

United Nations Development Group UNDAF Trust Fund
Project #88021: P1-06
Date and Quarter: 1 July to 30 September
3rd Quarter 2014

Participating UN Organisation: UNDP ,UNOPS Sector: Governance and Human Rights

Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Independent High Electoral Commission - IHEC

Title	Institutional Development Support to the IHEC Phase II				
Geographic Location	Nationwide				
Project Cost	US\$2,134,050				
Duration	15 months				
Approval Date (SC)	14 October 2013	Starting Date	25 October 2013	Completion Date	31 December 2014
Project Description	<p>This programme has been jointly developed by the UN and the Iraqi Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) to support the 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.</p> <p>The programme objectives are based on the results of a mid-tem review of the current Institutional Development Support to the IHEC initiative (G11-23) which took place in March 2012 and the Elections Needs Assessment Mission from the UN Electoral Assistance Division of DPA which took place from 20th November to 2nd December 2012. It is also based on discussions with the senior management of the UNAMI led International Electoral Assistance Team (IEAT) and with discussions held with the current Board of Commissioners. The suggested outputs set out in the project document, as well as the corresponding activities, also take into account the work accomplished to date with IHEC. Finally, it takes on board recommendations from the current international advisors working closely with the IHEC on a day-to-day basis, and lessons learned from recent electoral events. These objectives aim to address significant gaps in the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Institutional framework and organisational capacity of the IHEC as Iraq’s permanent electoral institution, established under the constitution; 2. Human resource capacity of the IHEC (staff skills, knowledge and resources) at both central and governorate office levels; 3. Technological capacity to manage electoral processes in a sustainable manner. <p>The programme will be implemented through strong partnerships between the IHEC and the various UN entities mandated and experienced in the sector of electoral support to Iraq. The successful implementation of programme activities is expected to contribute significantly to the achievement of outcomes prioritised in the UN Development Assistance Framework 2011-2014.</p>				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

<p>UNDAF: Priority 1 Improved Governance, including the protection of human rights.</p> <p>UNDP CPAP: Outcome 1: GoI and civil society have strengthened participatory mechanisms in place for electoral processes, national dialogue and reconciliation.</p> <p>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: IHEC has strengthened institutional framework and organizational capacity to effectively conduct electoral processes as Iraq’s permanent electoral institution, established under the constitution</p> <p>Output 2: IHEC has improved technological capacity to manage electoral processes in a sustainable manner</p>

Outputs, Key Activities and Procurement

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

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
Activities	<p>1.1 An improved Legal Framework for Electoral Processes.</p> <p>1.2 IHEC has improved Strategic Planning Processes.</p> <p>1.3 IHEC has enhanced external capacities relations</p> <p>1.4 IHEC has stronger female representation in the organization and is able to advocate effectively for the participation of women in electoral exercises.</p>
Output 2	IHEC has improved technological capacity to manage electoral processes in a sustainable manner
Activities	<p>2.1 IHEC has enhanced IT infrastructure and know-how to more effectively support electoral events.</p> <p>2.2 IHEC has enhanced voter registration capacities.</p>
Procurement (major items)	N/A

Funds Committed	UNDP: USD 1,246,108	% of received 1st tranche funds (USD)	114%
	UNOPS: USD 947,365		91 %
	TOTAL: USD 2,193,473		102.8%
Funds Disbursed	UNDP: USD1,236,353	% of received 1st tranche funds (USD)	113%
	UNOPS: USD 908,948		87 %
	TOTAL: USD 2,145,301		100.5%

Receipt of 2nd Tranche	All the approved project funds were received. Additional funds left over from the previous project may be allocated in April 2014.		
Forecast final date	31 December 2014	Delay (months)	0

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results

Result /Goals	Activities	Baseline Info	Performance Benchmark and Targets	Implementation Progress in reporting quarter
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 An improved Legal Framework for Electoral Processes.			60%
	1.1.1. Electoral legal framework reviewed in support to UNAMI in cooperation with the CoR Legal Committee.	No	Yes	No progress.
	1.1.2 IHEC complaints process reviewed with support of UNAMI	No	Yes	No progress.
	1.1.3 Institutional framework for dispute resolution reviewed in support to UNAMI cooperation with CoR Legal Committee, AJC, EJP	No	Yes	No progress.
	1.2 IHEC has improved Strategic Planning Processes.			74%
	1.2.1. Detailed Guidance note and recommendations for a new strategic plan for IHEC submitted, with special focus on women's empowerment and gender equality measures.	No	Yes	No progress.
	1.2.2. Organisational capacity and structural review undertaken paying special attention to women's empowerment and gender equality	No	Yes	No progress.

