



UNCT Annual Results Report Published in March 2022



2021

Country Annual Results Report



United Nations-Iraq الامم المتحدة-العراق





Foreword

n behalf of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Iraq, I am pleased to present the report of the UN's collective contribution to Iraq's achievements and development goals in 2021.

Overall, the UN's work supported the Government of Iraq's efforts in improving living conditions of vulnerable people in Iraq, strengthening equitable services delivery, and enhancing alignment of Iraq's international engagements and cooperation with the 2030 Agenda.

While progress has been made across Iraq's development and humanitarian agenda in 2021, delivering in a world of COVID-19 risk mitigation measures put a strain on the operational capacity of the UNCT. Despite these constraints, the UN adapted the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) in consultation with the Government to the new COVID reality and the Government's push to resolve the IDP situation in Iraq. The new UNSDCF, which is based on the National Development Plan and Iraq Vision 2030 to help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, was finally signed on 5 September 2021 marking the Government's determination to work with the UN on longer term development goals in the country.



Irena Vojáčková-Sollorano

Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq The Government's determination to resolve the IDP situation is reflected in UNSDCF's Strategic Priority 5: Achieving Dignified, Safe, and Voluntary Durable Solutions in Iraq. In practice, this resulted in developing a mechanism focusing the nexus between the UN's humanitarian and development efforts. Eight Area Based Coordination mechanisms (ABC) have been put in place in complex areas of return.

The ABCs ensure that humanitarian and development actors coordinate and plan together with local government structures to facilitate returns of IDPs.

This is part of a larger strategy in Iraq to hand over the remaining IDP needs to the Government by 2024.

Equally, the Government has started to pay increased attention to the climate change agenda. This is reflected in Strategic Priority 4: Promoting Natural Resources and Disaster Risk Management, and Climate Change Resilience. The UNCT has increased its focus on climate change mitigation, including incorporating renewable energy and climate smart techniques wherever feasible. During 2021, the PSEA network was reinvigorated leading to improvement in awareness raising and reporting systems.

Today, a total of nineteen UN entities have presences in Iraq, working together to support the government and civil society actors to create conditions for the revitalization, stabilization and reform of social, economic and political life. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Iraq for its extensive collaboration and support that shows their commitment to improving the lives of its citizens. I appreciate the support of the UN's development partners for their generous contributions to the Iraq Fund and look forward to a continuation of that support to the Iraq Development Trust Fund.

UN Country Team in Iraq

Twenty-Six UN agencies, funds and programmes comprise the United Nations Country Team in Iraq, chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, the designated representative of the UN Secretary General for development operations in the country.

As a family of specialized agencies, the UNCT fully supports and works towards Iraq's commitment to achieving Agenda 2030 and its related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the latest specialized expertise and evidence-based actions. The spirit of the Sustainable Development Goals is captured in a single phrase: 'to leave no one behind.' This is the principle that guides everything that we in the UN family do in this country. The UNCT provides tailormade support for addressing the needs of the most vulnerable, the disadvantaged, and those who are at risk of social exclusion in the country.

The United Nations in Iraq has been working together in a new, coherent way to support the government to achieve its national development priorities and international development commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The overall framework under which the UNCT delivers is the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2020-2024, which presents the key shared development objectives of the UN system in the country.

UN Country Team



Five Strategic Priorities (SPs) were identified in the Cooperation Framework that respond to the country's needs. The UN Country Team coordinates their work through joint work plans (JWPs). Within these priorities, crosscutting issues of a human rights-based approach, gender equality, social inclusion, specific capacity development for policy formulation and results-based management and improving the overall evidence base are all being addressed. Each SP has a Priority Working Group (PWG) cochaired by lead agencies in the thematic area, who are accountable to the Resident Coordinator and the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) for the progress of the PWG against its Joint Work Plan. The PWGs are supported by the thematic working groups, and work closely with the Programme Management Team (PMT) on issues related to planning, reporting, etc. Great care has been taken to share information across the PWGs to maximize synergies, avoid duplication or overlap, and map complementarities with other UN planning frameworks, such as the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the forthcoming frameworks of the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq.



During the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the implementation of development activities, the United Nations system in Iraq benefited from a strategic partnership with other development actors and direct development investments where they were most needed, all while ensuring integration and coherence.

In 2021 the UN System renewed its efforts to work with national authorities and other development partners to deliver results contributing to the achievement of the national development priorities and the 2030 agenda. Coordination with the Ministry of Health was strengthened in response to the continued COVID-19 pandemic, allowing the UN system to support important prevention and awareness-raising activities while strengthening Iraq's health system.

Coordination with donor partners continued to take place bilaterally and through the Development Partners Forum meetings that are co-chaired by the UN and the World Bank with a total of 9 meetings that took place in 2021.

Coordination with the World Bank included not only facilitating coordination with donor partners, but also on COVID-19 vaccination and monitoring food security in Iraq.





Key Development Partners of the UN Development System in the Country

The Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS) delivered results rehabilitating public infrastructure and providing essential services to communities. The largest contributors to the FFS are the USA, Germany, The Netherlands, and the EU. Collectively, there are 30 donors to FFS, including the Government of Iraq, which is one of the ten largest contributors. This speaks volumes of the Government 's commitment to reconstruction of the country in partnership with the UN System.





2021 Key developments trends and emerging issues



Environment

Iraq's environment continues to degrade. Unsustainable water uses and lack of agreement on sharing of regional transboundary water resources means Iraq suffers from drought in summer and floods in winter. In addition, access to water resources or prime-agricultural land is blocked by unexploded ordnance. In terms of arable land, Iraq is the most mine-contaminated country in the world. Lastly, climate change is affecting Iraq, with summer temperatures rising above a record of 50 °C (120 °F). Ironically, Iraq burns and pollutes more gas during the oil-extraction process than it imports. UNEP is coordinating with the RC and UNCT to assist the Government through the Ministry of Environment, with the implementation of SDG #13,14, 15 and other cross-cutting SDGs.

