

# Empowering and Serving Iraqi Women and Youth

UNFPA Country Programme Action Plan 2011 – 2014



Government of Iraq  
Ministry of Planning



United Nations  
populations Fund-Iraq

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Dear readers

It is with pleasure that I present to you a summary of the Action Plan for the first UNFPA Country Programme (CP) for Iraq 2011-2014. The Country Programme is aligned to Iraq's national development priorities, the National Poverty Reduction Strategy, the United Nations Development Framework (UNDAF) for Iraq 2011-2014 and the UNFPA Strategic Plan 2008-2011.

UNFPA Country Programme and its CPAP will contribute to the achievement of the following three UNDAF outcomes, which in turn address Iraq's national development priorities:

- a) Improved governance and protection of human rights;
- b) Increased access to high-quality essential services; and
- c) Investment in human capital and empowerment of women and youth.

The CP builds on lessons learnt and best practices stemming from the past programmatic collaboration between UNFPA and the Government of Iraq, with a view to establishing sound synergies between the CP's components - Population and Development, Reproductive Health & Rights, and Gender Equality - and with youth issues, which are crosscutting in all the three thematic areas.

Based on challenges identified in the situation analysis, and using a human rights-based approach, and gender/culture dimension as a programmatic tool, the UNFPA Country Programme aims at :

- ❖ Building the institutional and technical capacities of relevant government entities, at national and sub-national level, as well as national NGOs and local associations, as duty bearers, to fulfill their obligations;
- ❖ Enabling the capacities of targeted population groups and sub-groups, as rights holders, to claim their rights and make their own choices.

I hope that reading this brochure will provide you with an overview of the areas of UNFPA's support to the Government of Iraq and the regional government in Kurdistan to achieve their developmental goals during the coming four years (2011-2014).

Georges M. Georgi  
Representative, UNFPA-Iraq



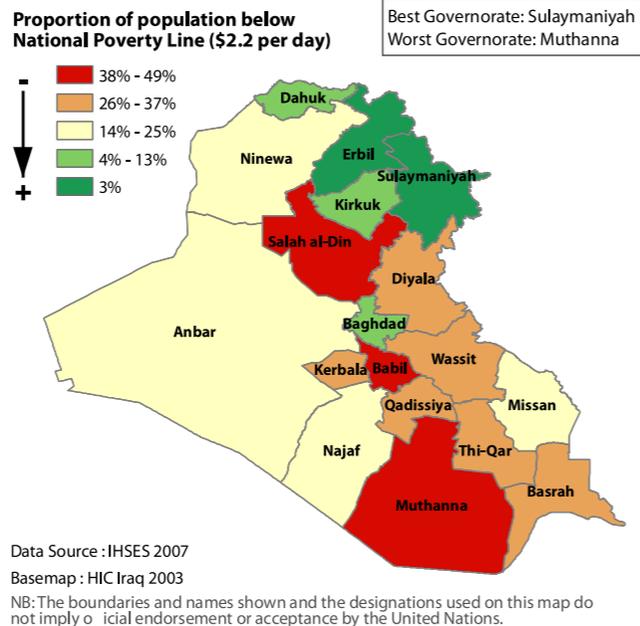
WOMEN  
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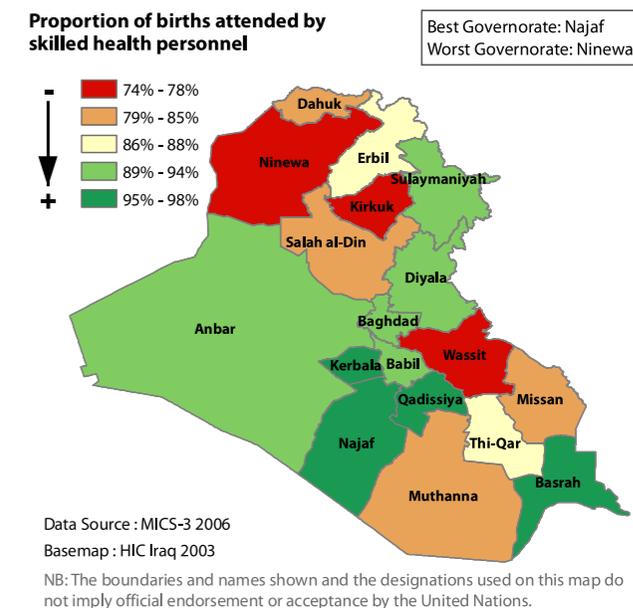
**Iraq's** geopolitical, institutional and socio-economic developments continue to influence and compound the specific population, youth and gender challenges in Iraq. The average life expectancy in Iraq dropped from 62.5 years in 1995 to 58 years in 2005. The poverty rates in Iraq continue to increase, with 23% of the population living below the national poverty line. The poor rural and agricultural development is driving migration to urban areas, increasing pressure on urban services. Urban overcrowding is prevalent, with 13% of urban establishments housing more than 10 occupants. Consequently, essential services such as health, education, water supply, sanitation and waste management, and power supply are not able to match the growing demand, leaving 57% of urban population in slum-like conditions.

