

United Nations Development Group UNDAF Trust Fund
Project #82895: P1-04
Date and Quarter: 1 October to 31 December 2013
4th Quarter 2013

Participating UN Organisation: UNDP PWG: Governance and Human Rights
Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: The Iraqi Commission of Integrity

Title	Enhancing Transparent Participatory Governance and Human Rights				
Geographic Location	Nationwide				
Project Cost	USD 3,091,526 ¹ Tranche 1: USD 1,574,585 (received in May 2012) Tranche 2: USD 1,516,941 (received in December 2013)				
Duration	24 months				
Approval Date (SC)	5 April 2012	Starting Date	15 May 2012	Completion Date	15 May 2014
Project Description	UNDP in close consultation with national counterparts will undertake a series of interlinked and complementary interventions within a programmatic framework that aims to promote transparent participatory governance and strengthen human rights in Iraq. The framework has four outputs focusing on strengthening human rights and transparency through participatory governance mechanisms. First, to support the mandate and organizational structure of the Human Rights Commission, including the establishment of sub-national commissions. Second, to provide long term institutional development of the Human Rights Commission and its outreach capabilities through participatory governance mechanisms. Third, combat corruption through the promotion of accountability, integrity and transparency at all levels of government and civil society. This involves support to the roll-out of the Government of Iraq’s National Anti-Corruption Strategy, to strengthen the capacities of key parliamentary committees, to address corruption issues, to enhance engagement of civil society organisations and media in addressing corruption and to provide technical support for the establishment of a new KRG Commission of Integrity and KRG Board of Supreme Audit. Fourth, to utilise civil society organisations to promote participatory and transparent governance which includes financial and technical support to civil society organisations to enhance their engagement with parliament.				

¹ Funding for the project will be through two tranche. The total amount committed to this project by the UNDAF Trust Fund is USD 3,091,526.

The first tranche has been released in the amount of USD 1,574,585 which is reflecting in the table above until the remaining second tranche is received by UNDP. The second tranche request is under preparation.

At the time of receipt of the second tranche for the amount of USD 1,516,941 this section will be adapted to reflect full project funds.

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

<p>UNDAF: Priority 1 Improved Governance, including the protection of human rights. Priority Outcome 1.4 The Iraqi State has more efficient, accountable and participatory governance at national and sub-national levels.</p> <p>UNDP CPAP: Outcome 3 Strengthened regulatory frameworks, institutions and processes in place for accountable, transparent and participatory governance at national and local levels.</p>
<p>Output 1: The Iraq Human Rights Commission has enhanced capacity to execute its mandate. Output 2: Iraq has a national platform for an expanded human rights dialogue. Output 3: The Iraqi state is able to promote and undertake governance process in an accountable and transparent manner. Output 4: Civil society organisations have enhanced capacity to engage with parliament and relevant parliamentary committees on policy issues.</p>

Outputs, Key Activities and Procurement

Note: Activities are in relation to section 4 page 10 of the project document

Output 1	1. The Iraq Human Rights Commission has enhanced capacity to execute its mandate.
Activities	<p>1.1 The Iraq High Commission for Human Rights has the organisational structure to function effectively. 1.2 The Iraq High Commission for Human Rights has technically competent staff. 1.3 Subnational Iraq High Commission for Human Rights entities established.</p>
Output 2	2. Iraq has a national platform for an expanded human rights dialogue.
Activities	<p>2.1 A national dialogue on human rights supported. 2.2 Awareness raised on human rights issues and ways to protect these rights 2.3 The Iraq High Commission for Human Rights capacity to reach out and clarify work and mandate enhanced.</p>
Output 3	3. The Iraqi state is able to promote and undertake governance process in an accountable and transparent manner.
Activities	<p>3.1 The CoR capacity in undertaking accountability oversight functions increased. 3.2 The KRG plans for a Commission of Integrity in place. 3.3 The KRG's Board of Supreme Audit capacity enhanced. 3.4 An investigative journalism curriculum developed and in place.</p>
Output 4	4. Civil society organisations have enhanced capacity to engage with parliament and relevant parliamentary committees on policy issues.
Activities	<p>4.1 Iraqi CSOs and independent media capacity to hold the government to account in the areas of human rights, corruption and service delivery strengthened. 4.2 Interface between relevant parliamentary committees and CSOs on issues of</p>

	<p>human rights, corruption and service delivery enhanced.</p> <p>4.3a Advocacy and awareness-raising on corruption issues enhanced.</p> <p>4.3b Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy through partnership with CSOs and independent media implemented.</p> <p>4.4 Donor coordination on civil society issues in Iraq enhanced.</p>
Procurement (major items)	

