United Nations Iraq

الأمم المتحدة – العراق
United Nations Iraq

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

(UNSDCF)

IRAQ
2020-2024

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Declaration of Commitment

We, the Government of Iraq and the United Nations Country Team in Iraq, pledge to foster cooperation, coordination and partnership in order to implement this United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework as a means to support the national priorities articulated in Iraq's national development plans and the Sustainable Development Goals.

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[1] The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' engagement in and contribution to the UNSDCF seeks to reduce humanitarian risk, vulnerability and need, without prejudice to General Assembly resolution 46/182 and other relevant resolutions. Based on its humanitarian coordination mandate, OCHA does not undertake operational activities for development and is not a UNDS member.

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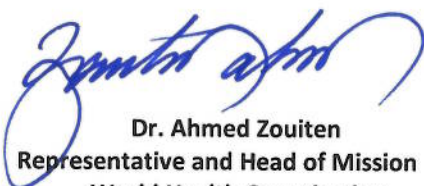**Director/Operational Hub**
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Abbreviations and Acronyms

CCA	Common Country Analysis	NRC	National Reconciliation Commission
CCT	Conditional Cash Transfer	OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women	OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
CoR	Council of Representatives	PDS	Public Distribution System
CRSV	Conflict Related Sexual Violence	PVE	Prevention of Violent Extremism
CSO	Civil Society Organization	PWG	Priority Working Group
CSO	Central Statistics Office (Ministry of Planning)	RC	(UN) Resident Coordinator
DIBs	Disputed Internal Boundaries	RRP	Iraq Recovery and Resilience Program
DSRSG	Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General	SCD	Systematic Country Diagnostic
ESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
GBV	Gender Based Violence	SPC	Social Protection Commission
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	SRSG	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
HLP	Housing, Land and Property	SSN	Social Safety Net
IDP	Internally Displaced People	UNS	United Nations System
IED	Improvised Explosive Device	UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
IHCHR	Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
ILO	International Labor Organization	UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
IMF	International Monetary Fund	UNDP	United Nations Development Program
IOM	International Organization for Migration	UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
ITC	International Trade Centre	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
IPCC	Iraqi Property Compensation Commission	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
ISIL	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant	UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Program
JSC	Joint Steering Committee	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
KRG	Kurdistan Regional Government	UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
KRI	Kurdistan Region of Iraq	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
KRSO	Kurdistan Region Statistics Office	UNITAD	UN Investigative Team for the Promotion of Accountability for Crimes Committed by ISIL
MoEd	Ministry of Education	UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
MoHEd	Ministry of Higher Education	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
MoHEn	Ministry of Health and Environment	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
MoJ	Ministry of Justice	UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
MoLSA	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
MoP	Ministry of Planning	UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
MoT	Ministry of Trade	VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
NCCI	NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq	WB	World Bank
NDP	National Development Plan	WFP	World Food Program of the United Nations
NHF	National Housing Fund	WHO	World Health Organization of the United Nations
NIC	National Investment Commission	WTO	World Trade Organization

Executive Summary

For decades, Iraq has suffered political instability caused by armed conflict, waves of internal displacement, and the resulting socio-economic crises. The decline in the oil prices, on which the Government[2]is heavily dependent, the proliferation of armed actors operating outside State control, and the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated existing vulnerabilities. The youth popular uprisings, which started in October 2019, called for improved governance system, meaningful political reforms, economic growth, accountable political institutions and job opportunities.

To institutionalize the triple nexus of humanitarian, development, and peace interlink ages across the collective work of the UN System in Iraq, the Cooperation Framework (CF) integrates peace building, development, and resilience commitments to address the structural impediments that hinder Iraq's progress to sustainable development. The United Nations Country Team for Iraq (UNCT[3]) focused this CF on the transition from humanitarian assistance towards contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a more upstream policy and legislative reform. The CF is aligned with the Iraq Vision 2030 and the Kurdistan Regional Government's (KRG) 2020: "A Vision for the Future", as well as the National Development Plan (NDP) (2018-2022), and Iraq's National Framework for Reconstruction and Development as well as the government "White paper".[4]

The CF aims to maximize synergies, and map complementarities across UN planning frameworks, such as the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), [5]that commits to support 1.5 million vulnerable people, and the forthcoming frameworks of the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq[6] (UNAMI), and the Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERP) to COVID-19 developed by the UNCT. Cross-cutting issues such as human rights, gender equality and disabilities have been mainstreamed across all the CF which is framed around five Strategic Priorities (SPs) mirroring the revised Common Country Analysis (CCA) key findings. The SPs are: social cohesion, the economy, governance, the environment and sustainable solutions for internally displaced populations (IDPs). The CF is based on the overarching Theory of Change (ToC) that could be summarized as follows:

If Iraq has strengthened institutions and policies; and if its economy becomes diversified with higher employment rates; and if people in Iraq are empowered and socially protected; and if natural resources are sustainably managed; and if the displaced affected populations are supported with social and economic opportunities; then Iraq will achieve social cohesion, peace and development, and respect for human rights and gender equality.

As Iraq continues its transition from conflict and post-conflict to a more stabilized and development- oriented State, focus is needed on resilience, recovery and reconstruction. Social cohesion and reconciliation will be key factors in rebuilding the social fabric, ensuring gender equality which is a pre-condition for social cohesion. Key focus areas for UN engagement include engaging youth and volunteer groups in community actions, as well as promoting, protecting and restoring Iraq's cultural heritage; promoting human rights, including the rights of minorities, and vulnerable segments of the population; supporting the inclusion, safe and voluntary Durable Solutions for IDPs, refugees, etc.

To support developing national institutional capacities, partnerships will be essential for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. This required involving policymakers and planning departments in finding innovative solutions to respond to development challenges. To this effect, the UN strengthened its coordination and data sharing capacity with the Government, and reached out to private sector partners, NGOs, universities and research centers in the governorates most in need of development.

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[2]Throughout this document, the term "Government" refers to the federal government in Baghdad unless specified otherwise. The Kurdistan Regional Government in Erbil will be referred to as the KRG throughout the document.

[3] The current UNCT includes 18 resident and four non-resident agencies. Resident agencies are: UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA, WFP, WHO, ILO, FAO, UN Women, UNOPS, OHCHR, UNMAS, IOM, OCHA, UNESCO, UNODC, UNV, and UN-Habitat. Non-Resident agencies are: UNEP, ESCWA, UNCTAD, and UNIDO. It also includes the Bretton Woods Institutions.

[4] "White paper, Final Report of the Emergency Cell for Finance

[5]Iraq: 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan [EN] | Humanitarian Response and Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan 2021 (February 2021) - Iraq | Relief Web

[6] Horizon Vision Paper

CHAPTER 1: COUNTRY PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA

1.1 Country context

Iraq has experienced decades of armed conflict, causing waves of political and economic instability. Moreover, the pandemic COVID-19 impacted the lives of 1.77 million people exposing them to risk and exhausting coping strategies.[7,8]at the time of writing, there were 977, 175 cases of COVID-19 with 14,981 deaths.[9] Moreover, the COVID-19-related containment measures imposed by the Government of Iraq (GoI), such as curfews, movement restrictions and border closure resulted in the disruption of all UN Agencies program delivery.

Iraq has over 1.3 million people in displacement, and 4.6 million IDP returnees, who face increased violence despite the cessation of military operations.[10] Approximately 257,000 IDPs live in camps,[11] and additionally, Iraq continues to host nearly 300,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, including 250,000 Syrian refugees, adding to the strain on local services.

Iraq's labor participation rate is low: 48.7%[12] and nearly 60% of the workforce is in the informal sector.[13] Iraq ranks 152 (out of 153 countries) on the Global Gender Gap Report 2020[14]and 146 (out of 162 countries) in the Gender Inequality Index.[15] Poverty remains a constraint on growth and a serious challenge for many, but mostly for women. Iraq already has the highest poverty rate of all upper-middle-income countries. According to the ESCWA regional gender gap report, more than 60 per cent of women's work is unpaid, and the great disparity in the unemployment rate for women (31%) and men (10%) highlights the gendered dimension of poverty in Iraq.

In December 2020, the Central Bank of Iraq also devalued the Iraqi currency by (20%) against the United States dollar, from 1,200 dinars to 1,470 dinars per dollar. This decision, which was motivated by fiscal constraints, resulted in a sudden price increase for all imports, and some market upheaval. In the long-term, devaluation may improve domestic competitiveness, but sustained improvements in competitiveness will require deeper reforms.

1.2. National vision for sustainable development

In 2020, the UN developed a Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERP) to COVID-19 to contribute to urgently Building Back Better, while leaving no one behind. Through the SERP, the UN has been working with other partners to support the Government's ability to provide socio-economic stability. Building on these efforts, the CF also serves as an agile mechanism for responsive UN programming.

While having great economic potential, Iraq continues to be challenged by conflict, over-dependence on a single sector, and an unstable political system, as well as a high perception of corruption among its people. Iraq thus requires a multi-faceted re-orientation towards economic diversification and a focus on longer-term investment in development. Not only there is a risk from the fluctuation of international oil prices, but also from the remnants of the conflicts that have kept the priority of investment in security rather than in human development. The economic crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic and decline in oil prices has highlighted deeper challenges

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[7] Initial Mapping of COVID-19 Humanitarian Activities, Inter Cluster Coordination Group, 10 April 2020
[8] The three countries ahead of Iraq are Syria (384.2M); Ethiopia (322.6M); and DRC (287.8M). https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/GHRP-COVID19_May_Update.pdf
[9] In Iraq, from 3 January 2020 to 4:28pm CEST, 19 April 2021, there have been 977,175 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 14,981 deaths, reported to WHO. As of 15 April 2021, a total of 154,660 vaccine doses have been administered. Source: WHO. 2021. COVID-19 Dashboard: Iraq. Available at: https://covid19.who.int/region/emro/country/iq
[10] UNFPA, 2019. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support: Humanitarian Crisis Persists in 'Post-Conflict' Iraq. Available at: https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/19-255-MHPSS-Case-IRAQ-2019-10-04-1308.pdf
[11] Iraq Humanitarian Needs Overview (2021)
The population of IDPs in camps decreased at the beginning of 2021 following the Government of Iraq accelerated camp closures from October to January and reached 202,580 Numbers are expected to further decline in 2021, with a projected median figure of 151,000 people in camps.
[12] World Bank. 2010. Overview, Iraq, April 1, 2019, Available at: https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/iraq/overview
[13] ANND. 2016. Gender Dimensions of Informal Work. Available at: www.annd.org/cd/arabwatch2016/pdf/arabic/7.pdf
[14] World Economic Forum. 2020. Global Gender Gap Report 2020. Available at: https://www.weforum.org/reports/gender-gap-2020-report-100-years-pay-equality
[15] UNDP. 2020. Human Development Report. Available at: http://hdr.undp.org/en/2020-report

that need to be addressed. In December 2020, Iraq's Central Statistics Office reported that Iraq's nominal gross domestic product (GDP) dropped by (21.5%) during the third quarter of 2020 when compared with the same period of the previous year. However, the third quarter figure, USD 45.6 billion, was up 31% from the second quarter of 2020, driven by the increase in the oil prices from USD 23.26 per barrel to USD 41.54 per barrel and the reduction of some lockdown restrictions.

The World Bank affirms that unless there is a significant reorientation in fiscal policy to a comprehensive recovery approach, there will be limited fiscal space to sustain post-war recovery and longer-term development. Increased imports will cause the current account balance to turn into deficit, financed partially by international reserves decumulation.[16] COVID-19 caused a deterioration of socio-economic conditions in Iraq. Key findings of a rapid assessment of the socio-economic impact in 7 governorates showed that only 16% (195) of households (HHs) had savings, with the majority, 95% (189) of these estimating their savings would last less than 3 months. COVID-19 has exacerbated an already fragile economic situation that impacted the GDP growth that has been projected to decrease by 9.7% in 2020, making it the country's worst annual performance since 2003.[17] Whilst anecdotal evidence points to a rise in tensions due to an inability to purchase food, out of which, 96.4% expect to incur taking on debt to meet basic needs. Also, 85% of HHs faced an immediate and severe shock on income generation with at least one HH member being unable to work due to COVID-19 restrictions[18]. Furthermore, 45% of interviewed HH reported that they consider themselves at risk of eviction.

According to the World Bank, the economic downturn brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic may push an additional 5.5 million Iraqis, and potentially more, into poverty, if public sector reforms are not carried out in a progressive and efficient fashion. The GoI seeks comprehensive economic reform with an agenda centered on creating the enabling environment for private-sector led growth, diversification and youth job creation.[19]

Women and girls in Iraq have limited access to housing, land and property rights. Female heads of household often experience obstacles when they try to prove the legality of their occupation of the land and property and are still subject to discriminatory traditional and cultural norms, which exclude them from their inheritance of land. Women are often unable to replace missing ownership documents or reclaim possession of occupied property, due to discriminatory barriers in accessing courts, and are officially barred from accessing compensation claims for damaged/destroyed properties. According to the UNDP *Rapid Integrated Assessment*, to track if national priorities areas are aligned with SDG 5, only 50% of SDG 5 targets have corresponding targets in the NDP. Based on the analysis, target 5.1, 5.2 and 5.4 are not covered in the NDP, notably related to ending discrimination, violence and exploitation against women and girls, as well as unpaid care value and domestic responsibilities[20]. Let's note that the Goal 5 is an integrator and is essential to achieve all the SDGs, which imply that it must be mainstreamed across national planning and programming.

The GoI, with the support of UN agencies, prepared an (NDP 2018-2022), a Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS 2018-2022) [21] and a Reconstruction and Development Framework (2018-2027)[22]. Furthermore, Iraq presented its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report in 2019, related to the implementation of the SDGs.

The "Iraq Vision for Sustainable Development 2030" outlines the Government's strategic approach for achieving national (SDG) targets. It addresses the "Five P's" (people, prosperity, peace, planet and partnerships), and provides additional guidance to the formulation of the CF, in terms of strategic priorities and outcomes in which the UN has a comparative advantage and capacity to support the Government's programs. The "Kurdistan Region of Iraq 2020: A Vision for the Future" presents similar people-centered priorities, in four focus areas, namely: *Put*

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[16] World Bank Iraq overview as of 01 April 2019; https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/iraq/overview

[17] World Bank Iraq overview as of 01 April 2019; https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/iraq/overview

[18] DRC (April 2020), Post-COVID-1 Basic Needs Assessment

[19] Government of Iraq. 2020. White Paper. Strategic Note on Priority Reform Areas: Towards a more resilient and inclusive economy in Iraq. May 2020.