**At the policy level,** Iraq faces specific challenges, including lack of population-centered policies and weak institutional capacities for policy development and monitoring, especially in the area of population, gender and reproductive health. The current National Statistics System, even with the strong central statistical organization, is unable to provide coherent, integrated and up-to-date information systems for evidence-based policy-making, planning, monitoring and evaluation. Beyond national policy frameworks, the social and health systems often fall short of advancing progress in the achievement of health MDGs for women, girls and youth.

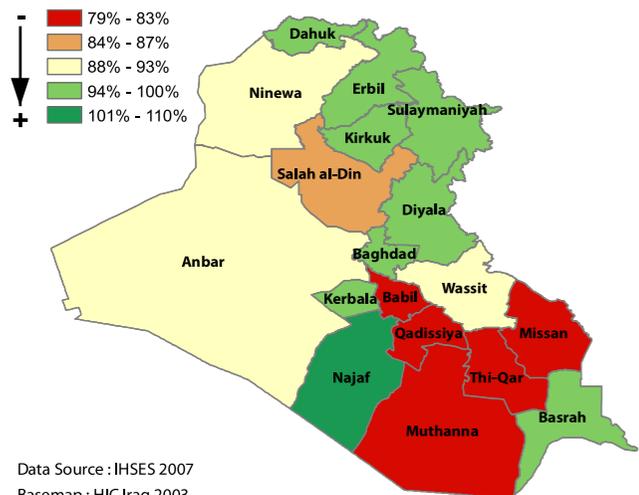
With a high annual growth rate nearing 3.4%, the Iraqi population has increased from 10.2 million to 31.4 million in 2010 and is expected to increase four times by 2050. The excessive population growth further compounds a number of other challenges including unbalanced spatial population distribution and soaring urban migration. Decades of internal violence and international sanctions, have generated momentous adverse implications for natural resource use, the environmental safety, poverty reduction, gender equality, and universal access to reproductive health services and information, both in rural and urban areas. The wide-spread violence and political instability at national and sub-national levels over the last few years have caused displacement of over 1.6 million people inside Iraq, and 2 million people outside of the country.



The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in Iraq is rather high, at 4.3 children per woman in 2006. About 23% of women were reported to marry before the age of 18, and only 33% of women aged 15-49 are alleged to use modern contraceptives (only 1% of males use condoms; and only 2.7% of women in the same age group have knowledge about HIV). In interaction with frequent adolescent marriages and lack of conscientious reproductive attitudes and behaviors, family planning (FP) and reproductive health (RH) services are poorly integrated into Iraqi health system. 11% of FP need is unmet, while only 56% of women have access to antenatal care. Pregnant women also have poor access to postnatal care, with only 62% of women having access to professional care, and 38% of women undergoing home deliveries. The Maternal Mortality Ratio in Iraq is 84 per 100,000 live births, with 35% of pregnant women experiencing anemia.



**Enrollment ratio of females to males in primary education**



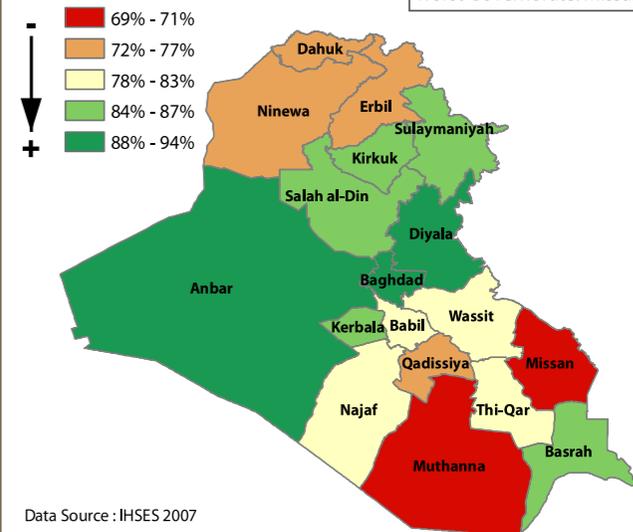
Data Source : IHSES 2007  
Basemap : HIC Iraq 2003  
NB: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Women and girls comprise 54% of the total population in Iraq, yet they constitute the most neglected and marginalized group. Young girls are disproportionately taxed. An adolescent girl in Iraq is less likely to go to secondary school, particularly in rural areas where the rate is estimated at 13.6 percent. She is at high risk of being illiterate; high probability of being married before her 18th birthday without her consent; has little or no recourse to protection from further abuse and disempowerment; and faces restricted freedom of physical mobility. Women and girls in Iraq are regularly subjected to various forms of discrimination and violence. More than 80% of Iraqi women report being subjected to some form of marital controlling behavior. In 2007, 1 in 5 married Iraqi women reported being a victim of physical domestic violence, while 1 in 3 reported being subjected to emotional violence. In the area of policy-making, gender mainstreaming has been slow, and the investigations of crimes against women have been hampered by lack of skills, training, and awareness on the part of both the government and the civil society.