Funds Committed	<p>TOTAL: USD 2,542,326.00</p> <p>HR: USD 1,005,863.60</p> <p>CSO: USD 245,871.00</p> <p>ATAC: USD 1,290,591.40</p>	% of total funds received (tranche 1 and 2) (USD)	82.2%
Funds Disbursed	<p>TOTAL: USD 1,371,996.45</p> <p>HR: USD 513,580</p> <p>CSO: USD 152,472.45</p> <p>ATAC: USD 705,944</p>	% of total funds received (tranche 1 and 2) (USD)	44.4%
Receipt of 2nd Tranche	<p>USD 1,516,941</p> <p>The second tranche arrived in December 2013. 100% of funds have now been received.</p>		
Forecast final date	December 2014	Delay (months)	7

Due to the escalation of violence within Iraq during 2013 the project timeline has been affected. Priority has justifiably shifted within Parliament and the investigative journalism curriculum development company has stated in 4th Quarter 2013 that they will not allow advisors to enter Iraq until the security situation improves. Therefore, the Accountability, Transparency and Anti-Corruption component which has been on schedule, may experience delay up to 7 months.

For the CSO component, difficulties in securing adequate local consultants with relevant expertise, their lack of immediate availability together with contextual security and political challenges have delayed the implementation of activities and the completion date is likely to require an additional for 4-5 months.

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results

<p>Output 1 The Iraq Human Rights Commission has enhanced capacity to execute its mandate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalization of the training for the core staff of the commission in different areas of work, which includes receiving cases, taking statement, filing and research. - Finalizing ToRs for Baghdad sub-national office. - Finalizing ToRs for outreach and communication office within the commission. - Training of Commissioners on the drafting of the Universal Periodical Review (UPR). 	<p>% of planned</p>	<p>80%</p>
<p>Output 2 Iraq has a national platform for an expanded human rights dialogue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisation of three roundtables with Civil Society Organisations prior to the establishment of the Human Rights Civil Society Advisory Board. - Development and drafting of the action-plan of Independent Board for Human Rights in Kurdistan (IBHR). 	<p>% of planned</p>	<p>80%</p>
<p>Output 3 The Iraqi state is able to promote and undertake governance process in an accountable and transparent manner.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The CoR capacity in undertaking accountability oversight functions has increased. - The KRG has plans for a Commission of Integrity are in place. - The KRG's Board of Supreme Audit capacity has been enhanced. - An investigative journalism curriculum has been developed and is in place. 	<p>% of planned</p>	<p>75%</p>
<p>Output 4 Civil society organisations have enhanced capacity to engage with parliament and relevant parliamentary committees on policy issues.</p>	<p>4.1 Iraqi CSOs' ability to hold the government accountable in the areas of human rights, corruption and service delivery has been strengthened. (31+6 CSOs engaged so far)</p> <p>4.2 Interface between relevant</p>	<p>% of planned</p>	<p>60%</p> <p>50%</p>

	<p>parliamentary committees and CSOs on issues of human rights, corruption and service delivery has been enhanced. (CSO Committee and Human Rights Committee engaged so far)</p> <p>4.3a Advocacy and awareness-raising on corruption issues enhanced.</p> <p>4.3b Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy through partnership with CSOs and independent media implemented.</p> <p>4.4 Donor coordination on civil society issues in Iraq has been enhanced. (Four informal CSO coordination meetings for development partners held so far in Baghdad and one in Erbil; two donor coordination meetings held so far)</p>		<p>100%</p> <p>30%</p> <p>60%</p>
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Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

Output 1: The Iraq Human Rights Commission has enhanced capacity to execute its mandate.

UNDP continues to provide support to the IHCHR aiming at enhancing the capacity of the commissioners and the core staff to perform their duties and provide the required services. During the reporting period of time UNDP and UNAMI HRO jointly organised training course targeting members of the human rights commission, members of the Independent Board for Human Rights in Kurdistan and representatives of 25 civil society organisations nation-wide. Two workshops for 25 civil society organizations from all governorates of Iraq and one workshop for the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights (IHCHR), the Kurdistan Region Independent Board for Human Rights (IBHR), and civil society organizations.

On 01 and 02 October 2013 in Erbil, UNDP & UNAMI HRO under this project held a workshop for 25 civil society organizations in which the procedures and mechanisms of the UPR process were explained. Additionally, the representatives of civil society organizations agreed to create an internet-based network using social media for Iraqi non-governmental organizations working on the UPR as a platform to share reports, information, and inputs as well as to strengthen communication on relevant human rights trends and concerns in Iraq.

