

United Nations Development Group UNDAF Trust Fund
Project #:81967: P1-01
Quarter Updated: 1 October-31 December 2013
4th Quarter 2013

Participating UN Organisation: UNDP Lead and UNOPS
PWG: Governance & Human Rights
 UNDP Project 81917
Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: CSO Committee of the Council of Representatives

Title	Empowering CSOs in Iraq				
Geographic Location	Nationwide for the capacity building of Civil Society Organizations (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 Sep 2013, extended to 30 th June 2014
Project Description	UNDP and UNOPS will support Civil Society Organizations (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 capacity to promote citizen oversight mechanisms	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 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 2,144,837.36	% of approved budget (100% of funds received)	96.54%
	* The commitment calculation formula has been adjusted this quarter to reflect a better project commitment reality. This figure includes all PO expenditure incurred, all committed CSO grants paid and due, salaries of all staff paid and due, open contracts with consultancy companies paid and due, the total GMS for the funds received and other open commitments for the project covering the whole		

	implementation period.		
Funds Disbursed	USD 1,457,908.95	% of approved budget (100% of funds received)	65.62%
Forecast final date	June 2014	Delay (months)	9

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results

		% of planned	
Output 2: CSOs have an enhanced capacity to promote citizen oversight mechanisms.	2.1 CSO Capacity Mapping		100%
	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		100%
	2.10 Establish an online community of practice		50%
	2.11 Arrange for Community of practice live workshop half way through project cycle.		50%
	2.12 Monitoring and Evaluation		50%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

UNDP UNDAF Trust Fund component

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

8 CSO Consortia project implementation and networking with Council of Representatives

- In May 2012, eight grantee CSO Consortia (comprised of 31 CSOs) initiated the implementation of eight projects aimed at holding the government to account in the areas of human rights, corruption and service delivery. The implementation of the eight projects is on-going alongside technical support for capacity development to the CSOs. Projects cover most Governorates of Iraq and relate mostly to enhancing accountability on local services, through citizen participation and networking between CSOs and local authorities. Other projects include, raising awareness on human rights, particularly minority rights and promoting better governance through enhanced women participation in the public sphere (see annexed project summaries for more details).
- UNDP continued promoting networking and linkages between CSOs and the Parliament. The Parliament committee on CSOs and the NGO Directorate have expressed interest in UNDP's NGO grant mechanism, as a good practice model on which to base the potential federal budget level NGO grant mechanism. A second draft law proposal in this regard is currently with the Shura Council but given the short term remaining for the current Parliament it is unlikely to be approved. Nevertheless lobbying efforts and awareness raising on this draft law through the model set by UNDP projects will continue supporting this issue during the term of the new Parliament. **The parliamentary committee and the NGO Directorate have requested UNDP to support in advocating for NGO grants with Members of Parliament and potentially with government officials.** This request in itself is a great achievement for the UNDP project, indicating that the close involvement and partnership practiced from the beginning with the CSO parliamentary Committee, has yielded an opportunity for UNDP to contribute to establishing more trust between the government and CSOs.

CSO Capacity Development

- The consultant teams have continued supporting CSO consortia against their established individual capacity profiles with regular field visits and demand-based online coaching on specific topics. All training support has been complemented by follow up field visits and online support meetings.
- In November, a thematic group working session took place in Erbil and Baghdad to discuss Fundraising options and strategies for local CSOs. These interactive sessions focused on introducing the concept of planning for fundraising, and familiarized participants with creative ideas and various options that can lead to effective fund mobilization.
- CSOs also received extensive report writing support and coaching as their second quarterly reports were due in November. CSOs were also given the opportunity to review their draft reports based on direct feedback. This process will be repeated for each quarter with the aim of significantly improving CSO's reporting skills by the end of the project.

