



**INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE
IRAQ PROGRAM**

SECOND BIENNIAL REPORT

Enhancing local protection of women and girls in northern Iraq

(AGREEMENT NO: 53995)

PERIOD COVERING 1ST FEBRUARY 2011 – 31ST JULY 2011

PRESENTED TO: THE AUSTRALIAN AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AusAID)

Project Goal	Local communities and structures in northern Iraq mitigate the individual and societal consequences of violence against women and girls by promoting their right to live free from violence and discrimination, with equal access to information and quality services.
Project Objective	To enhance protection and empowerment of women and girls by supporting local mechanisms to appropriately address violence against women and girls, and by building the capacity of community structures to promote women and girls' choices and rights.
Locations	Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk Governorates
Total Beneficiaries	<i>Direct beneficiaries:</i> 6,760 individuals <i>Indirect beneficiaries:</i> 40,560 individuals
Actual Beneficiaries to Date	<p>To date, this project has reached 4637 direct beneficiaries including 141 survivors of violence</p> <p>During this reporting period, there were 1,731 direct beneficiaries including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 survivors of violence benefited from the case management services • 698 participants in psychosocial activities • 21 participants in capacity building activities (TOT) • 9 participants benefited from Proposal Development workshop • 12 participants benefited from Case Management workshop • 17 participants benefited from GBV capacity building workshops • 804 beneficiaries who participated in GBV events and received behaviour change communication materials • 29 police officers trained • 16 legal service providers trained • 13 doctors benefited from first response training workshop • 40 health educators trained • 18 female participants benefited from leadership training • 29 participants benefited from mediation training workshops
Annexes to This Report	<p><i>Annex 1:</i> Spreadsheet showing progress towards indicators</p> <p><i>Annex 2:</i> Photos</p> <p><i>Annex 3:</i> Announcement of call for proposals</p> <p><i>Annex 4:</i> Assessment reports of local partners</p> <p><i>Annex 5:</i> Intake form</p> <p><i>Annex 6:</i> Formal letter from Minister of Interior endorsing the Directive</p>

Implementation Progress to Date

Project Objective

Expected Result 1: Survivors of VAWG have access to quality care and treatment services.

Output 1.1: IRC partners provide survivor-centred case management, psychosocial services and referral to survivors of VAWG.

In April 2011, the IRC's 12-month sub-grants to local partners Al Masala and ASUDA ended. During the reporting period 25 female survivors of violence (mostly of domestic violence) were assisted according to their needs. The IRC will conduct an evaluation of the partner progress and capacity during the months of July and August.

Proposal development: Following the close of the initial subgrants, and based on partner selection criteria, the IRC selected four potential NGO partners to assess for the next phase of the project: Al Massala in Erbil, Civil Development organization (CDO) and Democracy Human Right Development (DHRD) in Sulaymaniah, and Harikar in Duhok. The IRC is still providing technical assistance to ASUDA. As agreed upon with AusAID, the IRC performed a midterm realignment of the budget to reflect the changing needs for the project for the second year and specifically, the increase in the number of partners. The IRC's Civil Society Development technical unit, together with the GBV program team, developed an assessment tool to assess the capacity of the new local partners to manage sub-grants on GBV programming. Following this, in May, a two-day proposal development workshop was conducted for the four new local partners and in June, the GBV program team, together with the local partners, conducted a half day workshop using the assessment tool. The program team and the local partners will develop capacity development plans to strengthen program, financial and staff management. Currently, IRC's new local partners are developing their proposals as outlined in the announcement for call for proposals.

Case Management: In June, the IRC conducted a five-day workshop on case management for the case managers of IRC's new local partners as well as ASUDA. A guidebook was produced and shared with the participants to be used as reference and to steer them through the process of case management. A follow up and refresher sessions will follow.

Standardized data classification and management system (GBVIMS): In July, the IRC began introducing GBVIMS to our local partners to engage them in the movement to uniform the collection of GBV data globally. The main aim of GBVIMS is to standardize GBV data and improve security around data collection and information sharing. Workshops were designed and delivered to transfer the know-how to the case managers of our local partners. Focal points were assigned for each local partner to train on GBVIMS to have the capacity to handle any issues that might arise and to pass knowledge to others; standard in-take form was developed.

Output 1.2: Relevant VAWG actors, service providers and community leaders respond appropriately to the multifaceted needs of survivors of VAWG.

