

FAST FACTS

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UNDP Iraq

Support for Integrated Reconciliation in Iraq (SIRI)

Several national reconciliation programmes undertaken in Iraq since 2003 focused on the political elites with limited civic participation and have yet to realize the goal of national unity and stability, and fully match demand for accountability and transitional justice.

The recent defeat of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) presents an important opportunity to support Iraq to undertake a nuanced, systematic approach to civic-led reconciliation. Therefore, preparing the ground for transitional justice whilst supporting urgently needed community-based conflict resolution to expedite the return of internally displaced people (IDPs) as a major contributing factor to stability.

In January 2017, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) partnered with the Implementation and Follow-up National Reconciliation Committee (IFNRC) to launch the project Support for Integrated Reconciliation in Iraq (SIRI). This project is supporting efforts to promote reconciliation as a pathway towards a more non-violent, representative and resilient Iraq.



Beneficiary at the women centre in Tikrit. Photo: Israa Mansour/UNDP Iraq/2017

SIRI Engagement

Through SIRI, UNDP is supporting Iraq in three areas:

- Establishment of Local Peace Committees (LPCs) to increase the level of trust within communities and between communities and authorities, enhance social cohesion and coexistence, and develop a greater focus on civic concerns through national reconciliation mechanisms.

MATTERS OF FACT

- **6 Local Peace Committees** established benefiting hundreds of returnees in Salah al-Din, Anbar and Diyala
- **508 women** empowered, legally and psycho-socially supported through a women centre established in Tikrit
- **6 minorities groups** in Ninewah communicated concerns and perspectives through focus groups
- **Public awareness campaign** on community reconciliation on track
- **Coordination mechanism** created for NGOs, agencies and government bodies

- Victim Support with an emphasis on the redress of sexual and gender crime to record and address victims' testimonies, experiences and perspectives on Gross Human Rights Violations (GHV); recording and dissemination of victims' views on transitional justice post-ISIL; and fostering recognition by the Iraqi State of GHV victims in a uniform and inclusive manner.

- Public awareness raising through the development of higher levels of civic consultations for top-level political processes; messages targeting vulnerable groups such as women, youth and minorities, as well as academics and the media; and creation of a base of supporters and advocates within communities.

Key Results

Since the launch of the SIRI project in early 2017, the following results have been achieved:

- Concerns of hundreds of returnees directed for addressing through 6 Local Peace Committees UNDP helped to establish: 3 in Salah al-Din, 2 in Anbar, and Iraq's first all-women LPC in Diyala.
- 508 women benefited from the women centre in Tikrit, Salah al-Din, established in September 2017: 142 women benefited from skills and economic empowerment schemes, 265 women sought and received social support including individual interviews and dialogue sessions with specialists, and 101 women received legal support including consultation and representation related to incidents of violence.

- Concerns and perspectives of 6 minorities groups in Ninewah recorded through focus group discussions, feeding into a provincial conference organized in December 2017 to address some of the grievances.
- Public awareness campaign on track as outreach and key messages have been defined through consultative sessions with agents of change, media experts and journalists with different backgrounds identified, a pool of national supporters mobilized via public sessions and online platforms targeting youth, and Public Service Announcements started.
- Coordination mechanism created for non-governmental organizations, agencies and government bodies engaged in civic-led reconciliation.
- Social Cohesion Measurement tool in design for early warning capacity for informed, coordinated action.

Urgent Priorities in 2018

- Safe, sustainable and voluntary IDP returns in Anbar, Salah al-Din and other critical areas;
- Expansion, capacitation and coordination of a network of Local Peace Committees to be active and effective in mitigating local conflict and fostering social cohesion. This includes respective mechanisms and processes for minorities in Ninewah;
- Public awareness campaign on reconciliation in the run-up to, during and after the national elections earmarked for May 2018;
- Youth-focused education and awareness raising programmes at selected universities and on online platforms, beginning at Tikrit University;
- Expansion of women centres across ISIL-affected areas, and micro-projects for women in Salah al-Din;
- Development of a holistic victim support package, including for women, comprising of legal aid, psycho-social assistance, access to justice, restitution, and documentation of testimonies; and
- Capacitation of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour social workers to implement victim support programmes nationally.

SIRI Funding

The estimated budget of SIRI is US\$ 50 million over a period of 5 years. Funding to date is as follows:

Donor	Amount
United Kingdom	\$1,249,858 (2017)
	\$1,249,858 (2018)
Germany	\$2,830,463 (2017)

About UNDP Iraq

Present in Iraq since 1976, UNDP is committed to supporting the Government and people of Iraq during 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 the Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS). Further support includes inclusive area-based planning, governance reforms, decentralization, rule of law, and environment and climate change.



Workshop on the role of women in community reconciliation in Diyala. Photo: Israa Mansour/UNDP Iraq/2017

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 is moving towards a cutting-edge resilience agenda with a gender dimension and a focus on economy, social cohesion and reconciliation, in order to help the people of Iraq recover and build a brighter future.

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