

**APPROVED**  
23 SEP 2013

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT GROUP  
IRAQ TRUST FUND

To: Jacqueline Badcock, DSRSG  
Chairperson of UNDG-ITF Steering Committee

Date: 23 September 2013

Through: Simon Strach  
Head of Steel

Ref: SC/BR

From: Bashar Al-  
Programme Specialist, UNDG-ITF Steering Committee  
Support Office

23/09/2013

**APPROVAL OF PROGRAMME REVISION REQUEST (A)**

Project Number:	G11-23
Project Title:	Institutional Support to the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC)
Participating Agency:	UNDP (Lead), UNOPS
Project Start Date:	18 October 2010
Project End Date:	17 October 2013

Type of Programme /project variation requested

- Decrease in project budget by US\$ 4,192,232 (UNDP only)
- Extension of project duration
- Movement of funds between project budget components (UNOPS only)
- Change of project scope

SCSO Comments:

The UNDG Iraq Trust Fund budget for this programme is US\$ 24,861,991 of which US\$ 20,669,759 were received. Commitments and disbursements are detailed in the below table.

Agency	Budget	Total Funds Received	Remaining Balance (Tranche 3)	Total Committed (of funds received)	% of funds received	Total Disbursed (of funds received)	% of funds received
UNDP	13,947,279	9,755,047	4,192,232	5,928,642	60.8%	5,841,031	59.9%
UNOPS	10,914,712	10,914,712	0	7,829,756	71.7%	7,740,391	70.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24,861,991</b>	<b>20,669,759</b>	<b>4,192,232</b>	<b>13,758,398</b>	<b>66.6%</b>	<b>13,581,422</b>	<b>65.7%</b>

Background

This programme is supporting the Iraqi Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) in its continued institutional development as a sustainable institution within the government structure of Iraq, carrying out its constitutional mandate independently, efficiently, transparently and accountably, in line with professional standards.





**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT GROUP  
IRAQ TRUST FUND**

During the three years of implementation, the institutional development programme has primarily supported enhancing the capacity of the IHEC in the priority areas of procurement, logistics, public outreach and media, complaints, graphic design, database development, ICT, electoral procedures and training, and capacity building. Additionally, there have been activities initiated in the areas of review of the electoral legal framework, security management and measures to improve the voter registry. The programme has implemented about 130 capacity building activities comprising trainings, workshops, study tours, among others leading to the enhancement of skills of over 1,800 IHEC staff at all levels. While there has been a lot of progress in developing staff capacities, a lot still needs to be done to improve the institutional framework and processes.

**A. Request for decrease in programme budget (UNDP)**

**Justification:**

This request is for a decrease in UNDP project budget by US\$4,192,232, which is UNDP third tranche not yet requested. This is being made because the programme will end on 17 October 2013 and there is no possibility of extending it under the current UNDG ITF funding arrangements. There are adequate funds from the second tranche to support the remaining period of the programme. The budget decrease will affect implementation of planned project activities as detailed in section B. It should also be noted that activity delivery status against the programme's work plan is over 75%. The remaining funds will not be utilized under the current programme because IHEC's priorities will be focussed on the Kurdistan Region Parliamentary and Governorate elections which have been scheduled for September and November 2013, respectively. In this regard, it will not be possible to implement some of the capacity building activities set out in the programme.

A new programme has been proposed for implementation under Iraq UNDAF Fund .Therefore, UNDP is requesting UNDG ITF Steering Committee to approve the decrease of the programme budget by US\$4,192,232 and the transfer of unutilized funds amounting to US\$4,192,232 to the Iraq UNDAF Fund to be used for sustaining the electoral support to the IHEC.

