

**United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund**  
**Project #:C9-25**  
**Date and Quarter Updated: July - September, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2012**

<b>Participating UN Organisation:</b> UNOPS	<b>Priority Area :</b> Governance and Human Rights ( formerly Governance sector)
<b>Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry:</b>	CoR Civil Society Committee

<b>Title</b>	Iraqi Civil Society Empowerment Project				
<b>Geo. Location</b>	National coverage, with specific activities targeting priority areas determined by the location of the selected NGOs. .				
<b>Project Cost</b>	4,255,193				
<b>Duration</b>	24 months + 24 months extension				
<b>SC Approval Date</b>	04.12.2008	<b>Starting Date</b>	09.12.2008	<b>Completion Date</b>	09.12.2010 extended to 31.12.2012
<b>Project Description</b>	<p>This project builds on UNOPS experience in supporting Iraq’s citizens with the assistance of Iraqi civil society over the past 4 years, be it through capacity-building, grant funding or technical assistance. ICSEP defines <i>empowerment</i> as a process where the Iraqi people, in this instance via civil society, gain greater independence through Capacity-Building. This project will enable civil society to develop into a stronger and more reliable partner for government and donors in order to better inform, monitor and support processes of democratization, stabilization, development and relief to the benefit of all Iraq’s people. The Project comprises 4 stand-alone modules: 1. Capacity-Building, Awareness-Raising and Networking; 2. Emergency Response and Preparedness; 3. Citizen Participation in Local Governance; &amp; 4. Community-based Peace-building. Special attention will be paid to gender and youth-sensitive programming. ICSEP adopts a two-pronged implementation strategy with certain outcomes pursued nationally while others follow area-based models. ICSEP rests on strong partnerships with our Iraqi partners - governmental (Min. of Civil Society, NAO, NCCMD) &amp; NGOs.</p>				

**Development Goal and Immediate Objectives**

*The project contributes to the following development goals in the relevant development strategies for Iraq:*  
**Iraqi National Development Strategy (NDS):** 7.5.3. (*Emergency Coordination, Preparedness and Response*); 9.1.1. (*National Dialogue and Reconciliation*); 9.4.1 (*‘Engaging with Civil Society’*)  
**International Compact with Iraq (ICI):** Section 3.1.1. (*National Dialogue and Reconciliation*), 3.3.1. (*Establish a comprehensive human rights regime country wide*) and Section 4.2.1 (*‘Engaging with the Civil Society’*)  
**Sector Team Outcome(s) for the Governance Sector:**  
 Outcome 2: *Strengthening national dialogue and civil society for governance and reconciliation.*  
 Outcome 3: *Strengthened regulatory framework, institutions and processes of national and local governance.*  
**Project objectives:**

1. To establish a liberal legal and administrative framework for Iraqi NGOs, respected both by the authorities and the NGO community itself.
2. To increase organizational capacity for advocacy of the Iraqi civil society.
3. To improve access of Iraqi citizens to relief assistance following increased role of NGO community in conducting emergency response.
4. To strengthen citizen participation in local governance processes, facilitated by civil society, which impacts positively on local economic development and social assistance delivery.
5. To spearhead collaborative initiatives to counter conflict trends through civil society with the ultimate aim of protecting human rights and achieving community development.

**Outputs, Key activities and Procurement**

<b>Outputs</b>	1.1: Int’l standards mainstreamed in draft laws and regulations governing NGO sector 1.2. Increased capacity of NGO Assistance Office to register NGOs timely and provide information
----------------	--

