

IRAQ

Child Protection Sectoral and OR+ (Thematic) Report

January to December 2018



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Prepared by UNICEF Iraq
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On Cover: “A young boy living in Baherka IDP camp, Erbil, takes part in activities in the Child-Friendly Space”
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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AOG	Armed Opposition Groups
CCC	Core Commitments for Children
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
CFS	Child Friendly Space
CPWG	Child Protection Working Groups
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CT	Cash Transfer
DoE	Directorate of Education
DoLSA	Directorate of Labour and Social Affairs
GoI	Government of Iraq
HAC	Humanitarian Action for Children
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
ISIL	Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant
KRI	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
KRG	Kurdistan Regional Government
MoE	Ministry of Education
MRM	Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism
MoLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
MoH	Ministry of Health
NCPP	National Child Protection Policy
NIHR	National Institute for Human Rights
NLG	No Lost Generation
NPD	National Development Plan
PFA	Psychological First Aid
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
PSS	Psychosocial Support Services
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
WASH	Water, Sanitation, Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization
YFS	Youth-Friendly Space
3RP	Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (Syrian refugee response)

Executive Summary

UNICEF's Child Protection Programme is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and other related international conventions such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children (CCC) also provide a guiding framework for the child protection programme.

At country level, UNICEF's 2016 to 2019 programme is being implemented in line with the UNICEF Global Strategic Plan 2018 to 2021, and in support of the Government of Iraq (GoI) at national, regional and subnational levels to strengthen basic social services to reach the most vulnerable children and women, especially those affected by conflict and displacement, in support of the Iraq National Development Plan (NPD) 2018 to 2021, the Iraq Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and the Kurdistan Regional Government's 'Vision 2020'.

UNICEF Iraq in partnership and collaboration with the Government of Iraq (GoI) and its donors are implementing a variety of interventions in support of children in Iraq. In 2017, after five years of consultation, development and review, with UNICEF's technical and financial support, the GoI adopted and launched the Iraq National Child Protection Policy (NCPPI). In 2018, work to contextualise and implement the Policy at federal and regional levels continued, although slowed by political uncertainties and internal tensions. Discussions with both governments to review all child protection-related laws progressed, with the intention of aligning them with international standards, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Likewise, work in relation to a pilot Foster Care System in Sulaymaniyah continued, as Guidelines were developed and shared for KRG review. Budgetary allocations remained a concern, with resources for child protection limited due to continuing economic contraction and prioritization of military and security activities as a result of the conflict with the so-called Islamic State (ISIL).

In 2018 UNICEF maintained its cluster (Iraq internal displacement response) and sector (Syrian refugee response) coordination roles in Iraq. UNICEF co-leads the child protection sub-cluster (CPSC) with Save the Children International and provides technical and coordination support for governorate-level Child Protection Working Groups, in coordination with government, UN, and NGO partners. The combined effects of a prolonged refugee crisis since 2012 and a large-scale internal displacement crisis since 2014, has placed enormous pressure on the government and protection actors, including UNICEF, to deliver coordinated and sustainable protection responses for conflict-affected people, around half of whom are children under 18 years old. UNICEF supports dedicated human resource capacity for IDP cluster and Syrian refugee sector response including national and sub-national coordination staff for Education, WASH, and Child Protection responses, as well as full-time dedicated information management staff.

Flexible thematic funding made up a portion of UNICEF response in Iraq, providing core support for the people who needed it most. UNICEF National Committees and public-sector donors played an essential role in securing high quality thematic funding for children in Iraq, and UNICEF Iraq acknowledges the critical nature of these flexible contributions for child protection interventions which included US\$1,988,400 from the Government of Denmark.

Flexible funding further allowed UNICEF to act as a reliable partner for government and non-government counterparts. With its multi-year timeframe, thematic funding contributed to sustain and strengthen resilience-based interventions. UNICEF would like to thank all donors who contributed to the achievements outlined in this report, with a special mention to the Government of Denmark for its continued flexible thematic funding support. We look forward to continued collaboration in 2019 to achieve more results for the women and children of Iraq.

Strategic Context 2018

2017 was the second year of implementing the UNICEF Iraq Country Programme 2016 to 2019, which is being implemented in line with the UNICEF Core Commitments for Children, UNICEF Strategic Plan 2014 to 2017, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2016 to 2030. UNICEF through its Child Protection Programme worked towards having **an increased proportion of children, who are vulnerable and exposed to violence including those in humanitarian situations, protected by prevention and response services, a supportive institutional and legislative framework, and protective social norms.**

The UNICEF Iraq Child Protection programme is guided by the UNICEF Strategic Plan, the UNICEF Iraq Country Programme, and the Government of Iraq National Development Plan and the Kurdistan Regional Government's (KRG) Vision 2020, as well as the SDGs specific to Child Protection, namely SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) which aims to end all forms of violence against women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking, sexual, and other types of exploitation, and eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage; and SDG 16 (promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels) which aims to significantly reduce all forms of violence and related deaths everywhere; and end abuse exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence and torture against children.

In 2018, Iraq took tentative steps towards stabilization. Notably, reduction in armed violence and decrease in mass population movements have been positive signs of increasing peace and security. Despite this Iraq continues to face challenges, many of them exacerbated by the most recent round of conflict, that are likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

Since the end of the conflict against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in late 2017, reported violence has fallen to its lowest level since 2003. However, the previous lull in violence between 2009 and 2013 serves as a warning against complacency¹, and certain areas of Iraq continued to see violence and insecurity in 2018, including Anbar, Kirkuk, and Ninewa (centre and north). Around a quarter of the population, including four million children, remained in need of at least one form of humanitarian assistance². Further, the population of Iraq is overwhelmingly young - nearly 50 per cent are under 20 years old. After 15 years of cycles of conflict, no child in Iraq has memories of a time of peace, and the years since 2014 have witnessed displacement of nearly six million Iraqis, around 15 per cent of the country's population, including three million children under 18.³

Patterns of population movement were complex in the year. People remained in displacement, chose to return, were newly-displaced due to pockets of continued insecurity, or chose to re-displace ('secondary' displacement) to IDP camps or previous displacement locations. As of December 2018, over 1.8 million Iraqis, over 900,000 children, remained internally displaced. Key issues hindering return, as reported by displaced families, include problems with housing, earning a living, accessing basic services, social cohesion, security, and mental health. Two-thirds (64 per cent) of the remaining 1.8 million displaced report no intention to return in the coming 12 months⁴ and smaller-scale

¹ Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), Overview of Iraq: Key Trends Shaping Children's Lives and Implications for UNICEF, Landscape Report, October 2018

² Iraq 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan

³ International Organization for Migration (IOM), Iraq Displacement Crisis Report 2014-2017

⁴ IOM DTM, Reasons to Remain, November 2018. Data as of August 2018; the figure varies when disaggregating responses by IDP location of origin. Those originally from Diyala and Baghdad were less willing to return within the year than the average. IDPs from Salah and Din and Kirkuk were more likely to report to want to return within the year. Of note were IDPs from Sinjar district, who were the group least willing to return within the following year. The IOM report notes that gauging IDPs future plans related to resolving displacement is difficult to do with accuracy in the context of Iraq; this is further complicated by the fact that intentions and future plans are asked about and captured differently between datasets used for IOM's analysis. However, given the wide range of responses, IDPs are highly undecided regarding plans to return in the longer term, and that data collection to date may

'secondary' displacements and new arrivals to IDP camps continued throughout the year. Movements also continued between Iraq and Syria and Iraq remains host to more than 250,000 Syrian refugees, around half of them children⁵. For those choosing to return, many are re-entering areas that were sites of recent armed violence.