Monitoring CSO Projects

- The CSO projects monitoring strategy has been developed to ensure tracking of progress against the following: progress in CSO project implementation and project results; and progress in terms of institutional CSO capacity development. The Second quarter reports for the eight CSO projects, including progress implementation details from 1 August to 31 October 2013 were due in November 2013. UNDP provided technical support through its consultant teams giving the CSOs an opportunity to enhance their draft reports based on practical feedback. The reporting quality was better for this second round of reports, although some CSOs still need support in producing reports that focus on qualitative achievements.
- Overall, implementation is progressing well although about half of the projects show delays against the established work plan and UNDP is following up closely to ensure continuous progress. Given the practical and security constraints of working in Iraq the fact that all CSOs are effectively working on their activities is a significant achievement. A number of significant interactions between CSOs and authorities, at different levels, have taken place demonstrating good steps towards enhanced citizen-led accountability. For example, in the Governorates of Muthanna, Missan, Basra and Dhi Qar 32 Community Development Committees, including women, have been trained and mobilized in needs identification methods reinforcing their position to deal with their local council. The same local councils have in turn been trained and sensitized towards increased citizen participation in needs identification and decision-making. Another CSO consortia project has mobilized academics and students around a minorities' rights discussion in Baghdad, Salah Al Deen, Anbar, Dohuk, Ninewa motivating Al Hurra Iraq satellite channel to broadcast a TV programme on the subject. In the Governorate of Diyala, women have been mobilized to carry out rapid assessments on issues related to VAW, girls student drop out, displaced women, widows, and early and force marriage, as a result various governmental institutions such as the justice directorate, the education directorate, the local police, and the local councils have been approached to discuss issues of concern.

Knowledge Management

- The LinkedIn online community of practice was launched in July and has a membership of over 40 participants at the end of 2013. The main goal is to create a facilitated web-based peer-knowledge sharing mechanism, in which CSOs can share their experiences, challenges, and problem-solving skills with each other. A few initial discussions and consultations have already taken place on LinkedIn, but its usage levels by CSOs are not as high as expected despite the facilitation provided for this purpose. The interface combining English and Arabic script combined with the lack of technical skills by some CSO senior staff is creating this bottleneck. UNDP is considering switching the platform to from LinkedIn to Facebook if the low usage persists. About 45% of the CSOs have expressed being satisfied with LinkedIn despite their low frequency of use.

Coordination

- The third coordination meeting of implementing partners working on civil society empowerment in Iraq, organized at UNDP's initiative, took place on 28 November, with the participation of (USAID, Access to Justice Programme, Mercy Corps, EU, US State Department, UNOPS and UNDP). This coordination mechanism has been set as an informal exchange to take place on a quarterly basis. In addition to each agency's portfolio update, the main coordination issues discussed relate to various on-going interventions to support the NGO Directorates at both Federal and Kurdistan level.

Main implementation constraints & challenges

The project faces implementation constraints and challenges related to the security environment in Iraq. Different security incidents and the overall security situation regularly create challenges for CSO participants to attend trainings and other project activities. The security in the Baghdad area is deteriorating rapidly due to the situation in Anbar province, making it difficult to ensure high attendance to project events from CSO travelling from other governorates. For this reason most project activities have been organized in Erbil. Accessing Erbil has now become challenging for CSOs travelling by road from other areas, as the access road from the south has been the target of attacks and the check points to access the Erbil area require a preliminary notification to the Kurdish security authorities to ensure entrance for the CSOs. This also affects the capacity of CSO consortia to ensure internal coordination meetings as often as they wish as well as the level of attendance of individual community members to their activities. Despite this challenge, it is worth noting that CSO participants and communities in general have been showing a great level of commitment and have been attending project activities better than expected by the Project Management.

Coordination with the CSO parliamentary Committee is at times delayed due to the frequency and lack of predictability of parliamentary breaks that sometimes have made these counterparts unavailable in a timely way. Despite this constraint, the cooperation with the CSO Committee is going well and has been fruitful so far.