[20]The Government has also engaged in developing a 'Vision 2030' that is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs. Iraq will be presenting its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) report at the High-Level Political Forum in 2019 to share about its experience with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

[21]https://mop.gov.iq/en/static/uploads/1/pdf/15192838546d2344468c97dc099300d987509ebf27--Summary.pdf

[22] http://www.cabinet.iq/uploads/Iraq%20Reconstruction/Iraq%20Recons%20&%20Inves.pdf

People First; Build the Region's Infrastructure; Create an Economically Prosperous Region, and; Put Government to Work for the People.[23]

Iraq Vision for Sustainable Development 2030: The Iraq Vision for Sustainable Development 2030 is based on the following foundations:

1. *Growth through combining the sustainable development dimensions, which include social integration, economic development, environmental sustainability with good governance on the national and local levels;*
2. *Empowerment and investment in human and social capital;*
3. *Justice and fairness in distributing resources and development revenues;*
4. *Good governance, rule of law, transparency, and enhancement of effective and accountable institutions;*
5. *Compatibility between national development efforts and the local development priorities to achieve the sustainable development plan 2030;*
6. *A diversified economy that enhances assets and is capable of generating decent and protected job opportunities;*
7. *National and international partnerships among the government, the private sector, NGOs, universities, the media, other governments, and international organizations to achieve benefits and meet the development goals;*
8. *Build societal peace, engage people in volunteer work and ensure the inclusion of all in the development process, and;*
9. *Environmental sustainability that enhances a green economy.*

The vision is supported by the NDP and various sectoral and thematic strategies linked to the SDGs, such as the "National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women and Girls" (2018-2030) [24]and many others.

National Development Plan (2018-2022): Aside from supporting the current programming of the Government, the CF will contribute to the development of the next iteration of the NDP in 2022, with the mid-term review of the CF and the revised Common Country Analysis (CCA), in order to provide useful data to national planning processes. At the same time, the joint assessment will contribute towards ensuring that the CF remains relevant and aligned for the period (2023-2024).

The CF outcomes & outputs echo the **11 Strategic Objectives of the NDP (2018-2022),** which are:

1. *Establishing the foundations of good governance*
2. *Achieving economic reform*
3. *Recovery of communities affected by displacement due to ISIL and loss of human security*
4. *Enabling environment for investment and enhancing the role of the private sector*
5. *Increased economic growth*
6. *Increased real per capita income*
7. *Reducing unemployment and under-employment*
8. *Human security for the poorest and vulnerable groups*
9. *Upgrading sustainable human development indicators*
10. *Laying foundations for decentralized spatial development.*
11. *Alignment between general development frameworks and urban structures based on foundations of urban planning and spatial comparative advantages.*

The 2020-2024 CF for Iraq was prepared in 2019 after consultation with the Government and other development partners. It was aligned with Iraq's national development strategies and focused on achieving national SDG targets, reflecting the internationally-agreed norms and standards ratified by Iraq. The signature of the

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[23] Kurdistan Region of Iraq 2020: A Vision for the Future. Available at: http://www.mop.gov.krd/index.jsp?sid=1&id=381&pid=98; Accessed 11/11/19

[24] Government of Iraq, UNFPA. 2020. The National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women and Girls 2018-2030. Available at: https://iraq.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/the_national_strategy_to_combat_violence_against_women_and_girls_2018-2030.pdf

Government was expected in October 2019; however, mass demonstrations broke out and the country fell into a political crisis, shortly followed by COVID-19. Iraq was unable to form a new government until mid-2020.

The 2020-2024 UNSDCF was officially recognized by the new Deputy Prime Minister who requested an update to reflect the socio-economic impacts of these crises. A new Common Country Analysis was developed in early 2021 to guide the update, and these findings were used to strengthen the Framework. In April 2021, a joint GOI and UN consultation workshop attended by government officials, CSO and academia was organized to discuss, comment, and inform the UNSDCF revision process. In the meantime, the Ministry of Planning provided a comprehensive analysis of the CF, and the Resident Coordinator held frequent consultations with the Ministry to ensure that the Government's new priorities were incorporated into this updated Cooperation Framework.

The Government of Iraq has shown strong political will with regards to addressing migrants' and migration issues. Since the advent of the Global Compact for Migration in 2018, Iraq has shown commitment to the initiative by being the only country to present its new National Migration Strategy as a national framework for implementing the GCM and to offer the example of its inter-ministerial Technical Working Groups as a best practice. It is also the only MENA country to have conducted a Migration Profile and Migration Governance Indicator assessment with national oversight. In February 2021, Iraq was selected to be part of the GCM Champion country initiative.

One of the challenges facing the development planning process is data gaps, particularly data commonly generated by a census. Iraq has been unable to conduct a full census for over 30 years, relying instead on partial data and projections. The GoI has pledged to conduct a census in 2020; however, it has been postponed due to the prevailing political, economic context. Until there is a full census that recognizes the diversity of population groups in the country, targeting will remain potentially inaccurate, with a risk of needs going unattended, especially for vulnerable populations, such as persons with disabilities, migrant workers, etc.

Another challenge related to delivering services is linked to the impact of conflict and displacement, further exacerbated by the pandemic. Destroyed infrastructure, loss of productive assets requires significant investments for recovery. Besides, loss of documents essential to claiming public benefits remains a significant human rights issue for those impacted by conflict. Birth and death registrations; marriage and divorce certification; housing, land and property ownership documents are often no longer available for families and individuals affected by conflict.

Iraq has a significant youth population. COVID-19 has had a negative impact on youth employment in Iraq, where unemployment rates were high before the pandemic.[25] Unemployment rates reach 25% among Iraqi youth aged 15-24 years.[26] The GoI has recognized the need to proactively engage youth in the recovery and development processes. Both the Iraq Vision 2030 and the CF aim at creating the necessary social, economic and political environment that will enable youth to participate fully.

> **Youth in Iraq**
>
> **"Nearly 50 percent of Iraqis are younger than 19 years, and 60 percent are below 25 years of age. Furthermore, the youth population is projected to increase from seven to ten million between 2015 and 2030."**
>
> *World Bank (2015), Iraq Household Socio-Economic Survey 2012*
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> **"About 33 percent of the youth between the ages 15 and 29 are illiterate or only semi-literate and only seven percent have completed post-secondary education."**
>
> *World Bank (2017), Iraq Systematic Country Diagnostic*

ISIL's targeting of women and girls, using sexual violence as a weapon of war and terror, has not only stigmatized those who suffered and survived, but also created for many a fear of standing out. The recently adopted Yazidi Women Survivors Bill provides some protection and addresses the crimes committed against Yazidi women by

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[25] ILO 2020 COVID-19: The multiple and protracted crises impacting labor markets in Arab States- A regional initiative. Policy Brief. October 2020. Available at:
https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---Arab states/---ro-beirut/documents/meeting document/wcms_756757.pdf
[26] World Bank. 2021. Unemployment, youth total (% of total labor force ages 15-24) (modeled ILO estimate) – Iraq. Available at: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.UEM.1524.ZS?end=2019&locations=IQ&start=2009

ISIL. However, there is insufficient focus on gender equality in most of the planning documentation in the country, and political will needs to be increased if there are to be any real changes, as mentioned in the revised CCA. "The Government of Iraq has failed in its obligation under the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to take proper measures to protect and promote women's human rights, to ensure effective remedies in cases of violations, and to prevent systemic impunity."[27] Moreover, Iraq has not ratified the Optional Protocol to CEDAW which recognizes the competence of the CEDAW Committee to receive and consider complaints from individuals or groups within its jurisdiction.

There is lack of information and data on HIV in Iraq, including data on new infections. Trends in HIV new infections among general and key populations are not systematically monitored due to limited resources and capacities. Besides, there is no or limited availability of data or services related to Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission, or pediatric cases. Iraq has developed a National Strategic Plan (NSP) to cover the period 2016–2020; however, it was not costed and its implementation is hampered by the political and economic situation. Many key populations living with HIV cannot access ARVs in the country due to stigma and discrimination, and the role of civil society in providing HIV services in communities is limited. There is a need to strengthen the capacity of the National AIDS Program (NAP), and to improve HIV surveillance system and to develop and evidence-informed national strategy that is funded and linked to national HIV M&E Framework. Iraq could benefit from UN technical support including support of the Joint UN Program on AIDS (UNAIDS).

1.3. Progress towards the SDGs

Iraq is an Upper Middle-Income Country (UMIC) that continues to face challenges in realizing the SDGs. Despite recent humanitarian, security, and political challenges, the Government continues to integrate the SDGs into its NDP 2018-2022, demonstrated in the 11 Strategic Objectives listed above. A National Committee on Sustainable Development (NCSD) chaired by the Minister of Planning was formed, mandated to monitor the progress on the SDGs, and to submit reports on the country's growth to a "high-level follow-up group".[28] During 2019, with the support of UNDP, the GoI has submitted and presented the first Voluntary National Review (VNR) report at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). The review was the outcome of a series of consultations, which contributed to gathering valuable insights on priorities and challenges from inter-alia, the academia, CSOs, the private sector, women's rights advocates, young people, and members of parliament. The review focused on the implementation of Iraq Vision 2030 priorities and related SDGs namely, human development and gender equality (SDGs 1, SDG3, SDG4, and SDG5), good governance and safe society (SDG16), economic diversification (SDG8 and 9), sustainable environment (SDG6, SDG11, and SDG13). However, following the submission of the 1st VNR the country was faced with political instability which shifted the governmental attention off the sustainable development road.[29]

Iraq's reported index score is 63.1 in terms of SDG achievement, and the country ranks 113 of 166 globally.[30] For being the fifth largest oil producing country globally, these scores highlight the devastating impact of the conflict and violence, and the pre-occupation with security rather than human development. Below is the SDG current assessment graphic for Iraq, taken from the "Sustainable Development Report Dashboards 2020".[31]

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[27] "Gender-Based Violence and Discrimination Against Women and Girls in Iraq: A Report for the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women"; January 2019. This paper was "Submitted for the formulation of the List of Issues and Questions for the review of Iraq's compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women during its review of Iraq during the Pre-Sessional Working Group to the 74th Session to be held in March 2019."

[28] Iraq's Voluntary National Review 2019 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/iraq>

[29] Preparations are underway toward the second VNR which will build on community-wide consultations with CSOs and UNDP's support to present the best country's practices towards the 2030 Agenda.

[30] Sustainable Development Report 2020. Country Profiles: Iraq. Available at: https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/profiles/IRQ

[31] Sustainable Development Report 2020. Country Profiles: Iraq. Available at: https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/profiles/IRQ

1 NO POVERTY
2 ZERO HUNGER
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
4 QUALITY EDUCATION
5 GENDER EQUALITY
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13 CLIMATE ACTION
14 LIFE BELOW WATER
15 LIFE ON LAND
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Legend: ↑ On track or maintaining SDG achievement ↗ Moderately improving → Stagnating ↓ Decreasing •• Trend information unavailable

1.4. Gaps and challenges

The revised CCA shows there are fundamental gaps and challenges to the achievement of the SDGs. Lack of updated data is a challenge to effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) necessary for SDG reporting. For example, due to challenges around availability of data, it was not possible to develop estimates related to HIV. HIV prevalence among the general population is estimated to be below 0.02%, based on data for the last 5 years. In the meantime, there are no available estimates for HIV prevalence among pregnant women, nor among most at risk and key population, including people with disability, IDPs, migrants, victims of trafficking, refugees and stateless persons.

Iraq ranks amongst the highest countries in the world in its economic dependency on oil. Its oil reserves of 148.8 billion barrels (2018)[32], makes it the fifth largest producer in the world.[33]The sector constitutes 56 percent the country's real GDP, provides (99%) of its exports, and ensures (90%) of its budget revenues. The oil sector is capital intensive and as a result only employs a mere 1.4 percent of the active labor force.[34] This continued reliance on the oil sector exposes the national economy to risks and vulnerabilities such as international crude oil price declines. As a result of COVID-19, monthly revenue from oil dropped from $6.2 billion in January to $1.423 billion in April 2020. Estimates suggest that the situation might result in a fiscal deficit of around $42 billion (31%) which can be doubled if the oil prices are not recovered adequately.[35] Moreover, the unstable economic conditions pose the challenge of development financing in Iraq.

To avoid duplication and implementation gaps, the CF will be coordinated by the Ministry of Planning, along with other mechanisms such as the Humanitarian Clusters, and the Government's National Committee for Sustainable Development. Besides, a Joint Steering Committee, co-chaired by the Government and the UN RC, has been established with membership from the international donor community, civil society, and potentially the private sector. Regular meetings between the RC, the Chair of the Program Management Team (PMT), and the PWG Chairs/Co-Chairs were institutionalized as a platform for work during the formulation and revision of the CF.

Existing joint programming has been integrated into the CF, so as to leverage the ongoing work. The implementation mechanisms for those programs are integrated into the PWGs. As per the request of the Ministry of Planning, the theme of Durable Solutions for IDPs has been integrated into the CF, and accordingly, a new Priority working group has been established.

CHAPTER 2: UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO THE 2030 AGENDA

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, UN agencies and partners have coordinated several preparedness and response activities to react in a timely fashion to the ongoing crisis. The UN system decided to take an approach that bridges the gap between humanitarian, development and peace building support. Activities sought

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[32] VNR report, page 8
[33]World Economic Forum. 2016. Which economies are most reliant on oil? Available at:
https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/05/which-economies-are-most-reliant-on-oil/
[34] According to the 2014 household survey.
[35]*ibid*

to support the Iraqi Government's response to COVID-19 and towards achieving the SDGs. That said, agencies have revised existing programs, and have repurposed allocated funds to respond to it through the SERP.

Moreover, 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. It has contributed to the achievement of SDGs by sharing information on ongoing, planned and completed projects. The Platform provides multiple analytical tools that enable users to access spatial statistical information, dashboards and detailed maps. It also seeks to strengthen local governance by enabling people to engage in interactive panels and feedback on projects, services and reforms.[36]

In light of COVID-19, the Platform is also a digital solution that would allow implementing partners to adapt their operations to the requirements of physical distancing and movement restrictions.

2.1. Theory of Change

Key risks and assumptions relate to the possibility of regression of stability and security of the country. It is assumed that the current trend of transitioning from immediate humanitarian assistance to longer-term development programming will continue, and that the Government will increasingly invest resources in the process. Linked to that will be the continued support of donors to fully engage in the SDG Financing Strategy.

In order for Iraq to pursue the path of sustainable development, the following overarching Theory of Change must be realized:

Theory of Change for the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
If (1) Iraq has strengthened and effective institutions, services, policies, and mechanisms that are inclusive, evidence- and needs-based, and; **if (2)** the economy becomes diversified and therefore able to generate broader employment for all and investments in development, including private sector, and; **if (3)** the people in Iraq, particularly the most vulnerable populations, including women, children and youth, ethnic and religious minorities, people with disability, IDPs, migrants, victim of trafficking, refugees and stateless persons, have access to human rights, protection and social protection and can engage in decision-making at all levels, and; **if (4)** the natural resources of Iraq are managed and protected in a sustainable, people-centered manner so as to benefit generations to come, and; **if (5)** IDPs, returnees and other displacement-affected populations are supported to pursue and ultimately achieve a voluntary, safe and dignified durable solution to their displacement through return, local integration or settlement elsewhere in Iraq, **then (6)** there will be sustainable social cohesion, peace and human development, and respect for human rights and gender equality, and no one will be left behind; **because (7)** the social compact between the Government and the people of Iraq will be reformulated and renewed and no one will be left behind.