From 02 to 04 December 2013, UNDP in cooperation with UNAMI HRO organized a three-day follow-up workshop in Erbil. On 02 December, a presentation delivered on the mechanisms, deadlines, and procedural aspects of the report writing process to the representatives of the IHCHR and IBHR. On 03 December, the training focused on the technical aspects of the report sharing best practices and examples from other countries that had already completed the second review. On 04 December, the training provided opportunity to the 25 civil society organizations to prepare a first draft of the report. Additionally, a coordination mechanism with deadlines for the finalization of the process was created.

The implementation of this activity had a number of results:

- Civil society organizations, IHCHR, IBHR were trained on the procedures of the UPR;
- Create strong network of civil society organizations from across Iraq and with the representatives of the national human rights institutions;
- Civil society organizations had the opportunity to meet for the first time in a formal platform the representatives of the IHCHR and IBHR;
- The IHCHR and the IBHR agreed for the first time to work on a common project, such as an assessment of the human rights situation in Iraq to be presented as joint contribution to the UPR.

Output 2: Iraq has a national platform for an expanded human rights dialogue.

During the reporting period of time and on 13 November training is organized in Sulaymaniyah targeting 20 Journalists the training conducted by Amedia Watch website (Hurilab winning project) the training will assist journalists to promote human rights using websites and create strong linkages and network with internet users.

Under this project UNDP organized three days training course on Human Rights Based Approach targeting government officials, UN Staff to ensure mainstreaming HRBA in strategic planning and during the UNDAF review process. Tools on how to mainstream HRBA and Anti-Corruption and link it to Results-Based Management have been provided.

One day workshop to reinforce the vision and to identify the priorities of the Independent Board for Human Rights in Kurdistan conducted on 18 November 2013 in Erbil. The meeting was attended by 13 senior staff from IHRB, OIC and a staff of UNAMI HRO, the meeting headed by a project manager and support of a project officer. During the one day workshop, recommendations from the last workshops of 16-18 September and strategic action plan has been developed with priority areas of work. This action-plan will contribute to the development of the organizational structure of the IBHR and assist the IBHR operate as a credible regional institution with appropriate organizations and staffing, the drafted action plan will be the tool to achieve this objective.

The following key activities and outcomes have been conducted and achieved:

- Identify main priorities for the Human rights board for 2014.
- Draft an action plan for 2014.
- Setting up timeframe for implementation of the action-plan.
- Establishing a committee and focal points from the board and UNDP to follow up the implementation of the action plan.
- Agreement to hold quarterly meeting to follow up on the achievements and identify challenge.
Steps to be taken:
 - A draft action plan to be translated and shared with the board.
 - A consultant to be recruited by early next year to conduct comprehensive needs assessment.
 - Quarterly meeting with all the senior staff to be held regularly.

Under the small grant agreements signed between UNDP and Civil Society Organization, series of workshops have been organized in Iraq and KRG to promote human rights. Different topics and subjects have been discussed through trainings and conferences such as Status of prisoners, freedom of expression. These workshops and training will directly contribute to promotion of human rights and expand the national dialogue for human rights at community level.

Output 3: The Iraqi state is able to promote and undertake governance process in an accountable and transparent manner.

UNDP has continued to make gains with the key integrity institutions in the autonomous region of Kurdistan during 4th Quarter 2013. This has included the hand-over of the Needs Assessment and a Medium to Long Term Strategy for the Bureau of Supreme Audit to the KRG Prime Minister's Office and the establishment of the Kurdistan Commission of Integrity Office with 14 staff in place at the

end of 2013.