Civil Society and DFVAW: In May, the program team conducted a five-day training of trainers (TOT) workshop aimed at creating a cadre of qualified trainers. Participants from the Directorate for Following-Up on Violence against Women (DFVAW), along with staff from the local partners benefited from the training and actively participated in leading sessions in micro-teaching. In the following months, the program team will provide specialised training on GBV core concepts to the identified cadre of trainers to assist them in building community knowledge on the causes and consequences of GBV.

Health sector: During the reporting period, eight health facilities were identified in Erbil, Duhuk, Suleimnya and Germyan. Three training workshops were conducted with health practitioners. In May, a three-day workshop was conducted with 13 doctors from PHCs in Erbil Center. In July, two one-day workshops were conducted with 40 health educators from Primary Health Care (PHC) units in Erbil Center. The training workshops focused on building the knowledge and skills of participants on understanding VAW, identifying VAW cases, and counselling techniques. These workshops will be followed by specialized training for doctors and nurses on clinical care for sexual assault.

Legal aid training: In March, the program legal team conducted a one-day legal aid workshop for eight legal aid staff from the local partners (LPs) and other service providers who had received training during 2010. The main purpose of the workshop was to reflect on the knowledge gained throughout the trainings of 2010 and to come up with recommendations and areas for capacity building in 2011. In July, the legal team delivered a one-day seminar for 18 lawyers from local NGOs, the Kurdish Bar Association and DFVAW. The focus of the discussion was on Iraqi court appeal procedures. Most of the participants were young and promising lawyers who had two or three years of professional experience playing a pivotal role in arguing cases of VAWG. Other participants were from DFVAW and KBA and had extensive years of experience in law, but lacked knowledge about GBV. Some of the lawyers are engaged

in outreach activities on legal literacy for women. GBV Core concepts trainings will be delivered in the coming phase of the project for the legal staff.

Mediation: Heartland Alliance conducted a three-day refresher training for eight participants who had been previously trained. The training resulted in developing a cadre of trainers who led two subsequent trainings on mediation. Fourteen community leaders from Erbil governorate (Shaqalawa, Khabat and Erbil) participated in a three-day workshop during the month of April. Similarly, during the month of May, another 15 community leaders from Sulaymaniah participated in a three-day training on mediation from a survivor-centred approach. Follow up discussions with the community leaders will follow to assess how mediation is being practiced in the field for further analysis and reflection.

Output 1.3: Functional and confidential referral mechanisms help ensure women and girls' access to comprehensive services, including case management, health, psychosocial and legal.

The IRC will continue to work on referral networks. Proposed activities of the local partners include building referral systems in Sulaymaniah and Duhuk. The IRC will build the capacity of LPs on referrals once the sub-agreements are signed with the LPs.

Output 1.4: Emergency shelter options are responsive to the multifaceted needs of women and girls.

The IRC contracted a consultant to carry out an assessment and analysis of two shelters to identify opportunities for further training and capacity building. The final assessment report will be completed by September to be shared by officials in MOLSA. The IRC has been very active in co-chairing the shelter group in the Gender Task Force (GTF) which acts as a forum for networking and information sharing among key actors working on women's shelters in the KRG, including key staff of MOLSA. UNDP developed a policy for women's shelters. The efforts of the shelter working group are being geared towards the endorsement of this policy by MOLSA since it sets forth a systematic plan of action, including capacity building.

Expected Result 2: Government stakeholders, including the DFVAW, have an enhanced capacity to effectively report and respond to VAWG cases.

Output 2.1: DFVAW is supported to effectively fulfil its mandate to monitor reported cases of VAWG, to ensure appropriate response, and to collect and maintain accurate, confidential data.

During April, the program team worked on getting approval from Minister of the Interior (MOI) to distribute the Directive among the police stations and DFVAW in three governorates in the KRG. In response, the MOI issued and disseminated a formal letter to police stations and DFVAW to facilitate the wider dissemination of the directive. Subsequently, in May, the legal team conducted three orientation sessions targeting officials of DFVAW in Erbil, Sulaymaniah and Duhuk to walk them through the body of the Directive. Ensuing discussions included ideas about the roles and responsibilities of DFVAW officials and police officers. Measures and procedures included in the Directive were to be enacted as of 19 April, 2011, aligning with the endorsement date by the MOI minister.

Output 2.2: Police stations in Erbil, Sulaymaniah and Dohuk have increased capacity to respond effectively to cases of VAWG.