Economic Development

With recent high oil prices, Iraq's balance of payments has improved tremendously. However, overreliance on oil revenue makes the Iraqi economy highly vulnerable to shocks. Agriculture is the second largest contributor to Iraq's GDP. Around 12 million Iraqis depend on agriculture. Restoring the agriculture sector is critical to diversify the economy, improve food production, generate livelihoods, and restore resilience of Iraq's rural population. Lastly, Iraq's public sector is bloated, even by already generous regional standards. The Government published a white paper on "Economic and Financial Reform" in November 2020. However, with oil trading at over USD\$ 100 dollars a barrel, there seems little appetite for cuts to the public sector wage bill.



Durable Solutions

The nexus – transition from humanitarian to development – is pioneered in Iraq through a 'Durable Solutions Mechanism.' At the national level the Durable Solutions Task Force (DSTF) reports to the Resident Coordinator and is made up of heads of UN agencies and senior NGO representatives. At the local level there are 8 Area-Based Coordination (ABC) Groups. These ABC Groups have developed Plans of Action (PoA) that ensure coherence, find durable solutions for the displaced and facilitate joint programming.

Governance

Lack of progress on forming a coalition on the results of the parliamentary elections held on 10 October 2021 has undermined trust in the Government. Poor governance, lack of services, bureaucracy and corruption have weakened the social contract between the state and the citizens.

COVID-19

COVID-19 was a major shock to the health systems of Iraq. Despite campaigns from the WHO, after initial enthusiasm, the vaccination rate in Iraq has stalled at about 17.5%. Many Iraqis suffer from Covid 'fatigue'. Vaccine hesitancy has become a wide-spread phenomenon, especially among social media users.

2021 Key developments trends and emerging issues



Social Cohesion

Various social safety nets benefited only 20% of the poor. Related to this, the most prominent social safety net, the Ministry of Trade's Public Distribution System, is not efficiently used. However, COVID-19 laid bare previously undetected inequalities which facilitated new activities and interventions that were not foreseen under the UNSDCF process.

Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) is a violation of universally recognized international legal norms and standards. SEA committed by aid workers betrays the core values and principles of humanitarian action and the fundamental to do no harm. In Iraq, under the 4 pillars of PSEA, the UNCT through the Inter-agency PSEA Network, with support of a dedicated PSEA Coordinator and two agency co-chairs, was able to achieve the below:

- Engagement with and support to the affected population

Developed inter-agency PSEA IEC materials (Covid 19 PSEA animation video, IEC posters/no excuse cards/ PSEA Network factsheet, posters translated to local languages) and raised awareness (to the communities) about their rights, what SEA is, and what constitutes appropriate behavior of personnel. *Materials available at the following link: <u>https://psea.interagencystandingcommittee.org/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/iraq</u>*

- Management and Coordination

- Developed a 2021/2022 PSEA Action Plan that was endorsed by UNCT and submitted to the Office of the Special Representative on sexual exploitation and abuse, with its implementation ongoing.
- Conducted PSEA capacity assessments for some (UNICEF/UNFPA/UNDP) UN implementing partners.
- Developed the PSEA Network TORs with an expanded membership of I/NGOs (6 slots) under the NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq (NCCI).



- Launched an inter-agency SEA risk assessment.
- Developed Iraq inter-agency information sharing protocols that define how to share anonymized SEA data safely and in a confidential manner in line with individual organizations internal protocols/policies.
- Drafted PSEA focal points TORs.
- Formulated a victim assistance protocol specific to the Iraq context.
- Integrated PSEA into the Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan.

- Prevention

- Advocated for PSEA to be a priority throughout programming and supported actors working in operational areas to embed SEA risk mitigation in project design, implementation, and monitoring.
- Designed PSEA training materials and delivered induction and refresher trainings on PSEA to over 500

UN personnel and non-personnel.

- Coordinated the provision of awareness raising on PSEA for all personnel in the country, including their responsibility to report all suspicions of sexual exploitation and abuse committed by colleagues (ST/SGB/2003/13).
- Established code of conduct and advocated within individual agencies on the need for staff to appraise themselves with code of conduct and to sign and abide by the code of conduct.



- Response

- Established inter-agency CBCMs and SOPs for recording and processing SEA allegations and linked them to the referral pathways.
- In collaboration with CP/GBV actors updated the 4W matrix and developed inter-agency referral pathways for critical survivor/victim services which include health, psychosocial, safety and security, legal, and material support in Iraq.

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



Photo |UNOPS |IRAQ

2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results



Photo |UNHCR |IRAQ

Achieving Social Cohesion, Protection and Inclusion

In 2021, the focus under this strategic priority area was on immediate social cohesion, peacebuilding, protection and social protection issues emerging from the humanitarian situation as well as more entrenched issues that have not been fully addressed to date, such as Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE).

In 2021, the UN supported the Iraq National Action Plan, National Child Protection Policy and legal decree and policy for the recognition of HLP rights of IDPs and returnees that strengthened national frameworks for social cohesion and built capacity of over thirty-four government institutions, to advocate and implement protection services, peace building and social cohesion programs. Overall, UN support of social protection services reached 1,731,700 households and 3,078 victims of violence. Fifteen programs were implemented to address improvement of marginalized and vulnerable groups' access to social protection services which reached 85% of the targeted population. The national poverty rate reached an estimated 24.8% percent of the population down from 31.7% percent in 2020. Currently, 25% of women hold parliament seats and government committees. Over 15,229 women and adolescents/youth were supported to engage and participate in leadership, decision making and peacebuilding mechanisms nation-wide. A total of 278,104 community members were actively engaged in resilience programmes in 2021.