The Kurdistan Region plans in place for its forthcoming Commission of Integrity

- Surpassed planned activity of the project. During 4th Quarter 2013 fourteen staff were recruited by the Kurdistan Commission of Integrity Office. The Kurdistan Commission of Integrity Office was established based on the plans developed within project.
- The Kurdistan Commission of Integrity Office initiated work/implementation planning during 4th Quarter 2013.
- Kurdistan Commission of Integrity sent a letter to UNDP requesting technical support from the Accountability, Transparency and Anti-Corruption Programme during 4th Quarter 2013.
- Surpassed deliverable identified in project agreement. During 3rd Quarter 2013 the establishment of the Kurdistan Commission of Integrity was under development.
- At the end of 2nd Quarter 2013 an agreement on the structure, legal and operational framework of the Kurdistan Commission of Integrity had been reached and endorsed by the Commissioner of Integrity, completing this component.
- In June 2013 UNDP facilitated a meeting of key officials in the Kurdistan Region, including the new Commissioner of Integrity to review the proposed amendments to the present law. The review related to organizational independence, and instructions on prevention and investigation work. The workshop addressed additional areas such as: rights, access, work structure and framework for investigators.
- The findings of the study facilitated the Kurdistan Parliament to appoint the new Kurdistan Commissioner of Integrity in mid-May 2013.
- The comparative analytical study assisted in the drafting of amendments to address gaps in the current law and the development of a draft by-law. The draft by-law on the establishment of the KR-COI, included roles and responsibilities, organogram and provided instructions on work related illicit enrichment and regulation of investigative work during 2nd Quarter 2013.
- A comparative analytical study identifying gaps in laws and in the legal and operational framework of the Kurdistan Region Commission of Integrity was produced 1st Quarter 2013.

The capacity of the KRG's Board of Supreme Audit enhanced with the Needs Assessment completed and a Medium to Long Term Strategy for development presented

- Completed the two deliverables. Both the Needs Assessment and a Medium to Long Term Strategy were handed over to the KRG Prime Minister's Office before the end of 2013.
- UNDP continued to work with the Kurdistan Region Board of Supreme Audit to develop a programme for institutional and capacity development.
- The Board of Supreme Audit Needs Assessment and the Strategy were formally presented to the Kurdistan Regional Government Prime Minister's Office, Kurdistan Regional Government Parliament and Kurdistan Regional Ministry of Finance in June 2013.
- Based on the findings of the Needs Assessment a medium to long term strategy for the development of the Kurdistan Region Board of Supreme Audit was developed during the 2nd Quarter 2013. This strategy is a roadmap to transform the Kurdistan Region Board of Supreme Audit into a modern effective state audit institution that ensures public sector transparency and accountability.
- The Board of Supreme Audit Needs Assessment was completed in the six areas of: a) legal framework and independence; b) governance structure and organisation; c) human resources;

d) physical resources; e) audit methods; and f) external relations. The recommendations and needs assessment are available in both English and Arabic.

- In March 2013 UNDP in collaboration with the Kurdistan Region Board of Supreme Audit initiated a Needs Assessment to determine the capacity and institutional development needs. The Needs Assessment utilized the founding principles, prerequisites and fundamental principles of public sector audit set by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) as the baseline.

The partners for Investigative Journalism defined and curriculum development initiating

- The consultant agency award for the investigative journalism curriculum has gone at risk during 4th Quarter 2013 and remains under negotiation as the Consultant Agency Board has decided that their staff cannot provide training in Baghdad due to the deterioration in the security situation. Therefore, this activity cannot move ahead until the security situation improves or their Board offers alternate suggestions which would work for the University of Baghdad.
- UNDP held a consultative meeting March 2013 to identify immediate needs in improving skills of journalists in investigating and reporting corruption. This meeting resulted in a decision on the next steps for developing a technical and academic curriculum and that additional universities may become involved.
- The Baghdad University-Media College and the Iraq Anti-Corruption Academy expressed great interest and requested assistance and expertise to develop investigative journalism 1st Quarter 2013.

Output 4: Civil society organisations have enhanced capacity to engage with parliament and relevant parliamentary committees on policy issues.

8 CSO Consortia grant implementation and networking with Council of Representatives

- Eight grantee CSO Consortia (comprised of 31 CSOs) have continued the implementation of their projects along side dedicated capacity development support. The projects have been under implementation for 8 months and mostly aim at holding the government to account in the areas of human rights, corruption and advocacy for service delivery. The technical capacity development support has so far included trainings on project management, financial management, monitoring and evaluation and fundraising. As a result of these trainings, the CSOs have refined their implementation plans and results frameworks. CSOs have also received technical support for quarterly report writing (two quarterly report rounds so far). All training support has been complemented by follow up field visits and online support meetings. This experience under the project “Empowering CSOs in Iraq” (funded by the Danish Government) has served to build a model for engaging with CSOs and the CSO parliamentary committee under the “Enhancing Transparent Participatory Governance and Human Rights” project as part of Nordic donor coordination.
- The second quarter reports for the eight CSO projects under the “Empowering CSOs in Iraq” project, including progress implementation details were due in November 2013. 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, Dihuk, 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.

- UNDP continued promoting networking and linkages between CSOs and the Parliament. The Parliament committee on CSOs and the NGO Directorate have expressed their 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.

Reinforcing linkages between CSOs, the Human Rights Commission and the Human Rights Parliamentary Committee.