2.2. Strategic priorities for the UN Development System

The updated CCA revealed the following key findings:

1. **Social cohesion**: Iraq needs to build human capital while also providing social protection, promoting inclusion and strengthening social cohesion.
2. **The economy**: Overreliance on oil sector revenue makes Iraq highly vulnerable to shocks. Diversification of national economy and encouraging private sector investment will make Iraq more resilient and boost employment in productive sectors.
3. **Governance**: Poor governance has undermined trust, quality of service delivery, and marginalised the recipients of the services. The Government needs to implement transparent, responsive, and inclusive structural reforms of state and civil institutions.
4. **The environment**: Iraq is very vulnerable to climate change and needs to address several issues regarding climate resilience, the management of natural resources and environmental protection, including risk and disaster management.

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[36] The Main National Platform for Construction and Development. Platform Objectives. Available at: https://mnpcd.gov.iq/en/

5. **Sustainable solutions**: The Government must take a leading role in resolving the problem of internal displacement in the country, guaranteeing the rights of other forcibly displaced population groups, including their right to sustainable livelihood opportunities.

The revised CF Strategic Priorities (SPs) were updated to mirror these key findings:

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 Resource and Disaster Risk Management, and Climate Change Resilience;
SP 5: Achieving Dignified, Safe and Voluntary Durable Solutions to Displacement in Iraq.

2.3. Intended Development results

The Cooperation Framework reflects the areas of support from the UN in Iraq to support the Government and people of Iraq in achieving the SDGs. By mapping against the Iraq Vision 2030 and the KRG Vision 2020, as well as the NDP2018-2022, it was possible to ensure alignment against the SDGs and the national frameworks guiding development.

The five SPs support the following SDGs against the NDP:

Strategic Priority Area	Primary SDGs Addressed
SP 1: Achieving Social Cohesion, Protection and Inclusion	All, esp. 1,4,5,8,10,16
SP 2: Growing the Economy for All	4, 5,8,9,11,12,17
SP 3: Promoting Effective, Inclusive and Efficient Institutions and Services	1-4,5,6,7, 10-12,16
SP 4: Promoting Natural Resource and Disaster Risk Management, and Climate Change Resilience	5, 9,13-17
SP 5: Achieving Dignified, Safe and Voluntary Durable Solutions to Displacement in Iraq	5, 10, 11, 16, 17

Overall, the CF outcomes for 2020-2024 will support the transition to recovery and development, by assisting the Government to make the necessary institutional, legislative and policy changes. In the meantime, the CF will also work downstream with the communities and subnational structures to ensure continued and equitable delivery of effective and inclusive services. The focus on people-centred, human-rights and gender-based programming at both levels will ensure that no one is left behind. Interventions will adopt an inclusive approach by targeting the most vulnerable

Mapping exercises were conducted at each stage of the process to ensure alignment of the CF with the Iraq Vision 2030, the KRG's Vision 2020 (see Annex 2).

2.4. Cooperation Framework outcomes and partnerships

In order to contribute to the implementation of the SDG agenda, outcomes were identified for impact at the normative policy level (upstream) and at the community and individual level (downstream) within each of the 5 SPs. Guided by the Iraq Vision 2030, the KRG Vision 2020, the VNR and the Iraq 2020SDG Dashboard Report[37], the framework used wherever possible the same indicators as the Government. Where no national indicator matched the outcome, indicators were taken from the global indicators and targets.

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[37] Sustainable Development Report 2020. Country Profiles: Iraq. Available at: https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/profiles/IRQ

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: ACHIEVING SOCIAL COHESION, PROTECTION AND INCLUSION

Theory of change

Goal	SP 1: ACHIEVING SOCIAL COHESION, PROTECTION AND INCLUSION		
Goal TOC Statement	**If (1)** policies and national systems promote protection, social protection, inclusion and social cohesion; **if (2)** quality protection and social protection systems are equitable and accessible to all; and **if (3)** national, sub-national and community level conflict prevention and mitigation mechanisms are inclusive and effective, **then (4)** 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; **because (5)** they have participated and lead in decision-making, peace building and reconciliation processes.		
Outcomes	**1.1** Strengthened and effective inclusive, people-centered, gender-responsive and human rights-based policies and national systems contribute to gender equality, the promotion of protection, Social Protection, social cohesion and peaceful societies, with focus on the most vulnerable Populations, including women, youth and minorities.	**1.2:** People in Iraq, particularly under-served, marginalized and vulnerable populations, have equitable and sustainable access to quality gender- and age-responsive protection and social protection systems and services.	**1.3:** People in Iraq participate in and benefit from effective mechanisms – at national, subnational and community levels – that prevent, mitigate and manage conflict, and contribute to social cohesion and peaceful coexistence, with particular focus on women and youth leadership in decision-making, peace-building and reconciliation processes.
Outcome TOC	If (1) Iraq's policies, legislation and mechanisms related to protection and social protection are gender-sensitive and evidence based; and, if (2) inclusive social cohesion and peace-building are promoted through national institutions and mechanisms; then (3) the most vulnerable populations will have an improved quality of life and security, because (4) their needs and rights are central to the policies, systems and services of the country.	If (1) sustainable inclusive protection and social protection services are improved and promoted available, and (2) if under-served populations have equitable and sustainable access to those services, then (3) people will have an improved quality of life regardless of where they live; because (4) services are responsive and tailored to their identified needs.	If (1) capacity and opportunities for women, adolescents and youth to participate in leadership and participation in decision making and peace building mechanisms are increased; and, if (2) community mechanisms promote and sustain inclusive participation of all sectors of the population; then (3) peace building and social cohesion will increase and be sustainable, because (4) decision-making and leadership will reflect the needs, ideas and capacities of the entire community.

This priority focuses on immediate social cohesion, peace-building 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).

Under this Strategic Priority, the UN will build on previous work and achievements. Interventions include the following:

- ➢ Supporting inclusive social cohesion initiatives at the grassroots level. It is worth mentioning that the volunteers with Local Peace Committees (LPCs)[38], the community-based outreach volunteers [39] and other community volunteers help in implementation of social cohesion initiatives to influence livelihood and peace processes.[40]
- ➢ Supporting the government to promote and develop evidence-based policies, legislation, and mechanisms ensuring gender-sensitive, inclusive access to quality social protection and protection services;
- ➢ Supporting national institutions and mechanisms to promote and advocate for more inclusive social cohesion and peace-building;
- ➢ Expanding gender-and-age sensitive protection and social protection services to include all persons in Iraq.
- ➢ Improving access of marginalized and vulnerable population to quality integrated, shock responsive and inclusive protection and social protection;
- ➢ Supporting women, adolescents and youth for increased engagement and participation in leadership, decision making and peace building;
- ➢ Supporting community mechanisms, including schools and social groups to inclusively engage community members to contribute to peace building and social cohesion.

In the first half of 2020, the UN supported the adoption of two laws: Private Sector Law and Law on Support to Yazidi Women Survivors, both of which strengthened national frameworks for social cohesion, and built capacity of government Institutions to implement protection services, and social cohesion programs. Overall, UN-supported social protection services reached (24.5%) of people in need. With regards to vulnerable groups, in 2020, (25%) people in need were reached by social protection services and (56%) of children, women and girls received GBV and child abuse case support services. In 2020, the UN spent USD 2,460,298 on interventions under this priority area.

Partnerships

The UNCT has developed partnerships as a result of its strong contribution to the humanitarian response as well as development-focused programs over the past years. Through CSOs and government partnerships, delivery of support has been significant. The gradual transition from humanitarian to longer term durable solutions will potentially lead to a stronger partnership with governmental institutions as well as with private sector service providers. However, the partnerships with civil society, volunteer groups, especially community volunteers, will be critical to ensure that no one is left behind, particularly within displaced communities and vulnerable populations. UNCT will engage with Ministry of Youth and Sports and other relevant stakeholders to help formulation and implementation of action plan for implementing national strategy of youth volunteering, preparing engendered volunteering policy frameworks and establishing platforms or networks for youth to be engaged in volunteer work for social cohesion and civic engagement. The UNCT will also work with the government at the Federal and subnational levels, particularly Ministries of Planning (MoP), Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA), Interior (MoI), Health and Environment (MoH), Trade (MoT), Migration and Displacement (MoMD) and of Justice (MoJ), as well as the National Commission on Co-Existence, and the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights (IHCHR). Donors will be encouraged to provide essential bridging support as interventions shift towards a more sustained development focus, as well as partnering in the area of capacity building. Similarly, working with regional entities to provide technical support will be explored in collaboration with the Government.

Risks and Risk Management

In 2021, UN will continue to support Government of Iraq to achieve social cohesion, peace-building, protection and social protection in addition to supporting the COVID-19 response. There will be risks entailed in the

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[38]https://www.iq.undp.org/content/iraq/en/home/social-cohesion/in-depth.html
[39]https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Iraq_2021_22.pdf
[40]https://iraq.iom.int/publications/iom-iraq-mhpss-programme-activities-overview-2019-2020

recurrence of humanitarian crises as a result of conflict or the pandemic impact on vulnerable communities. It will be critical for the UN and its partners to keep issues of human rights, gender, inclusion, and protection at the forefront in light of the current situation. Maintaining a neutral and impartial role and public tone when dealing with a charged situation is essential and this provides an excellent opportunity for joint action between UNAMI and the UNCT. Therefore, through regular briefings and discussions, the UN will ensure a cohesive and coherent approach to the immediate and longer-term issues represented in this SP. UN agencies shall take into consideration the harmonization of the approaches and databases for social protection assistance, and contributing towards building an effective, efficient, and inclusive social protection system that leaves no one behind.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: GROWING THE ECONOMY FOR ALL

Theory of Change

Goal	SP 2: GROWING THE ECONOMY FOR ALL	
Goal TOC Statement	**If (1)** Iraq's economic policies and legislation are people-centered and inclusive; **if (2)** priority is given to strengthening non-oil productive sectors; **if (3)** inclusive skills training, engagement and partnership with the private sector are accelerated and targeted to the job market; **then (4)** the national economy will become more resilient and diversified, **because (5)** 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.	
Outcomes	**2.1:** Improved people-centered economic policies and legislation contribute to inclusive, gender sensitive and diversified economic growth, with focus on increasing income security and decent work for women, youth and vulnerable populations.	**2.2:** People in Iraq have strengthened capacity, enabling inclusive access to and engagement in economic activities.
Outcome TOC	If (1) Iraq's economic policies, legislation and mechanisms are gender-sensitive and evidence based; and, if (2) inclusive and diversified economic growth are promoted through innovation and non-oil sector development and investment; then (3) more women, youth and vulnerable populations will have increased income security and decent work opportunities, because (4) investments, partnerships, and access to essential assets and skills building will create increased opportunities across several sectors.	If (1) sustainable inclusive protection and social protection services are improved and available, and (2) if under-served populations have equitable and sustainable access to those services, then (3) people will have an improved quality of life regardless of where they live; because (4) services are responsive and tailored to their identified needs.

One of the challenges for an Iraq 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 sectors as its primary source of revenues and growth. However, past and recent years have shown the precarious nature of the oil market, which, when combined with national and regional instability, makes it difficult for the country substantially invest in development. Moreover, the national poverty rate affected by heavy restrictions on movement caused by COVID-19 increased by 7% and additional 3.9 million fell under poverty and reached estimated poverty rate of 31.7% in 2020 from 20% in 2018.

The GoI focuses economic policy reforms on: tackling cross-cutting impediments for private-sector led diversification; and reforming governance and promoting private sector participation in selected productive sectors.[41] Mitigating the situation will require greater diversification and investment in non-oil productive sectors. Under this Strategic Priority, the UN will build on previous achievements, and interventions include:

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[41] Government of Iraq. 2020. White Paper. Strategic Note on Priority Reform Areas: Towards a more resilient and inclusive economy in Iraq. May 2020.

- ➢ 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 renewable energy and ICT infrastructure networks, adopting circular and green economy approaches to realise diversification;
- ➢ Promoting regional and international partnerships;
- ➢ Supporting education for employment, and private sector development, including women entrepreneurship, women leadership, and;
- ➢ Identifying and supporting creation of employment opportunities that are aligned with market demand, especially for women, youth, and vulnerable populations.

In 2020, the UN assistance supported the creation of 16,639 jobs and also supports additional 4,735 people with livelihood support services. The UN also supported 1,564 youth with technical and vocational 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. 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.

At the policy level, in 2020, the UN supported the GoI in the development of one law and two strategy documents. Labour force participation rate in 2020 was (44.5%) for both sexes, the male labour force participation was (80%) and female (20%). In 2020, and overall UN spent 18,106,323 USD covering all interventions under this priority area. In 2021, the UNCT continues to support the GoI to achieve greater diversification and investment in non-oil productive sectors, as well as strengthening the partnerships within Iraq and outside.

Partnerships

Strong partnerships with regional and global partners, particularly in the private sector, including social enterprises, will further ensure sustainable and relevant economic development. Addressing skills development relevant to the actual employment opportunities will also require partnerships with formal and informal education providers, the Ministries of Education/Higher Education, MoLSA, Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and community level businesses, which can offer apprenticeships, internships and other career-entry opportunities for learning and employment. Extension institutions will need to be engaged, for example, in providing services to farmers and others in the agriculture sector.

Risks and Risk Management

There is a risk that all short-term economic interventions will not automatically translate into more sustainable livelihoods. The assurance that legislation and incentives are in tune with the demands of the labor force, the protection of workers' rights and decent work standards remain paramount. The socio-economic empowerment of vulnerable population should be safeguarded with appropriate policies and legislative frameworks. Women are facing risks to access the labor market or establish and SME, i.e., the majority of women are in the informal sector where there is less protection of their rights, thus limiting their access to decent paid employment. The recently established ILO program coordination office in Iraqis is expected to play a key role in promoting international decent work standards and guiding the UNCT and national institutions accordingly.

	STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: PROMOTING EFFECTIVE, INCLUSIVE AND EFFICIENT INSTITUTIONS AND SERVICES

Theory of change

Goal	**SP 3: PROMOTING EFFECTIVE, INCLUSIVE AND EFFICIENT INSTITUTIONS AND SERVICES**
Goal TOC Statement	**If (1)** information and data management are prioritized as key to the decision-making and policy processes; **if (2)** people in need are included in identifying needs and priorities; and **if (3)** institutions promote people-centered, and evidence and needs-based equitable and inclusive gender- and age-responsive services; **then (4)** no one will be left behind, **because (5)** all people in Iraq will be included in all aspects of service delivery and institutional decision-making.
Outcomes	**3.1:** Strengthened institutions and systems deliver people-centered, evidence and needs-based equitable and inclusive gender- and age-responsive services, especially for the most vulnerable populations, with particular focus on advocating for women's leadership in decision-making processes.	**3.2:** People in Iraq, civil society and communities, particularly women, have improved capacity to lead, participate in and contribute to the design and delivery of equitable and responsive services, especially for the most vulnerable populations.
Outcome TOC	If (1) institutions have access to reliable, consistent and inclusive data related to needs, and if (2) engagement and leadership in decision making processes promotes the engagement of women and vulnerable population, then (3) services will be more people-centered and reach populations according to needs, because (4) evidence-based and inclusive decision making will be institutionalized.	If (1) opportunities are created for civil society and individuals to participate in decision making, and if (2) those most vulnerable, particularly women, are empowered to participate and lead in issues impacting their quality of life, then (3) services will be equitable and responsive, because (4) the planning and delivery will reflect the actual needs of the recipients.

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 Iraqi citizens. This requires support in the form of relevant, updated and evidence-based policies and frameworks, needs-based decision making, and inclusive processes that ensure that no one is left behind.

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 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-19 pandemic and design longer terms program to build back better the institutional delivery systems.

Partnerships

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 equitable access to quality services.

Under this Strategic Priority, the CF will build on previous work and achievements. Interventions will include

> ➢ **Strengthen delivery of and equitable access to quality services**
> ➢ **Promote and strengthen partnerships between government and civil society, and the private sector**
> ➢ **Strengthen delivery on obligations such as international conventions and national strategies**
> ➢ **Promote accountable, inclusive and transparent institutions that inspire trust**
> ➢ **Promote women's leadership in decision-making processes**
> ➢ **Strengthen enabling environment for civil society and volunteering sector**
> ➢ **Support national institutions for improved service delivery which was affected by several factors over the past few years.**

In 2020, The UN 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, President Office Gender department, and general directorates in ten governorates. The UN also strengthened thirteen country information management systems and innovative digital platforms, 13 standards 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. At the end of 2020, (77%) of health sector and (80%) of education sector budgets were utilized.

On strengthening service delivery, 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 development interventions. The UN also supported eight initiatives to Government bodies to promote women's leadership and participation, including training on CEDAW implementation. Currently, women hold 23.5% of parliament seats and over 4.3% of managerial position both in public and private sector.

In 2020, the UN supported 214 administrative units and infrastructure projects resulting in increased access to services in priority sectors. It also facilitated 14 partnerships in sustainable development, conflict prevention and mitigation processes, ultimately reaching 1,195,720 vulnerable people in fragile setting. Besides, Iraq Health Policy (2014-2023) commits to invest in community participation and volunteering[42] support for emergency preparedness with emphasis on human capacity development and sustainable integrated systems.

The UN spent 117,899,274 USD in 2020 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.

Risks and Risk Management

Change within institutions and systems are generally the purview of the State, and over the years significant resources have been channeled into capacity development initiatives and institution building. With the impact on the physical infrastructure of the country, and the continued challenge of meeting the needs of the people and communities, it will be essential that those capacities are leveraged and optimized. There is a risk that this will take longer than anticipated, but there also is strong demand for swift actions, as evidenced by the youth October 2019 demonstrations. However, it is important that speed does not jeopardize sustainability and quality. The UNCT and its partners need to provide regular evidence of needs as well as results for targeted planning, investment, and implementation. Moreover, the structural and social barriers to women participation will impede the design and implementation of gender-responsive services.

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[42]https://extranet.who.int/countryplanningcycles/sites/default/files/planning_cycle_repository/iraq/iraqs_national_health_policy_2014 -2023.pdf

	STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: PROMOTING NATURAL RESOURCE AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT, AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

Theory of change

Goal	SP 4: PROMOTING NATURAL RESOURCE AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT, AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE	
Goal TOC Statement	**If (1)** policies and frameworks related to natural resources are strengthened and properly resourced; **if (2)** civil society, communities, private sector and other sub-national stakeholders are engaged in promoting inclusive, accountable, transparent, and sustainable use and management of natural resources and the environment; **if (3)** increased focus is placed on developing renewable resources and alternative energy sources; **then (4)** Iraq's ability to withstand and recover from climate-related and/or climate- induced displacement and shocks will be improved; **because (5)** it will have increased resilience to climate change, environmental stress and natural hazards, and man-made and natural disasters.	
Outcomes	**4.1:** Strengthened and resourced policies and frameworks are implemented for using and managing natural resources (including trans-boundary issues), developing renewable resources, and increasing resilience to climate change, environmental stress and natural hazards, and man-made and natural disasters.	**4.2:** Increased engagement of the people of Iraq, sub-national institutions, civil society, and private sector to ensure more responsible, inclusive, accountable and transparent management of natural resources and the environment.
Outcome TOC	If (1) priority is given to improving natural resource management, and developing renewable resources; and if (2) policies and frameworks are strengthened, sustainably resourced, and equitably and transparently implemented; then (3) Iraq will be better able to respond to and recover from any natural or man-made shocks or disasters; because (4) it will have greater resilience, flexibility, and inclusive and improved disaster risk management.	If (1) there is increased inclusive engagement of those most impacted by poor resource management and disaster, including women and girls; if (2) private sector and institutions are engaged to identify and promote new means for promoting early warning and community-based environmental action; if (3) sub-national and community level mechanisms are empowered to monitor the management of natural resources and the environment; then (4) responsible use of natural resources will be improved and disaster risk will be reduced, because (5) accountability and transparency of management of natural resources and the environment will be shared by all.

Iraq is a nation rich in natural resources such as oil and gas, but challenged in other 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. 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 UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, which aims to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide,[43] would be an ideal platform for partnerships and resource mobilization under this strategic priority.

In 2020, the UN supported the implementation of two DRR strategies, one policy on Iraq's international commitments to mitigate climate change and thirty emergency response plans successfully completed. A total of 206 ministerial staff was trained on management of natural resources. Besides, the UN has also supported Iraq in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, which is the legally binding international treaty on climate change, as well as on Iraq's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) that addresses both mitigation of greenhouse gases and adaptation towards climate change.[44]

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[43] UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. 2021. Available at: https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/
[44] UNDP. 2020. Support to Iraq's Nationally Determined Contribution. Available at:
https://www.iq.undp.org/content/iraq/en/home/all-projects/Support-to-Iraq-Nationally-Determined-Contribution.html

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

In 2021, UN continues to support the Government of Iraq to build capacity to withstand and recover from climate-related and/or climate- induced displacement through the connection with key global UN processes and scaling up of local actions for a green transition.

Partnerships

The primary partnership to be strengthened is the one 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. UN partnerships will emphasize meeting the needs of the most marginalized and vulnerable, while also building partnerships between the population and the government. Community volunteers[45] will be integral to the disaster risk preparedness plans and the UNCT will support the government to build capacity of female and male community volunteers as part of Disaster Risk Preparedness and mitigation.

Special attention will be paid to engaging women's rights advocates and women-led NGOs to ensure that consultations will be inclusive, noting that more women are likely to be negatively impacted by poor natural resources management and climate change. Other partnerships will be promoted at the regional level, to support the government in addressing Trans boundary issues, such as water resource management. This potentially will require engagement of counterparts in the region, as well as working with regional entities to provide technical and advisory capacities as needed.

Under this Strategic Priority, the CF will build on previous achievements. Interventions will include:

- **Promoting inclusive and transparent resource management and sustainable use of biodiversity**
- **Addressing environmental contamination, including UXOs and other conflict related contamination, industrial pollution, etc.**
- **Promoting trans-boundary cooperation**
- **Ensuring equitable access to resources and services**
- **Promoting the use of renewable energy and climate adaptation (incl. combating desertification)**
- **Improving resilience to shocks through disaster risk preparedness, response and management**

Risks and Risk Management

Financing of this SP will be a challenge, as many of the interventions are costly and long term, such as addressing contamination, cleaning up impacted areas, and combating desertification. It is therefore critical that linkages between these results and those of the other three SPs are prioritized and leveraged for improved results overall. Accountability for natural resources is a difficult process, especially those shared with neighboring countries, or which have a strong commercial value and therefore may be a source of local if not national and/or regional tensions. Safeguarding the environment and preventing and/or mitigating climate-related and/or climate-induced displacement will be a priority.

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[45]https://www.iq.undp.org/content/iraq/en/home/library/Stabilization/annual-gender-report-2020.html

	STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5: Achieving Dignified, Safe and Voluntary Durable Solutions to Displacement in Iraq

Theory of change

Goal	**SP 5: Achieving Dignified, Safe and Voluntary Durable Solutions to (Protracted) Displacement in Iraq**
Goal TOC Statement	**If (1)** efforts to resolve internal displacement in Iraq adhere to human rights, protection and conflict sensitivity standards; **if (2)** the government has the capacity to lead a coordinated, inclusive, multi-sectorial, layered approach, with complimentary support from humanitarian, development, peace building and stabilization actors, to support durable solutions outcomes; **and if (3)** complex, overlapping and often interrelated barriers to durable solutions have been rectified **then (4)** IDPs, returnees and other displacement-affected populations in Iraq are able to pursue pathways to resolving displacement ; **because (5)** they will be supported to achieve sustainable durable solutions through voluntary return, local integration or re-settlement.
Outcomes	**5.1:** Strengthened stabilization, development and peace building initiatives support area-based interventions in locations of displacement, return or relocation to enhance the achievement of voluntary, safe and dignified durable solutions for displacement affected populations.	**5.2:** National and local authorities are supported to lead the development and implementation of effective and inclusive policies, strategies and plans to achieve durable solutions to displacement in Iraq for all displacement-affected people, including through effective coordination mechanisms and data collection to support evidence-based outcomes.
Outcome TOC	**If (1)** IDPs and returnees have equitable access to basic services, sustainable housing and livelihoods options and access to personal/civil documentation; **and if (2)** displacement affected populations are able to live together peacefully with strengthened intercommoned trust, improved access to social protection mechanisms and increased women/youth participation **then (3)** durable solutions will be achievable at the local level **because (4)** strengthened stabilization, development and peace building initiatives will address area-level challenges and barriers to resolving displacement in locations of integration , return or relocation.	**If (1)** localized and national durable solutions planning is strengthened to develop and implement approaches/plans contributing to DS outcomes; **and if (2) government** engagement and joint planning has become more efficient through enhanced durable solutions training and capacity building, coordination, and data collection mechanisms; **then (3)** national government capacities and ownership to resolve challenges related to distracted displacement will be strengthened **because (4)** authorities are more able, and are supported, to lead the development and implementation of effective and inclusive policies, strategies and plans to achieve durable solutions in Iraq

Note: The outcome cells above span two columns (5.1 and 5.2) — Outcomes row and Outcome TOC row each have a left column and a right column.

Partnerships

Aid actors across the board recognize the difficulties in creating the conditions for the safe, voluntary and dignified return, integration or settlement for the remaining displacement-affected population groups in Iraq. Ensuring the sustainability of returns and other pathways to durable solutions, which have already been pursued by many IDPs, poses many challenges. Thus, the joint contributions of local and national governmental actors as well as of humanitarian, development, peace building and stabilization stakeholders are crucial.

A government-led approach between all the stakeholders mentioned above will be necessary to support durable solutions outcomes at the local and national level. At the national level, the inclusion of the fifth strategic priority into the CF spearheaded by the UN-led Durable Solutions Task Force (DSTF) thereby constitutes an important step to defining activities, expected outcomes and mechanisms for reporting, monitoring progress and identifying gaps that align with the recently endorsed "National Plan for Resolving Displacement" by the Iraqi Government.

At the local level, durable solutions will be pursued through the development of localised plans of action, developed jointly by area-based coordination groups comprised of representatives of humanitarian, development, stabilisation and peace building actors, and volunteer groups who will work with local authorities.

Under this Strategic priority, key areas of intervention include:

- **Promoting strengthened area-based stabilization, development and peace building initiatives in locations of displacement, return or relocation;**
- **Strengthening effective government engagement and joint planning through durable solutions coordination and data collection mechanism;**
- **Promoting local and national government capacities and ownership to facilitate the development and implementation of approaches contributing to DS objectives;**
- **Ensuring equitable access to voluntary, safe and dignified durable solutions for displacement affected populations;**
- **Addressing complex, overlapping and often inter-related obstacles to returning home faced by refugees and IDPs**

Risks and Risk Management

Many of those remaining in displacement face one or more substantial obstacles to advance towards durable solutions to their conditions. Even among those who have already returned, substantial challenges remain. Challenges occur as a result of high levels of conflict-related damage to housing and infrastructure; lack of access to jobs and income generating activities, particularly for women and young people; social cohesion challenges; and safety and security issues, among others.

Interventions undertaken by aid actors should facilitate all work to be conducted jointly with government counterparts, who should be part of and/or leading planning, prioritization, implementation and monitoring of programs. Many external factors, including, but not limited to, the functionality of the economy, availability of decent jobs, security dynamics, political challenges relating to disputed territories - ultimately under the lead and influence of national authorities – will have an impact on the ability to achieve durable solutions.

2.5. Synergies between Cooperation Framework outcomes

In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, each of the priorities and outcomes embody a nexus of change and partnerships. Together, they represent a way to channel GoI and UN system cooperation for more inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development and achievement of related SDG targets. Moreover, the CF has considered national frameworks and discussed creating linkages with the 2020 and 2021 HRP[46] as well as with the UNAMI planning process. Participation of UNAMI in the development of the CF would create strong linkages to all other frameworks in place. Besides, there is a need for reinforced coordination between humanitarian and development actors, and to scale up the work on Legal Documentation and HLP (Housing, Land and Property interventions).

2.6. Sustainability

Sustainability of cooperation results will be addressed through tangible capacity development and enhanced cross-sector collaboration. The CF is focused on supporting governance reforms, social cohesion, as well as the diversification of the economy, in a manner that ensures sustainability. Its outputs and interventions are designed to primarily develop the social and human capital of Iraq, including women and marginalized groups, taking into account the country environment and natural resources. As Iraq transitions from humanitarian assistance to development investment, resilience will be developed to respond to shocks due to oil global market changes following the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, one way sustainability will be ensured would be by creating jobs in non-oil productive sectors, through private sector development, and building human capital to increase participation.

The GoI and the UNCT will promote stronger, deeper engagement with the private sector, as drivers of economic diversification, and with CSOs to provide feedback and technical inputs on economic policies to promote inclusive economic growth and create more space for their services at community level, and especially for vulnerable

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[46]Iraq: 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan [EN] | Humanitarian Response and Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan 2021 (February 2021) - Iraq | Relief Web.

groups, primarily women, children and youth, ethnic and religious minorities, people with disability, IDPs, migrants, victims of trafficking, refugees, and stateless persons. UN System engagement at local levels is expected to contribute to stronger sub-national planning and implementation capacities, in line with the aims of the NDP, and SDG targets. Rebuilding the trust and resilience of the population after the shocks from ISIL and earlier crises will underpin that change with social cohesion, reconciliation, and peace-building at the subnational and community levels.