2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results



Photo |IOM |IRAQ

Growing the Economy for All

In 2021, the focus under this strategic priority area was on supporting the Government of Iraq to continue implementing economic policy reforms on tackling cross-cutting impediments for privatesector led diversification, reforming governance and promoting private sector participation in selected productive sectors and mitigating the situation for greater diversification and investment in non-oil sectors. In 2021, UN assistance helped to create 8,276 jobs and 40,200 youth received technical and vocational training to be better prepared for employment in future. In addition, 37,146 people, including 19,775 households, received support with livelihood services. On the policy level, the UN supported the Government of Iraq to develop and implement legislation and policies for employment and economic growth. As a result, 14 policies, partnerships, and frameworks were supported, and 45 new private sector partnerships were established for inclusive economic growth in 2021. The labour force participation rate reached 40% for both sexes. The male labour force participation was 80% and female 20% in 2021.

Promoting Effective, Inclusive and Efficient Institutions and Services

In 2021, the focus under this strategic priority area was on support for strengthening delivery of and equitable access to quality services, promoting partnerships between government, civil society, and the private sector, strengthening delivery on obligations such as international conventions and national strategies, promoting accountable, inclusive and transparent institutions that inspire trust, and promoting women's leadership in the decision-making processes

In 2021, the UN supported twelve institutions, both at the federal level and KRI, with adoption evidence-based policies to deliver inclusive, gender and age responsive services. These were MoE, MoH, MoLSA, MoP, and general directorates in ten governorates. In order to support evidencebased policies, the UN assisted with the adoption of eight information management systems and innovative digital platforms, two knowledge products, and conducted thirteen study and surveys in 2021. In addition, 75 recommendations arising from human rights reports were implemented with UN assistance. On strengthening the service delivery system, in 2021, the UN supported development of nine policies, strategies and legislation, including their implementation that have strengthened institutional and response capacities. In addition, the UN supported eight initiatives to Government bodies to promote women's leadership. As a result, 21.4% of women strengthened knowledge, skills and capacities to advocate for women participation in decision making. The UN actively supported participation of citizens in improving the service delivery system. In 2021, the UN supported fourteen administrative units in ten governorates of Iraq, 629 functional infrastructure projects (84 health care centres, 193 schools), which reached estimated 4.2 million beneficiaries to increase access to services in priority sectors. The UN also facilitated 416 partnerships engaging in sustainable development, conflict prevention and mitigation processes, which reached 2.5 million people from vulnerable groups (women, girls, children IDPs, refugees) in fragile settings including 9 refugee and 26 IPD camps.



Photo |UNFPA |IRAQ

Promoting Natural Resources and Disaster Risk Management

In 2021, the focus under this strategic priority area was on promoting inclusive and transparent resource management and sustainable use of biodiversity, addressing environmental contamination, including UXOs and other conflict related contamination and industrial pollution, promoting trans-boundary cooperation, ensuring equitable access to resources and services, promoting the use of renewable energy and climate adaptation, and improving resilience to shocks through disaster risk preparedness, response and management.



Photo |UNESCO|IRAQ

In 2021, the UN supported two governates to adopt the water safety plans. Twelve DRR strategies and four policies on Iraq's international commitments to mitigate climate change were implemented. 202 community level plans to promote natural resource management, environmental protection and disaster risk reduction, along with ten emergency response plans were successfully completed. At the community level, 1,000 youth were reached with social and civic engagement on climate resilient water, three low-cost water projects were introduced and implemented to fit with the needs of local communities, and three emergency alert and communication systems (EACS) networks were set up and operational in three governorates.



2021 UNCT ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT FOR IRAQ

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Achieving Dignified, Safe and Voluntary Durable Solutions to Displacement in Iraq

In 2021, the focus under this strategic priority area was on supporting the Government of Iraq's 'National Plan for Resolving Displacement', which aims to strengthen area-based stabilization, development and peace building initiatives in locations of displacement and return or relocation, effective government engagement and joint planning, promote local and national government capacities and ownership ensuring equitable access to voluntary, safe and dignified durable solutions for displacement affected populations.

In 2021, the UN supported 8,470 households with rehabilitation and HLP, 67,682 households with income generating and livelihoods services, and 704 households received sustainable security of tenure (own property or long-term rental).

382 interventions, 84 initiatives and 1,209 basic service infrastructures (built, reconstructed, rehabilitated, or improved) were implemented to improve the safety and security of displacement-affected populations in areas of settlement through improved and increased access to social and protection services. As a result, 51% of returnees' households are now living in locations with adequate access to services and infrastructure. In addition, total of 70,890 boys and girls received legal assistance or counselling (documentation, family law matters) and 1,631 national and local authorities were trained on documentation, compensation, access to justice, and establishment of community committees.

STRATEGIC PRIORTY 1

Achieving Social Cohesion, Protection and Inclusion

Outcome 1.1

Strengthened and effective policies and national systems

- Strengthened the investigative capacity of the Government's Fact-Finding Committee to promote accountability for human rights violations and abuses
- Protection of women and girls from domestic violence, encouraging efforts to criminalize domestic violence in Iraq, formalize an effective support system for survivors
- Supported the implementation of the second Iraq National Action Plan (INAP II) of UNSCR 1325
- Supported adoption of a legal decree and policy for the recognition of HLP rights of IDPs and returnees
- Supported the Implementation Plan for National Child Protection Policy in federal Iraq and the Child Rights Act in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq
- 35 districts across Iraq were reached with anti-harmful practices campaigns (mass media, community dialogues, awareness sessions and others)

Outcome 1.2

Equitable and sustainable access to quality protection and social protection systems and services

- Provided Emergency Protection Cash Assistance, and food assistance to all food insecure households in the camps, legal assistance and civil documentation support to IDPs, refugees and returnees
- Overall, 694,845 individuals (nearly 57 per cent females including 227,986 girls and 167,643 women) were reached with child protection and GBV prevention and response services.