The LinkedIn online community of practice that was launched in July has been joined by most CSOs but the level of online engagement has not been as active as expected. Part of the challenge relates to a relatively low IT/social media awareness among CSO senior staff who are expected to be the main contributors (junior and younger staff are often more familiar with these tools). The English-Arabic language interface is also not ideal. Despite a specific on-the-job trainings for each CSO to ensure technology is not a constraint to their participation results are not yet satisfactory. The project management is monitoring this activity and may resort to a change to Facebook if CSO engagement does not improve soon.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: List of 8 CSO consortia (31 CSOs) selected for project grants and capacity development

CSO Name	Role	CSO Code	Governorate
Insan Iraqi Society for Relief and Development	Lead	CSO1	Kirkuk
National Institute for Human Rights	Member	CSO1.1	Kirkuk
Humanitarian Relief Association for Iraqi Turkmen Women	Member	CSO1.2	Kirkuk

Iraqi Institute for Development (IID)	Lead	CSO2	Mosul
Organization of Iraqi Family	Member	CSO2.1	Tikreet
Harraa Humanitarian Organization	Member	CSO2.2	Diyala
Kurdistan Reconstruction and Development Organization (KURDO)	Lead	CSO3	Sulaymaniyah
Youth Activity Organization (YAO)	Member	CSO3.1	Sulaymaniyah
Kurdistan Economic Development Organization (KEDO)	Member	CSO3.2	Sulaymaniyah
Al Khair Organization	Lead	CSO4	Missan
Al Ahrar Organization	Member	CSO4.1	Missan
Iraqi women Foundation	Member	CSO4.2	Missan
Al Amel Association	Member	CSO4.3	Missan
Journalists Youth Organization	Member	CSO4.4	Missan
Al Rafidain Women Organization	Lead	CSO5	Muthanna
Al Huda Institution for Strategic Studies	Member	CSO5.1	Missan
Al-Ekha'a Organization for Democracy and Peace	Member	CSO5.2	Basra
Iraq Flower for Democratic Organization	Member	CSO5.3	Thi Qar
Salam Al Rafidain Organization	Lead	CSO6	Baghdad
Al Mahaba Forum	Member	CSO6.2	Anbar
Association for Woman And Children	Member	CSO6.1	Baghdad
Bunyan Foundation	Member	CSO6.3	Mosul
Ajial Association for Intelligence and Creation Development	Lead	CSO8	Diyala

Taawn Association for Consumer Protection	Member	CSO8.1	Diyala
Hawaa Organization for Relief and Development	Member	CSO8.2	Diyala
Youth Forum for Peace	Member	CSO8.3	Diyala
Al Noor Universal Foundation (NUF)	Lead	CSO9	Diyala
Shaoob for Democracy Support	Member	CSO9.1	Baghdad
Hamurabi Organization	Member	CSO9.2	Tikreet
Iraqi Civic Action Network	Member	CSO9.3	Babil
Iraqi Social Education Team	Member	CSO9.4	Baghdad

*CSO 7: As explained above, this consortium was excluded from the grant process during the grant contract negotiations.

Annex 2: Summary of 8 CSO consortia funded projects

1. Promoting adequate services in Kirkuk Province

CSOs: Insan Iraqi Society for Relief and Development, National Institute for Human Rights, and Humanitarian Relief Association for Iraqi Turkmen Women

Governorate: Kirkuk

Summary: Will increase the capacities of key community members, enhance community cohesion, and create an environment propitious to long-term development. Project activities include training facilitators and volunteers in participatory rural appraisal (PRA) methods, conducting PRA in communities, and building capacities of community leaders in advocacy and development of a community response plan

2. Ensuring a better environment for our children

CSOs: Iraqi Institute for Development, Organization of Iraqi Family, and Haraa Humanitarian Organization

Governorates: Salah ad Din, Ninewa and Diyala

Summary: This project will raise awareness on the risks of solid waste and will advise local authorities on how to appropriately deal with solid waste. Project activities include identifying solid waste problems through questionnaires, conducting awareness-raising lectures, and producing brochures and radio episodes on solid waste.