Iraq is facing a dawning of a "youth bulge", with 43% of population under age 15. The number of young people entering reproductive and labor force is expected to increase significantly between 2011 and 2015, creating both an opportunity and a challenge in Iraq's current socio-economic context. Young people in Iraq continue to suffer from the drawbacks of the conflict and the ensuing limited educational and employment opportunities. The enrolment ratio in intermediate education is barely 40% and secondary is less than 30%, the illiteracy rate is high, and the unemployment rate for both sexes combined is estimated at about 30%. In this, adolescent girls are worse off in every dimension, including a high probability of being married before 18th birthday without her consent, and restricted freedom of physical mobility. In terms of participation, only 40% of youth perceive the value of taking part in social and political life. Youth in Iraq is also exposed to risky health behavior, with only 46% of youth able to identify HIV/AIDS transmission means, and only 26% able to recognize the protection means with alarming signal of increase in drugs and substance abuse.

**Literacy rate of segment of pop. aged 15 - 24 years**



Data Source : IHSES 2007  
Basemap : HIC Iraq 2003  
NB: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



UNFPA has supported a number of population and family planning projects in Iraq since 1971.

Cooperation with Government of Iraq, and civil society (2004-2007):

- ❖ Support to Emergency Obstetric Care services
- ❖ Support to population and housing census
- ❖ Support to reproductive health and family planning services in the marshes area
- ❖ UN-joint programme to promote civil education and life skills among adolescents
- ❖ Support to strengthening protection and justice for children and youth people
- ❖ Support to institutionalizing youth-friendly health services
- ❖ Multi-sectoral programme to combat violence against women
- ❖ Support to modernization of the National Statistical System
- ❖ Support to national surveys:
  - ❖ Iraq Women Social & Health Survey (I-WISH);
  - ❖ Iraq National Youth Survey (NYS).
- ❖ Support to set up a Socio-economic Monitoring System

The key lessons learned from the previous cooperation point to the following needs:

- ❖ Institutional capacity-building and systems development in national entities
- ❖ Increased involvement of sub-national level and NGOs in programme implementation
- ❖ Inter-sectoral coordination among governmental and civil society organizations
- ❖ Promotion of national execution to ensure national ownership & sustainability
- ❖ Importance of emergency preparedness in programme design
- ❖ Increased UNFPA presence inside Iraq.

