

World Bank Iraq Trust Fund
Household Survey and Policies for Poverty Reduction Project
(TF056441/P098979 and TF056442/P099084)
December 2009

Project Summary Sheet

Title	Household Survey and Policies for Poverty Reduction Project				
Implementing Agency	Ministry of Planning and Development Co-operation (MOPDC) World Bank				
Location	Nationwide (all 18 Governorates)				
Sector code (OECD DAC)	<i>13010</i> Population policy and administrative management <i>16062</i> Statistical capacity building				
Compact Priority	<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				
Project Cost	US\$9.1 million: US\$5.5 million MOPDC-implemented grant US\$3.6 million Bank-executed technical assistance				
Duration	51 months				
Approval Date	May 2006	Effective Date	May 2006	Closing Date	June 2010
Project Description	The project finances the first nation-wide expenditure survey since 1988 to help Iraq establish an information-based poverty line, target social assistance to the most needy, and make informed policy decisions.				
Beneficiaries	In the long term, accurate population data will facilitate improved service delivery and hence benefit the population of Iraq.				
Near Term Employment Creation	To supplement the existing MOPDC staff, 324 Iraqi 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. The project financed the Iraq Household Socio-Economic Survey (IHSES), the first nation-wide expenditure survey since 1988. In addition to providing detailed expenditure and income data needed to understand the causes and nature of poverty, the IHSES provided data needed to rebase the Consumer Price Index. The project also provides financial and technical support to the GOI's development of a strategy for poverty reduction, employment generation and safety nets, which is expected to help the government and donors prioritize assistance in these areas.

Project Development Objective

Strengthen the ability of the GOI to:

- Collect and analyze data on poverty and unemployment
- Develop information-based strategies to reduce poverty, generate employment, and to improve the functioning of social safety nets
- Assess the effect of economic policy options on both poverty and employment, including the impact of sequencing reforms and policies

Outputs, Key Activities and Procurement

Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established accurate poverty line Comprehensive Household Survey Improved capacity in central ministries for policy making
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household Survey & data analysis Poverty & Social Impact Assessment Relevant Technical Assistance
Procurement	<p>Goods: US\$0.75 million</p> <p>Consulting services: US\$2.75 million</p> <p>Operating costs: US\$1.0 million</p> <p>Technical assistance: US\$3.6 million</p> <p>Unallocated: US\$1.0 million</p>

Financial Data

Funds Committed	US\$8.9 million	% approved	98
Funds Disbursed	US\$8.9 million	% approved	98
Forecast Closing Date	June 2010	Delay (months)	0

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) are inaccessible due to the security situation. Quality of fieldwork and data found to be good.	% of planned	100
Data sets and tabulation reports.	The Tabulation Report was released in Baghdad on January 12, 2009.		100
Analysis of the IHSES appears in government reports and impacts budget decisions	The draft 2010 budget has taken on several of the recommendations of the draft Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS), including increasing allocations for basic education and health. On November 24, 2009, the GOI formally adopted a PRS based on the analysis of the IHSES data. The GOI is currently drafting a Five Year National Development Plan, which makes extensive use of the Poverty Analysis directly as well as through the PRS..		90
Strengthen capacity of Iraqi statistical bodies to conduct quality household surveys. (1000 person days of training planned)	About 3,000 person days of training.		300

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. The Tabulation Report was released in January 2009 at the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) workshop, which was attended by many international participants. A broadly representative Poverty Reduction Strategy High Committee (PRSHC) developed a poverty line which was officially endorsed in April 2009. An analytical report which was drafted jointly by the High Committee and the World Bank has been completed.

The PRS was unanimously adopted by the Council of Ministers on November 24, 2009. The Poverty Assessment report is being finalized.

The project has exceeded its target in terms of capacity building activities. The project has already provided more than 3,000 person-days of training, exceeding the planned number of 1,000 person-days.

Major Implementation Obstacles

Currently, the project is not facing any major implementation obstacles.