amplified by all partners. "The youth of Iraq: highlighting the engine of change" appeared in Arabic, Kurdish and English. The young role models featured were delighted to be included and further amplified the posts on their own social networks, reaching a broad target audience. Innovation and raw talent were also championed, for instance 12-year old photojournalist and refugee Murad. He took his first photo aged eight: "Sometimes you will not believe a story until you see it."

The collaborative piece served as an inspiration to other youth, despite COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing challenges, to keep at their dreams and to stay motivated.





## 2.6. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

In 2020, the total budget across all UNSCDF Strategic Priorities amounted to approximately US\$ 2.1 billion across UN entities.

A total of US\$ 835 million were available for the UNSCDF, of which 55 percent was delivered during the year (see table in next page for further budgetary information per Strategic Priority).

In terms of resource mobilization by Strategic Priority (SP) for the year, SP1 accounted for thirty-five percent of the total resources mobilized, SP2 represented thirty-two percent, SP3 amounted to twenty-five per cent, and SP4 was eight per cent.

Regarding the delivery rate by Strategic Priority, SP1 implemented seventy percent of its available budget, SP2 forty-two percent, SP3 fifty-eight percent, and SP4 was twenty-seven percent of the resources mobilized.

The Fund Facility for Stabilization continued to be a strategic funding mechanism for the delivery of stabilization activities in areas affected by the ISIL conflict. The FFS mobilized US\$ US\$328, millions of which 58 percent was delivered in 2020.

