

United Nations Development Group UNDAF Trust Fund
Project #:81967: P1-01
Date and Quarter Updated: 1 Jan. – 31 Mar. 2013 – 1st Quarter 2013

Participating UN Organisation: UNDP & UNOPS **Priority Area: Governance & Human Rights**
Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: CSO Committee of the Council of Representatives

Title	Empowering CSOs in Iraq				
Geo. Location	Nationwide for the capacity building of CSOs under UNDP; The KRG Compact work under UNOPS is only for KRG.				
Project Cost	Total Cost USD 3,237,419 USD 2,221,818 from UNDAF Trust Fund for UNDP component USD 1,015,601 from DANIDA, for UNOPS component (please refer to note below)				
Duration	18 months				
Approval Date (SC)	18 th January 2012	Starting Date	12 th March 2012	Completion Date	12.09.2013 extended to 30.06.2014
Project Description	UNDP and UNOPS will support CSOs to effectively monitor Government's compliance with due process and transparency. UNDP through UNDAF Trust Fund will build the capacity of chosen CSOs to hold the Government accountable in the areas of Service Delivery, Corruption, Human Rights and Civil Rights. Through encouraging CSOs to form consortia the project will transfer know-how whilst working on concrete issues. The Project will contribute to opening up permanent and sustainable channels between CSOs and Government to interface and advocate that the voices of civil society are heard and taken into account in relation to public policymaking. The partnership with UNOPS will build on existing strong relationships with the KRG, Kurdistan Parliament and Kurdistan Region civil society.				

Note: This project is composed of two separate components. The UNDP component, Output 2 is funded under the UNDAF Trust Fund. The UNOPS component, Output 1 is bilaterally funded by DANIDA to UNOPS and respectively UNOPS will report directly to DANIDA. **This report therefore covers the UNDP portion Output 2 of the Project Document.**

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

UNDAF Outcome 1.1: The Iraqi state has a more inclusive and participatory political process reflecting improved national dialogue.

The Project contributes to the following **UNDAF priority areas:**

- Priority 1: Improved governance, including protection of human rights.
- Priority 4: Increased access to quality essential services.
- Priority 5: Investment in human capital and empowerment of women, youth and children.

The Project contributes to **UNDP Iraq's Country Programme Outcome 1:** Enhanced rule of law, protection and respect for human rights in line with international standards.

The project is being implemented in full alignment with work being done by other UN agencies as well as the Human Rights Office.

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement

Outputs	Output 1: Government is supported to facilitate free engagement of CSOs in development and reconciliation processes. <i>UNOPS reports bilaterally to DANIDA on this component.</i>	
	Output 2: CSOs have an enhanced capacity to promote citizen oversight mechanisms. <i>UNDP component</i>	
Output	Activities	
Output 2: CSOs have an enhanced	UNDP Component: Output 2 which is reflected in this report	
	2.1	CSO Mapping
	2.2	Preparatory Workshop with CSOs on the Call for Proposals process

capacity to promote citizen oversight mechanisms	2.3 Drafting of Calls for Proposals Guidelines 2.4 Establishing the Evaluation Committee 2.5 Eligibility check of applicants 2.6 Evaluation of Concept notes 2.7 Discussion with successful applicants for the development of the full proposal 2.8 Evaluation of full proposals 2.9 Contract negotiation and contracting 2.10 Establish an online community of practice 2.11 Arrange for Community of practice live workshop half way through project cycle. 2.12 Monitoring and Evaluation 2.13 Programme Evaluation
Output 1: Government is supported to facilitate free engagement of CSOs in development and reconciliation processes.	Bilaterally reported to DANIDA UNOPS Component: Output 1 1.1 Conduct awareness activities targeting representatives of public authorities and civil society 1.2 Drafting of the base policy Compact document by technical experts at the start of the programme 1.3 Planning/strategy meeting between representatives of the KRG authorities and civil society 1.4 Papers prepared and disseminated among various stakeholders on the relevant topic and how they can relate to the situation in Iraq 1.5 Study tour takes place 1.6 Conduct training of trainers for civil society activists and representatives of the KRG parliaments and subsequent cascade trainings 1.7 Consultations of the draft document among civil society organizations in the KRG Iraq carried out through meetings and media. 1.8 Conduct consultations of the draft document between representatives of Civil Society and KRG parliament 1.9 Adoption of the policy agreement between the KRG parliament and civil society 1.10 Final conference announcing adoption of the document, preferably organized at the KRG parliament
Procurement (major items)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support entities • Trainers and facilitators • CSO grants (for non-credit related activities)