Outcome 1.3

Effective mechanisms that prevent, mitigate and manage conflict, and contribute to social cohesion and peaceful coexistence

- Supported information systems to report case of violence, Social Safety Net, GBV data management systems
- 10 National Institutions strengthened their capacity in addressing GBV and gender issues
- Approximately 5,122,881 m² of land was cleared of explosive ordnance in the main cities of Mosul, Fallujah, and Ramadi.



Photo |ILO|IRAQ

Progress in reaching those left behind

- 7,984 refugee, 13,396 IDP and returnee families were included in the multi-purpose cash assistance where a monthly cash support was provided
- 81,806 vulnerable refugee households and 57,252 IDP and returnee families were provided with cash assistance to support their families in addressing winter needs (clothing, fuel for heating, shelter improvement)
- 4,048 households in Sinjar were issued occupancy certificates recognizing their HLP rights

STRATEGIC PRIORTY 2

Growing the Economy for All

Outcome 2.2

Economic policies and legislation

- Supported the signing of two framework agreements with the Central Bank of Iraq and the Ministry of Finance to expand access to economic opportunities for 500 start-ups and existing businesses
- Supported the Ministry of Youth and Sports revising Youth Vision 2030, developing an action plan on volunteerism.
- Child Labor Standards were finalized and training to relevant stakeholders took place to strengthen prevention and response to child labor in Iraq
- UN directly contributed to reinvigorate Iraq's WTO accession process by creating a platform for discussion among key stakeholders. The submission of the revised versions of required documents for WTO accession by the Ministry of Trade represent a key milestone in this process

Outcome 2.2

Access to and engagement in economic activities

- Demand-driven vocational trainings were conducted in the most promising economic sectors
- Enterprise support packages for small enterprises were provided for the most vulnerable people to establish or restore businesses



Photo |WFP|IRAQ

Progress in reaching those left behind

- 31,550 young people (7,150 females), including youth with disabilities, IDPs, poor and other socially excluded groups accessed skills-building opportunities
- 567 young people (264 girls) received seed funding and implemented social/business entrepreneurship initiatives. 162 youth (69 girls) also accessed paid internships and apprenticeships with private-sector companies
- 500 Households in women dairy groups and rural milk collectors received assistance
- 2,800 small dairy holders and 1,095 farmers received various fodder seeds and fertilizers
- 70 households received sprinkler equipment and 20 handy scythe-mowers in 20 Village Women Community Groups
- 1,000MT of locally produced sugar molasses was distributed to 5,000 livestock producers, including 3,000 women

STRATEGIC PRIORTY 3

Promoting Effective, Inclusive and Efficient Institutions and Services

Outcome 3.1

Strengthened institutions and systems to deliver services

- Two anti-corruption strategies and six legislations were reviewed and revised at the federal and KRG level.
- Seventy-five recommendations arising from human rights reports were implemented with UN assistance.

Outcome 3.2

People lead, participate in and contribute to the design and delivery of equitable and responsive services

- Strengthened the capacity of national mine action actors to increase their capacity to lead and coordinate the sector
- Strengthened public healthcare services and upgraded the capacity of maternal and neonatal health facilities in vulnerable areas
- 8,960 professionals trained in applying skills and knowledge in their places of operation and has achieved 391 functional infrastructure projects
- 67 healthcare centres, clinics and hospitals serving nearly 380,000 people were provided with climate resilient WASH facilities.
- 208 schools were provided with basic WASH services serving over 127,000 students.
- 193 schools were built and rehabilitated, serving over 120,000 students.

- Supported the Digital Extension Platform (DEP) to include a farmer-to-farmer (F2F) extension forum; in this regard, virtual training for 325 extension officers were conducted to share knowledge on how to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the food supply chain
- 23 Basic Humanitarian Mine Action Management trainings were conducted in Anbar governorate for 296 Ministry of Interior police officers. Trainings varied among Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD), Explosive Hazard First Responder, and Device Scene Incident Management (DSIM) courses



Photo |UNHCR|IRAQ



Photo |FAO|IRAQ

Progress in reaching those left behind

- Provided extensive support for Iraq's COVID-19 vaccination to reach 30 percent of the population with at least one dose, as part of the national "Mask Up" campaign
- 1,500 Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) distributed to agriculture and veterinary extension services staff and maintained for MoA stock
- A total of 739,090 IDP children at risk were reached with specialized child protection case management and mental health and psychosocial support services, vaccination against polio, formal and non-formal education, and legal documentation
- The Ministry of Education (MoE) with UN support enabled an estimated 4.2 million children to access education

- 394 children with disabilities who accessed services such as physical rehabilitation and psychological support/psychotherapy were assisted.
- 480,796 women of reproductive age provided with RH/FP services and consultations through UN supported facilities. The RH services included the antenatal post-natal care, delivery assistance, gynecological and family planning consultations
- Supported operation of 10 Primary health care centers in Erbil, Suleymania, Dahuk, Halabja, Kalar, Raparin, Soran and Ninewa to serve beneficiaries with disabilities. As a result, 2,483 women and girls with disabilities received reproductive health counseling services
- Supported operations of four isolation units in Zakho, Raparin, Suleymania and Sorani regions to service benefices infected with Covid-19. As a result, 92,968 women, 57 with Covid-19 cases, 250 women with disabilities received reproductive health counseling and 17,630 were assisted with safe delivery



Photo |WHO|IRAQ

STRATEGIC PRIORTY 4

Promoting Natural Resources and Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Resilience

Outcome 4.1

Strengthened policies and frameworks for managing natural resources, developing renewable resources, and increasing resilience

- Supported the Iraqi Ministry of Environment in developing and submitting its NDC to the UNFCCC Secretariat, representing Iraq's international commitments to UN-FCCC and Paris Climate Change Agreement.
- Iraq's National Strategy and Action Plan on Pollution Control was finalized by joint technical support efforts.
- Supported Iraq to enhance its capacities for monitoring and reporting on Multilateral Environmental Agreements through a wellintegrated and functional environment information system. The system will be the main source of information relating to current and evolving status of the environment in Iraq.

