

FAST FACTS

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UNDP Iraq

Budget Execution Support (BES) to the Kurdistan Regional Government

As part of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) support to Iraq, technical assistance and capacity building has been provided to enhance the role of government institutions in socio-economic development and to contribute to improved governance practices.

In 2008, UNDP signed a long-term agreement with the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) for Budget Execution Support (BES). Running through 2016, the project contributes to KRG's efforts to develop more effective, accountable and transparent public financial management. BES has laid the foundations to accelerate stabilization, reconstruction and development in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I).



Team planning workshop on KRG Capital Investment Budget, Erbil. Photo: UNDP Iraq/2015

BES Engagement

UNDP's BES project responds to KRG's Public Financial Management Action Plan, and provides technical assistance to KRG counterparts for the following purposes: Strengthening budget policy, planning and formulation; improving budget execution and monitoring; developing budget reporting, oversight and control; and strengthening the management information system (MIS) and budgetary processes.

MATTERS OF FACT

- **2** reviews conducted for the KRG Regional Development Strategy
- **3** Sector Development Strategies prepared for agriculture, education and health sectors
- **3** communications strategies developed for KRG's Ministries of Finance and Planning
- **3** key documents produced for KRG: Fiscal Decentralization Information Package, Medium Term Expenditure Framework for the Public Investment Programme, and Procedures Manual for Centralized Expenditures for the Ministry of Finance
- **138** is the number of KRG officials who received specialized training in public financial management areas, including fiscal decentralization

Project activities range from providing extensive capacity building and training, to technical support and strategic planning. It further includes securing advisory services, developing guidance manuals, in addition to financial management hardware and software.

Key Results

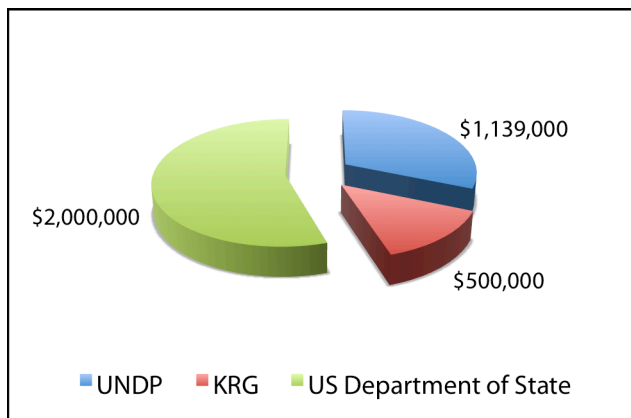
Due to KRG's commitment to improving governance practices, the Budget Execution Support project has been able to respond to the Region's Public Financial Management Action Plan through the following:

- Conducting two reviews for KRG's Regional Development Strategy 2011 – 2015 and 2012 – 2016.
- Introducing Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) for the Public Investment Programme.
- Drafting Sector Development Strategies for the Ministries of Agriculture, Education and Health.
- Developing Procedures Manual for Centralized Expenditures for the Ministry of Finance, including analysis of current procedures and recommendations for more efficiency and better control.

- Providing in-depth analysis and recommendations for the modernization of KRG's Financial Information System.
- Conceptualization of three comprehensive communications strategies for the Ministries of Finance and Planning.
- Training of 129 KRG officials on public financial management.
- Organizing a study tour to Spain for 9 KRG officials to benefit from lessons learned in fiscal decentralization.

BES Funding

UNDP's Budget Execution Support project has been implemented with a total budget of US\$3,639,000* partially provided by the Kurdistan Regional Government and the United States Department of State.



*UNDP Figures as of July 2016

As per a recently signed Memorandum of Understanding with the KRG, UNDP is to support the Kurdistan Development Management System (KDMS) as a tool for planning and monitoring capital public investment projects.

Once additional funding is available, UNDP will engage further to modernize KRG's financial information system and treasury single account, and to capacitate the Board of Supreme Audit.

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.



Awareness session on public finance held in Amman. Photo: UNDP Iraq/2014

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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