**B. Request for Change of scope (UNDP)**

Change Requested :The following activities will not be completed under the current programme:

Activities under Output 1: IHEC has strengthened institutional framework and organizational capacity to effectively conduct electoral processes as Iraq's permanent electoral institution, established under the constitution

1.1.3 IHEC electoral regulatory framework reviewed;

1.1.4 Electoral legal framework reviewed in cooperation with CoR Legal Committee

1.1.6 Institutional framework for dispute resolution reviewed in cooperation with CoR;

1.3.1 Assessment of voter registration policies, operational processes and systems completed, in cooperation with relevant Iraqi government bodies;

1.3.2 Study of IDP data and voting patterns completed, in cooperation with MoDM.

Activities under Output 3: IHEC has improved technological capacity to manage electoral processes in a sustainable manner





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IRAQ TRUST FUND**

3.1.6 ITC Disaster Recovery Plan is developed; and  
3.1.9 IHEC call centre systems assessed and upgraded;

**Justification**

The implementation of these activities is not possible due to the following reasons:

- Difficulties in securing technical advisors to work in Iraq. Most of the advisors in place were deployed at the late stages of the programme and hence the remaining time is not adequate to implement all planned activities.
- Since 2013 is an election year in Iraq, IHEC priorities shifted from capacity strengthening to electoral operations. Some of the activities have been postponed to enable IHEC to focus on elections.
- Long delay in the process of appointing the IHEC Board of Commissioners in 2012 has resulted in delaying/slowing down programme implementation as the outgoing commission could not commit to making major policy decisions. When the new Board was eventually appointed, it took time for the members to familiarise themselves with the programme.

As a result, implementation of activities to address deficiencies in key areas such as the electoral regulatory and legal frameworks, institutional framework for dispute resolution and the assessment of the Voter Registry and Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) data were deferred.

A new programme is being developed under the Iraq UNDAF Fund which will mainly address the outstanding activities, guided by the 2012 Need Assessment Mission (NAM) recommendations. Key outputs of the proposed programme are:

Output 1: IHEC has strengthened institutional framework and organizational capacity to effectively conduct electoral processes as Iraq's permanent electoral institution, established under the constitution

Output 1.1: An improved Legal Framework for Electoral Processes

Output 1.2: IHEC has improved strategic planning capacities

Output 1.3: IHEC has enhanced external relations capacities

Output 1.4: IHEC has stronger female representation in the organisation and is able to advocate effectively for the participation of women in electoral exercises.

Output 2: IHEC has improved technological capacity to manage electoral processes in a sustainable manner

Output 2.1: IHEC has enhanced IT infrastructure and know-how to more effectively support electoral events

Output 2.2: IHEC has enhanced voter registration capacities.

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IRAQ TRUST FUND**

**C. Request for Movement of funds (UNOPS)**

UNOPS is requesting movement of funds as below:

- Increase in Personnel budget line by USD\$ 400,000 (11%)
- Decrease in Training budget line by USD\$ 300,000 (9%)
- Decrease in Contracts budget line by USD\$ 100,000 (10%)

**Justification**

Movement of funds from training and contracts to personnel budget lines is requested for the following reasons:

- Transfer of Programme Manager position from Amman to Baghdad resulted in increase of costs.
- High turnover of personnel.
- Due to operational requirements and proximity of elections there are periods when it is not feasible to implement training workshops for IHEC.

**Mitigation Strategy in place to ensure completion of outstanding outputs:**

Phase II programme is being developed to address outstanding key priorities as identified by the Needs Assessment Mission which was conducted in December 2012. It is expected that the Programme document will be reviewed by the Iraq UNDAF Fund by September 2013, with 31 October 2013 as the target start date.

**SCSO Recommendations:**

SCSO recommends approval of the requested decrease in programme budget, Change of scope for UNDP, and movement of funds for UNOPS budget.

Participating UN Organization	Total ITF Budget (US\$)	Total Funds Received (US\$)	Decrease of Budget (US\$)	New revised budget (US\$)
UNDP	13,947,279	9,755,047 (Tranche 1&2)	4,192,232 (Tranche 3)	9,755,047
UNOPS	10,914,712	10,914,712	-	10,914,712
<b>Total (US\$)</b>	<b>24,861,991</b>	<b>20,669,759</b>	<b>4,192,232</b>	<b>20,669,759</b>

**Approval of UNDG ITF Steering Committee**

The request for the decrease in programme budget, change of scope, and movement of funds was reviewed and approved electronically by the UNDG ITF Steering Committee on 23 September 2013.

**Approval of the DSRSG / Chairperson UNDG ITF Steering Committee**