**Total Required Resources (Annual)**

\$2,107,737,186



**Available Resources (Annual)**

\$835,310,377

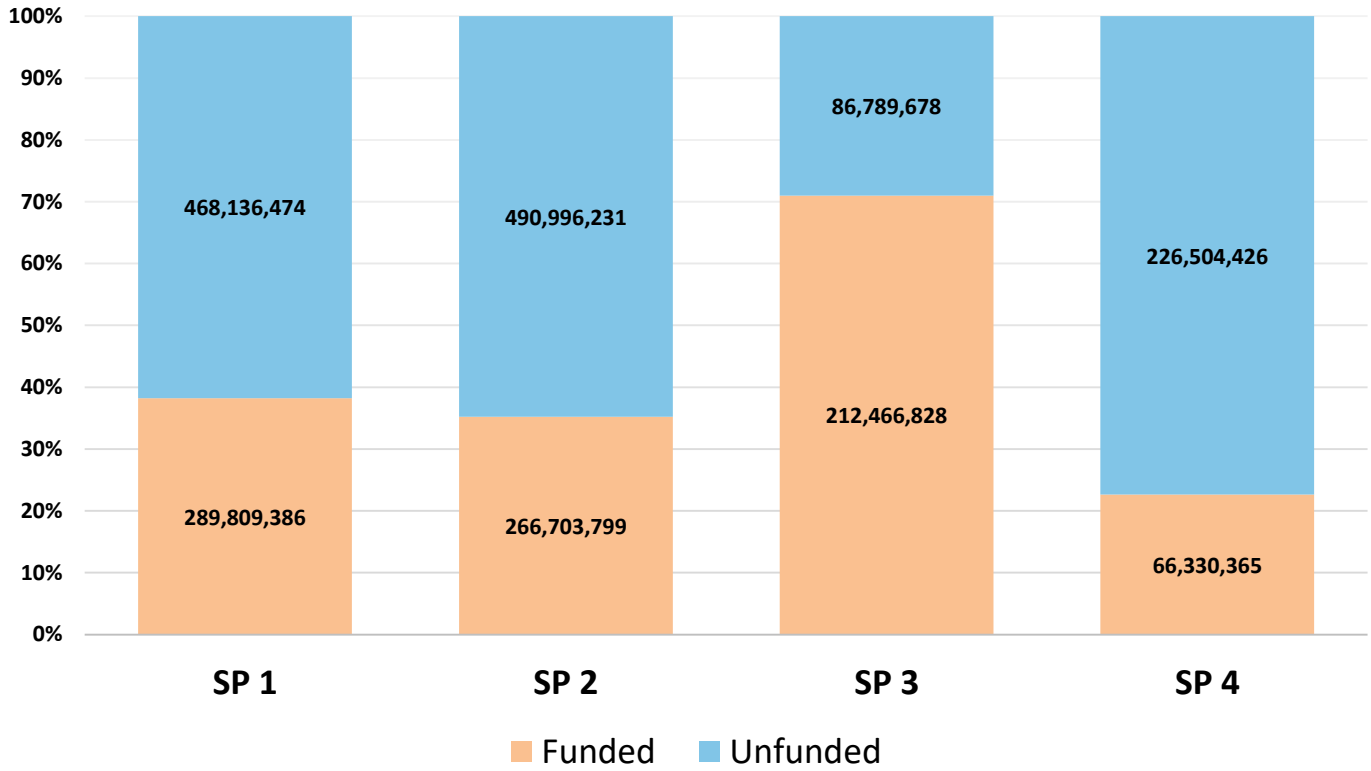


**Expenditure**

\$456,102,196



## RESOURCES MOBILIZED (USD) BY STRATEGIC PRIORITY (SP)



- SP 1**      **Achieving Social Cohesion, Protection and Inclusion**
- SP 2**      **Growing the Economy for All**
- SP 3**      **Promoting Effective, Inclusive and Efficient Institutions and Services**
- SP 4**      **Promoting Natural Resources and Disaster Risks Management and Climate Change Resilie**



**CHAPTER 3**  
**UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR**

# Chapter 3

## UNCT key focus for next year



Photo | UNHCR/Iraq

In 2020 the Iraq UNCT began implementing the first year of the UNSDCF (2020 – 2024), covering four strategic priority areas. With the onset and arrival of COVID-19 in March 2020, the UNCT had to quickly adapt the UNSDCF to include the Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERP). As well as coordinating agencies to develop new activities and modalities to respond to the crisis in a coherent way,

existing activities were also pivoted towards responding to the acute and pressing needs created by the impact of COVID-19.

In 2021, beginning with the UNCT retreat in January 2021, the UNCT is now focusing on updating the Common Country Analysis (CCA) and the UNSDCF annual plan to reflect the new realities of Iraq to support the Government of Iraq in its development objectives.

# UNCT key focus for next year

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Photo | UNOPS/Iraq

## **Inclusion of Durable Solutions into the UNSDCF**

The UNSDCF, starting in 2021, will now include a specific 'Durable Solutions' Strategic Priority. This decision was taken to reflect the growing need for Durable Solutions within Iraq as a viable solution to protracted displacement. The UNSDCF will now incorporate the Durable Solutions Task Force (DSTF) as the coordinating body and will align coordination and implementation efforts in line with the National Plan – developed with the MoMD – as well as the Strategic Operational Framework.

## **SDG Working Group**

Launched in March 2021, the SDG Working Group is aiming to support the Government of Iraq in adoption of the SDGs and in implementing and monitoring the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. It focuses on facilitating the understanding of the SDGs implementation, monitoring issues in Iraq, existing challenges, potential opportunities and priority areas and will advocate for SDGs mainstreaming in all sectors as well as supporting the compilation of the Voluntary National Review (VNR).

# UNCT key focus for next year



Photo | IOM/Iraq

## **UN Network on Migration**

With the inaugural meeting taking place in March 2021, the Network was launched to provide a platform for cross-UN coordination and stakeholder engagement in supporting the Government of Iraq in implementing the Global Compact for Migration (GCM).

## ACRONYMS

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BAT	Bottleneck Analysis Tool
CCA	Common Country Analysis
CBI	Cash Based Intervention
CCPC	Community Coexistence and Peace Committee
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
CP	Child Protection
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DoLSA	Department of Labour and Social Affairs
EACS	emergency Alert and Communication Systems
EORE	Explosive Ordnance Risk Education
ERU	Economic Reform Unit
EMA-i	Event Mobile Application implementation approach
EU	European Union
EHM	Explosive Hazard Management
Fafo	Fafo Institute for Labour and Social Research
FFS	Funding Facility for Stabilization
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GBVIM+	Gender-Based Violence Information Management System
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHRP	Global Humanitarian Response Plan
GoI	Government of Iraq
HC	Humanitarian Coordinator
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
Hhs	Households
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IFI	Iraq Federation of Industries
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISIL	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
ITC	International Trade Centre
IQD	Iraqi Dinar
JWP	Joint Work Plan
JAU	Joint Analysis Unit
JSC	Joint Steering Committee
KRG	Kurdistan Regional Government
KRI	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
LMT	Laboratory Mapping Tool
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIS	Management Information System
MNCH	Maternal, New-born and Child Health
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoH	Ministry of Health