	1.2.3 Specialised training modules developed for public speaking, strategic media management and strategic communications submitted and accepted	No	Yes	No progress.
	1.3 IHEC has enhanced external capacities relations			62%
	1.3.1. Guidance and recommendations for an IHEC external relations strategy submitted, paying special attention to measures to include women and other marginalised groups	No	Yes	No progress.
	1.3.2. Staff development training on political entities delivered targeting a minimum 30% women	0	10	No progress.
	1.3.3. Recommendations for establishing a Political Entities resource centre submitted	No	Yes	No progress.
	1.4 IHEC has stronger female representation in the organization and is able to advocate effectively for the participation of women in electoral exercises.			78%
	1.4.1. Recommendations for affirmative recruitment policy to ensure adequate representation of women in IHEC submitted.	No	Yes	No progress.
	1.4.2. Promotional activities to assure incorporation of gender in all electoral activities conducted.	No	2	No progress.
	1.4.3. Women friendly and women specific campaign strategies developed.	No	2	No progress.
	1.4.4 Seminar to discuss regional experiences in women participation in the electoral process conducted	No	1	No progress.
IHEC has improved technological capacity to	2.1 IHEC has enhanced IT infrastructure and know-how to more effectively support electoral events.	No	Yes	70%

manage electoral processes in a sustainable manner	2.1.1. Assistance to the IHEC in the development of an ICT strategy and technological roadmap provided that is gender sensitive	No	Yes	No progress.
	2.1.2 Specific trainings delivered to IHEC in the area of specific technologies and database, especially on-the-job knowledge transfer and mentoring/coaching (minimum 30% female participation).	2	4	No progress.
	2.2 IHEC has enhanced voter registration capacities.			25%
	2.2.1. Detailed guidance note on appropriate technological options for voter registration	No	Yes	No progress.
	2.2.2 Voter registration with Subject Matter Experts and thought leaders organised to allow IHEC to gain insights in its own registration processes and roadmap for the future that allows for sex disaggregated data	0	1	No progress.

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

During most part of the quarter, the international staff members were under evacuation status and outside Iraq. The national staff members who were still in country were not reporting to the IHEC due to the deteriorating security situation. Therefore, it was not possible to effectively interact with and support the IHEC in the quarter. Secondly, lack of funding in the quarter also made it impossible to support the IHEC with implementation of any project activities.

UNDP capitalized on this lean period to develop capacities of its national staff. In this regard, two UNDP national programme officers, male and female, participated in a Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) Train the Facilitator (TtF) training in Beirut, Lebanon from 1 to 12 September 2014. The training, which was attended by UNDP staff in the Arab Region, enhanced the facilitation skills of the UNDP electoral programme staff. The skills gained by the two officers will go a long way in ensuring high quality service delivery to the IHEC.

At the request of UNDP Afghanistan, the UNDP Electoral Project Manager was in Kabul from 2 to 31 August 2014 where he joined a team of over 120 UN international experts which was tasked to supervise a 100% audit and recount of the 14 June 2014 Afghan Presidential Run-off Elections. The

audit and recount process was conducted at the Independent Electoral Commission headquarters in Kabul in full presence of candidates' agents, national and international observers, the media as well as the representatives of the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC). During this period, the Project Manager worked as Audit Advisor. The mission was a great lesson in two aspects: First was on how a UNDP Country Office can use a pool of resources from other country offices to implement a large scale electoral operation. Secondly, the mission provided an insight on how UNDP can effectively support an election audit and recount process and also mitigate the political risks of such an area of support. The experiences gained was documented and shared with the Project and IHEC counterparts.

Output 1.1: An Improved Legal Framework for Electoral Processes

- No achievement made in the reporting period.

Output 1.2: IHEC has improved strategic planning capacities

- Planning was finalized for the conduct of two key activities for the IHEC as follows:
 1. Two IHEC-UN workshops on lessons learnt from the 2014 Council of Representatives and Kurdistan Region Governorate elections. These two workshops, which will target IHEC Commissioners and Director Generals, are aimed at discussing and documenting best practices and challenges that were faced during the implementation of the two sets of elections as well as chart a way forward on how to improve the conduct of future electoral processes.
 2. Internal final review of the UN electoral support programme implementation. This activity will assess achievements made during the implementation of the programme and identify capacity gaps, if any, that still need to be addressed through the UN support.

These activities will be implemented in the fourth quarter, once funding is made available to the project.

Output 1.3: IHEC has enhanced external relations capabilities

- No achievement made in the reporting period.

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

- No achievement made in the reporting period.

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

- No achievement made in the reporting period.

Output 2.2: IHEC has enhanced voter registration capacities

- No achievement made in the reporting period.

Challenges

The absence of international programme staff in Baghdad during the quarter had negatively affected the operations of the project. The national staff who had remained in Baghdad during the evacuation period had been working from home due to the deteriorating security situation and this made it impossible to effectively coordinate with the IHEC during the quarter.

Lack of adequate funding to implement support activities for the IHEC continued to be a major challenge in the quarter. In the previous quarter, the programme had submitted a request for additional funding to UNDAF Trust Fund Steering Committee. This request was turned down and a second appeal had been made towards the end of the third quarter for the committee's reconsideration and approval. Once the additional funds are provided, the project will be able to support IHEC's implementation of key activities including two workshops on lessons learnt from the 2014 COR and KRG Governorate elections and final internal evaluation of programme implementation.