Outcome 4.2

Engagement of people, sub-national institutions, civil society, and private sector for management of natural resources and the environment

- Supported the Government of Iraq in strengthening institutional structure for environmentally sound management of chemicals and conducting a mapping exercise that looked at the gaps and suggested solutions for various technical, financial, institutional, and legal working groups.
- A chemical management profile was compiled for Iraq. This chemical profile will be a basis for Iraq to evaluate and make informed decisions on chemical management.
- Three sub-national preparedness plans in Mosul, Salaheddin and Baghdad. These plans increased the resilience of targeted communities against disasters and will contribute to the reduction of risks and losses due to the potential collapse of Mosul Dam.

- Delivered "Support to the rehabilitation of solar ground water irrigation-pumping systems in the regained areas." The deployment of renewable modern irrigation systems represents an easy way for Iraqi farmers to extract water for irrigation, especially for those living off electricity grids.
- Supported the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity assets in Iraq through the establishment of the Protected Areas Network and assisted the country in meeting its obligation under the CBD.
- Launched the "Monitoring land and water productivity by Remote Sensing" project partnering with IHE Delft Institute for Water Education (IHE Delft), the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), and a public private consortium of Dutch and Flemish institutions.
- Within the framework of developing the national adaptation plan on climate change, launched a nationwide campaign on climate change which involved civil society organizations, private sector, and vulnerable groups including women and youth. The objective was to raise awareness about the current and future climate change impacts to increase resilience to climate change.
- Established a debris recycling center in Mosul that is fully operational. By the end of 2021, the project scaled-up to include two other debris recycling centers in Sinjar and Hamdaniya.



Photo |RCO |IRAQ

Progress in reaching those left behind

- The design of the NDC and pollution policies were based on provision of support towards the most vulnerable areas, communities, and groups in Iraq. For example, the southern part of Iraq is defined as the most vulnerable area to climate change and pollution, while the displaced communities and groups in the post-ISIL liberated areas have less adaptive capacity to climate change and pollution
- Program targeting focused on most vulnerable, including women single-headed households and youth vulnerable to food insecurity and/or food insecure. Economic empowerment programming targeted the most vulnerable to food insecurity and/or food insecure and youth and women in part to bridge the gender gap in access to capacity development activities



Photo |IOM|IRAQ

STRATEGIC PRIORTY 5

Achieving Dignified, Safe and Voluntary Durable Solutions to Protracted Displacement

Outcome 5.1

Stabilization, development and peace building initiatives

- Launched Community-based Reconciliation & Reintegration (C2RI) project to provide support to the return and reintegration of 4,000 perceived ISIL-affiliated families in Ninewa, Salah-al-Din and Al-Anbar Governorates by enhancing community readiness to accept the return of these families through tailored MHPSS, livelihoods and PVE interventions.
- Partnerships and systems established and fostered to expand access to finance for 500 young entrepreneurs and existing enterprises in partnership with Central Bank of Iraq and local banks and MFIs
- Employment services strengthened and availed for 7,912 registered job seekers from refugees, IDPs and HC and 1293 employers ensuring the job placement of 817 job seekers (including around 40% females)
- Jobs created for 270 Refugees, IDPs and HC members, and skills developed for 132 Engineers, technical staff and young people.
- Enhanced the skills of 2,704 youth in Mosul and supported them to have employment opportunities.
- Rehabilitated 10 schools in Mosul including WASH facilities and providing additional classrooms and furniture.
- Food insecure households supported through cash and food transferred to households in areas of origin and in secondary displacement.
- UN under its main stabilization vehicle the Funding Facility for Stabilization completed 368 projects across all sectors of intervention in the five liberated governorates of Anbar, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al-Din, generating over 3 million benefits, half of them for women.
- Provided 305 beneficiaries with Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) services.
- UN supported the safe, dignified, and voluntary return of displaced people via residential area clearance and providing Explosive Ordnance Risk Education to populations at risk.
- 13,259 direct Explosive Ordnance Risk Education sessions in Anbar and Ninewa and Basra, reaching 110,520 beneficiaries and 2,890 cash for work workers and humanitarian workers.
- Significantly contributed to ameliorate living conditions in the targeted communities/neighborhoods, including Mosul, Tal Afar, Sinjar, Baaj, and Basra, through reconstruction and rehabilitation of war-damaged houses, installment of basic secondary infrastructure, reconstruction and rehabilitation of public spaces and infrastructure, and HLP related activities.
- Supported the increase in resilience of farmers' livelihoods in crisis-affected liberated areas through rebuilding of agricultural and rural livelihoods, as well as capacity building for agriculture producers.

Photo |UN-Habitat|IRAQ



Photo |ITC|IRAQ

Outcome 5.2 Policies, strategies and plans to achieve durable solutions

• Supported the approval of a holistic policy for the integration of refugee children in the education system in the Kurdistan Region.

Progress in reaching those left behind

- 1,208 women and girls GBV survivors were able to access legal assistance and counselling
- 232 marginalized and vulnerable women refugees and internally displaced, and women in high-risk situations in camps and host communities accessed new income generation, livelihoods and economic opportunities through targeted cash-based interventions and the development of professional capacities and skills, and now possess increased skills and capacity for income generation
- 1,192 women and girls' refugees and IDPs that are GBV survivors and/or at risk of GBV in camps and host communities were able to access GBV protection services
- 273 women and their families from camps and host communities were able to access legal protection services through the hotlines and domestic violence courts
- 101,751 people in humanitarian settings (51 percent female) gained access to safely managed water, while 13,270 (51 percent females) gained access to safely managed sanitation services





UNSDCF Annual Budgetary EXPENDITURE \$ 2021



2.3. Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

Following a well established practice, UN agencies in Iraq continued to partner with universities, including Mosul, Nineveh, Erbil, Al Furat Al Awsat, and the American Universities in Duhok and Sulaymaniyah to carry out activities is areas ranging from rehabilitation of historical sites, sustainable energy, mental health, women empowerment, and advocacy. For instance, coordination with the Erbil Polytechnic University to develop a training program for tourist guides and support in developing a tourism plan for the Erbil Citadel. Furthermore, partnering with foreign academic institutions such as the Folk Bernadotte Academy in Sweden and researcher from Georgetown University in United States of America UN agencies implemented activities focused on durable solutions in Iraq, youth, peace, and security.