3. Empower civil society organizations in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

CSOs: KURDO (Kurdistan Reconstruction and Development Organization), YAO (Youth Activity Organization), and KEDO (Kurdistan Economic Development Organization)

Governorates: Sulaymaniyah, Erbil and Dahuk

Summary: This project will create a harmonized, transparent and constructive relationship between civil society organizations and local government and promote networking opportunities among civil society organizations. Project activities include training civil society members and local government officials on accountability, transparency and

cooperation between civil society and local authorities, and forming a joint civil society-local government steering committee to formulate action plans.

4. Defending human rights in Missan

CSOs: Al Khair Organization, Al-Ahrar Organization for Human Rights, Iraqi Women Foundation, Al Amel Association and Journalists Youth Organization

Governorates: Missan

Summary: This project will build the capacities of member organizations and promote the principles of transparency, accountability and human rights and raise the awareness of citizens in selecting effective policies for the governorate. Project activities include delivering training courses and public educational lectures on human rights, producing TV and radio programs on human rights, and holding round table sessions attended by the government and the public

5. Partnering for development

CSOs: Al Rafidain Women Organization, Al Huda Institution for Strategic Studies, Al Ekha'a Organization for Democracy and Peace, and Iraq Flower for Democratic Organization

Governorates: Muthanna, Missan, Thi-Qar and Basra

Summary: This project will increase women's participation in public affairs and encourage new partnerships amongst civil society organizations. Project activities include forming 32 community development committees consisting of 256 women in 32 districts in the four governorates, training the committee members on the subject of humanitarian situation assessment, needs identification and monitoring, and delivering training for 32 local council officers on the subject of good governance and citizen's participation.

6. Enhancing rights of minorities in Iraq

CSOs: Salam Al Rafidain Organization, Association for Women and Children, Al Mahaba Forum, and Bunyan Foundation

Governorates: Baghdad, Salah Al-Din, Anbar, Dahuk and Ninewa

Summary: The project will enhance the role of academics in disseminating the concept of diversity and citizenship to promote minority rights in universities, raise awareness on minority rights among 6,000 university students, and publish a "Proposal of Basic Principles Paper of Minority Rights Protection Law in Iraq". Project activities include holding workshops targeting academics on the concept of minority rights, conducting lectures for students at universities, producing a "Proposal of Basic Principles Paper of Minority Rights Protection Law in Iraq".

7. Strengthening women's role in the society and reducing violations against them

CSOs: Ajial Association for Intelligence and Creation Development, Taawn Association for Consumer Protection, Hawaa Organization for Relief and Development, and Youth Forum for Peace

Governorate: Diyala

This project will raise awareness about the importance of women and their role in society. It also aims to expand women's participation in the process of development, and enhance the legal and social awareness of women who suffer from violence. Project activities include holding stakeholder meetings, organizing discussion seminars, holding training sessions for women on promoting civic values, conducting PRAs in communities, producing radio programs and conducting a legal awareness campaign for vulnerable women in marginalized communities.

8. Promoting good governance to improve essential services

CSOs: Al-Noor Universal Foundation, Shaoub for Democracy Culture Foundation, Hammurabi organization for Human Rights and Democracy Monitoring, Iraqi Civic Action Network, and the Iraqi Social Education Team

Governorates: All, except the Kurdistan Region

This project will strengthen the abilities of CSOs to determine priorities, expand local government's acceptance of good

governance, improve citizen's participation in determining their priorities and undertake consultations with CSOs and community leaders. Project activities include holding workshops for CSO leaders on participation, accountability, priority setting and monitoring, publishing an analytical study on service and community participation, holding 30 forums to discuss the results of the study and to identify the means of advocacy, and forming pressure groups in each Governorate to call for good governance or enhanced public services.