

# FAST FACTS

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## UNDP Iraq

### Rule of Law Programme

The rule of law is based on justice and security as two of the most essential prerequisites for sustainable peace and development. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Rule of Law Programme therefore aims to promote effective delivery of responsive and accountable justice and security, protect people's rights, support post conflict recovery and foster development in Iraq.

Whilst the security environment in the country remains complex and challenging, this Programme was designed to respond to immediate justice and security needs, and to lay the foundations for long-term stability and development.



Launch of Support to Security Sector Reform - Phase II, Baghdad. Photo: UNDP Iraq/2015

### Rule of Law Engagement

UNDP has been investing efforts in upstream prevention and strengthening the rule of law with a specific emphasis on justice and security. The Programme strategy aims to contribute to **security** sector reform in order to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of Iraq's security sector and promote its accountable and responsive governance and civilian oversight. Improving equitable access to **justice**, with a focus on normative and transformative aspects to promote justice as prevention, is another objective.

### MATTERS OF FACT

- **10** Legal Aid Centers for SGBV victims established in Baghdad, Diwaniya, Karbala, Erbil, Sulaimaniyah and Duhok
- **3000** SGBV survivors from the displaced populations benefited from legal aid services
- **60** officials from the Independent Board of Human Rights (IBHR) trained; and **HR Law** reviewed to ensure compliance with international norms and principles
- **National Security Strategy** endorsed by the Council of Ministers, and Government's Security Sector Reform Plan initiated
- **Strategic partnerships** established with the Office of the National Security Advisor (ONSA), Judiciary, civil society, Family Protection Units and Directorates of Combating Violence against Women (DCVAW)

Informed by the Government of Iraq's (GoI) justice development and reform road map, the Rule of Law Programme aims to support justice reform efforts through undertaking a legal audit/review of security sector agencies and criminal justice systems.

Furthermore, UNDP is expected to engage in promoting a context specific understanding of post conflict justice/transitional justice process, through collaborative action with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.

### Key Results

- **Security Sector Reform:** In support of security sector reform in Iraq, UNDP maintains a successful strategic partnership with the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA). It was at the request of ONSA in early 2015 that UNDP had provided technical advice and strategic guidance, leading to the development and endorsement of the GoI National Security Strategy (NSS), which centralizes the concept of human security and promotes inclusivity and equality.

Security Sector being essential for contributing to the overall NSS has revealed the immediate need for GoI

to focus on crafting a reform plan. UNDP and ONSA developed the Support to Security Sector Reform - Phase II programme of work in 2015 to address the short, medium and long-term priorities needed to enhance the efficiency, and effectiveness of Iraq's security sector, and to engage with civil society. The programme has been focusing on the following institutional reforms:

- Defense and federal security
- Intelligence
- Critical national infrastructure
- Democratic oversight and accountability
- National security architecture
- Criminal justice systems and civilian policing
- Law enforcement systems

#### • Legal Aid Service Delivery to IDPs and Refugees:

The ongoing conflict and instability in Iraq and Syria have triggered acute demographic destabilization with increasing numbers of refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) further increasing their vulnerability. Women and girls are in need of additional support and protection against rights violations such as sexual and gender based violence (SGBV).

UNDP has been working extensively to improve legal assistance to the displaced and most vulnerable through the provision of legal aid service delivery. UNDP supported ten Legal Aid Centers and nine court-based legal aid help desks in five cities across Iraq.

Legal aid awareness raising activities are also conducted inside the IDP and refugee camps; and support has been provided to the Government and civil society organizations (CSOs) to improve their understanding of legal aid principles in line with international practices and standards.

### Rule of Law Funding

UNDP has received funding for its rule of law activities from four donors and the United Nations in 2015, as outlined in the below table.

Country	Amount
Denmark	US\$1,000,000
The Netherlands	\$1,300,000
United Kingdom	\$767,000
Japan	\$100,000
UN Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS)	\$350,000

## About UNDP Iraq

Present in Iraq since 1976, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is committed to supporting the Government and people of Iraq during their transition towards reconciliation, reform and stability. UNDP's support ranges from promoting emergency livelihoods and community dialogue in districts impacted by the crisis, to prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) amongst Syrian refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs), to helping stabilize newly liberated areas through its Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization (FFIS). Further support includes inclusive area-based planning, governance reforms, decentralization, rule of law, and environment and climate change.



Marking the 16 day-global campaign against gender-based violence at the University of Basra. Photo: UNDP Iraq/2015

UNDP is a major partner contributing to democratic process and good governance in Iraq. UNDP has provided technical assistance in support of the 2010 national Parliamentary elections and 2013 provincial elections. Its support to the Government, at both Federal and Regional levels, has been instrumental in prioritizing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and safeguarding development gains achieved. UNDP is further committed to help the country to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Well positioned with a track record in different areas, UNDP stands ready to move towards a cutting-edge resilience agenda with a gender-dimension and a specific focus on economy, social cohesion and national reconciliation, in order to help the people of Iraq recover and build a brighter future.

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International Zone, Baghdad, Iraq

April 2016