External and internal tensions across political, economic, and social spheres presented a volatile dynamic that continues to expose children to the risk of violence, abuse, neglect, and which reduces consistent access to their rights. Politically, Iraq remains vulnerable to external pressures, and relationships with neighbouring states are complex. Internally, tensions continued between a range of political actors and parties, and between citizens and the state. The side-effects of the September 2017 KRI referendum on independence were felt into early 2018, with the KRI borders closed to international traffic until late March 2018. In October 2018, new customs checkpoints were announced, requiring additional permissions to be sought and fees paid, for goods, including UNICEF supplies moving between the KRG and federal Iraq. After national elections in May 2018, government formation continued into December 2018, at which time eight out of 22 ministries had not yet been filled (EIU, Landscape Report), including positions such as interior and defence ministers. Without key interlocutors at Ministry level, including at the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, planned policy and legislative interventions in support of children slowed in 2018, including implementation and monitoring of the National Child Protection Policy (NCPP) and progress towards a new Child Rights Law.

For UNICEF and partners, continuation of humanitarian assistance for the most vulnerable children has remained a central concern in 2018. In parallel, there has been increasing need to ensure that national systems are strengthened to re-build physical and social infrastructures to hasten improvements against key development indicators, while remaining sensitive to the many tensions that still exist. Iraq remains a complex operational context, and state systems and facilities continue to face the challenges created by prolonged conflict and fragility. UNICEF programming continued to support the humanitarian-development nexus, maintaining strong relationships with government partners at federal, regional, and local levels.

The legislative and institutional framework for child protection is fragmented. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) mandate and operational capacity fails to prioritise prevention and response to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, and there is no child protection unit or directorate within MoLSA. The Juvenile Justice system is retributive rather than restorative, including an overuse of deprivation of liberty, poor conditions, and lack of services for children while they are incarcerated and upon their release for reintegration. The system deals with only children in conflict with the law with little or no provision for those who are in contact with law as victims or witnesses of crime.

11.8 per cent per cent of women age 15-49 years personally felt discriminated against or harassed within the previous 12 months (based on a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law) (MICS-6, 2018). Violence directed at women and girls within family is normalized and legitimized by survivors, perpetrators, and communities by referencing cultural and religious norms. 40 per cent of women and girls aged 15-49 years believe a husband is justified in beating his wife if she refuses to have sex with him, goes out without telling him, argues with him, neglects the children, or burns his food.

Fears of harassment and stigmatization, including honour killing, remain real barriers to seeking justice for GBV survivors. Children born of rape and those fathered by ISIL fighters, whether kept, abandoned or given away, face stigma of being fathered by the "enemy" and rejection by their families and

underestimate the number of those who may wish to integrate locally or eventually relocate. See IOM, "IDPs by intentions to return", page 11, *Reasons to Remain*.

⁵ Interagency Information Portal, UNHCR

communities making it difficult for them to obtain basic services, birth certificates, civil documentation, social and legal protection.

Nearly 28 per cent of females aged 20 to 24 are married before the age of 18 and 7.9 per cent of the same age group are married before the age of 15 (MICS 2018). 81 per cent of children aged 1 to 17 years have experienced some form of violent discipline (in-and-out of school) while 30 per cent have been subjected to physical violence. 6.6 per cent of children aged 5-17 years suffer from depression while 16.3 per cent have anxiety issues. 18.4 percent of caregivers surveyed believe that physical punishment is needed to rear or educate a child properly (MICS 2018).

The MICS 2011 indicated that the national birth registration rate at the time was 99.1 percent, with the KRI at 99.4 percent. Since then, it has become clear that this previously positive situation has deteriorated dramatically in areas of the country formerly held by ISIL, including Ramadi, Falluja, Hawiga, and Mosul – all densely-populated urban areas. Children born in these areas between mid-2014 and early 2017 are frequently not registered officially, as the national birth registration system had broken down. The MICS 2018 showed that birth registration is high at 98.8 per cent, although, 7.8 per cent of children under five are either not registered or do not have birth certificates that are required to obtain identity documents. This restricts access to basic services such as education, health and social protection.

UNICEF in Iraq remains strongly positioned to provide required support to the Government of Iraq and to protection partners, including technical capacity building, financial support to systems-building interventions both at policy level and at the level of the governorate directorates who play a significant role in identifying and responding to children in need. At the close of 2018, the key discussions revolved around ways in which to support and strengthen the country's national systems, including decentralization of authorities and capacity to governorate-levels, and in light of the prolonged cycles of conflict and violence that have weakened human and system capacity over many years.

In 2018 a significant strategic approach was to support the country to ensure progress in strengthening its legal and policy framework. In the legislative domain, the review of child-focused domestic laws started in Baghdad, following months of UNICEF engagement with MoLSA, Shura Council, Council of Ministers and a review taskforce that was established under the auspices of MoLSA. Moving forward the review identified the gaps between Iraqi laws, UNCRC and other international norms, and laid the foundation for the drafting of a new and comprehensive Child Rights Act which is harmonized with the UNCRC. The new law will harmonize and raise the age of criminal responsibility across the whole of Iraq which is currently nine years in Federal Iraq and 11 years in KRI. The enactment of the law by the parliament and its implementation will strengthen legal protection for children in Iraq.

Specific challenges around policy level work have continued from 2017 into 2018, with spill-over political tension in the wake of the September 2017 KRG referendum on independence continuing through until March 2018, further political change and uncertainty after the May 2018 national elections, and post-KRG elections in November 2018. Considering delays in appointment and approval of the Minister for Justice, the programme has faced challenges to access the detention centres for further review of the cases and provision of case management services. The challenge was also caused by the changes in management of detention centers and reformatories as the responsibility has been moved from MOLSA to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ).