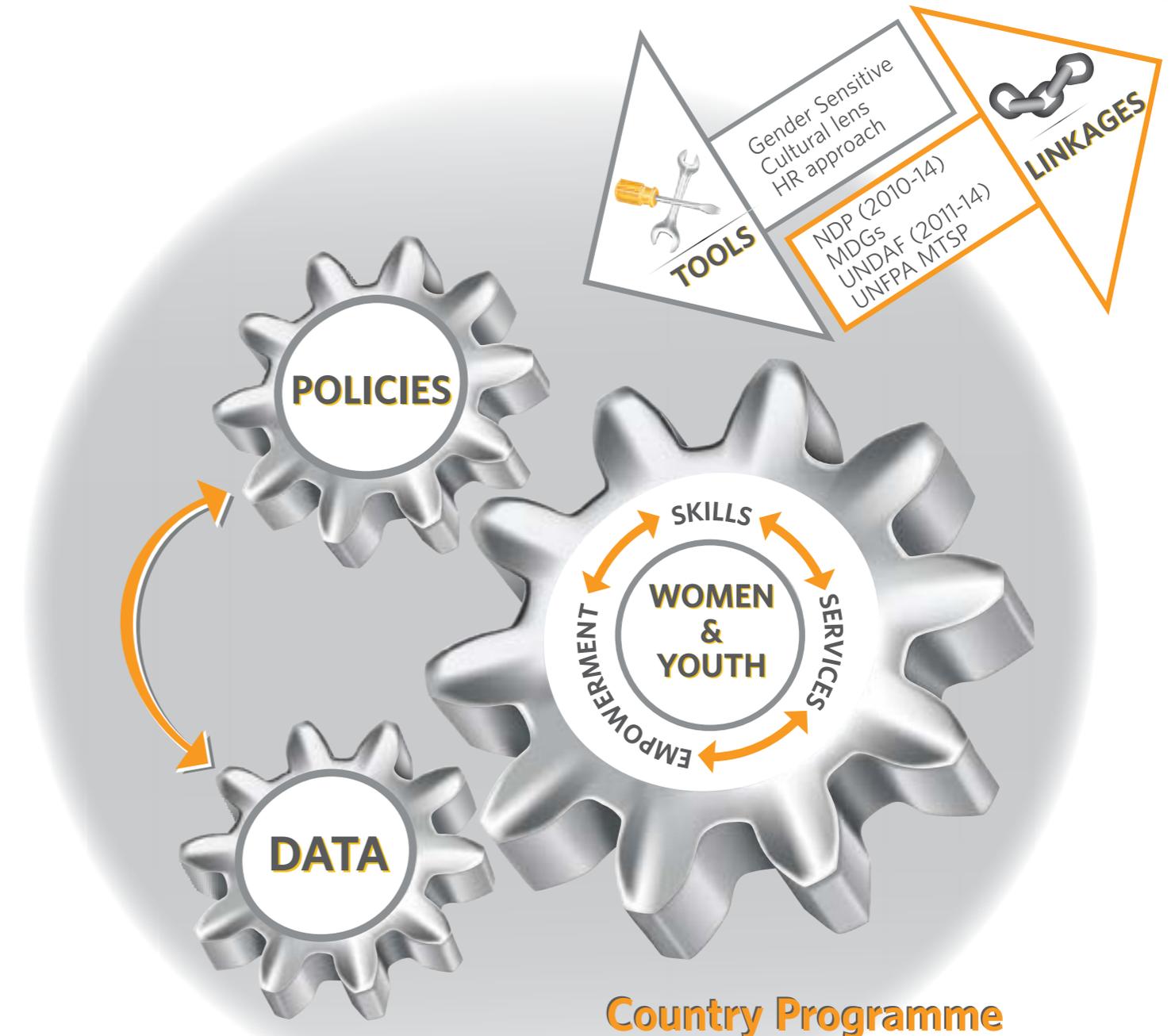
Using a Human Right-based approach, as well as Gender-sensitive and cultural lenses, as programmatic tools, the first UNFPA 4-years Country programme for Iraq is linked to Iraq National Development Plan (2010-14), in line with Iraq UNDAF (2011-14), MDGs, and UNFPA Strategic Plan.

Contributing to three UNDAF outcomes, the Country Programme will be guided by some principles underpinning national ownership, national capacity development, promotion of local and regional partnerships through south-to-south cooperation, harmonization with other UN agencies.

As people centered, the Country Programme would primarily focus on women and youth in a multidimensional and life cycle approach. Ultimately, the Country Programme is aiming at improving the life of women and youth through better information and Skills, enhanced Empowerment and participation, and comprehensive services, with focus on reproductive health and rights. These efforts will be further sustained and scaled up through advocacy and support for relevant policy formulation, as well as availability and utilization of population related data.

Realizing the complex reality of Iraq and the challenges associated with the recovery-to-development transition, the first CP takes into consideration the inalienable linkages among its different programme components, which are mutually reinforcing each other.

**E**ducate - **A**dvocate - **S**erve - **E**mpower



Within the context of National Development Plan (2010 – 2014), and National Poverty Reduction Strategy, the “Population & Development” component aims to respond to Iraq’s challenges in area of Population-centered, evidence-based policy making, planning and monitoring processes, with particular focus on priority population issues, including population growth, migration/displacement and urbanization, as well youth development and gender equality. Within this context, and through its different and interconnected outputs and interventions, the country Programme is aiming to:

- ❖ Strengthen Population-related data collection, analysis, dissemination and utilization for formulation of policies and strategies, as well as for evidence- and right-based programming and monitoring;
- ❖ Promote intersectoral policy dialogue, as well as advocacy and legislation through selected parliament committees on priority population issues and challenges

### National Partners (at Federal and Kurdistan Regional Government)

Ministry of Planning, CSO / KRSO, Selected Parliament committees, and University Research centers