During July, 30 police officers in Erbil participated in a two-day workshop in Erbil. The workshop was designed to give the participants a thorough understanding of the Iraqi legal system in relation to women's rights. The fundamental techniques of interviewing and investigating cases of VAWG were addressed to increase the skill level of the police officers to ensure their effectiveness when responding to cases of VAWG.

Output 2.3: MOI and Kurdish Juridical Council work jointly to improve response to VAWG.

In May, the legal Working Group (WG) of the GTF legal team convened a meeting with heads of the Penal Courts of Erbil, Sulaymaniah, Duhok and Garman (in Sulaymaniah), along with the head and members of Kurdistan Bar Association. The meeting took place in the Kurdish Judicial Council (KJC) premises, and its aim was to enact article 19 of Iraqi Constitution, which enforces the presence of a lawyer to defend VAWG cases and ensure that women have access to justice. The meeting resulted in the adoption of the article. After the meeting, the head of Sulaymaniah appeal court sent an official letter to all the investigation courts calling for the necessity of the presence of lawyer to defend cases. This measure is enforced as of May 23, 2011.

Subsequently, on the 30th of May, the legal WG of the GTF convened a meeting with officials and judicial investigators of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) to discuss the pivotal role of the judicial investigator in police stations to investigate cases of VAWG. This is to replace the current practice in police stations whereby investigation is undertaken by police officer. The outcome of the meeting was that 30 judicial investigators collectively agreed that within a time frame of three months, they will undertake investigation of two VAW cases as a pilot test to be reviewed and reflected upon. The IRC will continue working closely with the group to ensure cooperation and coordination of MOI and MOJ.

Expected Result 3: Community capacity to recognize violence against women and girls as harmful, to facilitate the recovery of survivors, and to engage in local prevention and awareness is increased

Output 3.1: IRC local partners implement effective prevention interventions to address VAWG and support the overall well-being of women and girls.

The IRC received a list of proposed activities from the local NGOs listed above. The proposed activities include community mobilization and awareness raising activities as part of the NGOs' prevention plans to address the social norms, traditions, and cultural and religious justifications that most condone violence against women. The IRC will provide technical assistance through coaching and mentoring to ensure that this component is well designed and implemented at the community level.

Output 3.2: Religious leaders promote the overall protection and well-being of women and girls.

Currently, the IRC is assisting the local NGOs listed above to develop realistic, cohesive and culturally appropriate activities to work with religious leaders. The main concepts aim at working to prepare religious leaders to lead discussions on women's rights in religion with special focus on "honour crimes" as a controversial issue. The outputs and outcomes of these proposed activities will be reported on in the coming phases of this project.

Expected Result 4: Local and national efforts to address VAWG are strengthened through increased coordination and dialogue.

Output 4.1: Key actors addressing VAWG at the national and local levels purposefully engage and coordinate in order to strengthen response and prevention efforts.

The program team is coordinating efforts with key officials of MOLSA to discuss shelter needs. Additionally, the program team is strengthening its efforts and partnership with our strategic partner, DFVAW, by maintaining a good relationship and professional communication to build mutual trust and respect in order to assist joint activities moving forward. The IRC's local partners have also been active building networks with DFVAW and MOLSA in Duhuk and Sulaymaniyah to ensure coordination to build a solid referral system. Recently, the program team managed to build key contacts within the Ministry of Health (MoH) and is in direct communication with them to keep them abreast of project activities regarding first response for health practitioners. Training workshops for health educators of PHCs were carried out in the MOH facilities. The program team is active in working groups led by key UN agencies. The program team was also represented in IOM working groups to discuss the trafficking of women in Iraq and specifically the KRG.

Committed and Acquitted Funds to Date

CATEGORY	BUDGET FOR FIRST AND SECOND YEAR	TOTAL EXPENDITURE AND COMMITMENT THROUGH JUNE	BALANCE FOR FIRST AND SECOND YEAR	% SPENT
PERSONNEL	AUD 708,998	361,087	347,912	51%
BENEFITS	301,763	141,922	159,841	47%
TRAVEL	101,830	52,085	49,745	51%
EQUIPMENT	55,489	34,233	21,255	62%
SUPPLIES	328,391	186,226	142,165	57%
SUB-GRANTS	636,677	244,946	391,730	38%
OTHER	101,362	51,306	50,057	51%
ICR	186,805	89,603	97,202	48%
TOTAL	AUD 2,421,315	AUD 1,161,408	AUD 1,259,907	48%