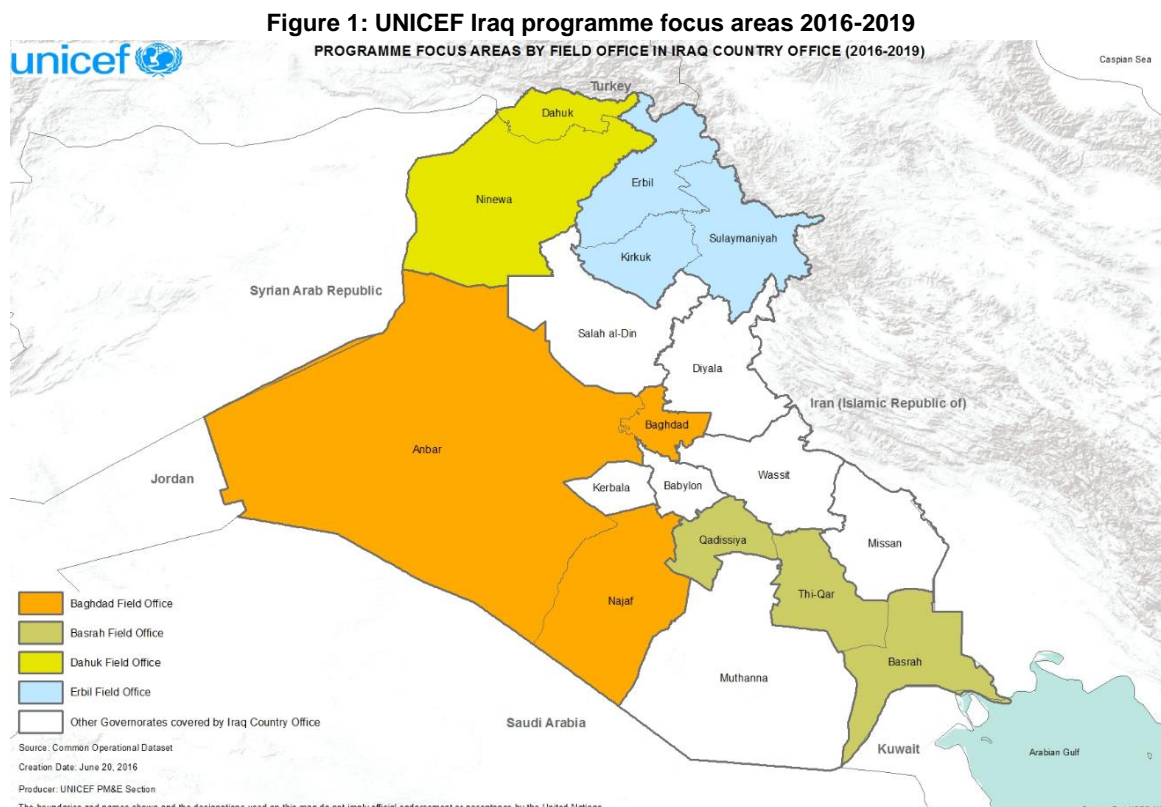
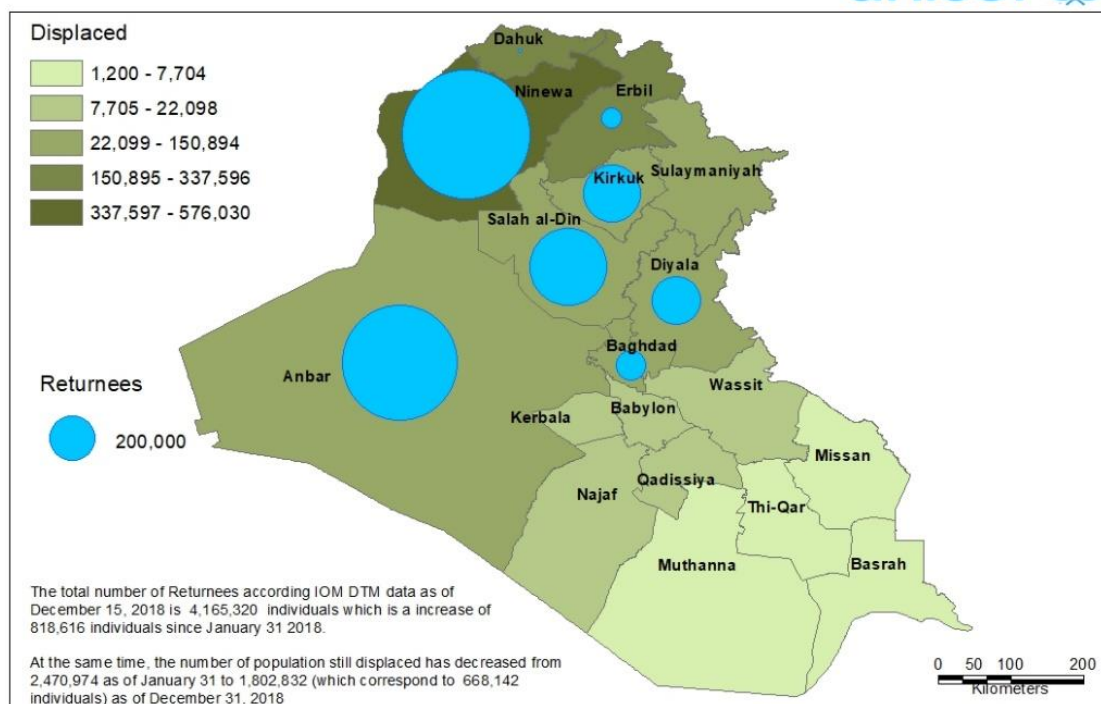


Figure 2: Population of internally displaced people (IDPs) as of December 2018

DISPLACED AND RETURNEES AS OF DECEMBER 15, 2018



Producer: UNICEF PME Section

Creation date: January 19, 2018

Data source: IOM (<http://iomiraq.net/dtm-page>)

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Results in the Outcome Area

Child Protection

This section details the results achieved, strategies used, and the challenges addressed during the course of 2018 towards realising the commitments for Child Protection. Flexible thematic funding from the Government of Denmark funds were critical in 2018, helping to support needed technical expertise in the child protection, as well as a dedicated information management officer for the child-protection sub-cluster. Thematic funding also aided the overall achievement of the child protection programme through operations and social policy staff salary support and cross sectoral costs, including for field monitoring travel, which have been valuable in delivering the overall results for children in 2018.

Iraq Outcome: By 2019 an increased proportion of children, who are vulnerable and exposed to violence including those in humanitarian situations, are protected by prevention and response services, a supportive institutional and legislative framework, and protective social norms

As of end-2018, Iraq has strengthened its framework for a protective environment through initiating implementation of the National Child Protection (CP) Policy. Five governorates⁶ have improved quality of child protection service delivery and increased functionality of child protection systems. Quality has been improved by increased capacity of social workforce, establishment of referral pathways, increased availability of services, and supporting human resources capacity for child protection and gender-based violence case management. The CP Information Management System/Primero⁷ for Iraq is under development; in late 2018, pilot implementation has started in Dahuk Governorate.

Engagement with religious leaders on permissive social norms related to violence against children (VAC) has progressed. Juvenile justice authorities in Iraq have improved coordination and provision of child friendly justice procedures and services. In addition, targeted reductions in the number of children in detention and percentage of children applied alternative to detention measures have been attained.