2.7. UN comparative advantages and UNCT configuration

The UNCT is committed to improving data collection, with particular focus on sex- and age-disaggregated data as a minimum, as well as data analysis and information sharing, in order to empower evidence-based decision-making at all levels. Moreover, the UNCT Iraq has a significant advantage in terms of its access to national and sub-national machineries as well as civil society. Besides, it has the ability to tap into regional and global human resources and good practices. Improved UN efficiencies will lead to increased joint programming; however, the lack of longer-term funding might be a challenge.

The UN leadership continues to address the gap between the needs of the people and the response of the national systems, offering technical support, despite the many political challenges. As security remains a priority for the government's spending, it is important to recognize the many actors involved, as well as the tensions between these actors are the regional tensions, such as Syria, Turkey and Iran both in terms of long-standing tensions and new US-Iran tensions. This is why, instead of investing in the human and national development agenda, there continues to be a focus on financing the security sector. This also has an impact on the donor landscape, in terms of willingness to provide funds for actions in certain regions.

While the UNCT is committed to moving towards a more development-focused profile over the 2020-2024 periods, it is important to recognize the ongoing instability and humanitarian needs. There will be a need for transitional funding from donors and government, as well as to promote the dialogue with the government on allocating national resources to the UN to cover the gap. Moreover, the UNCT study on the staffing indicated a predominance of humanitarian-focused programming and personnel. The geographic distribution of staff also reflected this, with staff concentrated in Erbil because of humanitarian programming, which is predominantly in the North, and the greater flexibility regarding housing and accessibility.

CHAPTER 3: COOPERATION FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

3.1. Implementation strategy and strategic partnerships

The JSC has been able to review the progress of the implementation, the continued relevance of the strategic priorities and their outcomes as well as emerging needs. The UNCT, represented by the RC, will bring into that information sharing the work of other frameworks or mechanisms in which the UN is engaged. One of the critical partnerships to the SDG Financing Framework will be the Development Partners Forum (DPF), which is currently comprised of 31 donors. Consultations with the members of the NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq (NCCI), a network of approximately 180 national and international NGOs in the country, informed the CF development. In addition, engagement with the private sector will be developed as the CF is rolled out.

Possible Integration of Humanitarian and CF Coordination Mechanisms

- Protection incl. GBV and Child Protection
- Food Security
- Cash working groups

→ **PWG 1: Protection, Social Protection, & Social Cohesion**

- Emergency Livelihoods
- Cash Working Group
- Food Security

→ **PWG 2: Economy for All**

- Health   Education
- WASH   Returns Working Gp
- Shelter/NFI Camp Management
- Food Security Cash working grups

→ **PWG 3: Effective Institutions and Services**

- **Wash**
- **Food Security**
- **Camp Management**

→ **PWG 4: Environment & DRM**

- **Reintegration**
- **Reconciliation**
- **Resiliency**
- **Social cohesion**

→ **PWG 5: Durable solutions**

The UN agencies have been providing support to the development and implementation of activities within the CF, which include technical support, cash assistance, equipment, funds for advocacy and research, and monitoring and evaluation. Additional support may include access to UN organization-managed global information systems, the network of the UN agencies' country offices and specialized information systems, including rosters of consultants.

UN support may also extend to non-governmental and civil society organizations. The UN funds are distributed by calendar year in accordance with the CF. Funds not earmarked by donors to UN agencies for specific activities may be re-allocated to other activities as needed. The Government will support the UN system agencies' efforts to raise funds and facilitate the implementation of the CF, as needed.

3.2. Joint Work Plans

PWGs have identified collective outputs under each outcome forming the basis for the JWPs. Mapping of ongoing programs that will carry over into 2021 was undertaken within each PWG, as well as initiatives that are reflected in the HRP and/or 3RP, as entry points for HDP programming. Outputs will encompass ongoing as well as anticipated activities of the UNCT. Where activities are reflected under a separate framework, such as the HRP, linkages will be established for monitoring purposes. An Integrated Strategic Framework (ISF) is under discussion. A 2020 JWP was created for each PWG that has been updated in 2021, reflecting programs already ongoing or agreed with donors. The PWGs will identify opportunities for increased joint programming, and will develop JWPs for the rest of the CF period.

3.3. Governance

There are two primary mechanisms for the implementation of the CF: the PWGs and the JSC. The figure below illustrates how they relate to one other, as well as to the UNCT and the Program Management Team (PMT). The bottom row of the figure shows contributing entities, which are specialized thematic groups that provide substantive technical support to the PWGs and UNCT. In particular, they will play a key role during the monitoring of the implementation of the CF. Terms of Reference for the PWGs and the JSC can be found in (Annex 4). There is potential for greater integration of government partners into the PWGs, which will be explored further in 2021 with the government and discussed through the JSC.
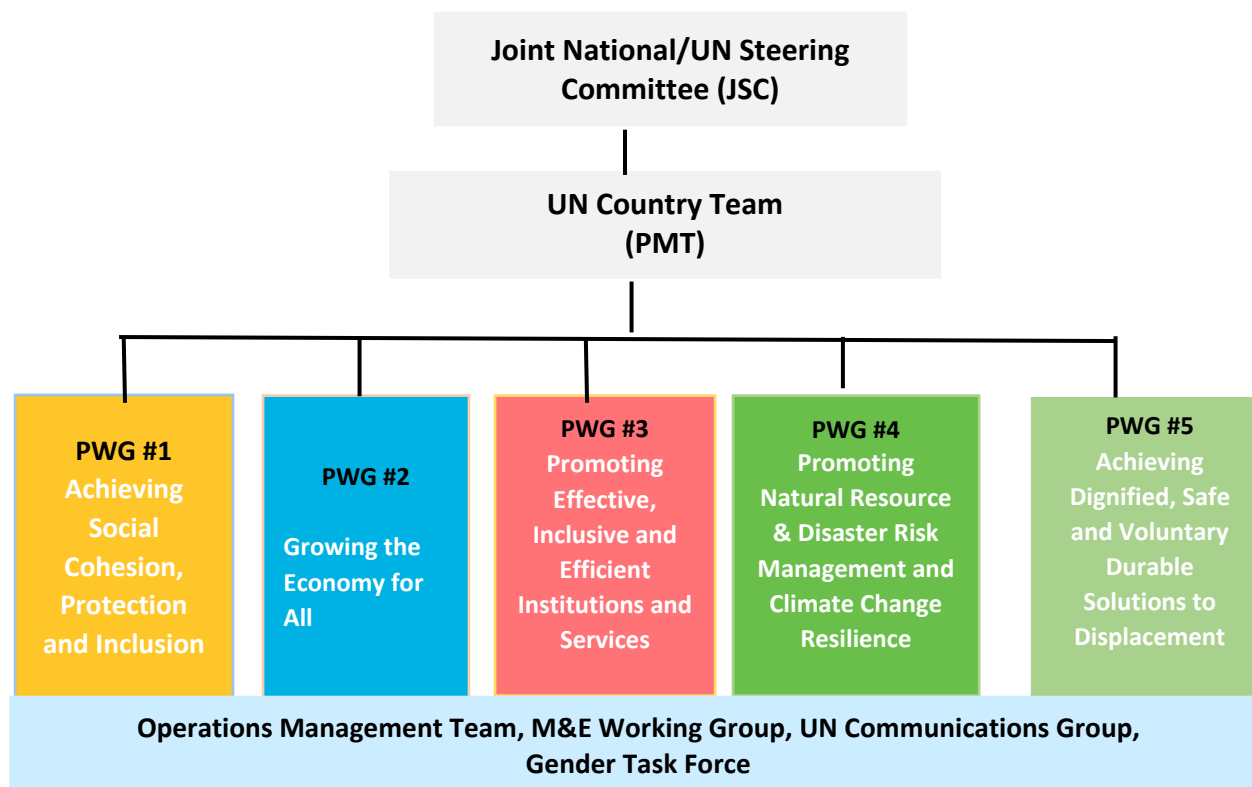
CHAPTER 4: MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

4.1. Monitoring plan

Priority was given to indicators already in use by the Government for the Iraq Vision 2030 and reflected in the Sustainable Development Report and VNR. Where indicators were not listed, global indicators were used. Preferred sources for baseline data were government surveys or databases, regular UN surveys. In some cases where baselines were not available, a process to collect the baseline data would be undertaken during each revision of the CF. Once the CF has been signed, it will be submitted as the prerequisite for establishing Iraq in the UN Info system. The system will automatically import the data, and the PWGs and the DCO will be responsible for maintaining and updating the information.

Implementing Partners agreed to cooperate with the UNS for monitoring all activities supported by cash transfers and will facilitate access to relevant financial records and personnel responsible for cash administration. This agreement entails the following:

1. On-site reviews and spot checks of financial records by UN agencies, and as described in specific clauses of their engagement documents/ contracts with the UNS.'
2. Programmatic monitoring of activities following the UNS' standards and guidance for site visits and field monitoring,

3. Special or scheduled audits, according to an annual audit plan to be developed by every UN agency in collaboration with other agencies respective coordinating Ministries. Priority will be for audits of implementing partners with large amounts of cash, and those whose financial capacity needs strengthening.

4.1.1. Risks and opportunities

The UNCT regularly undertakes a review of the Program Criticality matrix, assessing changes in the operational landscape. This will remain the primary modality for identifying risks. Other risk assessments and mitigation strategies are done at the agency level, and therefore it will be important that PWG Chairs ensure that such information is shared. Additionally, the implementation of the CF must be reviewed by the JSC in light of changes in the political context in light of the recent uprisings in Iraq. One of the key assumptions underlying the CF is that no further conflicts will erupt at the level experienced during the time of ISIL in Iraq, and that measures related to COVID-19 will ease allowing for economic recovery. In case of conflict or the persistence of COVID-19 and its measures, the UN is well placed to adapt its programming.

Another assumption is related to necessary budget allocations towards increased development investment. This will depend on two factors: the price of oil and the security landscape of the country. As a UMIC, Iraq has resources, and there is pressure to use those resources to address the basic development requirements. In this regard, the third assumption is that there will be sufficient continued donor interest in supporting Iraq.

While it is encouraging to see increased momentum and voice from civil society, the current situation has increased tensions between the people and the government, leading to the fourth assumption: that the Government will be able to implement the required reforms to ensure a stable political system.

4.1.2. Cooperation Framework Review and Reporting

At this point, the CF cycle is not synchronized with the national development planning cycle. It is therefore recommended that the midterm review of the CF serves to inform the development of the new NDP so they are aligned. The final evaluation and report of the CF will be linked to national reporting and reviews against shared indicators. According to the Terms of Reference for the PWGs, regular reporting will be undertaken and shared with the JSC, including an annual report. These reports will be uploaded into UN Info, and linked with national SDG data platforms that are expected to be fully operational by 2021. The M&E Working Group and PWG Chairs will be responsible for ensuring data is maintained in the system.

4.2. Evaluation plan

Each agency will fund the monitoring and evaluation of its own programming at regular basis; quarterly, semi-annually, annually, etc. besides a mid-term and final evaluation exercises. It is recommended that real-time evaluation takes place as well, given the instability of the political situation in Iraq, which has been a determinant of quality and modality of program implementation. The evaluation of the CF in its entirety will be undertaken by participating agencies with the DCO. The final program evaluation will be critical to the design of the next phase of support to the SDGs, and therefore will be more comprehensive than previous UNDAF evaluations. The Country Program Documents (CPDs) for UN entities must be linked to the outcomes of the CF.

The role of the M&E Working Group will be significant in guiding the design and process, and the DCO will be responsible for overseeing the selection of an appropriate multidisciplinary evaluation team. The JSC will have overarching leadership and supervision of the process. This will be discussed further with the Government, with the Central Statistics Office in Baghdad, under the leadership of the MoP that also has undertaken substantial investment in the national monitoring and evaluation capacities with central and peripheral teams that ensure full geographical coverage of Iraq. That said, monitoring and evaluation will be jointly conducted by the UN agencies and the government.

4.3. Others

The program will be nationally executed under the overall co-ordination of the MoP, where ministries, NGOs, INGOs and UN system agencies will implement program activities. Government coordinating authorities for specific UN system agency programs are noted in (Annex 4). The CF will be made operational through the development of joint work plan and/or agency-specific work plans and project documents as necessary which

describe the specific results to be achieved and will form an agreement between the UN system agencies and each implementing partner, as necessary, on the use of resources. Project documents can be prepared using the relevant text from the Cooperation Framework and joint or agency-specific work plans and / or project documents[47]. (Please check Annex 6).

ANNEXES

Annex 1 - The Cooperation Framework Results Matrix

Annex 2 - Alignment of UNSDCF Outcomes to the Iraq Vision 2030 and KRG Vision 2020 Goals

Annex 3 - Terms of Reference for the Joint Steering Committee and Priority Working Groups

Annex 4 - The Legal Annex to the Cooperation Framework

Annex 5 - List of Coordinating Government Institutions

Annex 6 - Program and Risk Management – Working with Partners.

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[47] In the case of UNDP, the Government Coordinating Authority will nominate the Government Co-operating Agency directly responsible for the Government's participation in each UNDP-assisted work plan. The reference to "Implementing Partner(s)" shall mean "Executing Agency(s)" as used in the SBAA. Where there are multiple implementing partners identified in a work plan, a Principal Implementing Partner will be identified who will have responsibility for convening, coordinating and overall monitoring (program and financial) of all the Implementing Partners identified in the work plan to ensure that inputs are provided and activities undertaken in a coherent manner to produce the results of the work plan.

Annex 1: The Cooperation Framework Results Matrix

RESULTS	INDICATORS	UN PARTNERS
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: ACHIEVING SOCIAL COHESION, PROTECTION AND INCLUSION		
Related national development priority or goal:(Iraqi & KRI vision 2030): Goal 5 PEACE		
Related Key SDG(s): all, especially 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 16		
Outcome 1.1: Strengthened and effective inclusive, people-centered, gender-responsive and human rights-based policies and national systems contribute to gender equality, the promotion of protection, Social Protection, social cohesion and peaceful societies, with focus on the most vulnerable populations, including women, youth and minorities.	**Indicator 1.1a:** Number of institutions with capacity to implement policies and mechanisms that contribute to gender equality, the promotion of protection, social protection, social cohesion and peaceful societies. (17.14.1 modified) **Baseline**: TBD (*There will be a review conducted in Q1 to determine the number of qualifying institutions.*) **Target**: TBD after the review **Data Source**: UN Agencies Reports **Indicator 1.1b:** Number of legal frameworks and policies in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex, ethnicity, displacement status, and disability (SDG 5.1.1.) **Baseline:** TBD (*There will be a review conducted in Q1 to determine the number of qualifying policies and frameworks.*) **Target:** 9 new legal frameworks by 2024 with the support of UN **Data source:** Gazette from the Parliament	Ministries of: Labor & Social Affairs; Justice; Interior; Communications; Migration & Displacement; Youth & Sport; Culture & Youth; Higher Education; Education; Health & Environment; Foreign Affairs; Defense. Municipal Authorities; Prime Minister's Office; Communications & Media Commission; JCMC; CRC; Coexistence and Community Peace Committee ; Parliament; COMSEC; Universities; Research Centers; IFCNAR; Dept. of Women Empowerment; High Council of Women Affairs; 1325 Alliance; 1325 Network; Anti-Money Laundering & Countering the Financing of Terrorism Office; Border Points Commission; Law enforcement bodies; Customs; Civil Aviation; MVTS; Integrity Commission; banking supervisory bodies; National Committee on Counter-Narcotics; NSC; High Judicial Council.