### UN Partners:

UNDP, UNESCO, ILO, League of Arab States

### Financial Resources:

Total Resources required:	8.0millions US\$
Resources secured:	4.5millions US\$
Resources to be mobilized:	3.5 millions US\$



The National Development Plan (2010 – 2014), as well as the National Health Policy advocate for a Primary Health Care approach as an effective and equitable means of providing basic health services for all, and particularly for women, children and youth, and to complement the existing hospital-based system, with a balanced preventive and curative approach. Within this context, and to advance achievement of ICPD goals and MDG 5, the “Reproductive & Maternal Health” component aims to respond to Iraq’s challenges to advance Reproductive Health and Rights, particularly for mothers and women in a life cycle approach, with emphasis on Family planning and Emergency Obstetric Care.

More precisely, through its different and interactive outputs and interventions, the programme component is aiming at contributing to two main outcomes:

- ❖ Strengthening access and effective integration of a comprehensive package of client-oriented & quality Reproductive Health (RH) services into Iraqi health systems at national and subnational levels, with particular focus on Primary Health Care system, with adequate referral to Hospital system;
- ❖ Increasing demand and utilization of RH services by women and youth, particularly in underserved areas, through community-based behavior change interventions targeting individuals and communities.

### National Partners (at Federal and Kurdistan Regional Government)

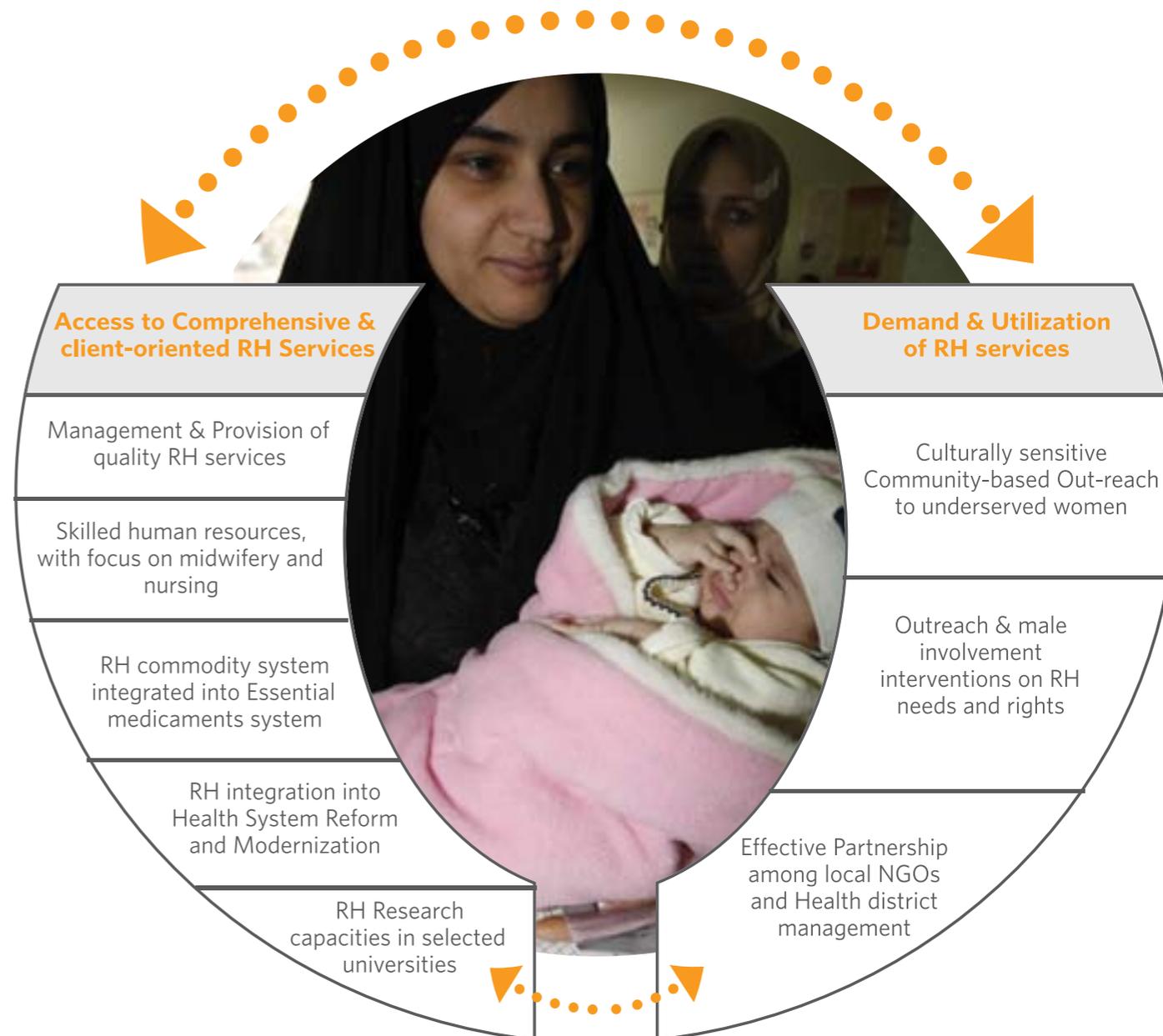
Ministry of Health, NGOs, CSOs (such as professional syndicates, .....), Parliament committees, academia, and University Research Centers