The Iraq Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) for grave violations of child rights has increased its reach and verification rate, so that it has timely and accurate reporting that can inform programming and advocacy. A national strategy about release and reintegration of children leaving armed actors has been finalized, and implementation is progressing. Children in humanitarian need had increased access to child protection services, with 80 percent of the targeted IDP and Syrian refugee children receiving psychosocial support (PSS) aimed at improving their safety, well-being, and resilience.

In 2018, the Government of Iraq with UNICEF technical and financial support has worked to enhance quality of specialized child protection services through capacity building of the social workforce as an entry point. Skills and knowledge on systematic case management have been improved for government and non-governmental social workers. In addition through partnership with local NGOs, mobile case management teams provided services in seven IDP camps and three non-camp locations in Dahuk and Ninewa, where case management support included dealing with root causes of violence, child labour and assistance to issues related to civil documentation which are necessary for school enrolment. The impact was realized in the increased functionality of referral pathways and improved application of case management standards. UNICEF-supported Gender Based Violence (GBV) programming has reached its targeted women and girls received multi-sectoral GBV services. Overall all four output areas are on track.

⁶ Basrah, Dahuk, Erbil, Najaf, Sulaymaniyah. In 2018, four additional governorates Kirkuk, Ninewa, Qadissiya and Salah al Din have made positive progress towards strengthening the CP system in 2018.

⁷ Primero is the case management module that functions as part of the wider CPIMS.

The target on parental attitudes to applying violent discipline methods has not been achieved. Considering this, UNICEF in collaboration with other stakeholders in Iraq will support community engagement approaches, aiming to involve partners and communities to engage children, youth, families, and community leadership to work toward positive change in social norms, attitudes, and practices that harm children – for example, child marriage - as well as increasing awareness on child rights, particularly for adolescents and those who are most vulnerable. Overall the four output⁸ areas under the UNICEF Iraq Child Protection programme all are considered to be on track.

Output 1: The legislative and institutional framework is strengthened to better protect vulnerable girls and boys and those exposed to violence, abuse and exploitation

In 2018, Iraq continued to make progress in strengthening its legal and policy framework. Under the guidance of the Ministry of Planning and with technical support of UNICEF, all 12 Ministry members of the Child Welfare Commission at the Federal level completed development and are initiating implementation of their sectoral workplans for the Policy. Implementation is proceeding through their normal programmes with government budget, which augurs well for sustainability of the intervention. In Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), after some initial delays, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) Legal board adequately responded to all queries from the KRI Council of Ministers (CoM) and has now re-submitted the Regional Child Protection Policy for Kurdistan for CoM endorsement.

In the legislative domain, the review of child-focused domestic laws began in Baghdad, following months of UNICEF engagement with MoLSA, the Shura Council, Council of Ministers and a review taskforce that was established under the auspices of MoLSA. The review will identify the gaps between Iraqi laws, the UN Conventions on the Rights of the Child and other international norms and will lay the foundation for drafting of a new and comprehensive Child Rights Act harmonized with the UNCRC. The new law will harmonize and raise age of criminal responsibility across the whole of Iraq (currently nine years in federal Iraq and 11 years in KRI). Once the law is enacted by parliament and implementation begins, it will strengthen legal protection for children in Iraq. UNICEF established a partnership with a local NGO which already had a solid working relationship with the federal Government and which has a proven track record in policy interventions, having worked on the Child Protection Policy in Baghdad and Kurdistan Region. Through this partner, UNICEF provided technical and financial support to the ongoing review of domestic laws which will end in a new Child Rights Law which is harmonized with UNCRC. UNICEF used its strong working relationship with the government to obtain agreement to the review and harmonization of child-focused domestic laws and to agree on the process and a broader scope for the law.

As part of its support to strengthening Alternative Care for Children deprived of family environment, a Foster Care Guideline for KRI has been developed and approved by MoLSA Legal board and re-submitted to the KRI CoM, together with the Regional Child Protection Policy for Kurdistan. The Guideline was developed following a piloting of Foster Care in Kurdistan and builds on achievements registered in 2017 which saw the establishment of Foster Care Units in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah, the training of 170 government staff and families, and the establishment of a Foster Care Approval Board.

An Assessment of the Situation of Children Residential Institutions is underway in federal Iraq, with 60 per cent of fieldwork completed at year end. The findings and recommendations of the Assessment will be used for advocacy with the government and lay the foundation for a more systematic and structured intervention aimed at developing a broader culturally acceptable strategy for de-institutionalization of children without caregivers in the next country programme.

A planned evaluation of the Child Helpline services in the KRI, and possible expansion of services into other areas of Iraq, remained constrained in 2018 due to the unavailability international technical

⁸ At the end of 2017, UNICEF Iraq agreed to reduce from five to four outputs in the Country Programme, working to integrate humanitarian and resilience-focused interventions as part of the nexus. More detail on UNICEF's support to children in humanitarian situations is available here: www.unicef.org/appeals/iraq.

support and the continued security constraints caused by insecurity. Getting a high calibre international consultant to do the evaluation of the Child Helpline remains a challenge. If it continues, a lower calibre consultant may be required, which could compromise the quality of the evaluation.

In May 2018, there were national parliamentary elections in Iraq, and further elections in the KRI in November 2018. Both elections created prolonged periods of political uncertainty, and slow/late appointment of new Ministers to key Ministries impacted the pace of UNICEF work on legal and policy issues. Initially the review and reform of the laws and enactment of a new Child Rights Law was planned to be a single national process between the KRG and federal Governments however, because of ongoing political tensions over a number of years, this process has not been feasible. In 2018, it became clear that there will be two separate, but related, Child Laws, one at federal level and one at KRG-level. This will require two linked but parallel processes, and additional financial resources. As the two processes are moving at different speeds, it is likely that the federal Law will be completed ahead of the KRG law.

There are a couple of opportunities on the horizon for 2019. The incoming Minister of MoLSA was thought to be supportive in relation to the new Child Rights Law. This could lend political support to the process and help in expediting it. This may also lead to a more functional and effective Child Welfare Commission. A second opportunity in 2019 is that with new governments in at federal and regional levels, there is a chance for comparative political stability which could lead to a more effective political leadership, thereby increasing the likelihood of achieving the policy and legislative objectives.

Output 2: Increased availability of government, NGO and civil society child protection services that prevent and respond to violence and abuse in selected governorates

In 2018, UNICEF continued to enhance engagement with community-based CP structures for prevention and response to violence and to improve the protective environment for children. UNICEF provided capacity building support for 646 community-based CP structures through which 4,709 adults (2,693 women) participated training on CP issues including on supporting children in distress, creating protective environment, identifying protection risks, and making referrals.