The UN in Iraq was also able to engage with a variety of third sector organizations such as the Iraqi Network for social media, the Iraq Bar Association and the National Museum for the promotion and preservation of minority languages and the promotion and protection of human rights and safety of journalists

The UN also continued partnering with the private sector in Iraq in many areas, including with communications service providers (Zain, Korek and Asiacell) to deliver internet connection to 3,000 schools in Iraq free of charge, but most critically, to improve access to income generating activities. For instance, partnering with private banks to raise awareness on financial services available, including orientation sessions to address demand side constraints in accessing loans and match eligible businesses with appropriate services.

Contributing Partners

SDGs



Linking Investments Partners and the Sustainable Development Goals

New avenues of partnerships have been opened on decentralized cooperation with the close collaboration with VNG (Dutch United Municipalities – a Dutch Government Development Entity) and DRC working with the overall objective of improving the resilience of local authorities and communities in Iraq through access to basic services and increased job opportunities and/or business development (LOGOReP project). The UN supported the development of investment catalogues and development plans, with refugee camps in municipalities (Basirma, Qushtapa and Kawergosk in Erbil Governorate) and aligned its own area-based development projects in Erbil governorate with the LOGOReP project to enhance local integration possibilities.

The UN also sought to incorporate innovative approaches to complex issues such as the prevention of violent extremism (PVE) partnering with the Institute for Strategic Dialogue and the Strong Cities Network in Mosul to develop local-specific PVE programming and engage in regional exchanges as part of the Strong Cities Network. It also coordinated with local executive and educational authorities to redevelop educational curriculum in formerly ISILoccupied areas. This has been complemented with research on the Iraqi extremism ecosystem with a view to create a classification system that can provide a more nuanced understanding of Salafi-jihadist approaches among policymakers in Iraq and in the Middle East. The final objective would be to improve the government's capacity to implement the National PVE Strategy and therefore reduce the risk of renewed violence.

Operating as One

In 2021, Iraq's Operations Management Team (OMT), in line with the "efficiency agenda," consolidated business operations while supporting more effective programmes.

The productive collaboration of UN AFPs in the areas of administration, finance, HR, ICT, logistics and procurement contributed to align efforts and maximize system efficiencies.

Significant progress was achieved against the annual targets set within the Results Framework. More specifically, in the spirit of increased economies of scale, reduced transaction costs, agility and improved relations with contractors, several steps have been taken to carry out Common Procurement Actions, including joint solicitation to leverage buyer power to achieve rates and prices that no single organization could obtain individually, thereby increasing value for money for all participating parties. In this regard, several tenders were jointly prepared by the Procurement, Admin, Finance and ICT Working Groups: "conference and event management services," "customs clearance and exemption services," "travel management services," "in-land transportation services," "contract management for banking services" and "internet services" have resulted in LTAs contributing to an overall realized cost avoidance of around USD 500,000.







Out of the 29 service lines jointly identified in the BOS, several services have been implemented and scaled up, including vehicle maintenance, parking services and VHF improvement. Additionally, the OMT Common Platform was established; OMT and WGs members are actively sharing information and discussing relevant issues through the Teams workspace.

In September 2021, taking into consideration the findings reached during the reporting phase, Iraq's OMT started the BOS Annual review. Achievements, bottlenecks, and delays were discussed, and priorities set for 2022, currently under finalization.

A key enabler for common services is Common Premises (CP). Iraq's OMT, with the Support of the CP Working Group, initiated the rollout of the Country Common Premises Plan, consisting of an assessment of the current premises situation (completed in February 2022) and a detailed analysis of projects to be implemented towards achieving a higher common premises percentage and efficiency gains, aiming at increasing Footprint Efficiencies.







Communication as One

Communicating and Advocating Together

Joint communication and advocacy efforts increased in 2021. While each UN organization conducted numerous communication and advocacy initiatives and activities relevant to their mandates, the UN Strategic Communication Group (UNSCG) focused on collective action. In 2021, centered around COVID-19, several joint communication campaigns were conducted by the UN Iraq to raise the visibility of the UN and increase awareness of the SDGs and 2030 agenda.

In addition to these, the UNSCG coordinated widely on several joint press releases, statements, and social media, including on joint visits to project sites and organized a significant number of outreach events dedicated to mark important UN



international days and campaigns, including engaging youth in the promotion of the SDGs and celebrating and the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, International Day of Education, International Women's Day (including a joint campaign featuring all UN representatives), support around encouraging the public to vote, World Youth Skills Day, World Youth Day, and advocacy and communications around COP26, including celebrating Iraq joining the Paris Agreement and call for action around climate change. The most impactful and wide-reaching campaigns are showcased below.

Within its COVID-19 risk communication efforts, the UNSCG reached out to the general public through animations and social media cards to promote hygiene and social distancing to inform the public about the risks associated with COVID-19 and raise awareness of protection measures against the virus, developing information materials on vaccination, handwashing and sneezing/coughing, providing specific information to promote healthy and responsible behavior at home and in the community, and to prevent the spread of the pandemic and combat misinformation.