- The implementation of 6 NGO projects has progressed well since their launch mid-September 2013. NGOs have received USD15,000 grants and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNAMI) is maintained informed in case specific technical guidance is required on sensitive issues. Some delays have been identified and UNDP is following up closely on those projects. Three projects are under thematic area 1: Awareness raising on Human Rights (women, persons with disabilities and freedom of expression). These projects cover issues of women self-immolation (Bustan Association), the rights of people with disabilities (Nujeen Association) and gender based violence (Baghdad Women Association). One project (Um Al Yateem Foundation) covers the second area of awareness raising on the role of the Human Rights Commission and the Human Rights parliamentary Committee. For the third thematic area on the documentation of Human Rights violations two projects deal with monitoring prisons (Public Aid Organization) and establishing a network of Human Rights Defenders (Sawa Organization).
- After discussion with the Human Rights Commission, extensive consultations on the establishment of a Civil Society Human Rights advisory board were launched in 6 locations across the country. Representatives of the Human Rights Commission, the Human Rights parliamentary Committee and the CSO parliamentary Committee attended half of the events. The outcome of the consultations is being compiled in a report that will guide the initial drafting of the terms of reference of the Advisory Board. A sensitive discussion point with the Human Rights Commission and Committee for early 2014 is the composition and selection process of the CSO members to the Advisory Board.

Advocacy and awareness-raising on corruption issues through the National Anti-Corruption Campaign completed

- Activity Complete: 96 workshops held with 3,240 attendees (987 female / 2,253 male).
- The interactive workshops enabled participants to come forward with recommendations to intensify the anti-corruption campaign and build coalitions and networks 3rd Quarter 2013.
- The Master Trainers conducted 96 workshops introducing different types of corruption, and means and ways to report suspected corruption to 3,240 attendees (987 female / 2,253 male) with attendance larger than anticipated. This completed 3rd Quarter 2013.
- The National Anti-Corruption Campaign completed in July 2013 within the 15 governorates, outside of the Kurdistan Region. Full breakdown of dates and attendance available. This is ahead of the Work Plan schedule.
- UNDP launched the National Anti-Corruption Campaign on 16 February 2013 in order to engage local citizens and civil society organisations in efforts against corruption. This Campaign was within 15 governorates, outside of the Kurdistan Region and completed July 2013.

Enhancing CSO Anti-corruption intervention capacities

Significant delays and challenges in securing a team of local consultants to ensure this component have taken place and the first Anti-Corruption workshop for local NGOs has finally been scheduled for January 2014 (4-days in Erbil). The focus of the workshop will be to give local NGOs active in the anti-corruption field with new skills related to anti-corruption interventions. Most NGOs are active through awareness raising activities, but have little involvement with reporting on corruption and monitoring government budgets, laws, programmes and institutions from an anti-corruption perspective. The workshop will also ensure that NGOs have adequate technical understanding of the roles, functions and entry points of various Iraqi institutions dealing with anti-corruption. The workshop also aims at promoting the networking of local NGOs active in this field and encourage their linkages to the Commission of Integrity and the Integrity Committee of the Council of Representatives that will intervene during the workshop.

21 competitively selected NGO participants will be invited to the workshop and later will be given an opportunity to present a proposal for a micro grant (USD5000) intervention to practice a new idea gained from the training. During the three-month implementation of the granted projects, NGOs will receive technical support and will reconvene in a three-day workshop to discuss their experiences, consolidate their learning and establish a network of NGOs working on anti-corruption in Iraq.

Challenges for Human Rights:

The delay of the selection of the president and the deputy president of the IHCHR continues to be a major challenge that hinders the IHCHR to operate as an institution rather than individuals. Lack of unified approach among the IHCHR member limited their capacity to react professionally and as an institution to the ongoing conflict in the country. This situation attributed to the highly political

influence on some members of the IHCHR.

The lack of leadership within the Board of the Commission contributed to the delay of the opening for Baghdad subnational office, as well as the main offices of the Commission.

Lack of coordination between ongoing project and the newly support by the EU to the commission constitutes major challenge. Coordination is required to avoid duplication of work and to ensure all activities are well coordinated to enable the commission to serve the Iraqi citizens and perform it's duty as an independent entity.

CSO Component 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. 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.

Another main challenge has been sourcing relevant expertise for local consultancies to support the project activities. Several advertising rounds have been necessary to identify suitable candidates that did not necessarily have the time availability to carry out the assignments as per the project's timeline. Compromises had to be made and this will probably lead to the need to request a no-cost extension in the next months.