Responding to needs of children particularly in areas affected by conflict, and to strengthen quality of prevention and response to violence and abuse, UNICEF supported direct service delivery including psychosocial support and CP specialized services. Technical support to partners included maintenance of referral pathways, mapping of services, and increased capacity including application of case management approach for more actors. As a result, 180,331 IDP and refugee children (85,822 girls) receiving structured sustained PSS services and another 10,967 IDP and refugee children (4,766 girls) receiving specialized CP services such as legal assistance, focused psychosocial support, family tracing and reunification of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). This represents 94 per cent and 54 per cent of the target for 2018 respectively for IDP and refugee children.

UNICEF initiated a partnership with religious leaders in the federal government to work on prevention of VAC including social norms permissive to child marriage. An action plan has been developed, UNICEF and government focal points formed a working group to develop pre-project assessment tools. Focal points received technical support and were introduced to social norms/change concepts and tools, through participation in a Social Norms Change workshop led by the UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office. In 2018, UNICEF trained 40 imams and female religious instructors on basic child protection and importance of prevention of violence against children.

UNICEF has reached 20,854 of the planned 20,000 women and girls (13,290 women, 7,564 girls), with multi-sectoral GBV services including case management and psychosocial support (target exceeded by 4 per cent). In addition, 13,324 women, girls and boys participated in social and recreational activities that support resilience, and 73,265 community members participated in awareness-raising sessions and trainings to reduce GBV stigma and to strengthen the protective environment. Good achievement

was supported through 12 partnerships for focused GBV programming, spanning nine governorates⁹, has resulted in increased access to child protection services especially survivors of GBV.

To ensure access to and quality services, UNICEF and partners provided trainings on GBV to 987 specialized and non-specialized service providers with focus on strengthening specialized services and multi-sectoral referral system through GBV case management. Targeted adolescent girls programming continued in 2018 using the 'Adolescent Girls Toolkit', a life skills program covering gender, health, child marriage and GBV issues to build girls' resilience. UNICEF and partners conducted 'Training of Trainer' (ToT) trainings and mentoring sessions that reached 23 government and non-government staff.

Output 3: A functional child-friendly justice system is in place that includes prevention mechanisms and alternatives to detention sanctions, and is in line with international standards, in selected governorates

In January 2018, 1,913, children, (159 girls) were in some form of pre- or post-trial detention (in the governorates in which UNICEF was working and for which data was available) while at the end of September 1,800 children (156 girls) were in pre- and post-trial detention. This represents 20.5 per cent reduction from the baseline and 6 per cent reduction between January and September 2018 and meets the country programme target of a 20 per cent reduction in detained children.

Of the governorates being tracked, Baghdad is the only one in which the number and percentage of children in pre-and post-trial detention increased during the year. The number of children in pre- and post-trial detention fluctuates and depends on several factors. Given the target has been achieved, UNICEF will work with the government to maintain momentum to achieve greater reduction or to avoid any increase. With Baghdad having the largest population of children in pre- and post-trial detention and the only governorate in which the number and percentage of children in detention increased instead of decreasing, special attention will be paid to that governorate. Notably, there are gaps in data in certain governorates, such as Ninewa, where it is known that many children are in detention but not necessarily formally recorded.

UNICEF is working toward a target a situation in which at least 20 per cent of children in conflict with the law in five governorates¹⁰ either would be diverted from the formal system or would have an alternative to detention (ATD) applied in their case. According to data collected, this target has been attained, overall a total of 1,519 children were newly in conflict with the law in 2018 as of September, of which 846 were diverted and 86 others were given alternative to detention sentences. This represents 61 per cent of children for whom diversion or ATD was used. Despite these impressive figures, it remains the case that there is no systematic diversion system, and therefore no standards for diversion, or clear provisions for diversion in the law. Instead the process is undertaken in an ad hoc manner, often at the discretion of the individual police officer or investigation judge. Probation is the exclusive ATD that is applied, as no other form of ATD is provided for in the law. As result, although the 20 per cent target has been surpassed, optimum results for this indicator could be higher if fully functional diversion programmes in line with international standards were established and functioning in five governorates.

Some progress has been made towards delinquency prevention in 2018. At least three governorates, Erbil, Najaf and Thi Qar have set-up Justice for Children Task Forces (JCTF) and have developed Delinquency Plans. However only Najaf has begun implementation of the plan. Two additional governorates, Basra and Dohuk, have all set-up JCTFs, but not yet developed delinquency plans.

⁹ Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Dahuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al Din and Sulaymaniyah

¹⁰ Basrah (28 per cent), Dahuk (93 per cent), Erbil (33 per cent), Najaf (77 per cent), Thi Qar (41 per cent). In addition, in 2018 Sulaymaniyah applied diversions/alternatives in 70 per cent of cases).

Output 4: Systems for monitoring, reporting, and responding to violations of children's rights are strengthened

In 2018, 177 UNICEF-trained Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) NGO partners and 190 volunteers were working in eight governorates¹¹ which helped support analysis of protection threats, trends, and gaps in conflict areas, increase reporting on grave violations of child rights, and supported UNICEF, UN agencies, donors and key influencers to advocate for parties to conflict to halt actions leading or contributing to violations. Additionally, 18 previously trained MRM partners working in Anbar, Baghdad and Sal al Din participated in a network meeting to take 'refresher' training and discuss challenges and ways to address them.

A total of 175 incidents were reported, affecting 252 children (211 boys, 32 girls and 9 sex unknown). Out these, 147 incidents were verified, affecting 206 children (177 boys and 29 girls). The baseline for the 2016 to 2019 country program was a 59 per cent verification rate, with a target of a 75 per cent verification rate. As of end-December 2018 the verification rate stood at 84 per cent. Access and security threats as well as sensitivities around violations remain the biggest challenge to obtaining and verifying reports.

The MRM Technical Working Group (TWG) has continued to expand its membership and more frequent meetings have enabled the forum to become more strategic in focus, turning its attention to issues that the intensity of the previous emergency phases did not allow. In 2018 the TWG met every six weeks, while the higher-level Country Task Force (CTF) met every quarter. The CTF initiated a dialogue with the GoI on a potential action plan to address recruitment of children into armed groups. A draft action plan was shared with the GoI, but due to political uncertainty since parliamentary elections in May, this process has taken longer than anticipated, no response had been received as of December 2018.

Building on information gathered in a 2017 study on the 'push and pull factors' for child association with armed groups, in June 2018, UNICEF initiated the first steps of the Community Based Reintegration and Security programme (CBRS) aimed at preventing recruitment of children in Karbala and Najaf. The programme has included scoping of locations and engagement with local actors, including religious, political and private sector. Since then, a mapping of services has been conducted in the selected pilot neighbourhoods of Taqa (Karbala) and Askari (Najaf) and two local CBRS-trainings took place. During these trainings and workshops, local CBRS-plans were drafted and Community Management Committees (CMC) and Local Economic Development (LED) forums were established.

UNICEF continued to support Mine Risk Education (MRE) interventions. In 2018, a total of 198,284 direct beneficiaries, including 150,221 children (70,082 girls) and 48,063 adults (17,553 female). In addition, an estimated 594,852 indirect beneficiaries have been reached with messages through education and health staff, peers, family and relevant materials distributed. The target was 160,000 children and 60,000 adults; progress was slightly below the target due to access challenges faced in areas still experiencing insecurity.

