

**World Bank Iraq Trust Fund**  
**Project #: P098979**  
**March 2008 / 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter**  
**Project Summary Sheet**

<b>Title</b>	Emergency Household Survey and Policies Project		
<b>Implementing Agency</b>	<i>Main project:</i> - Ministry of Planning and Development Co-operation (MOPDC) - Statistics Agency – Kurdistan Regional Government <i>Technical Assistance:</i> - World Bank		
<b>Location</b>	Nationwide (all 18 Governorates)		
<b>Sector code (OECD DAC)</b>	<i>13010</i>	Population policy and administrative management	
	<i>16062</i>	Statistical capacity building	
<b>Compact Priority</b>	<i>4.4.1.1</i>	Design and carry out specific policies including reforms and investments toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals	
	<i>4.4.2.1</i>	Undertake specific measures to strengthen the targeted safety net	
<b>Project Cost</b>	US\$6.6 million (including US\$1.5 million Bank-executed Technical Assistance grant)		
<b>Duration</b>	38 months		
<b>Approval Date</b>	24 Jul 2006	<b>Effective Date</b>	Jul 2006
		<b>Closing Date</b>	30 Sep 2009
<b>Project Description</b>	The project aims to strengthen Iraq's ability to establish a poverty line, target social assistance to the neediest, and make informed policy decisions.		
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	In the long term, accurate population data will facilitate improved service delivery and hence benefit the population of Iraq.		
<b>Near Term Employment Creation</b>	To supplement the existing MOPDC staff, 324 consultants were engaged to conduct the survey and analyze data.		

**Strategic Context and Donor Coordination**

The project directly supports helping Iraq build efficient, inclusive, transparent, and accountable institutions, in line with the International Compact with Iraq. The project finances the first nation-wide expenditure survey since 1988, and aims to update a UNDP-sponsored survey, completed in 2004. The survey was carefully coordinated with UNICEF's household survey by including the same households, which will allow the merging of the two survey data sets. In addition to updating many indicators from the UNDP-sponsored survey, the Emergency Household Survey also adds detailed income and expenditure data that are needed to evaluate poverty levels and set the CPI.

**Project Development Objective**

- Improve targeting of social assistance
- Increase ability for social policy making

**Outputs, Key Activities and Procurement**

<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established accurate poverty line</li> <li>• Comprehensive Household Survey</li> <li>• Improved capacity in central ministries for policy making</li> </ul>
<b>Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Household Survey &amp; data analysis</li> <li>• Poverty &amp; Social Impact Assessment</li> <li>• Relevant Technical Assistance</li> </ul>

<b>Procurement</b>	<b>Goods:</b>	US\$0.7 million
	<b>Consulting services:</b>	US\$3.1 million
	<b>Operating costs:</b>	US\$1.1 million
	<b>Technical assistance:</b>	US\$1.5 million
	<b>Unallocated:</b>	US\$0.2 million

### Financial Data (as of 03/31/2008)

<b>Funds Committed</b>	US\$6.2 million	<b>% approved</b>	94
<b>Funds Disbursed</b>	US\$6.0 million	<b>% approved</b>	91
<b>Forecast Closing Date</b>	30 Sep 2009	<b>Delay (months)</b>	

### Progress against indicators

Collect and analyze high quality data on household income, expenditure and living standards for all governorates.	Data collected for 12 months in all governorates. Remarkably few areas (parts of governorates) inaccessible due to the security situation. Quality of fieldwork and data found to be acceptable. Data sets and tabulation have been drafted and are being reviewed.	<b>% of planned</b>	70%
Strengthen capacity of Iraqi statistical bodies to conduct quality household surveys. (1000 person days of training planned)	800 person days of training (March 2008)	<b>% of planned</b>	80%

### Qualitative Assessment of Project Performance

A twelve month cycle of fieldwork, covering about 18,000 households in all 18 governorates was completed in January 2008. An assessment of fieldwork and data quality has found both to be remarkably good. Analysis of the data is underway and the inter-ministerial Iraqi team is beginning to develop the Strategy for Poverty Reduction, Employment Generation and Safety Nets.

The Banks' management has agreed to pilot a designated account in the Household Survey Project to provide advance funding to the project and facilitate disbursements in a timely manner. Additionally, the Bank is currently finalizing a US\$2.5 million additional financing package to fill a funding gap due to cost increases and scale up the technical assistance provided under the project. The additional financing grant will be co-financed by the Government of Iraq.

### Major Implementation Obstacles

While the ongoing security situation in Iraq can impede movement and create hardship for contractors, these difficulties were mitigated by employing local interviewers to conduct the survey and use of technology (e.g. remote accessing of data entry computers). The primary impediment to speedy implementation of the Household Survey Project was the difficulty MOPDC faced processing a large number of payments each month to the hundreds of local interviewers for fees and travel expenses. Payment delays were caused by a lack of liquidity in the project account, problems transferring funds through the local banking system, and difficulties in communication and transporting documents. The designated account will help ensure timely disbursements. In addition, the appreciation of the Iraqi Dinar has increased project costs, and the financing gap will be filled by an additional financing grant currently under preparation, complemented by Government of Iraq co-financing.