### UN Partners:

WHO, UNICEF, WFP

### Financial Resources:

Total Resources required:	10.5 million US\$
Resources secured:	4.0 million US\$
Resources to be mobilized:	6.5 million US\$



This component is directly contributing to a national priority expressed in Iraq 5-Year NDP, expressed by “promoting an enabling environment for women’s empowerment and development that broadens their capacity and choices, and secures gender equality”, and will assist the Government of Iraq in achieving MDG 3 and Beijing Platform of Action.

More specifically, and grounded on UN Security Council Resolution 1325, particularly in relation to elimination of Violence Against Women (VAW), as well as women empowerment in conflict situation, this programme component will be achieved through two outputs aiming at :

- ❖ Strengthened technical and institutional capacities of relevant duty bearers (government & civil society organizations) to provide quality services to VAW & GBV survivors
- ❖ Strengthened civil society organizations (CSOs) to advocate for prevention of VAW at grass roots levels, as well as to empower women and eventually their participation in peace building in Iraq.

### National Partners (at Federal and Kurdistan Regional Government)

State Ministry of Women Affairs / Kurdistan High Council of Women; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs; Women NGOs; Parliament committees; and University Research Centers

### UN Partners:

UN WOMEN, UNDP, WHO, FAO,

### Financial Resources:

Total Resources required:	6.0 million US\$
Resources secured:	3.0 million US\$
Resources to be mobilized:	3.0 million US\$



Recognising the demographic transition that the Iraqi population is passing during the next 20 years, as well as the “Youth Bulge” as a demographic bonus that is creating unprecedented opportunities and challenges for Iraq, the National Development Plan (2010 – 2014) stressed on investing on youth, expressed as “Promoting the Empowerment and capacity of Iraqi youth to face social challenges and to contribute to community development”.

Jointly with other UN agencies (ILO, UNESCO, UNDP, WHO, ...), this component aims to directly contribute to youth’s full achievement of their Human Rights (social, economic and civic), and to assist relevant government partners, civil society organisations, and local youth associations, to respond comprehensively to Youth development priorities.

More precisely, through its different and interactive outputs and interventions, the programme component is aiming at contributing to two main outcomes:

- ❖ Supporting Formulation and monitoring of a National multi-sectoral Youth Strategy, as well as its implementation at local level (district / municipalities)
- ❖ Supporting Youth empowerment / participation mechanisms at national, regional and local levels;
- ❖ Promoting information and life skills on health and social issues, through formal and non-formal education curricula, as well as through Youth-to-Youth Peer Education approach;
- ❖ Securing community-based multidimensional Youth Friendly Services (health and social counseling), that are closely linked with employment/career counseling and grant/credit services