Output 5: Children in humanitarian situations access child protection services

At the end of 2017, UNICEF agreed that the fifth output in the Country Programme, created specifically in relation to Child Protection in Emergencies, would be considered as closed for the remaining two years of the Programme (2018 and 2019) and that, in order to support the humanitarian-development nexus and a focus on systems-building and systems-strengthening, actions relating to child protection for children in humanitarian situations would instead be integrated into, and considered part of, the four other outputs.

¹¹ Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Dahuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninawa and Salah al Din

The Child Protection sub-cluster has been active since 2015, and has continued to fulfil its functions, also throughout 2018, and is anticipated to continue into 2019. UNICEF provided dedicated human resource support in the form of national and sub-national coordination staff, as well as one full-time national information management officer.

Financial Analysis

The planned budget in 2018 for the Child Protection Outcome Area was US\$ 3,015,000 as shown in the table below.

Table 1: Planned Budget for Outcome Area 5 Child Protection (in US dollars)

Intermediate Results	Funding Type ¹²	Planned Budget
CHILD PROTECTION POLICY	RR	39,750.00
	ORR	795,000.00
	ORE	159,000.00
PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AND ABUSE	RR	26,500.00
	ORR	6,360,000.00
	ORE	11,531,210.00
JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN	RR	53,000.00
	ORR	498,200.00
	ORE	1,007,000.00
CHILD RIGHTS SYSTEMS BUILDING	RR	-
	ORR	530,000.00
	ORE	1,855,000.00
Sub-total Regular Resources		119,250.00
Sub-total Other Resources - Regular		8,183,200.00
Sub-total Other Resources - Emergency		14,552,210.00
Total for 2018		22,854,660.00

The Government of Denmark provided US\$1,988,400 making a significant commitment to supporting UNICEF Iraq with country-specific thematic funding for child protection in 2018. The thematic funds from Denmark were central to the far-reaching achievement of strategic results in strengthening Iraq's framework for a protective environment. Thematic funding also aided the total progress possible under the Child Protection programme in 2018 through critical resources to maintain UNICEF's technical capacity and expertise. The table below illustrates the country-specific thematic funds received in 2018 for Outcome Area 5.

Table 2: Country-level Thematic Contributions Outcome Area 5 received in 2018

Donors	Grant Number	Contribution Amount	Programmable amount
GLOBAL - CHILD PROTECTION ¹	SC189905	1,988,400.99	1,858,318.68
Total		1,988,400.99	1,858,318.68

¹ Government of Denmark

Within the Child Protection outcome area, the greatest expenditure in 2018 related to activities supporting the prevention and response services for violence against children. Expenditure under this area accounted for 91 per cent of total expenditure for the outcome area, as shown in the table below.

¹² RR: Regular Resources, ORR: Other Resources – Regular, ORE: Other Resources – Emergency.

Table 3: 2018 Expenditures in the Child Protection thematic area (in US dollars)

Organizational Targets	Expenditure Amount			
	Other Resources - Emergency	Other Resources - Regular	Regular Resources	All Programme Accounts
Prevention and response services for violence against children	12,158,983.48	1,850,849.56	9,642.69	14,019,475.73
Access to Justice	1,077,603.21	306,742.17	-	1,384,345.38
Total	13,236,586.69	2,157,591.73	9,642.69	15,403,821

The total expenditure for the Child Protection thematic area was US\$15,403,821. The table below shows the components of this expenditure by Child Protection Output area. The majority of expenditures were recorded under the Prevention of Violence and Abuse Output, which includes work with government and NGO partners to identify, establish, or strengthen direct service delivery for girls, boys, women and men who have suffered from various types of violence, as well as capacity development interventions for government and NGO staff to manage provision and structuring of referral pathways to other services as needed.

Table 4: Thematic expenses by Results Area

Output	Fund Sub-Category	Total
CHILD PROTECTION POLICY	Other Resources - Emergency	396,055
	Other Resources - Regular	169,712
	Regular Resources	
PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AND ABUSE	Other Resources - Emergency	10,296,976
	Other Resources - Regular	1,877,512
JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN	Other Resources - Emergency	984,154
	Other Resources - Regular	244,152
CHILD RIGHTS SYSTEMS BUILDING	Other Resources - Emergency	1,189,883
	Other Resources - Regular	15,677
CHILD PROTECTION IN EMERGENCIES	Other Resources - Emergency	369,519
	Other Resources - Regular	-149,462
	Regular Resources	9,643
Grand Total		15,403,821

UNICEF also analyses its programmatic and operational expenditures using Specific Intervention Codes (SICs) which identify an activity in UNICEF's performance management system. In 2018, the following were the major expenses incurred in the child protection outcome area, analysed in more detail using the SICs.

Table 5: Expenses by Specific Intervention Codes

Activity	Total
2130/A0/08/004/001/001 TECHNICAL SUPPORT	299,607.89
2130/A0/08/004/001/010 LAW AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT	71,593.00
2130/A0/08/004/001/022 ALTERNATIVE CARE SYSTEM IN KRI	157,326.50
2130/A0/08/004/001/040 REGISTRATION AND DOCUMENTATION FOR CHILDREN BORN UNDER ISIL	36,898.80
2130/A0/08/004/001/042 REGISTRATION AND DOCUMENTATION FOR CHILDREN BORN UNDER ISIL	340.80
2130/A0/08/004/002/001 TECHNICAL SUPPORT	1,931,788.74
2130/A0/08/004/002/010 EVIDENCE GENERATION FOR SYSTEMS, SERVICE	520.60
2130/A0/08/004/002/020 CASE MANAGEMENT AND SPECIALIZED SERVICES	464,690.15
2130/A0/08/004/002/021 CASE MANAGEMENT AND SPECIALIZED SERVICES	1,402,974.40
2130/A0/08/004/002/022 CASE MANAGEMENT AND SPECIALIZED SERVICES	2,715,108.60
2130/A0/08/004/002/023 CASE MANAGEMENT AND SPECIALIZED SERVICES	798,734.68
2130/A0/08/004/002/024 CASE MANAGEMENT AND SPECIALIZED SERVICES	5,663.68