	<p>support.</p> <p>1.3: Higher awareness across civil society, government and public on rights &amp; duties of NGOs.</p> <p>2.1 Increased Iraqi capacity to provide CB support to civil society organizations in core organizational functions and Human Rights Civic Education.</p> <p>2.2: Civic Education campaign on Human Rights conducted by empowered NGO network.</p> <p>3.1: NGO Emergency Preparedness and Response Network (EPRN) established nationwide</p> <p>3.2: Enhanced coordination of local humanitarian NGOs with humanitarian community (GoI, UN, Int. NGOs)</p> <p>3.3: Increased under-standing of humanitarian ethics and advocacy role among NGO community.</p> <p>4.1. Increased capacities for evaluating local governance and producing recommendations to improve citizen participation.</p> <p>4.2: Civic Education campaign on citizen participation in local governance conducted by empowered NGO network.</p> <p>4.3: Citizen participation initiatives increase democratic local governance through close collaboration between NGOs and local authorities.</p> <p>4.4: Stronger policy debate for enhancing civil society and citizen participation in local governance.</p> <p>5.1: A cadre of peace-building resource persons able to initiate change in the larger relational patterns within their communities, is set-up in select locations.</p> <p>5.2: Civic Education campaign on community based peace-building and its contribution to national dialogue and reconciliation process conducted by empowered NGO network in Baghdad.</p> <p>5.3: Tension levels amongst the general Iraqi public decreased by peace-building initiatives run by CSOs and community leaders in select areas.</p> <p>5.4: Formerly divided communities are able to plan their future together.</p> <p>5.5: Stronger policy debate on integrated Community-Based Peace-Building.</p>
<p><b>Activities</b></p>	<p>1 Provide TA to GoI and KRG Institutions on NGO legislations</p> <p>1.2.1.NAO staff capacity needs assessment</p> <p>1.2.2. Capacity-building of NAO staff</p> <p>1.2.3. IMS support to NAO NGO Database</p> <p>1.3.1 Training program for government officials on civil society / law</p> <p>1.3.2 Educating NGOs on NGO Law</p> <p>2.1.1. Capacity building of Civil Society Service Centre in Sulaymaniyah</p> <p>2.2.1. Support to capacity building of civil society network (HR) by CSSC</p> <p>2.2.2. Network plan and carry out Civic Education Campaign</p> <p>3.1.1. Create and Support EPRN network operations and expansion</p> <p>3.2.1. Set up communication protocols inside EPRN and with 3<sup>rd</sup> parties.</p> <p>3.2.2. Fast track data collection and early warning by EPRN nodes and compilation of all governorate databases into national DB.</p> <p>3.3.1. Produce media materials raising awareness of CSOs on humanitarian principles and advocacy.</p> <p>3.3.2. Hold governorate-level awareness raising events.</p> <p>4.1.1. Adapt &amp; fine-tune local governance assessment (LGA) methodology.</p> <p>4.1.2. Carry out local governance assessments in 2 locations</p> <p>4.2.1. Capacity building of Civil Society Service Centre in Basrah</p> <p>4.2.2. Support to capacity building of civil society network (citizens participation) by CSSC</p> <p>4.2.3. Network plans and implements Civic Education Campaigns in Citizen Participation</p> <p>4.3.1. Implement citizen participation initiatives in 2 target areas</p> <p>4.3.2. Evaluate impact of initiatives (including baseline) via academic / research centres.</p> <p>4.4.1. Organize Roundtable to debate project outputs and propose policies to increase nation-wide</p>

	<p>citizen participation.</p> <p>5.1.1. Carry out conflict assessments in 2 select areas Baghdad, Mosul)</p> <p>5.1.2. ToT on Peacebuilding and Awareness-raising for community stakeholders in alternative conflict / dispute resolution mechanisms</p> <p>5.2.1. Capacity building of Civil Society Service Center in Baghdad</p> <p>5.2.2. Support to capacity building of civil society network (Peace-Building) by CSSC</p> <p>5.2.3. Network plans and implements Civic Education Campaigns on Peace-building</p> <p>5.3.1. Peace-building projects implemented by local CSOs through grant funding</p> <p>5.3.2. Evaluate impact of initiatives.</p> <p>5.4.1. Organize community planning exercises after Peace-Building projects.</p> <p>5.4.2. Secure support of local authorities and civil society for funding of community plans through regular budget.</p> <p>5.5.1. Organize Roundtable to debate project outputs and propose policies to increase community-based Peace-Building networks and initiatives, with involvement from GoI and civil society at large.</p>
<b>Procurement</b>	In the reporting period there were no major procurement items.

<b>Funds Committed</b>	\$ 4,255,193	<b>% of approved</b>	100%
<b>Funds Disbursed</b>	\$4,148,680.82	<b>% of approved</b>	97%
<b>Forecast final date</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> December 2012	<b>Delay (months)</b>	24

<b>Direct Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Number of Beneficiaries</b>	<b>% of planned (current status)</b>
Men		
Women		
Children		
IDPs		
Others	by end of the project it is expected that app. 1,300 NGOs and app. 600 GoI officials will be benefit	
Indirect beneficiaries		
Employment generation (men/women)		

*In general the project is to benefit the Iraqi public on a number of levels. The project is to provide certain short-term benefits through its direct activities in addition to long-term benefits obtained through adoption of the NGO law, improved capacity of civil society, and enhanced cooperation with the central, regional and local authorities of Iraq in order to improve the situation of the Iraqi people throughout the country.*