### National Partners (at Federal and Kurdistan Regional Government)

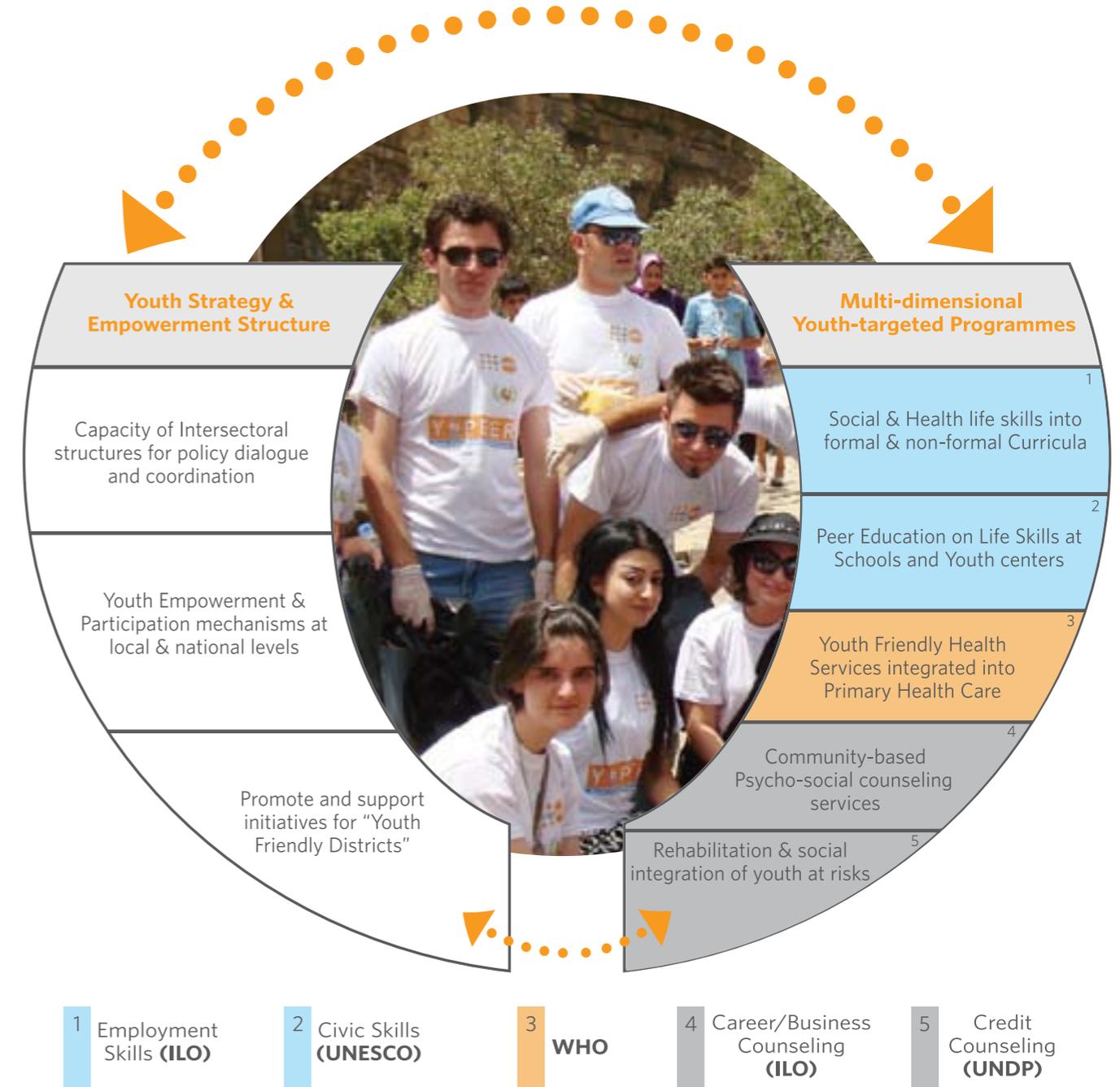
Ministries Youth & Sport, Ministry of Culture & Youth (KRG), Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour & Social Affairs, Ministry of Health, Youth NGOs, Parliament committees, academia, and University research centers

### UN Partners:

ILO, UNESCO, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, FAO

### Financial Resources:

Total Resources required:	5.5 million US\$
Resources secured:	2.5 million US\$
Resources to be mobilized:	3.0 million US\$



# Who

# How

National Partners

At both federal and Kurdistan Regional level

- ❖ Government Institution
- ❖ Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)
  - ❖ Women and Youth Organizations
  - ❖ Community-based associations
  - ❖ Professional associations
  - ❖ Iraqi Universities



- ❖ Technical assistance
- ❖ Advocacy & policy dialogue
- ❖ Multi-sectoral programmes
- ❖ South-South cooperation
- ❖ Fund mobilization

Other Partners

- ❖ Donors - Bilateral and multilateral
- ❖ UN agencies
- ❖ Regional Institutions
- ❖ International NGOs



- ❖ Funding agreements
- ❖ Joint programmes
- ❖ South-South cooperation
- ❖ Programme implementation

UNFPA is keen on nurturing and expanding its present partner's network at the national, regional, and international levels to secure capacity building of national partners for programme execution and the consequential achievement of results. The newly born and vibrant Women and Youth national NGOs are of particular interest to UNFPA.

The Ministries of Planning at federal and Kurdistan Regional Governments are UNFPA's main partners for the overall coordination and monitoring of the Country Programme.