2130/A0/08/004/002/030 IMPROVE PROTECTIVE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH COMMUNITY BASED STRUCTURES	5,548.72
2130/A0/08/004/002/031 IMPROVE PROTECTIVE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH COMMUNITY BASED STRUCTURES	1,164,620.80
2130/A0/08/004/002/032 IMPROVE PROTECTIVE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH COMMUNITY BASED STRUCTURES	897,346.43
2130/A0/08/004/002/033 IMPROVE PROTECTIVE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH COMMUNITY BASED STRUCTURES	181,716.11
2130/A0/08/004/002/034 IMPROVE PROTECTIVE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH COMMUNITY BASED STRUCTURES	65,315.79
2130/A0/08/004/002/040 EVIDENCE BASED RESPONSES TO KEY CP PROBL	78,500.34
2130/A0/08/004/002/041 EVIDENCE BASED RESPONSES TO KEY CP PROBL	408,519.43
2130/A0/08/004/002/042 EVIDENCE BASED RESPONSES TO KEY CP PROBL	226,274.20
2130/A0/08/004/002/043 EVIDENCE BASED RESPONSES TO KEY CP PROBL	183,951.82
2130/A0/08/004/002/044 EVIDENCE BASED RESPONSES TO KEY CP PROBL	201,498.57
2130/A0/08/004/002/221 CASE MANAGEMENT AND SPECIALIZED SERVICES -REF.	35,000.00
2130/A0/08/004/002/222 CASE MANAGEMENT AND SPECIALIZED SERVICES - REF.	1,300,212.34
2130/A0/08/004/002/232 IM-PROVE PROTECTIVE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH COMMUNITY BASED STRUCTURES -REF.	63,832.13
2130/A0/08/004/002/242 EVIDENCE BASED RESPONSES TO KEY CP PROBLEMS - REF.	42,670.00
2130/A0/08/004/003/001 TECHNICAL SUPPORT	117,145.98
2130/A0/08/004/003/010 EVIDENCE BASED CHILD FRIENDLY JUSTICE PO	870.38
2130/A0/08/004/003/012 EVIDENCE BASED CHILD FRIENDLY JUSTICE PO	136,517.00
2130/A0/08/004/003/013 EVIDENCE BASED CHILD FRIENDLY JUSTICE PO	2,167.00
2130/A0/08/004/003/020 CAPACITY BUILDING FOR JUSTICE STAKEHOLDE	1,298.64
2130/A0/08/004/003/022 CAPACITY BUILDING FOR JUSTICE STAKEHOLDE	631.85
2130/A0/08/004/003/023 CAPACITY BUILDING FOR JUSTICE STAKEHOLDE	38,550.50
2130/A0/08/004/003/030 SERVICES FOR CHILDREN CONTACT WITH LAW	322,309.96
2130/A0/08/004/003/031 SERVICES FOR CHILDREN CONTACT WITH LAW	265,495.00
2130/A0/08/004/003/032 SERVICES FOR CHILDREN CONTACT WITH LAW	31,424.60
2130/A0/08/004/003/033 SERVICES FOR CHILDREN CONTACT WITH LAW	147,686.37
2130/A0/08/004/003/034 SERVICES FOR CHILDREN CONTACT WITH LAW	146,344.00
2130/A0/08/004/003/041 INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FOR DETENTION FACILITIES	3,147.50
2130/A0/08/004/003/042 INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FOR DETENTION FACILITIES	9,841.00
2130/A0/08/004/003/044 INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT FOR DETENTION FACILITIES	3,589.10
2130/A0/08/004/003/052 JUVENILE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION	300.00
2130/A0/08/004/003/054 JUVENILE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION	987.10
2130/A0/08/004/004/001 TECHNICAL SUPPORT	311,821.19
2130/A0/08/004/004/010 MRM NETWORK TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT	107,313.81
2130/A0/08/004/004/020 NATIONAL CAPACITY &SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT	468.00
2130/A0/08/004/004/030 COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PREVENTION, REINTEGRATION	321,018.92
2130/A0/08/004/004/033 COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PREVENTION, REINTEGRATION	916.50
2130/A0/08/004/004/034 COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PREVENTION, REINTEGRATION	28,683.76
2130/A0/08/004/004/040 EVIDENCE BASED MINE RISK EDUCATION PROGR	332,333.50
2130/A0/08/004/004/041 EVIDENCE BASED MINE RISK EDUCATION PROGR	103,005.00
2130/A0/08/004/005/001 TECHNICAL SUPPORT	1,172.43
2130/A0/08/004/005/110 CPIE TRAINING, MENTORING &COORDINAT-IDPS	1,395.43
2130/A0/08/004/005/120 GBV SERVICE DEVELOPMENT & DELIVERY-IDPS	9.03
2130/A0/08/004/005/121 GBV SERVICE DEVELOPMENT & DELIVERY-IDPS	0.01
2130/A0/08/004/005/124 GBV SERVICE DEVELOPMENT & DELIVERY-IDPS	10,192.00
2130/A0/08/004/005/130 COMMUNITY BASED PSS&SPECIALIZ SERV-IDPS	1,530.76
2130/A0/08/004/005/131 COMMUNITY BASED PSS&SPECIALIZ SERV-IDPS	5,336.90
2130/A0/08/004/005/132 COMMUNITY BASED PSS&SPECIALIZ SERV-IDPS	(18,385.37)
2130/A0/08/004/005/133 COMMUNITY BASED PSS&SPECIALIZ SERV-IDPS	227,719.74
2130/A0/08/004/005/211 CPIE TRAINING, MENTORING&COORDINATION-REF	429.00
2130/A0/08/004/005/232 COMMUNITY BASED PSS&SPECIALIZED SERV-REF	300.00
Grand Total	15,403,821.11

Future Work Plan

Future planning continues to consider the changing operational environment in Iraq, the increased focus on early recovery and resilience interventions outlined by the Government of Iraq and UN partners for 2018 and 2019 and builds upon existing achievements and lessons learned from the previous years. Reinforcing strategic partnerships among humanitarian actors (NGOs and UN) remains one of the common priorities of 2019 response.

In 2019 UNICEF will continue supporting the review of child-related laws and the drafting of a new comprehensive Child Rights Law which will be presented to Parliament for their ratification. In addition, UNICEF will support KRG to develop workplans for the sectors to operationalize the Child Protection Policy while in Baghdad, UNICEF will monitor and follow-up on the implementation of the sectoral workplans to ensure quality. In juvenile justice work, UNICEF will continue to support the development of a pre-service curriculum on Justice for Children and GBV for introduction into the Police Academy in KRI, while continuing to support the in-service training of juvenile justice section staff and the overall strengthening of the juvenile justice system to bring more in line with international standards.

UNICEF planned action for 2019 is in line with the UN Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP), with specific actions for children outlined in UNICEF's Recovery and Resilience for Children (RRC) appeal. The RRP is a two-year nexus framework that builds on significant achievements made for children through humanitarian action since 2014, while expanding into early recovery interventions that fast-track the social dimensions of reconstruction, restore confidence in the government, and improve equitable access to basic services and justice. UNICEF will work across 10 of Iraq's 18 governorates to support a range of interventions.

National institutions responsible for juvenile justice will be strengthened through technical capacity building, and government partners will have improved understanding of child protection issues. UNICEF will support child- and youth-focused systems in line with the Government's commitment to decentralization of basic services. UNICEF emphasises support for longer-term interventions in close coordination with NGO partners and government, integrating capacity-building at all levels of government and civil society.