The UN Agencies in Iraq organized the COVID-19 awareness-raising campaign, Mask-Up, reaching over a million via social media platforms, involving more than eight UN partners and cluster partners. The UNSCG developed a series of staff videos in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, which aimed to help the country overcome the pandemic and encourage the population in Iraq to respect and follow the COVID-19 WHO preventative measures in line with SDG 3 and urging everyone to help break the chains of COVID-19 transmission by wearing a mask, physical distancing, and avoiding crowds.

Moreover, an awareness-raising SDG Campaign was organized by the UNSCG, reaching more than three million Iraqis through digital and offline activities, involving six civil society organizations including universities and ten UN partners. Awareness was raised, on one hand, through a digital campaign involving social media channels of most of the UN country team showcasing SDGs and describing its importance for Irag, and on the other hand, through the creation of six murals in universities and public spaces across the country to engage youth and promote public discussions. The project also served to enhance teamwork across the UN agencies, as all materials were joint in nature and coordinated by agency communications focal points.

In order to strengthen coordination around communication and support monitoring of communication actions, a communication tracker was created by RCO in 2021 to capture timely events, campaigns, and communications initiatives. The tracker allows all UN agencies to input planned communication activities and provides the space for collaboration among all agencies in order to increase efficiency in communication and avoid duplication.

The UNSCG, coordinated and led by the RCO and supported by WFP, revised and reworked the UN Iraq Communications Strategy and Workplan focusing on improving interagency cooperation to ensure consistent and cohesive messaging and enhance the image of the UN and align with the revised UNSDCF, which was signed in 2021 with the government.

In addition, RCO worked closely with UN agencies to produce two human-interest stories, bringing a strong human element to life with a focus on a grassroots narrative and human-centered issues linked to a specific Sustainable Development Goal and the UN's concrete support on the ground. The articles were published on the online platforms managed by the DGC and DCO headquarters, including the UNSDG global website and the UNDCO website.

Finally, the new user-friendly UN Irag website (iraq.un.org) was successfully developed and launched in September 2021 in English, Arabic and Kurdish languages and accumulated 121,881 pageviews by year-end. The new website's objective is to strengthen collective communications on how the UN system in Iraq supports the Government to deliver on the SDGs and Agenda 2030. The UN agencies collaborated closely, led by the RCO and UNAMI PIO, on the new UN Iraq website, aligning with the style of all UN websites globally as per the UN Sustainable Development Group guidance. The website also integrates the UN INFO database, a planning and reporting hub for UN entities, capturing the scope of work and progress of ongoing UN projects and programmes in the country to promote transparency and accountability.

Looking ahead, through the work of the UNSCG and with the UNCT's concerted engagement and support, the communication and advocacy focus will be on highlighting the socio-economic fallout of COVID-19 and recover better campaign. The UN in Iraq remains committed to ensuring coherent messaging and strategic positioning of the UN through joint communication campaigns and initiatives in support of the people and the Government of Iraq.



Photo |RCO|IRAQ

In 2021, UN agencies supported assessments, studies, evaluations and surveys to enable evidence-based programming and verify the achievements against expected results as depicted in UNSCDF results framework. The following assessments, studies, surveys were conducted during the reporting year:

 Social Norms in Iraq and the role of women in KRG Institutions



- Assessment of the Social Safety Net Management Information System to provide recommendations to upgrade the SSN MIS.
- A study on Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women through Mine Action in Ninewa.
- Two evaluations conducted by UNICEF on Mental Health, Psychosocial support, and WASH.
- Rapid market assessments and value chains to inform the most promising economic sectors and activities for employment and self-employment support.
- Assessment of agribusiness and farm-level assessments of 600 agri-food farmers and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and a study to identify high potentials in agri-food sectors.
- A study to track the impact of COVID-19 on crop and livestock production.
- Participatory Assessment on livelihood opportunities.
- The impact monitoring of COVID-19 on smallholder farmers' livelihoods and on food security, and ongoing trends to inform policy recommendations.
- Joint assessment of WASH projects against the UN Environmental Management Framework and empower young people through youth-led research and civic engagement initiatives addressing climate change.
- Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) on climate change and water scarcity in Al Zubair district in Basra with the objective of identifying existing water related issues caused by water scarcity and the background of these communities.
- A study on the main barriers to identify key obstacles to resilience building, mapping constraints limiting climate adaption.
- A survey of over 600 farms and small and medium enterprises to understand how farmers are affected by climate change and the impediments they perceive to implement specific strategies.
- A study on a climate change and environment mainstreaming 'Taking stock of climate change and environment risks in Iraq' in northern rain-fed areas (Ninewa, Kirkuk, Duhok, Erbil, Al-Sulaymaniyah) and central/southern irrigated production areas (Al-Basrah, Maysan, Thi Qar).
- Five studies on water accounting and productivity in the north, center and south of Iraq on the impact of agricultural practices, availability of water resources, and social and economic factors on water productivity of wheat and barley crops.
- Food security assessment in areas of returnees as well as in informal settlements to inform the development of food security and livelihood programming.
- A KAP survey on Family Planning and a nation-wide Iraqi Integrated Women Social and Health Survey (I-WISH2), thereby facilitating policymaking and programming of the reproductive health services and rights.

The lessons learned and recommendations from the above-mentioned surveys, assessments, and studies were used to improve programming, triangulation of reported results, and formed a basis for humanitarian assistance and support the Government for policy-making to ensure sustainability and progress towards achieving national priority goals and SDGs.

In 2021 a 58% funding of the overall UNSDCF budget was achieved, with efforts to fund activities around SP 3 being the most successful at seventy-two percent of the total budget already mobilized that year. SP1 achieved a sixty-five percent, SP2 fifty-six, SP 5 fifty-one percent, and SP 4 forty-three percent. (See Resource Mobilization Chart below)

For the reporting period, the total budget across all UNSDCF Strategic Priorities (SPs) totaled arounds \$1.18 billion for all UN Agencies Funds and Programmes, of which 43% was delivered during the reporting period due to, among other things, the availability of financial resources. The delivery rate varied by Strategic Priority, with SP 1 being the most performing of all with seventy percent of its planned budget for 2021 delivered, followed by SP 3 with a forty-nine percent delivery rate, SP 2 and SP 4 with forty-six percent, and finally SP 5 with twenty-seven percent of its budget delivered.