RESULTS	INDICATORS	UN PARTNERS
Outcome 1.2: People in Iraq, particularly under-served, marginalized and vulnerable populations, have equitable and sustainable access to quality gender- and age-responsive protection and social protection systems and services.	**Indicator 1.2a:** Proportion of population covered by protection and social protection systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, refugees, IDPs and the poor and the vulnerable (SDG 1.3.1) **Baseline:** An estimated 1.1 million households (about 6.6 million people) are supported by the Social Protection Services from 2017 **Target:** 2 million HH **Data source:** UN Agency reports, MoLSA **Indicator 1.2b:** Number of victims of sexual/gender-based violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms (SDG 16.3.1) **Baseline:** 38,809 survivors (97% women and girls, 3% men and boys) **Target:** 73,500 survivors **Data source:** UNFPA GBV systems, hotlines, UN Women safe centers	**Ministries of:** Labor & Social Affairs; Health & Environment; Interior; Migration & Displacement; Youth & Sport; Education; Higher Education; Justice. JCC; Governorate Returns Committees/ Returns WG; Nat'l. Committee on Trafficking in Persons; Tajdeed; Baghdad Women's Association; Women Leadership Institute; Dept. of Women Empowerment; Women's Empowerment Organization; Humanitarian Clusters; CWC Working Group; Nat'l NGOs; Directorate for Mine Action; Provincial Authorities/ Councils; Police; GBV Service Providers; JCMC.
Outcome 1.3: People in Iraq participate in and benefit from effective mechanisms – at national, subnational and community levels – that prevent, mitigate and manage conflict, and contribute to social cohesion and peaceful coexistence, with particular focus on women and youth leadership in decision-making, peace-building and reconciliation processes.	**Indicator 1.3a:** Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group (SDG 16.7.2) **Baseline:** TBD (*survey to be conducted in 2020 to identify the political efficacy: the perception of people about how much their opinion influences the decision making of the government in the country*) **Target:** TBD based on survey results **Data source**: repeated survey results/reports **Indicator 1.3b:** Number of people participated in national mechanisms that aim to prevent, mitigate and manage conflict, and contribute to social cohesion and peaceful coexistence disaggregated by sex, age, disability and population group (16.7.1 modified) **Baseline:** 63,961 people (women and girls 39,059; men and boys 24,902) **Target:** 84,224 people (women and girls 52,566; men and boys 31,658) **Data Source:** UN Agency reports, Coexistence and Community Peace Committee	**Ministries of:** Youth & Sport; Migration and Displacement; Labor & Social Affairs; Education; Construction, Housing & Public Works. Coexistence and Community Peace Committee Directorates of Water, Health & Education; General Directorate of Sewerage. Mayoralty of Baghdad. Municipalities. Local Governments, Provincial Councils

RESULTS	INDICATORS	UN PARTNERS
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 Growing the Economy for All		
Related national development priority or goal:2, 4, 6, and 7		
Related Key SDG(s): 4, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 17		
Outcome 2.1: Improved people-centered economic policies and legislation contribute to inclusive, gender sensitive and diversified economic growth, with focus on increasing income security and decent work for women, youth and vulnerable populations.	**Indicator 2.1a:** Number of jobs [48]created in productive non-oil sectors out of total jobs by sex, age, and persons with disabilities. (SDG 8.9.2) **Baseline:** 15,985 jobs **Target:** 76,213 **Data Source:** Agency reports on job creation initiatives; MoLSA reports. **Indicator 2.1b:** Number of economic and social strategies or policies, legislation and implemented action plans with agreed monitoring and evaluation tools that target women, youth and vulnerable groups (SDG 12.b.1) **Baseline:** 2 strategies; 12 laws; 1 policy; PSDS (2014-2030) **Target:**3 policies; 2 strategies; 12 laws **Data source:** Gazette Government Decrees/policies/legislation; Ministry reports/Records, specifically MoHESR, MoP, MoF, MoJ	**Ministries of:** Planning; Finance; Trade; IM; Water Resources; Education; Higher Education; Agriculture; Labor & Social Affairs; Interior; Health & Environment; Migration & Displacement; Youth &Sport; Culture & Youth. Prime Minister's Office; Commission of Integrity; BPC; JCMC; JCC; Governorate & Municipal Officials; CRC; Local Chambers of Commerce; Universities; Relevant Parliamentary committees Civil Society Organizations; Nat'l and Int'l NGOs; Women Empowerment Organization; Women Leadership Institute; Tajdeed; Iraqi Federation of Industries; Union of Iraqi Chambers of Commerce; Iraqi Contractors Union; Private sector; Central Bank/banking institutions Innovation hubs/centers and think tanks; business associations, Agriculture federation, Private Banks.
Outcome 2.2: People in Iraq have strengthened capacity to enable inclusive access to and engagement in economic activities.	**Indicator 2.2a:** Female to male labor force participation rate (%) disaggregated by age (SDR) **Baseline:** 72.6% male 12.5% women. (**2019**) **Target:** 72.34% male 12.9% women. (2024) **Data source:** ILO Labour Force Survey in Iraq **Indicator 2.2b:** Number of young people[49] and adults who have relevant skills, including soft, technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship by age, sex, geographical distribution (SDG 4.4.1) **Baseline:** 37,293 **Target:** 314,991 **Data Source:** UN Reports and training records; IOM Records (based on MIS)	**Ministries of:** Planning; Finance; Trade; Water Resources; Education; Higher Education; Agriculture; Labor & Social Affairs; Interior; Health & Environment; Migration & Displacement; Youth &Sport; Culture & Youth; Justice; Directorate for Mine Action Prime Minister's Office; ComSec; PMAC; JCMC; JCC; Governorate & Municipal Officials; CRC; Local Chambers of Commerce; Universities Religious Endowments; Civil Society Organizations; Nat'l and Int'l NGOs; Private sector; Central Bank/banking institutions; Innovation hubs/centers.

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[48] For the purpose of this PWG, the following ILO definition of employment is being used: "Persons employed are those who worked for any amount of time, if only for one hour for pay or profit in the short reference period''.

[49] UN definition: Adolescents (10-19); Youth (15-24) and Young People (10-24).

RESULTS	INDICATORS	UN PARTNERS
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: Promoting effective, Inclusive and Efficient Institutions and Services		
Related national development priority or goal:1, 8, 10 and 11		
Related Key SDG(s):1-4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12 and 16		
Outcome 3.1: Strengthened institutions and systems deliver people-centered, evidence and needs-based equitable and inclusive gender- and age-responsive services, especially for the most vulnerable populations, with particular focus on advocating for women's leadership in decision-making processes.	**Indicator 3.1a:** Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector or by budget codes, (with focus on the program delivery component) (SDG 16.6.1) **Baseline: 60%** 2019 National Budget Estimates & Allocation **Target:** (% +) **Data source:** Government Budget and Estimates **Indicator 3.1b:** Proportion of the population satisfied with their experience of public services, disaggregated by sex, age, disability, type of service and governorate. (SDG 16.6.2) **Baseline: 7.8** (CSO Perceptions survey) to be determined by the end of 2020) **Target:**(every 2 years) **Data source:** satisfactions surveys **Indicator 3.1c:** Number of government institutions and systems that adopt evidence- and needs-based legislation and policies to deliver inclusive, gender and age responsive services. (SDG 16.10.2) **Baseline:** (4) 2019 **Target:**(#) - MoE, MoH, MoP, MoHESR, MoLSA and 30 general directorates (including KRG) **Data source:** Administrative Registers, Records, gazettes **Indicator 3.1d:** Proportion of women in a managerial position. (SDG 5.5.2) **Baseline: 10%** **Target:** 50% by 2024 **Data source**: Administrative Registers, Records, gazettes, GoI official websites.	**Ministries of:** Education; Higher Education; Labor & Social Affairs; Justice; Health & Environment; Planning; Construction, Housing & Public Works; Youth & Sport/Culture & Youth; Interior; Municipalities; Migration & Displacement; Finance; Tourism; Science & Technology. **Directorates:** General Directorates of Water, Sewerage, CVAW; Mine Action; Women Empowerment. Prime Minister's Office; Presidency's Office; Parliament; CoR; COMSEC; High Judicial Council; Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Office; MVTS; Integrity Commission; BCP; High Council of Women Affairs; Nat'l Committee on Counter-Narcotics. Office of the National Security Advisor, Human Rights Commission, Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) Mayoralty of Baghdad; Provincial Councils; High Judicial Council. Governorate Returns Committees' Returns Working Group; Customs; Civil Aviation; 1325 Alliance. Innovation Hubs/centers, academies Int'l and Nat'l NGOs/CSOs; private sector.
Outcome 3.2: People in Iraq, civil society and communities, particularly women, have improved capacity to lead, participate in and contribute to the design and delivery of equitable and responsive services, especially for the most vulnerable populations.	**Indicator 3.2a:** Number of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in the management of equitable and responsive services (SDG 6.b.1 modified) **Baseline:** 0 **Target:** 10 local administrative units **Data source:** Administrative Registers, Records **Indicator 3.2b:** # of Governorates with direct participation mechanisms for CSO engagement in all facets of development plans for the delivery of equitable and responsive services that operate regularly & transparently. (SDG 11.3.2) **Baseline:** 3 **Target:** 10 **Data source:** Administrative Registers, Records, GoI official websites	**Ministries of:** Education; Labor &Social Affairs; Interior; Higher Education; Health & Environment; Culture & Youth/Youth & Sports; Migration and Displacement; Construction, Housing & Public Works; Justice; Interior. Directorates of Women Empowerment; Water; Health; Education; Sewerage. High Council of Women Affairs; IHEC; NGO Directorate; Parliament; MoPs CSO/KRSO; JCMC; Provincial Councils; Mayoralty of Baghdad. National and Int'l NGOs/CSOs

RESULTS	INDICATORS	UN PARTNERS
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: Promoting Natural Resource and Disaster Risk Management, and Climate Change Resilience		
Related national development priority or goal:3-11		
Related Key SDG(s):9, 13-17		
Outcome 4.1: Strengthened and resourced policies and frameworks are implemented for managing natural resources (including trans-boundary issues), developing renewable resources, and increasing resilience to climate change, environmental stress and natural hazards, and man-made and natural disasters.	**Indicator 4.1a:** Number of governorates implementing water safety plans. (SDG 6.4.1) **Baseline:** 2 **Target:** 6 **Data source:** MoWR, MoHEN, Iraq's Water Strategy 2018 **Indicator 4.1b:** Official development assistance and public expenditure on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems. (SDG 15.a.1) **Baseline:** 150,000 USD (GEF) **Target:** 4,100,000 USD **Data source:** MoHEnv and Ministry of Agriculture **Indicator 4.1d:** Adopted and implemented national DRR strategies in line with Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 (SDG 13.1.2) **Baseline:** 18 National DRR strategy **Target:** 20 DRR strategy reviewed and implemented **Data source:** ONSA, National disaster policies	**Ministries of:** Construction, Housing & Public Works; Labor & Social Affairs; Planning; Education; Water Resources; Agriculture, Migration & Displacement. Directorates of Sewerage; Water; Health. Mayoralty of Baghdad; Provincial Councils; Municipalities JCMC; JCC; PMNOC; PMAC; National Investment Commission.
Outcome 4.2: Increased engagement of the people of Iraq, sub-national institutions, civil society, and private sector to ensure more responsible, inclusive, accountable and transparent management of natural resources and the environment.	**Indicator 4.2a:** Number of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in natural resource and environmental management. (SDG 6.b.1) **Baseline:** 0 **Target:** 12 local administrative units participating in natural resource and environmental management **Data source:** LNGOs Directorate, MoHEnv **Indicator 4.2b:** Number of legislative, administrative and policy frameworks adopted to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits. (SDG 15.6.1) **Baseline:** 3 (NESAP 2013, Vision 2030, INDC 2015) **Target:** 5 (1 per year) **Data source:** National Development Plan 2018 – 2022; Iraq Vision 2030; National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan (NESAP, 2013).	**Ministries:** Health & Environment; Interior; Agriculture; Construction, Housing & Public Works; Water Resources; Irrigation; Municipalities & Tourism. PMNOC; Municipalities; Governorate Officials; Provincial Councils; PMAC; Mayoralty of Baghdad. Directorates of Water; Sewerage; Health; Education; Agriculture; Water Resources; Groundwater.