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Table 6: Planned budget and available resources for 2019

Intermediate Result	Funding Type	Planned Budget	Funded Budget	Shortfall
CHILD PROTECTION POLICY	RR	35,250	-	35,250
	ORR	705,000	11,682,400.09	-10,977,400
	ORE	141,000	1,179,663.20	-1,038,663
PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AND ABUSE	RR	23,500	-	23,500
	ORR	5,640,000	1,953,850.71	3,686,149
	ORE	10,225,790	8,837,727.84	1,388,062
JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN	RR	47,000	-	47,000
	ORR	441,800	822,596.01	-380,796
	ORE	893,000	911,273.54	-18,274
CHILD RIGHTS SYSTEMS BUILDING	RR	-	-	0
	ORR	470,000	6,191.14	463,809
	ORE	1,645,000	1,911,542.14	-266,542
Sub-total Regular Resources		105,750	-	105,750.00
Sub-total Other Resources - Regular		7,256,800	14,465,037.95	(7,208,237.95)
Sub-total Other Resources - Emergency		12,904,790	12,840,206.72	64,583.28
Total for 2019		20,267,340	27,305,244.67	(7,037,904.67)

NB: Funded budget as of 26 March 2019. Planned and Funded budget for ORR (and ORE, if applicable) excludes recovery cost. RR plan is based on total RR approved for the Country Programme duration. Other Resources shortfall represents ORR funding required for the achievements of results in 2019

Table 7: Child Protection 2019 plans by area of intervention*

UNICEF Outcome Area	UN Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP)	UNICEF Recovery and Resilience for Children (RRC) objectives
Child Protection	Engaging Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of children and youth in pre- and post-trial detention reduced by 20 per cent
	Supporting Survivors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and piloting of targeted approaches for release and community-based reintegration of women and children from armed forces and groups
	Sustainable Returns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60,000 children have access to community-based psychosocial support 8,000 children supported with community-based child protection management 750 children have access to legal assistance to obtain birth registration documents

(*) Based on the Recovery and Resilience for Children (RRC) appeal 2018-2019

Expression of Thanks

On behalf of Iraq's children, the internally displaced inside the country and those living in host communities, UNICEF takes this opportunity to express sincere gratitude to all partner governments, UNICEF National Committees, Foundations and private individuals for their continued and sustained support. In 2018, UNICEF and partners were enabled to provide life-saving and life-sustaining interventions, thanks to the generous contributions of donors including the governments of Canada, Czech Republic, Italy, Germany, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Qatar, Sweden, the United Kingdom (Department for International Development), the United States (Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance and the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration), as well as the European Union/ECHO. Additional humanitarian funding was received through the UNOCHA-administered Iraq Humanitarian Fund (IHF) and the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP). Thanks also go to the individuals, groups, companies, and others, who gave to UNICEF's response in Iraq via the UNICEF National Committees in Germany, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the United States of America, as well as via the UNICEF global and regional humanitarian thematic funds.

UNICEF extends special thanks to the Government of Denmark for providing flexible country-specific thematic funding for child protection that enabled the country office to be more responsive to the issues affecting children, with greater flexibility according to the changing needs on the ground.

Only through such support, joint efforts and coordination is it possible to respond to the needs of children in Iraq. UNICEF would also like to extend thanks to partners across all countries, including the Government of Iraq, for their tireless efforts in achieving results for children and focusing on saving lives, alleviating suffering and ensuring respect for children's rights.

Annex: Human Interest Story

‘Strengthening the legal system in Iraq to better protect women and girls against gender-based violence’

Gender-based violence is prevalent in Iraq. In addition to violence at home, women and girls have been kidnapped, raped, abused, enslaved, and forcibly displaced because of conflict.

A recent UNICEF-supported survey shows that over 34% of young women in Iraq believe [violence against women can be justified](#), with the figure likely to be much higher if men were polled.

“Unfortunately, both conflict and patriarchal social norms have fuelled violence against women in Iraq,” said Ivana Chapcakova, UNICEF’s Gender-Based Violence Specialist.

“We often see a reluctance from survivors to approach legal and judicial services; one reason for this is that services are currently not survivor-centred, and women and girls are often subjected to additional violence.

“There is a clear need to build the capacity of law enforcement officials, so that they are able to identify survivors and provide timely services in a survivor centred manner,” she added

With thematic funding from European Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP), UNICEF in partnership with the Kurdistan Regional Government are tackling the issue head on; together they launched the Gender Based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response project in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI).

The aim of the project is to build the capacities of various governmental actors, including policing and judicial agencies in preventing and responding to GBV and children in contact with the law in a survivor-centred and child-friendly justice procedures.

“Approximately 200 service providers, justice and security personnel across the KRI were trained on appropriate interviewing skills, referrals, and approaches, including handling disclosure and guiding principles including do no harm,” said Ivana Chapcakova.

Kurdish ‘Master Trainers’ from the targeted institutions were also identified and selected to receive additional training with the aim that they will train other colleagues, thereby creating a cascade effect and ensures sustainability of the project.

During the project period, there has been reduced funding for GBV services as part of the humanitarian response in Iraq. This caused some participant attrition from the coaching program, due to end of contracts. This affected both international and national NGOs.

Social and religious attitudes of participants represented a challenge in certain aspects. For instance, there were difficulties convincing certain participants about the role/appropriateness of virginity tests, and there were many challenging attitudes with regard to what constitutes ‘consent’. Whilst the training curriculum works to address many of these attitudes, it should be acknowledged that, amongst many participants, they are part of deeply-held mindsets, and a product of a deeply patriarchal society.

Attitudes of Judicial Stakeholders to the training curriculum also presented a challenge. The training experts therefore took a more discursive approach towards delivery of the curriculum for these actors, seeking input and opinions of judges and prosecutors so that dialogue was encouraged and taking

There remains an urgent need to consolidate foundational work done to build specialized services and capacity of local actors to sustainably address needs of women and girls, not only in the KRI but also in wider Iraq.

In 2019 UNICEF will continue to prioritize and support technical capacity building of local service providers as well as working with the wider community, including men and parent/caregivers of

adolescent girls, to create a more protective environment for women and girls, in addition to service delivery of specialized GBV case management and Psychosocial support.

The 1.85 million euros for the projects comes from the platform of the of eight European donors supporting the RDPP; the Czech Republic, Denmark, the European Commission, Ireland, The Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Participant Feedback

- “This training will lead to improved investigation skills in terms of gathering information and in respecting the will of the victim and listening more to him/her than we did before and respecting the confidentiality of the work and not imposing any psychological pressure through staying away from asking questions that increase the tension of the victim.”
- “This training taught me to consider the psychological status of the victim and to give more confidence and trust to the victim, change the method of asking questions which need to be more considerate and legal and to respect the principles of human rights.’
- “The change that this training will have on my work is more respect to the victim and understand the suffering of him/her in order to obtain her/his right in the court.”



©UNICEF/2018. Training participants at the end of the sessions



©UNICEF/2018. A female participant receives her certificate at the end of the trainings.

Donor Feedback Form

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