The Funding Facility for Stabilization continued to be a performing mechanism for resource mobilization for stabilization activities in areas affected by the ISIL conflict. The FFS mobilized an additional \$79,614,399 in 2021. Against the FFS delivery target of \$155,178,455 for the year 2021, FFS delivered \$174,562,971 (112%) in 2021.



PMT Updates for 2021 UNCT Annual Results Report (ARR)

In the beginning of the 2021 the UNCT in its retreat agreed to update the CCA based on the request from the Iraqi Minister of Planning, reflecting the Covid-19 pandemic and new development objectives in country. The update of the CCA was initiated in January 2021 and finalized in March 2021. The next update of the CCA is expected to take place after the formation of the new government.

Durable Solutions

In the beginning of 2021, the Durable Solutions Strategic Priority was included in the UNSDCF to ensure that durable solutions is provided to people in need and is a viable solution. UNSDCF incorporated the Durable Solutions Tasks Force (DSTF) as a coordinating body and will align coordination and implementation efforts in line with National Plan – developed with the MoMD - as well as the Strategic Operational Framework. In close coordination with local authorities, international partners will provide technical support to the affected communities through the Durable Solution Task Working Groups (DSTWG) and Area Based Coordination (ABC) across different governorates and districts to ensure that the rights of displaced populations are fully protected and included into national social protection schemes and durable



Photo |UNDP|IRAQ

Climate change and the degradation of the environment are the biggest threats for everyone and all countries. With the intensifying challenges of the climate crisis, Iraq needs to act fast to protect the environment. The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, including Iraq is one of the most vulnerable regions where the temperature is rising, increasing the intensity and frequency of extreme weather conditions such as heat waves and desertification due to drought. The rise of high temperatures and extreme heat will directly effect Iraq and impact urban life, living conditions, and illness related to heat. There is an increasing need to work on adaptation and mitigation measures led by the government to address the environmental and climate challenges.

SDG Working Group

The SDG Working Group was launched in March 2021, aiming to support the Government of Iraq in adoption of the SDGs and implementation and monitoring the 2030 Agenda. It is focused on facilitating the understanding of SDG implementation, monitoring, existing challenges, opportunities, and priority areas in Iraq, and will advocate for SDG mainstreaming in all sectors as well as support the compilation of Voluntary National Reviews.

Iraq Development Trust Fund (IDTF)

In December 2021, the UNCT initiated the establishment of the Iraq Development Trust Fund, which aims to support the accomplishment of the UNSDCF and its broader goal of achieving of the UNSDGs.

UN Network on Migration

The UN Network on Migration Working Group was established and started to work in March 2021, aiming to provide a platform for cross-UN coordination and stakeholder engagement to support the Government of Iraq in implementing the Global Compact for Migration (GCM).



ABC	Area Based Coordination
AFP	Agency Focal Point
BOS	Business Operations Strategy
CCA	Common Country Analysis
COVAX	COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
СР	Common Premises
DEP	Digital Extension Platform
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DSIM	Device Scene Incident Management
DSTF	Durable Solutions Task Force
DSTWG	Durable Solution Task Working Groups
EACS	emergency Alert and Communication Systems
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission. for Western Asia
F2F	farmer-to-farmer
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FFS	Funding Facility for Stabilization
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GCM	Global Compact for Migration
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
Gol	Government of Iraq
НС	Host Community
HLP	Housing, Land, and Property
HR	Human Resources
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
ICT	Information and Communication Team
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
IHE	International Institute for Infrastructural, Hydraulic and Environ-
	mental Engineering
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INAP	Iraq National Action Plan
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISIL	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
ITC	International Trade Centre
JSC	Joint Steering Committee
JWP	Joint Work Plan
KRG	Kurdistan Regional Government
KRI	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
LTA	Long Term Agreement
MIS	Management Information System
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture

MoC	Ministry of Communications
МоСН	Ministry of Municipalities & Public Works
MoCUL	Ministry of Culture
MoD	Ministry of Defense
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoEE	Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy
MoEN	Ministry of Environment
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
МоН	Ministry of Health
MoHESR	Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
Mol	Ministry of Interior
MolM	Ministry of Industry & Minerals
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
MoMD	Ministry of Migration and Displacement
MoO	Ministry of Oil
МоР	Ministry of Planning
MoST	Ministry of Science & Technology
MoT	Ministry of Trade
MoTRANS	Ministry of Transportation
MoWR	Ministry of Water Resources
MoYS	Ministry of Youth & Sports
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NDC	National Determined Contribution
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ОСНА	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OMT	Operations Management Team
PMT	Programme Management Team
РоА	Plans of Action
POE	Points of Entry
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PSEA	Prevention from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
PVE	Prevention of Violent Extremism
PWG	Priority Work Group
RCO	Resident Coordinator Office
RH/FP	Reproductive Health/Family Planning
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-based Violence
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SP	Strategic Priority
SSN	Social Safety Net
UN	United Nations
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment

	UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
	UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
/	UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
	UNDS	United Nations Development System
	UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safe and Security
	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
	UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
	UNHRC	United Nations Human Rights Council
	UNICEF	United Nation International Children's Emergency Fund
	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
	UNSCG	UN Strategic Communication Group
	UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frame- work
	UNSDG	United Nations Sustainable Development Group
	UXO	Unexploded ordnance
	VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
	VNG	Dutch United Municipalities
	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
	WB	World Bank
	WFP	World Food Programme
	WHO	World Health Organization
	WTO	World Trade Organization

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