RESULTS	INDICATORS	UN PARTNERS
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5: Durable solutions		
Related national development priority or goal:1, 3 and 4		
Related Key SDG(s): All, especially 1, 5, 10, 16 and 17		
Outcome 5.1: Strengthened stabilization, development and peace building initiatives support area-based interventions in locations of displacement, return or relocation to enhance the achievement of voluntary, safe and dignified durable solutions for displacement affected populations.	**Indicator 5.1a:** Number of activities/services implemented to support the achievement of durable solutions for displacement affected populations **Baseline**: TBD (*There will be a review conducted in Q3 to determine the number of qualifying activities.*) **Target**: **Data Source**: UN Agencies	Ministries: Planning, Migration and Displacement, Interior, Labor and Vocational Training, Labor and Social Affairs, Finance, Defense, Oil, Construction Housing Municipalities and Public Affairs, Education, Health, Transport, Youth, Electricity Prime Minister's office, JOC, NSA, REFAATO (Rehabilitation Fund for the Areas Affected by the Terrorism Operations, COMSEC, JCC, JCMC, DMCR, national and international NGOs, NGO affairs directorates, Governors, Human Rights Commission, Local Return Committees; Committee for Dialogue and Societal Peace, Local Peace Committees, Local Governments
Outcome 5.2: National and local authorities are supported to lead the development and implementation of effective and inclusive policies, strategies and plans to achieve durable solutions to displacement in Iraq for all displacement-affected people, including through effective coordination mechanisms and data collection to support evidence-based outcomes	**Indicator 5.2a:** Number of plans of action, frameworks, policies, legislation supported, coordinated and developed jointly with national/local authorities with the objective of supporting durable solutions outcomes. **Baseline:** 0 **Target:** 12 by the end of 2024 **Data source:** Plans of Action, ABC Groups, Workshop reports, meeting minutes, official documents	Ministries: Planning, Migration and Displacement, Interior, Labor and Vocational Training, labor and social Affairs, Finance, Defense, Oil, Construction housing municipalities and public affairs, education, health, transport, youth, Electricity Prime Minister's office, JOC, NSA, REFAATO (Rehabilitation Fund for the Areas Affected by the Terrorism Operations, COMSEC, JCC, JCMC, DMCR, national and international NGOs, NGO affairs directorates, Governors, Human Rights Commission,

Iraq Vision 2030/ KRG Vision 2020	Iraq Vision 2030/ KRG Vision 2020 Goals	UNSDCF SPs	UNSDCF Outcomes
PEOPLE: **Build spiritual, psychological and physical wellbeing to build generations who are capable of innovation, creation and achievement.** **Put People First (KRG)**	• Alleviate poverty • Create decent and protected job opportunities for all unemployed people • High quality and inclusive education system • Efficient and inclusive healthcare system • Provide decent housing and end informal settlements • **Health:** An efficient health system that provides high-quality essential services to everyone to prevent, treat, and manage physical and mental illnesses and injuries. • **Education**: An educational system that equips out people to achieve their aspirations and support democratic values, economic development and societal welfare. • **Inclusive Society:** A society in which all people in the KRI can achieve their maximum potential regardless of gender, socio-economic status, place of birth, age, religion, or ethnicity.	SP #2 Growing the Economy for All SP #3 Promoting effective, inclusive and efficient Institutions and Services	2.2 People in Iraq have strengthened capacity to enable inclusive access to and engagement in economic activities. 3.1 Strengthened institutions and systems deliver people-centered, evidence and needs-based equitable and inclusive gender- and age-responsive services, especially for the most vulnerable populations, with particularly focus on advocating for women's leadership in decision-making processes. 3.2 People in Iraq, civil society and communities, particularly women, have improved capacity to lead, participate in and contribute to the design and delivery of equitable and responsive services, especially for the most vulnerable populations.
Iraq Vision 2030/ KRG Vision 2020	Iraq Vision 2030 KRG Vision 2020 Goals	UNSDCF SPs	UNSDCF Outcomes
Building the Region: Infrastructure (KRG)	**Transportation:** A transportation network that connects every inhabited location in the KR and to the world. **Water and Sanitation:** Water security for all, and water and sanitation services that reach every home and supply every industry. **Electricity:** Electricity services that is reliable and available to every home and every industry in an environmentally friendly way. **Communications:** A world-class communications infrastructure that enables uninterrupted voice, video, and data transfer and that includes strong postal services. **Housing:** A vibrant private housing sector in which all residents of the KR have decent shelter.		

Iraq Vision 2030/ KRG Vision 2020	Iraq Vision 2030 KRG Vision 2020 Goals	UNSDCF SPs	UNSDCF Outcomes
PARTNERSHIPS: Active administrative institutions that ensure the respect of political, civil and human rights, justice and equality for all citizens before the law. Putting Government to Work for the People (KRG)	Uphold rule of law, access to justice, and enhance the good governance foundations. Improve administrative decentralization and public participation in decision-making. Integrity, transparency and fighting corruption. Reform public financial administration and achieve financial sustainability. **Effective and honest Government:** a government that is effective, transparent, trusted and honest. **The Budget:** A transparent, efficient, and equitable public finance system that fully pays for the government investments and operations that are of the highest priority for the well-being of the people. **Reform of the Civil Service:** A government that is the right size with the right people to act as an enabler for the growth and development of the KR.	SP #2 Growing the Economy for All SP #3 Promoting effective, inclusive and efficient Institutions and Services	**2.1** Improved people-centered economic policies and legislation contribute to inclusive, gender sensitive and diversified economic growth, with focus on increasing income security and decent work for women, youth, and the marginalized. **3.1** Strengthened institutions and systems deliver people-centered, evidence and needs-based equitable and inclusive gender- and age-responsive services, including the marginalized, with particularly focus on advocating for women's leadership in decision-making processes. **3.2** People in Iraq, civil society and communities, particularly women, have improved capacity to lead, participate in and contribute to the design and delivery of equitable and responsive services, especially for the most vulnerable populations.
Iraq Vision 2030/ KRG Vision 2020	Iraq Vision 2030 KRG Vision 2020 Goals	UNSDCF SPs	UNSDCF Outcomes
PROSPERITY: Diversified social market economy that generates decent job opportunities and provides an economic welfare level with a joint management of the public and private sectors to enhance the Iraqi economy capacities. Put People First (KRG) Creating an Economically Prosperous Region (KRG)	High and sustainable economic growth rate. Increase the oil sector efficiency. Strong private sector that contributes to development. Develop the agricultural sector and achieve food security. Developed infrastructure. Active and well-governed financial sector. **The Labor Market in KRI:** A private-sector labor market in which employees can find jobs can move to better jobs when they want, and are rewarded for their work, and in which employers can find qualified employees and freely employ who they want. **Agriculture and Agro-Industry:** Food security for the people of the KR, economic prosperity for farmers, and prosperity through the export of our agricultural and food products. **Enabling the Private Sector:** A diversified and open entrepreneurial private sector.	SP #2 Growing the Economy for All	**2.1** Improved people-centered economic policies and legislation contribute to inclusive, gender sensitive and diversified economic growth, with focus on increasing income security and decent work for women, youth, and vulnerable populations. **2.2** People in Iraq have strengthened capacity to enable inclusive access to and engagement in economic activities.

Iraq Vision 2030/ KRG Vision 2020	Iraq Vision 2030 KRG Vision 2020 Goals	UNSDCF SPs	UNSDCF Outcomes
PEACE: **Safe society whose members enjoy peace and in which the values of citizenship, solidarity and achievement are strengthened.**	Enhance the culture of tolerance, dialogue and community peace. Appropriate development of families, women and vulnerable categories. Enhance the values of citizenship and reduce the aspects of inequality. Establish the values of achievement, initiative and voluntary work. Sustainable solutions for displacement and internal and external emigrations.	**SP #1 Achieving Social Cohesion, Protection and Inclusion**	**1.1** Strengthened and effective inclusive, people-centered, gender-responsive and human-rights based policies and national systems contribute to gender equality, the promotion of protection, Social Protection, social cohesion and peaceful societies, with focus on the most vulnerable populations, including women, youth and minorities. **1.2** People in Iraq, particularly under-served, marginalized and vulnerable populations, have equitable and sustainable access to quality gender- and age-responsive protection and social protection systems and services. **1.3** People in Iraq participate in and benefit fully from effective mechanisms - at national, subnational and community levels - that prevent, mitigate and manage conflict, and contribute to social cohesion and peaceful coexistence, with particular focus on women and youth leadership in decision making, peace-building and reconciliation processes.
Iraq Vision 2030/ KRG Vision 2020	Iraq Vision 2030 KRG Vision 2020 Goals	UNSDCF SPs	UNSDCF Outcomes
PLANET EARTH: **Create clean, safe and sustainable environment for the current and future generations through incorporating environment in the development plans and policies to achieve a sustainable improvement in the human life quality, ensure the sustainability of the production and consumption patterns, and reduce the repercussions of environment pollution and climate change. Creating an Economically Prosperous Region (KRG)**	• Reduce environment pollution and greenhouse emissions. • Efficient use of water resources. • Environmental conservation. • Develop the consumption and production patterns towards environmental sustainability. • Protect biodiversity and revive the Mesopotamian marshes. • **Environmental Protection:** A healthy and safe environment, with clean water, land and air, for posterity and that enables the economy to grow.	**SP #4 Promoting Natural Resource and Disaster Risk Management, and Climate Change Resilience**	**4.1** Strengthened and resourced policies and frameworks implemented for managing natural resources (including trans-boundary issues), developing renewable resources, and increasing resilience to climate change, environmental stress and natural hazards, and man-made and natural disasters. **4.2** Increased engagement of the people of Iraq, sub-national institutions, civil society, and private sector to ensure more responsive, inclusive, accountable and transparent management of natural resources and the environment.

Terms of Reference
UNSDCF Joint Steering Committee and UNSDCF Priority Working Groups

1. Background and Purpose

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) for Iraq is developing the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for the period 2020 – 2024. The UNSDCF is a critical programming instrument for the UN System to ensure a harmonized and collective response to national humanitarian and development challenges, as well as to support the national strategic plans related to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals/Agenda 2030. The UNSDCF complies with the UN programming principles, and is focused on promoting and supporting national leadership and ownership of the national development process.

In consultation with national and international stakeholders around the key findings of the Common Country Analysis (CCA), the UNSDCF will guide the UNCT in its programming around the four UNSDCF Priority Areas:

1. Achieving Social Cohesion, Protection and Inclusion.
2. Growing the Economy for All.
3. Strengthening Institutions and Services.
4. Promoting Natural Resource and Disaster Risk Management, and Climate Change Resilience.
5. Achieving Dignified, Safe and Voluntary Durable Solutions to Displacement in Iraq

Implementing the UNSDCF will be the responsibility of the UNCT, in collaboration and coordination with the Government of Iraq (GoI), to ensure that the implementation builds on national processes and contributes to the SDG planning of the GoI. In order to undertake coordinated implementation and oversight of the UNSDCF, following an inclusive approach, an UNSDCF Joint Steering Committee (JSC) will be established under the leadership of the GoI and the UN Resident Coordinator. Priority Working Groups (PWGs) also will be established – one for each UNSDCF Priority Area – to be chaired by a relevant UN Head of Agency. The overall objective of the PWGs is to coordinate and report on the activities, and support the overall achievement of the UNSDCF.

The UNSDCF PWGs are expected to develop collective results and Joint Work Plans (JWPs) as well as ensure monitoring and evaluation of the JWPs. They will work closely with the Development Coordination Office of the Resident Coordinator, as well as with existing UN thematic working groups and/or task forces, such as the M&E Working Group, the UN Communications Groups, and the Gender Working Group.

2. The UNSDCF Joint Steering Committee (JSC)

2.1 The Role of the JSC

The JSC is the key driver of accountability, partnership and national ownership. It meets at least annually, and is responsible to launch and guide UNSDCF development, monitor implementation and steer decision making on finding of UNSDCF reviews, M&E, identification of risk and analysis of changes in context.

2.2 Membership of the JSC

The JSC will be operational throughout the UNSDCF implementation period. It will be co-chaired by the Resident Coordinator and the GoI-designated senior representative. Members will be identified from key stakeholders responsible to the UN's work.

2.3 Chair and Secretariat of the JSC

The JSC will be co-chaired by the Resident Coordinator and the GoI. In the absence of either chair, the JSC will be chaired by a person designated by the chair/s. The DCO will serve as the UNSDCF JSC Secretariat.

2.4 Meetings of the JSC

The JSC will meet at least once annually, with the recommendation that semi-annual meetings be considered in the initial year.

3. UNSDCF Priority Working Groups (PWGs)

3.1 Responsibilities and Tasks

There will be one Priority Working Group (PWG) for each priority results area. Each PWG will provide technical support to the GoI and UNCT, and ensure that adequate inter-agency coordination, related to the priority area, is established.

Members will be involved at each stage of the following activities

- Formulation of joint programs in line with national policies and priorities, and following the UNDG guidelines;
- Reviews of the UNSDCF Results Framework, according to the UNSDCF guidelines and in close consultation with all national partners;
- Preparation of Joint Work Plans (JWPs) to benchmark the activities of the PWG;
- Monitoring and reporting quarterly to the JSC co-chairs, on progress and constraints in the achievement of each UNSDCF priority area;
- Documentation of lessons learned/good practices for dissemination to other PWGs;
- Identification of capacity development needs among partners, including those related to implementation of the UNSDCF M&E Calendar;
- Ensuring the mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues;
- Providing support for and participating fully in UNSDCF reviews, reports and evaluations; and,
- Preparation of synthesis reports based on the progress of programs, contributing to the UNSDCF reporting

3.2 Membership of the PWG

The membership of the PWG will be comprised of relevant UNCT members, and relevant national partners (government, NGOs/CSOs, etc.). PWGs can include other stakeholders (i.e., international development actors) as considered relevant, bearing in mind the purpose and focus of the PWGs. The constituents will be endorsed by the JSC at the beginning of each year. More specifically:

- UN agencies will nominate agency Focal Points (FPs) and alternates to represent them in the appropriate PWG(s). Non-resident agencies will need to participate either electronically or in person. Similarly, national partners will nominate FPs and alternates. However, there will be only one FP from each relevant agency and national partners represented in the PWG.
- With the exception of M&E Focal Points, each FP will represent his or her respective organization and not participating in an individual capacity. Therefore, FPs must be fully knowledgeable about their organization's perspectives and be capable and empowered to make decisions on behalf of their respective organizations.
- Attendance of FPs is mandatory in the functioning of the PWG, and therefore proactive engagement is required. Similarly, only one official alternate will be recognized, and organizations are expected to ensure that the FP and/or the official alternate attend each meeting.

- FPs are responsible for briefing their organizations on all activities of the PWG, including recommendations, decisions, etc., and for ensuring that the senior management of their respective organizations are kept fully informed.
- Each UN entity and national counterpart organization will facilitate the work of its respective FPs by providing the necessary time and support needed for their full participation in the PWG and to follow up on decisions and recommendations from the PWG.
- A FP from the Development Coordination Office (DCO) will be identified for each PWG, who will attend as a resource person. Similarly, there will be an M&E FP for each PWG providing technical support.

3.3 PWG Chairs and Secretariat

Each PWG will be chaired by UNCT member assigned by the RC. If found to be necessary/desirable, Co-chairs may be named, in consultation with the JSC. Chairs are responsible for the overall performance of the PWG and will be held accountable for achievement of deliverables as per the agreed Joint Work Plans (JWPs). They provide strategic and technical guidance to the PWG through adequate consultation and participation of all relevant UN and counterpart members.

Chairs are accountable to the JSC co-chairs and report quarterly to the JSC. They will present progress and issues to the JSC Annual Progress Review, and are responsible for ensuring results data are regularly updated in UN Info, with assistance from the M&E Working Group and the PWG Secretariat.

Specific responsibilities will include:

- Moderating and facilitating the activities of the PWG. They will be responsible for the overall functioning and performance of the PWG as per its agreed objectives, responsibilities and work processes, and will be held accountable for achieving all planned results;
- Providing leadership in developing the JWPs and presenting them for endorsement to the JSC at the beginning of each year;
- Ensuring that the work of the group is consistently and accurately shared with the JSC and that matters requiring the decision, action or attention of the JSC are taken up promptly;
- Ensuring adequate consultations and discussions with relevant national partners and, when required, ensuring their participation in the work of the PWGs;
- Providing quarterly updates on UNSDCF implementation to the JSC, and preparing a minimum of annual presentations on the status of the PWGs to the UNCT, and as needed/requested by the RC; and,
- Contributing to the required UNSDCF reports, evaluations and information sharing, as well as the annual report to the Secretary-General.

