

United Nations Development Group UNDAF Trust Fund
Project #82895: P1-04
Date and Quarter: 1 July to 30 September 2013
3rd Quarter 2013

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

Title	Enhancing Transparent Participatory Governance and Human Rights				
Geo. Location	Nationwide				
Project Cost	USD 3,091,526 ¹ in two tranche. First tranche received USD 1,574,585, the second tranche request is under preparation.				
Duration	24 months				
SC Approval Date	5 Apr. 2012	Starting Date	16 May 2012	Completion Date	16 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.				

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>
--

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.

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.

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	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.
Output 2	2. Iraq has a national platform for an expanded human rights dialogue.
Activities	2.6 A national dialogue on human rights supported. 2.7 Awareness raised on human rights issues and ways to protect these rights 2.8 The Iraq High Commission for Human Rights capacity to reach out and clarify work and mandate enhanced.
Output 3	3. The Iraqi state is able to promote and undertake governance process in an accountable and transparent manner.
Activities	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.
Output 4	4. Civil society organisations have enhanced capacity to engage with parliament and relevant parliamentary committees on policy issues.
Activities	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 human rights, corruption and service delivery enhanced. 4.3a Advocacy and awareness-raising on corruption issues enhanced. 4.3b Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy through partnership with CSOs and independent media implemented. 4.4 Donor coordination on civil society issues in Iraq enhanced.
Procurement	

Funds Committed in the 1st Tranche	TOTAL:USD 2,042,474.86 HR: USD 560,120.68 CSO: USD 191,762.76 ATAC: USD 1,290,591.40	% of received 1st tranche funds (USD 1,574,585)	129.71%
Funds Disbursed in the 1st Tranche	TOTAL: USD 1,139,740.63 HR: USD 382,654.68 CSO: USD 138,124.07 ATAC: USD 618,961.88	% of received 1st tranche funds (USD 1,574,585)	72.38%
Forecast final date	16 May 2014	Delay (months)	0

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 website of the Human Rights Commission. - On-going Technical advisory support to the commission focusing on training for core staff of the commission in different areas of work, establishment of Baghdad office, drafting the commission annual report, and establishment of the commission outreach office. 	70%
<p>Output 2 Iraq has a national platform for an expanded human rights dialogue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruitment of Civil Society expert to assist the establishment of the CSOs Advisory Board that will support the linkages of the commission with CSOs. - Organisation of a 3-day Human Rights workshop in Erbil from 19 to 21 September targeting members of the Independent Human Rights Board (IBHR) in KRG. The aim of the workshop was to assist the development of the IBHR vision and regional human rights priorities. 	70%
<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. 	70%
<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 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. (two 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>40%</p> <p>40%</p> <p>100%</p> <p>30%</p> <p>40</p>

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

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

UNDP recruited a Human Rights Expert to provide technical advisory support to the Board of the commission to enhance their capacity to perform their duties. In doing so, the expert organised a three-day training targeting the core staff of the commission. The aim of the training was to enhance the capacity and the skills of the core staff on monitoring and reporting human rights violations, receiving complaints and initiating investigation on human rights violations, filing and documentation of the cases. The training conducted targeted 25 commission staff. The expert will assist the establishment of the Human Rights Commission Office in Baghdad. It has been agreed that the Baghdad Branch office will be located in the Red Zone; the building has been allocated by the COR. The expert will assist the establishment of the Commission's outreach office, which is anticipated to take place during the fourth quarter.

During the last quarter UNDP recruited an IT expert to assist the creation of the Human Rights Commission website. The website was completed and a two-day training was held to hand over the website and to learn about website management with the IT team. It is expected that the commission will launch the website in the fourth quarter of the project.

As part of UNDP support to promote Human Rights in KRG and with the Kurdistan Region Independent Board for Human Rights (IBHR) in the driving seat, experts from Canada, South Africa, and Palestine were invited to support and enhance the capacity of the new Board through a review of Law 4/2010 in line with the Paris Principles. 32 members of the Board from Duhok, Erbil, and Sulaymaniyah met from 16-19 September 2013 in Erbil to discuss the vision of the IBHR and the way forward. Their objective was to develop a jointly agreed vision, outline the Kurdistan Region's human rights priorities, and enhance the understanding of international standards and operating frameworks of National Human Rights Institutions. Sessions on national human rights institutions global and best practices were presented by the visiting experts and UN specialists. An additional topic discussed was the criteria of accreditation of national human rights institutions. The workshop successfully concluded with the participants adopting equity, equality, justice and inclusiveness as main principles to guide and inform the vision of the Board. The workshop also identified education, domestic violence, youth, children and the death penalty as thematic areas for their work in the Kurdistan Region.

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

Continuing to support the expansion of Human Rights national dialogue, UNDP recruited a consultant to support the establishment of Human Rights Advisory Board. The Advisory Board will include civil society organizations, academics and human rights activists to support the work of the Iraq High Commission for Human Rights. The Advisory Board will work closely with the Human Rights Commission and the COR Human Rights Committee to expand discussions on human rights related issues and to include the civil society perspective to enrich the human rights discussion in Iraq. It is anticipated that the members of the Board will be selected during the fourth quarter.