❖ **Programme Coordination Mechanism:**

- I. The Programme Steering Committee, which will:
  - ❖ Conduct an Annual Review of all CP components
  - ❖ Provide strategic orientations and recommendations for future CP plans
  - ❖ Approve proposed Annual Work Plans (AWPs) of CP components
  - ❖ Organize and approve the CP final evaluation in 2014
  
- II. Thematic Technical Committees (TTC)
  - A TTC will be established for each CP component to support and monitor implementation of activities.

❖ **Programme Monitoring Tools:**

- Overall programme monitoring and evaluation will be done through:
- ❖ Results indicators (macro indicators, baselines and targets for 2014)
  - ❖ CPAP Planning & Tracking tool
  - ❖ CPAP M & E Plan/Calendar, including surveys, research and data collection systems

**Erbil office**

**Staffing:**

- International Chief of Operations
- National programme staff
- National Admin/Finance staff

**Function:**

Coordination and Programme implementation

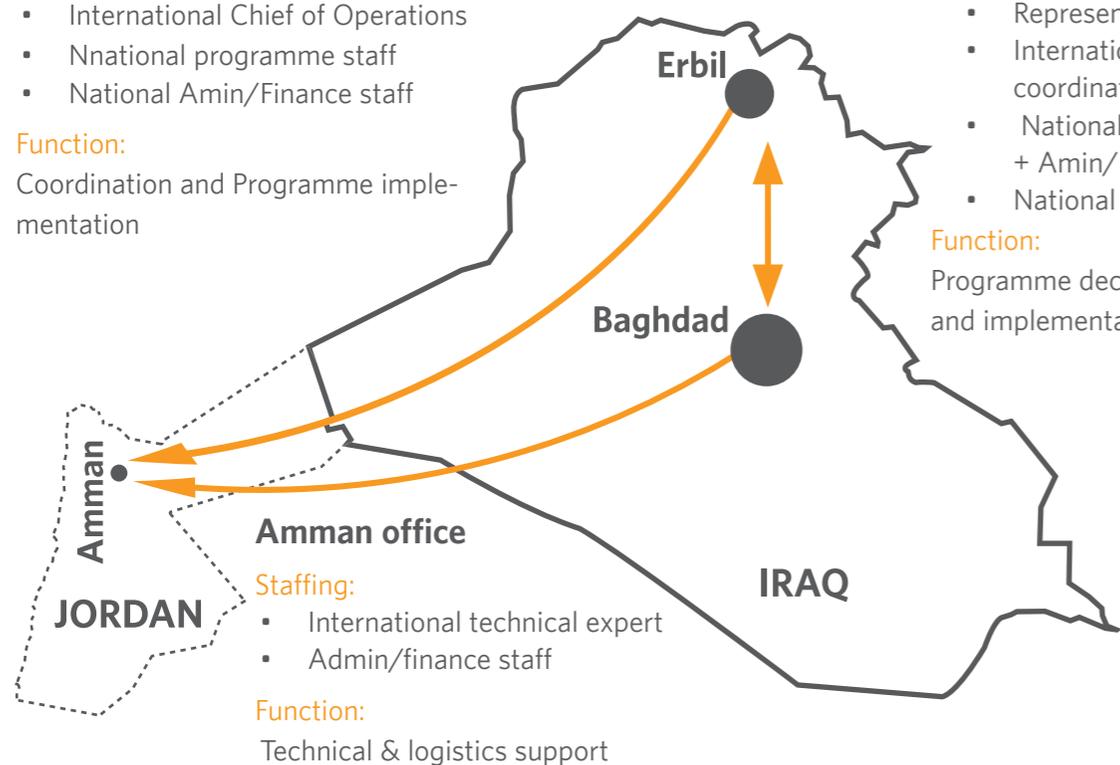
**Baghdad office**

**Staffing:**

- Representative,
- International Programme coordinator
- National Operation Manager + Admin/Finance staff
- National programme staff

**Function:**

Programme decisions, coordination, and implementation



**Amman office**

**Staffing:**

- International technical expert
- Admin/finance staff

**Function:**

Technical & logistics support

UNFPA Iraq office presently conducts its programme implementation and operational activities via two offices in Baghdad and Erbil with support office in Amman. All three offices are staffed with programme and support staff and interlinked via latest state of the art communication facilities, videoconference equipment. The Amman office will provide technical and financial support and will eventually phase out as the operational environment and security inside Iraq becomes more conducive.

IRAQ





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POPULATION

YOUTH  
WOMEN GENDER

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

**GENDER** POPULATION

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH **GENDER**

**YOUTH** WOMEN

REPRODUCTIVE

HEALTH **YOUTH**



لأن كل شخص مهم  
Because Everyone Counts