# ACRONYMS

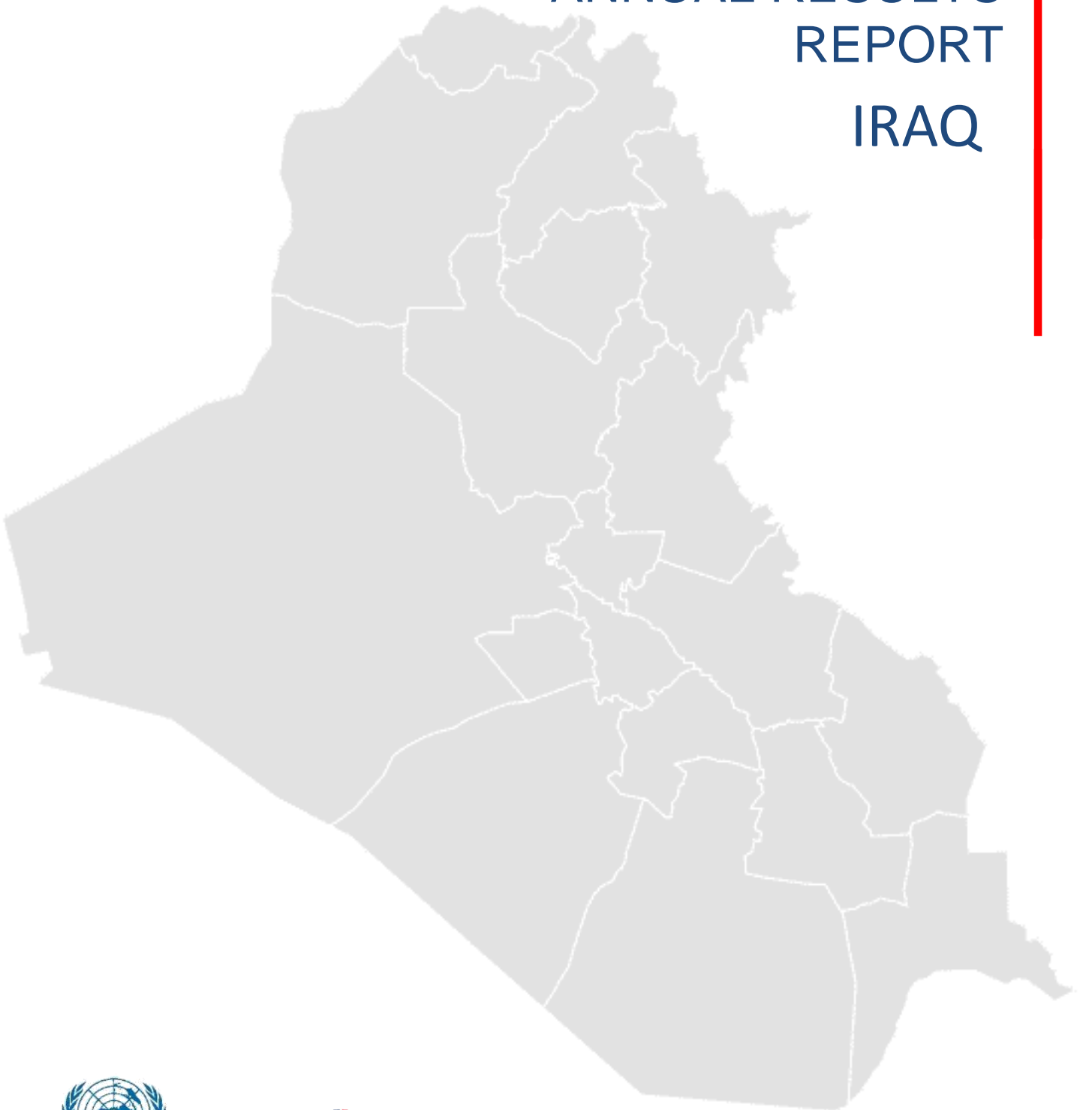
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MoMD	Ministry of Migration and Displacement
MoLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NDA	National Designated Authority
NDC	National Determined Contribution
NDP	National Development Plan
NEET	Not in Employment, Education or Training
NPL	Non-Performing Loans
NSS	National Security Strategy
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PBSO	Peacebuilding Support Office
PDS	Public Distribution System
PFA	Psychological First Aid
PMT	Programme Management Team
POE	Points of Entry
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PSEA	Prevention from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
PSS	Psycho-social Support
PVE	Prevention of Violent Extremism
PWG	Priority Work Group
RCCE	Risk Communication and Community Engagement
RCO	Resident Coordinator Office
REC	Regional Economic Commission
RMNCAH	Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEIA	Social and Economic Impact Assessment
SERP	Socio-Economic Response Plan
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-based Violence
SIWI	Stockholm institute for Water
SLM	Self-Learning Materials
SET	Surveillance Evaluation Tool
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SPRP	Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan
SSN	Social Safety Net
SSRP	Security Sector Reform Programme
UN	United Nations
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDS	United Nations Development System
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nation International Children's Emergency Fund
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNSDG	United Nations Sustainable Development Group
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization





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