To promote human rights at civil society level, UNDP supported six civil society organisations through small grants to promote the work of the Human Rights Commission. Detailed report will be provided under CSO section.

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 in establishing key integrity institutions in the autonomous region of Kurdistan. During this quarter the Anti-Corruption Campaign completed meeting the number of workshops and surpassing initial number of participants.

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

- Surpassed delivery. During 3rd Quarter 2013 the establishment of the KR-COI was under development.
- At the end of 2nd Quarter 2013 an agreement on the structure, legal and operational framework of the KR-COI 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 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 study assisted in the drafting of amendments to address gaps in the current law, develop a draft by-law on the establishment of the KR-COI, including roles and responsibilities and organogram and provide instructions on the work related to 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 (KR-COI) 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

- UNDP continued to work with the KR 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 KR Board of Supreme Audit was developed during the 2nd Quarter 2013. This strategy is a roadmap to transform the KR Board of Supreme Audit into a modern effective state audit institution that ensures public sector transparency and accountability.
- The 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 KR 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 development of an investigative journalism curriculum is on-going with all three partners working together.
- 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) initiated in May 2012 the implementation of eight projects aimed at holding the government to account in the areas of human rights, corruption and advocacy for service delivery. 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 implementation of the eight projects has been initiated alongside technical support for capacity development to the CSOs. This support has included trainings on project and financial management, and monitoring and evaluation. 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. All training support has been complemented by follow up field visits and online support meetings.
- The first quarter reports for the eight CSO projects under the “Empowering CSOs in Iraq” project, including progress implementation details were due in August 2013. Overall, implementation is at an initial stage, but given the practical and security constraints of working in Iraq the fact that all CSOs have effectively launched their activities is a significant achievement. About half of the projects show delays against the established workplan and UNDP is following up closely to ensure continuous progress. While it is too early to comment on results and impact, a number of significant interactions between CSOs and authorities, at different levels, have taken place demonstrating initial steps towards enhanced citizen-led accountability. Many projects have also already engaged a broader network of NGOs in training activities on different skills and methodologies. This has contributed to a direct expansion of NGO capacities, but also on the opportunity for those NGOs to contribute to the UNDP funded projects with surveys, assessments or facilitation of workshops.
- UNDP continued promoting networking and linkages between CSOs and the Parliament. The Parliament committee on CSOs has 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, currently at a draft law stage. The parliamentary committee has requested UNDP to support in advocating for NGO grants with Members of Parliament and potentially with government officials. Similar parliamentary linkages will also be promoted under the small Human Rights grants of this project.

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

- Out of 64 applications received, UNDP selected six NGO proposals for funding through a competitive selection process in partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNAMI). Grant Agreements have been signed for projects ranging from four to six months for a maximum of USD 15,000 each. Three proposals were selected under thematic area 1: Awareness raising on Human Rights (women, persons with disabilities and freedom of expression). These proposals cover issues of women self-immolation (Bustan Association), the rights of people with disabilities (Nujeen Association) and gender based violence (Baghdad Women Association). Only one proposal (Um Al Yateem Foundation) covering awareness raising on the role of the Human Rights Commission and the Human Rights parliamentary

Committee was found worthy of selection. For the third thematic area on the documentation of Human Rights violations two proposals were selected dealing with monitoring prisons (Public Aid Organization) and establishing a network of Human Rights Defenders (Sawa Organization).

- The contracting of a national consultant to facilitate the establishment of a Civil Society Human Rights advisory board was finalized. The only suitable candidate was unfortunately only available to start work on 30 September. The consultant has however proven to be pro-active from the start (more details under output 1).
- It is expected that the creation of the Civil Society Human Rights Advisory Board will provide for networking and formal linkages between CSOs and the Human Rights Commission and the Human Rights parliamentary Committee. The grantee NGO that will be working on raising awareness about the role of these institutions, namely Um Al Yateem Foundation, will be put in close contact with the Commission. The other five grantee NGOs will also be given opportunities for linkages and networking with commissioners and parliamentarians.

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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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

- UNDP has finalized the design of an intervention to reinforce local CSO capacities on anti-corruption, promote the networking of local CSOs active in this field and encourage their linkages to the Commission of Integrity and the Integrity Committee of the Council of Representatives. This activity will consist of a four-day training workshop, where 21 competitively selected NGO participants will learn about how to effectively engage on anti-corruption issues and discuss the challenges they face in Iraq in this regard. The 21 participants 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 two month implementation, 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.
- UNDP issued a call for expression of interest to NGO representatives interested in taking part in this

initiative. 42 applications were received with only 23 applicants submitting a complete application and 21 NGO representatives selected to participate in the first training workshop and to present a micro intervention proposal.

Main implementation constraints & challenges

Human Rights Component

No significant implementation constraints or challenges to report.

Anti-Corruption Component

No significant implementation constraints or challenges to report.

CSO Component

UNDP has been trying to identify a team of consultants to carry out an anti-corruption training for NGOs, unfortunately it has proven challenging to identify suitable Arabic speaking experts with technical knowledge on anti-corruption, NGOs and knowledge of the Iraqi context. However, after several recruitment attempts, one consultant has already been contracted and the second one is now identified. Provided both consultants can start immediately as their contracts are issued the activity is planned to start in December 2013.