<b>Quantitative achievements against objectives and results</b>		<b>% of planned</b>
1. To establish a liberal legal and administrative framework for Iraqi NGOs, respected both by the authorities and the NGO community itself.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNOPS continued to provide support to the development of the KRG NGO Department, by analysing the institutional and organisational structure and making specific recommendations for the improvement of programme implementation as well as continuing to engage with senior officials and conduct supporting program activities.</li> <li>The institutional assessment of the NGO Directorate was completed. The final report of the assessment including recommendations was presented to the management of the NGOs Directorate. The NGOs Directorate is currently studying the report in detail and further meetings to plan for concrete follow up steps are planned for October.</li> <li>The implementation of the NGO Law Awareness Grants has been completed. The grants were awarded to 13 NGOs through a competitive process, with the aim of implementing follow up sessions to previous awareness activities to ensure wide</li> </ol>	98%

	<p>understanding of the principles and mechanisms of NGO law no. 12 amongst civil society and the authorities; to improve collaboration between civil society and Iraqi public authorities; and to prepare trainers for trainings aimed at further promoting NGO law awareness both at the central and at the governorate level.</p> <p>The targeted beneficiaries were relevant representatives from the Iraqi Governorate Offices and members of the CoR, local authorities the judiciary, police and civil society throughout the targeted governorates.</p> <p>All follow-up sessions have been implemented and completed successfully as planned.</p>	
2. To increase organizational capacity for advocacy of the Iraqi civil society.	All the planned activities under this objective have been delivered and reported on in previous quarters.	100%
3. To improve access of Iraqi citizens to relief assistance following increased role of NGO community in conducting emergency response.	All the planned activities under this objective have been delivered and reported on in previous quarters.	100%
4. To strengthen citizen participation in local governance processes, facilitated by civil society, which impacts positively on local economic development and social assistance delivery.	All the planned activities under this objective have been delivered and reported on in previous quarters.	100%
5. To spearhead collaborative initiatives to counter conflict trends through civil society with the ultimate aim of protecting human rights and achieving community development.	All the planned activities under this objective have been delivered and reported on in previous quarters.	100

### **Qualitative achievements against objectives and results**

#### **Objective 1:**

UNOPS continued its work with the NGO Directorate and completed the needs assessment, which intended to give a complete picture of the structural challenges facing the Directorate in implementing its mandate. The assessment was conducted between January and June 2012. The Assessment Team performed a comprehensive assessment, utilizing all available documentation and conducted field assessment activities to gather more information and data for this assignment. The assessment used key indicators comprising business and operational factors which gave insight into the many challenges and opportunities the Directorate is facing at this point. Findings covered the NGO Directorate's organizational motivation, governance structure, strategic leadership, organizational structure and administrative set up, organizational Information Technology infrastructure, human resources management, and process management: operational methodologies and rules of procedure.

It has been agreed with the management of the Council of Ministers Secretariat and NGO Directorate that the outcomes and recommendations of the report will serve in enhancing coordination between various stakeholders supporting development of the NGO Directorate. The report is the first of this kind ever produced with regards to NGO Directorate. It has been very well received by the Director of the Directorate and is currently being analysed in detail by the management of this institution.

UNOPS and ICNL organized three training sessions for trainers between November and December 2011, with a total of 14 participants. The first session targeted local public authorities and NGOs, the second session targeted the police and NGOs, and the third session targeted representatives of the justice system, the police and NGOs. Following these trainings, UNOPS and ICNL in March 2012 co-founded the 14 NGOs participating in the original training sessions on the Iraqi NGO law to conduct awareness seminars on the NGO law no. 12 for other NGOs and public authorities across Iraq. UNOPS issued 7 of the 14 grants. In February, UNOPS organized a study visit and ToT in Lebanon addressed to a group of 25 Iraqi Parliament Members, government officials and NGOs. The group visited, inter alia, the Lebanese Parliament, the Ministry of Environment, various NGOs, local authorities, and a university where they met with the Lebanese Minister of Environment, MPs, civil society leaders, academics and public officials. As a follow up to the training received in Lebanon, NCCI and 5 other Iraqi NGOs were requested to provide training on the law for the Ministry of Education - Public Relations and International Cooperation Department, the CoR, the MoHR, the NGO Directorate, the Justice Commission and the MoLSA. By the end of the reporting period the trainings were completed. In the reporting period the grant projects achieved the following results:

- (i) The NGO Kurdistan Civil Society Organization - KCRO, successfully implemented 6 workshops in 3 governorates (two in Dohuk, two in Sulaymaniyah and two in Erbil). The Kurdistan Civil Society Organization provided the training that they received to local NGOs together with public local authorities and provincial councils in their respective governorates. In Erbil, a total of 46 beneficiaries were targeted in two sessions including 26 from local authorities and 20 representatives of NGOs, activists and youth centres who will in turn become trainers in their community. In Sulaymaniyah there were 49 direct beneficiaries from local authorities and NGOs. In Dohuk 61 beneficiaries were targeted representing civil society members, members of the provincial council and members of the media.
- (ii) The Babil National Society for Human Rights, based in Babil, implemented 10 workshops in 5 governorates (two workshops in Babil with 80 participants including NGOs, judges, lawyers, police, and academia, two in Kerbala, hosting 75 people from authorities, NGOs, tribes and youth in addition to the local Director of Youth Services, two in Qadissiya, two in Wassit and two in Muthanna).
- (iii) The Izdihar Society completed 6 workshops in the 3 governorates: two in Wassit, reaching 60 direct beneficiaries, of which 7 were local authorities, 8 MPs, 29 NGO representatives, 13 media representatives and 3 international organizations. Moreover number of indirect beneficiaries was reached amongst satellite media channels, human rights, women and cultural organizations; two workshops in the governorate of Muthanna reached 60 direct beneficiaries of which 47 NGO members 7 media representatives and 1 MP. Indirect beneficiaries were reached including the Youth Parliament, the Islamic Union, women's organizations and the local radio Muthanna. Two workshops in Qadissiya (implemented in Diwaneyah) reached 47 direct beneficiaries including 12 local authorities, 30 NGOs, 1 int'l organization and 2 media representatives, in addition to two MPs;
- (iv) The Kheir Society, completed 6 workshops in the following governorates: Kerbala, Nasiriyah and Missan. The workshops focused on the relationship between the police and civil society organizations. Direct beneficiaries included 28 participants including 9 from local authorities and 19 from NGOs plus an additional 6 beneficiaries from media, academia, and human rights activists.
- (v) The Alintilaq organization completed two workshops on the application of NGO law 12 in Salah Al-Din's districts of Tikrit and Aldour, hosting 42 participants of which 20 from NGOs, 9 from local authorities, and 4 Members of the House of Representatives. The Iraqi Firdaws Association implemented 5 workshops of which three in Basrah and two in Muthanna. The total number of direct beneficiaries was 86 in Basrah and 58 in Muthanna including 67 police and local authorities, 78 representatives of NGOs and a Provincial Council member.
- (vi) The Al-Salam Network for Creativity and Development has completed the project successfully and implemented 4 workshops in the Ministry of Interior in Baghdad.

(vii) NCCI conducted multiple workshops to enhance Iraqi civil society's capacity to benefit from NGO Law no. 12 and advocate for active partnership between civil society and the authorities. Beneficiaries encompassed NGOs, district council members, provincial council members, staff of Ministry of Interior, MPs, journalists and unions. In May 2012, one workshop was conducted in Anbar, two in Basra, one in Salah al-Din, two in Mosul, one in Diyala and one in Sulaimaniyah for a total of 242 direct beneficiaries. In June two training workshops conducted, one in Erbil and one in Dohuk, reaching respectively 18 and 24 direct beneficiaries. In July, four workshops were conducted by NCCI in Thi- Qar reaching 26 direct and, two in Diwaniya reaching a total of 37 direct beneficiaries and one workshop was conducted in Muthanna reaching 22 direct beneficiaries.

In August 2012, NCCI conducted an *Assessment on Relations between Iraqi NGOs and the NGO Directorate* focusing on a survey on the relations before, during and after the registration with the NGO Directorate and perceptions of NGOs. The Assessment included an analysis of responses of 84 NGOs surveyed representing the different Iraqi governorates. Primary findings included difficulty in registration, inconsistent NGOs' registration procedures and weak communications from the NGO Directorate. This will provide a valuable instrument in order to allow the identification of future required action to improve communication and relations between the NGO Directorate and Iraqi NGOs.

In the course of implementation of all the grant projects, printed materials were distributed to disseminate information and raise awareness inter alia on the topics of NGO law 12 and models of partnership between authorities and civil society in the Arab world. Overall, the workshops successfully fostered discussion and communication on the topic of NGO law 12 between the beneficiaries especially in the area of NGO registration processes.

#### **Main implementation constraints & challenges (2-3 sentences)**

- Given restrictions imposed by security concerns, ensuring proper monitoring of grants is a challenge. However, great efforts are made to make up for the limited access to Iraq and to follow up that all activities are properly monitored by UNOPS staff. External monitoring companies are also hired along with UNOPS monitoring staff.
- Delays in implementation of capacity building activities targeting the KRG NGOs Department were encountered. This was due to the overall delays in establishing this institution.