The PWG Secretariat will be provided by the agency of the UN Chair. If the UN Chair is unable to attend a meeting or is otherwise prevented from fulfilling the above obligations, all responsibility will be delegated to the alternate or as determined by the RC.

The Chairs will attend the meetings as representatives of the JSC. They will bring forward to the JSC, through the RC, any relevant issues and concerns that may arise between meetings of the JSC.

The PWG Secretariat shall be responsible for:

- Logistical arrangements required to facilitate group meetings, including the preparation of the agenda, minutes, VTC/communications connections with all members as needed, sharing information on behalf of the Chair/Co-chair, distribution of documents, etc.;
- Assistance to the Chair in following up on group actions and decisions, and in communicating important milestones; and,

- Consolidating JWP reporting from members.

The performance of the PWG Chairs as well as the entire PWG will be reviewed by the JSC in its meetings. The DCO will be responsible for:

- Developing and maintaining coordination and integration across the PWGs. This will be facilitated by the DCO FP in each PWG;
- Facilitating the engagement and participation of non-resident agencies;
- Ensuring compliance with results-based management, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting, in accordance with the relevant UN programming standards and guidelines; and,
- Consolidating JWP reporting for dissemination.

3.4 Work Process

- The PWGs will hold a minimum of quarterly meetings. Chairs have the prerogative to convene meetings as frequently as deemed necessary to bring the agenda forward and maintain oversight of implementation;
- A quorum will consist of 50 percent of the total active membership;
- For adhoc issues requiring urgent attention, the PWG may conduct its business electronically, to be reconfirmed in the minutes of the next face-to-face meeting of the PWG;
- The JSC may recommend changes to the structure and/or work processes of a PWG if and when it is deemed necessary for improved performance of the group;
- Each PWG will identify and request any additional technical support it may require from the DCO (e.g., strategic planning, etc.) as well as from other PWGs to facilitate synergies and complementarities with others, and in mainstreaming cross-cutting issues in their work; and,
- Quarterly meetings of all Chairs will be convened to discuss opportunities for joint programming, monitoring and evaluation, as well as other strategic issues. Similarly, UN PWG Chairs will be invited periodically to Program Management Team meetings, to be determined in consultation with the PMT Chair, DCO and RC.

3.5 UNSDCF PWGs in Iraq

The following UNSDCF 5 PWGs have been identified:

Strategic Priority
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 Resource and Disaster Risk Management, and Climate Change Resilience
SP-5 Achieving Dignified, Safe and Voluntary Durable Solutions to Displacement in Iraq

N.B.: The existing Gender Task Force will continue to function and work closely with all PWGs as appropriate for effective mainstreaming. Similarly, the UN Communications Group will interact with/be present in the PWGs to ensure consistency, uniformity and accuracy of collective messages for effective advocacy, resource mobilization, and information sharing.

Annex 4: Legal Annex

This Legal Annex refers to the cooperation resistance agreements or other agreements that are the already existing legal basis for the relationship between the Government of Iraq and each UN organization supporting the country to deliver on the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (Cooperation Framework)-2020 to2024.

Whereas the Government of Iraq here in after referred to as "the Government" has entered in to the following relationships:

Agency	Agreement
UNDP	Have entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP's assistance to the country (Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA)), which was signed by both parties on 20th October 1976. Based on Article 1, paragraph2 of the SBAA, UNDP's assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UND Programs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision2005/1 of28January2005 of UNDP's Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of 'execution' and 'implementation' enabling UNDP to fully implements the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the UNDG simplification and harmonization initiative. In light of this decision this Cooperation Framework together with a work plan (which shall form part of this Cooperation Framework and is incorporated herein by reference) concluded here under constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA.
UNICEF	A Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government and UNICEF on 11 April 1984.
UNHCR	Presence and operations are governed by the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.
WFP	A Basic Agreement concerning assistance from the World Food Program, which Agreement was signed by the Government and WFP on 6 May 1968.
UNFPA	The Basic Agreement concluded between the Government and the United Nations Development Program on 20 October 1976 (the "Basic Agreement") mutatis mutandis applies to the activities and personnel of UNFPA. This Cooperation Framework together with any work plan concluded hereunder, which shall form part of this Cooperation Framework and is incorporated herein by reference, constitutes the Project Document as referred to in the Basic Agreement.
UNIDO	A Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government and UNIDO on 30 June 2017.
FAO	The Agreement for the opening of the FAO Representation in Iraq on 07 April 1979.
ILO	A Standard Agreement concerning technical assistance signed on 19 June 1960 and amended on 1 December 1965.
WHO	A Basic Agreement concluded between the Government of Iraq and WHO on 18 October 1961.

IOM	A Country Co-operation Agreement concluded between the Government and IOM on 03 December 2009 and approved as Law #20 in 2011 and published in the Iraqi Gazette on 31 October 2011, and renews every five years automatically. An MOU was signed with the Ministry of the Interior on 01 April 2014, and renewed on 25 December 2017. An additional MOU was signed with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs on 8 February 2017, and is automatically renewed every two years.
UN-Habitat	A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government signed on 31 May 2011 and is currently being revised.
OHCHR	Is integrated within the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) through its Human Rights Office (HRO) and is mandated to promote accountability and the protection of human rights. The HRO is also responsible for the coordination of monitoring, advocacy and mandatory reporting to the two Special Representatives on the "six grave child rights violations" under UN Security Council Resolution 1612 on Children and Armed Conflict, and "conflict-related sexual violence" under UN Security Council resolutions 1820, 1888 and 1960. OHCHR is also mandated by United Nations Security Council resolution 2470 (2019) and its preceding resolutions, and in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 48/141for the promotion and protection of human rights and technical cooperation with the Government of Iraq.
UNEP	Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance, through the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the UNEA's approval of UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2021, 2022-2025 and related programs of work.

For all agencies: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency's governing structures.

The Cooperation Framework will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.

The Government will honor its commitments in accordance with the provisions of the cooperation and assistance agreements outlined in paragraph on the Basis of the Relationship.

Without prejudice to these agreements, the Government shall apply the respective provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (the "General Convention") or the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies (the "Specialized Agencies Convention") to the Agencies' property, funds, and assets and to their officials and experts on mission. The Government shall also accord to the Agencies and their officials and to other persons performing services on behalf of the Agencies, the privileges, immunities and facilities asset out in the cooperation and assistance agreements between the Agencies and the Government. In addition, it is understood that all United Nations Volunteers shall be assimilated to officials of the Agencies, entitled to the privileges and immunities accorded to such officials under the General Convention or the Specialized Agencies Convention. The Government will be responsible for dealing with any claims, which maybe brought by third parties against any of the Agencies and their officials, experts on mission or other persons performing services on their behalf and shall hold them harmless in respect of any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is mutually agreed by Government and a particular Agency that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of that Agency, or its officials, advisors or persons performing services.

Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Government shall insure or indemnify the Agencies from civil liability under the law of the country in respect of vehicles provided by the Agencies but under the control of or use by the Government.

(a) "Nothing in this Agreement shall imply a waiver by the UN or any of its Agencies or Organizations of any privileges or immunities enjoyed by them or their acceptance of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising of this Agreement".

(b) Nothing in or relating to this document will be deemed a waiver, expressed or implied, of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations and its subsidiary organs, including WFP, whether under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13th February 1946, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21st November 1947, as applicable, and no provisions of this document or any Institutional Contractor any Undertaking will be interpreted or applied in a manner, or to an extent, in consistent with such privileges and immunities.

Annex 5: List of Coordinating Government Institutions

Government Coordinating Authorities	Agency/ies Working with the Entity
Federal Government	
GOVT BODIES AND COMMISSIONS	
Council of Minister's Secretariat (COMSEC)	UNDP, ESCWA,UNFPA, UNAMI
Prime Minister's Office	UNDP, UN Habitat, ESCWA, UNAMI
Council of Representatives of Iraq	UNDP, UNAMI, IOM
Supreme Anti-Corruption Council	UNDP
Supreme/Higher Judicial Council	UNDP, UNHCR
Independent High Electoral Commission	UNDP, UNAMI
High Committee for Relief and Shelter	IOM
Judiciary Oversight Commission	UNDP
Commission of Integrity	UNDP, UNAMI
Board of Supreme Audit	UNDP, UNAMI
Prime Minister's National Operations Centre (PMNOC)	UNDP, UNAMI
Joint Coordination and Monitoring Center	UNDP, UNMAS, IOM
National Investment Commission	UNDP
Communication and Media Commission	UNESCO
Governorate Offices/Local Authorities	UNDP, UNAMI, UNOPS, UNDP, UNHCR
Implementation and Follow Up Committee for National Reconciliation	UNHCR
Permanent Committee of the Ministry of Interior	UNHCR, IOM, UNESCO, UNDP
Popular Mobilization Committee	IOM
Parliamentary Committees: Labor& Migration, Legal and Human Rights	IOM
National Security Agency	IOM
MINISTRIES	
Ministry of Planning	UNDP, UN Habitat, FAO, ESCWA, IOM
Ministry of Finance	UNDP, IOM
Ministry of Education	WFP, UNESCO, UNHCR, IOM
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research	UNDP, WFP, UNESCO, ESCWA, UNHCR
Ministry of Trade	UNDP, WFP
Ministry of Industry and Minerals	UNDP, UNIDO, IOM
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	UNDP, ESCWA, ILO, UNHCR, IOM, UNOPS,UNFPA
Ministry of Agriculture	UNDP, WFP, FAO, IOM
Ministry of Justice	UNDP, UN Habitat, UNESCO, UNHCR
Ministry of Interior	UNDP, UNMAS, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNAMI
Ministry of Water Resources	UNDP, WFP, UNESCO, FAO, IOM

Ministry of Health and Environment	UNOPS, IOM, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNFPA
Ministry of Defense	UNMAS
Relevant Technical Ministries for Service Delivery	UNDP
Directorate of Mine Action/Ministry of Health and Environment	UNMAS
Ministry of Construction, Housing, Municipalities and Public Works	UNOPS, UN Habitat, IOM
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	UN Habitat, UNAMI
Ministry of Migration and Displacement	WFP, UNHCR, IOM,UNFPA
Ministry of Youth and Sports	IOM, UNFPA
Ministry of Culture	UNESCO, ILO
NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS	
Universities (Public universities)	UNDP
State-Own Enterprises	UNDP

KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT	
Parliament of the Kurdistan Regional Government	UNDP,UNFPA
Joint Crisis Coordination Center -KRG	IOM, UNHCR, UNDP
Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency	UNMAS
Bureau of Migration and Displacement (BMD) of KRG	IOM

Annex 6: Program and Risk Management – Working with Partners

Cash assistance for travel, stipends, honoraria and other costs shall be set at rates commensurate with those applied in the country, but not higher than those applicable to the United Nations system (as stated in the ICSC circulars). All cash transfers to an Implementing Partner are based on the Work Plans (WPs[50]) agreed between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies. Cash transfers for activities detailed in work plans (WPs) can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:

> **1. Cash transferred directly to the Implementing Partner: a. Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or b. After activities have been completed (reimbursement);**
> **2. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner;**
> **3. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners.**

Direct cash transfers shall be requested and released for program implementation periods not exceeding three months. Reimbursements of previously authorized expenditures shall be requested and released quarterly or after the completion of activities. The UNS shall not be obligated to reimburse expenditure made by the Implementing Partner above the authorized amounts.

Following the completion of an activity, any balance of funds shall be refunded or programmed by mutual agreement between the Implementing Partner and the UNS.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may depend on the findings of a review of the public financial management capacity in the case of a Government Implementing Partner, and on an assessment of the financial management capacity of the non-UN[51]Implementing Partner. A qualified consultant, such as a public accounting firm, selected by the UNS may conduct such an assessment, in which the Implementing Partner shall participate. The Implementing Partner may participate in the selection of the consultant. Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities

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[50] Refers to results Groups or agency specific annual, bi-annual or multiyear work plans
[51] For the purposes of these clauses, "the UN" includes the IFIs.

may be revised in the course of program implementation based on the findings of program monitoring, expenditure monitoring and reporting, and audits.

In case of direct cash transfer or reimbursement, the UN system agencies shall notify the Implementing Partner of the amount approved by the UN system agencies and shall disburse funds to the Implementing Partner. **In case of direct payment** to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner; or to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners, the UN system agencies shall proceed with the payment.

The UN shall not have any direct liability under the contractual arrangements concluded between the Implementing Partner and a third-party vendor. Where the UNS provides cash to the same Implementing Partner, program monitoring, financial monitoring and auditing will be undertaken jointly or coordinated with those UNS.

A standard Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of the work plan (WP), will be used by Implementing Partners to request the release of funds, or to secure the agreement that UN organization will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. The Implementing Partners will use the FACE to report on the utilization of cash received. The Implementing Partner shall identify the designated official(s) authorized to provide the account details, request and certify the use of cash. The FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the Implementing Partner.

Cash transferred to Implementing Partners should be spent for the purpose of activities and within the timeframe as agreed in the WPs only. Cash received by the Government and national NGO Implementing Partners shall be used in accordance with established national regulations, policies and procedures consistent with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the WPs, and ensuring that reports on the utilization of all received cash are submitted to the relevant UN agency within six months after receipt of the funds. Where any of the national regulations, policies and procedures is not consistent with international standards, the UNS financial and other related rules and system agency regulations, policies and procedures will apply.

In the case of international NGO/CSO and IGO Implementing Partners cash received shall be used in accordance with international standards in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the WPs, and ensuring that reports on the full utilization of all received cash are submitted to the relevant UN agency within six months after receipt of the funds. To facilitate scheduled and special audits, each Implementing Partner receiving cash from a UN organization (WFP, FAO, ILO, IOM, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNDP, UNHABITAT or WHO) will provide the agency or its representative with timely access to:

- All financial records which establish the transactional record of the cash transfers provided by *the relevant UN agency,* together with relevant documentation;
- All relevant documentation and personnel associated with the functioning of the Implementing Partner's internal control structure through which the cash transfers have passed.

The findings of each audit will be reported to the Implementing Partner and UN organization (WFP, FAO, ILO, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNDP, UNHABITAT or WHO). Each Implementing Partner will furthermore:

- Receive and review the audit report issued by the auditors.
- Provide a timely statement of the acceptance or rejection of any audit recommendation to the relevant UN agency that provided cash (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, add: and to the SAI) so that the auditors include these statements in their final audit report before submitting it to the UN agency.
- Undertake timely actions to address the accepted audit recommendations.

Report on the actions taken to implement accepted recommendations to the UNS on a quarterly basis (or as locally agreed). Where no assessment of the Public Financial Management Capacity has been conducted, or such an assessment identified weaknesses in the capacity of the Supreme Audit Institution, the audits will be commissioned by the UN system agencies and undertaken by private audit services.

**United Nations
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