Funds Committed	USD 894,800	% of approved budget	40,27%
		% of received funds (1,048,195 USD)	85,37%
Funds Disbursed	USD 313,077	% of approved budget	14,09%
		% of received funds(1,048,195 USD)	29,87%
Forecast final date	30 June 2014	Delay (months)	6

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results

Output 2: CSOs have an enhanced capacity to promote citizen oversight mechanisms.	2.1 CSO Capacity Mapping	90%
	2.2 Preparatory Workshop with CSOs on the Call for Proposals process	100%
	2.3 Drafting of Calls for Proposals Guidelines	100%
	2.4 Establishing the Evaluation Committee	100%
	2.5 Eligibility check of applicants	100%
	2.6 Evaluation of Concept notes	100%
	2.7 Discussion with successful applicants for the development of the full proposal	100%
	2.8 Evaluation of full proposals	100%
	2.9 Contract negotiation and contracting	80%
	2.12 Monitoring and Evaluation	10%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

UNDP UNDAF Trust Fund component

Output 2: CSOs have an enhanced capacity to promote citizen oversight mechanisms.

- An extensive CSO Capacity Assessment and Mapping exercise took place during the first quarter of 2013. The assessment was done on 15 CSO consortia (represented by 54 individual CSOs assessed). Two parallel methodologies were applied, one using a self-assessment tool and a second one using a capacity questionnaire. This process led to an initial “No Objection Statement” issued to provide minimal understanding of the capacities of the 15 CSO consortia to cooperate and benefit from the UNDP project. This first assessment was taken into account during the project proposal final selection phase. Three CSOs out of 15 received an “Objection” statement. The main reason being lack of internal capacities and commitment with the capacity building objective of the UNDP project. The final Capacity Assessment will be finalized in April 2013 and will provide a baseline on CSO capacities for the project.
- Capacity building and coaching activities initiated with a first training for 15 CSO consortia that was held in Baghdad and Erbil early January on project proposal writing. CSOs used these new skills to develop their project proposals before submission to UNDP. Attendance by the CSOs was good and active despite the security challenges CSOs face to travel around Iraq. CSOs also received direct coaching and review support on their project proposals before their final submission. Most consortia took advantage of this support although a minority of consortia did not engage with the coaching offer. During the coaching support the level of project development skills of the local CSOs was assessed as very low and needing much flexibility for the final selection of grantees.
- The third CSO evaluation phase (the project proposal phase) was completed with the final pre-selected 15 CSO consortia submitting full project proposals. The CSO Grant Selection Committee selected 9 CSO consortia as “conditionally approved” to enter into contracting negotiations. The overall quality of project proposals required further improvements by the consortia before the grant could be confirmed.
- Contract negotiations were initiated with nine CSO consortia, providing individualized feedback on project proposals and budgets. The UNDP project team and Clic consultants provided a final round of support to review the proposals and to coach the CSOs in finalizing this process. The Grant Agreements are expected to be signed in April for a CSO consortia project initiation in May.
- Preparations for a Project Cycle Management training tailored to the needs of the successful CSO consortia have been initiated; the training was carried out in April 2013.
- A contract was awarded to the firm Stars Orbit for technical assistance support for project monitoring and knowledge building, (Jordanian based). Work was initiated with initial briefings on the monitoring methodology and reviews of the CSO results frameworks.
- A coordination meeting of implementing partners on civil society empowerment projects in Iraq took place late March at UNDP’s initiative. Attendees were USAID, the EU, UNOPS and UNDP. It was decided to keep this coordination mechanism at an informal level and on a quarterly base.