



Insert Fund specific logo, if applicable

[UNDG Iraq Trust Fund]
ANNUAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2009

Submitted by:

UNOPS
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Country and Thematic Area²

Iraq, Governance

Programme No: C9-25

MDTF Office Atlas No: 66954

***Programme Title: Iraqi Civil Society
Empowerment Project***

Participating Organization(s):

UNOPS

Implementing Partners:

Ministry of State for Civil Society Affairs, Civil Society Committee at Council of Representatives, Council of Ministers Secretariat NGOs Directorate, National Center for Consultancy and Management Development (Ministry of Planning and Development), Civil Society Committee at the Kurdistan Parliament, Local authorities of districts Said Sadiq and Al Hilla, OCHA, IFRC, NGOs: International Center for Not-for-profit Law, Al Messala, Insan, NCCI, DRC.

Programme Budget (from the Fund):

US\$ 4,255,193

¹ The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

² E.g. Priority Area for the Peacebuilding Fund; Thematic Window for the Millennium Development Goals Fund (MDG-F); etc.

Programme Duration (in months):

Start date³: 10th December 2008

End date: 10th December 2010 (original date)

Budget Revisions/Extensions:

Not applicable.

³ The start date is the date of the first transfer of funds from the MDTF Office as Administrative Agent.

Introduction:

The Narrative Progress Report template is in line with the UNDG Standard Progress Report.

Building on continued efforts made in the UN system to produce results-based reports, the progress report should describe how the activities (inputs) contributed to the achievement of specific short-term outputs during the twelve month reporting period, and to demonstrate how the short-term outputs achieved in the reporting period collectively contributed to the achievement of the agreed upon outcomes of the Strategic (UN) Planning Framework guiding the operations of the Fund⁴.

In support of the individual programme reports, please attach any additional relevant information and photographs, assessments, evaluations and studies undertaken or published.

The information contained in the Programme Summaries and Quarterly Updates prepared by the Participating Organizations may be useful in the preparation of the Annual Narrative Progress Report. These Summaries and Updates, where applicable, are available in the respective Fund sections of the MDTF Office GATEWAY (<http://mdtf.undp.org/>).

Formatting Instructions:

- The report should not exceed 10-15 pages.
- The report should be submitted in one single Word or PDF file.
- Annexes can be added to the report but need to be clearly referenced, using footnotes or endnotes within the body of the narrative.
- Do not change the Names and Numbers of the Sections below.

NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

I. Purpose

- **Provide the main outputs and outcomes/objectives of the programme.**

Project objectives:

1. To establish a liberal legal and administrative framework for Iraqi NGOs, respected both by the authorities and the NGO community itself.
2. To increase organizational capacity for advocacy of the Iraqi civil society.

⁴ E.g. in the case of the MDG-F, it is important to show how the programme relates to the UNDAF and how it aims to support national development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The causal links and rationale between the joint programme, the thematic window of the MDG-F and the MDGs should be clearly stated. In the case of the Peacebuilding Fund's Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility (PRF), show how the programme relates to the PBF Priority Plan's objectives. For the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund, explain how the programme relates to the UN Assistance Strategy for Iraq, UN MDGs, ICI, NDS, etc.

3. To improve access of Iraqi citizens to relief assistance following increased role of NGO community in conducting emergency response.
4. To strengthen citizen participation in local governance processes, facilitated by civil society, which impacts positively on local economic development and social assistance delivery.
5. To spearhead collaborative initiatives to counter conflict trends through civil society with the ultimate aim of protecting human rights and achieving community development.

Project outputs:

- 1.1: International standards mainstreamed in draft laws and regulations governing NGO sector
- 1.2. Increased capacity of NGO's Directorate to register NGOs timely and provide information support.
- 1.3: Higher awareness across civil society, government and public on rights & duties of NGOs.

- 2.1 Increased Iraqi capacity to provide CB support to civil society organizations in core organizational functions and Human Rights Civic Education.
- 2.2: Civic Education campaign on Human Rights conducted by empowered NGO network.

- 3.1: NGO Emergency Preparedness and Response Network (EPRN) established nationwide
- 3.2: Enhanced coordination of local humanitarian NGOs with humanitarian community (GoI, UN, Int. NGOs)
- 3.3: Increased understanding of humanitarian ethics and advocacy role among NGO community.

- 4.1. Increased capacities for evaluating local governance and producing recommendations to improve citizen participation.
- 4.2: Civic Education campaign on citizen participation in local governance conducted by empowered NGO network.
- 4.3: Citizen participation initiatives increase democratic local governance through close collaboration between NGOs and local authorities.
- 4.4: Stronger policy debate for enhancing civil society and citizen participation in local governance.

- 5.1: A cadre of peace-building resource persons able to initiate change in the larger relational patterns within their communities, is set-up in select locations.
- 5.2: Civic Education campaign on community based peace-building and its contribution to national dialogue and reconciliation process conducted by empowered NGO network in Baghdad.
- 5.3: Tension levels amongst the general Iraqi public decreased by peace-building initiatives run by CSOs and community leaders in select areas.
- 5.4: Formerly divided communities are able to plan their future together.
- 5.5: Stronger policy debate on integrated community-based peace-building.

- **Explain how the Programme relates to the Strategic (UN) Planning Framework guiding the operations of the Fund.**

The project contributes to the following development goals in the relevant development strategies for Iraq:

NDS: 7.5.3. (*Emergency Coordination, Preparedness and Response*); 9.1.1. (*National Dialogue and Reconciliation*); 9.4.1 (*'Engaging with Civil Society'*)

ICI: Section 3.1.1. (*National Dialogue and Reconciliation*), 3.3.1. (*Establish a comprehensive human rights regime country wide*) and Section 4.2.1 (*Engaging with the Civil Society*)

Sector Team Outcome(s) for the Governance Sector:

Outcome 2: *Strengthening national dialogue and civil society for governance and reconciliation.*

Outcome 3: *Strengthened regulatory framework, institutions and processes of national and local governance.*

II. Resources

Financial Resources:

- **Provide information on other funding resources available to the project, if applicable.**

Not applicable.

- **Provide details on any budget revisions approved by the appropriate decision-making body, if applicable.**

Not applicable.

- **Provide information on good practices and constraints in the mechanics of the financial process, times to get transfers, identification of potential bottlenecks, need for better coordination, etc.**

In the case of working with Iraqi NGOs, they do not always have access to bank accounts. UNOPS therefore sometimes uses specialized cash delivery companies when transferring payments to Iraq. Due to this system some delays may occur. It is important therefore to ensure that UNOPS partners are aware of possible delays and that the work is organized in a way that activities on the ground are not affected by delayed payments.

Human Resources:

- **National Staff: Provide details on the number and type (operation/programme).**

Operation (all part-time positions):

- 1 Finance Assistant – Amman
- Procurement & Contracts Officer

Programme:

- Project Officer – Basrah
- 2 Project Officers (50%) – Amman
- Project Officer (50%) – Baghdad
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- **International Staff: Provide details on the number and type (operation/programme)**

Operation:

- 1 x Admin / Finance Manager (50%)

Programme:

- Programme Manager (25%) – Amman
- Project Officer (50%) – Amman

Consultants (retainer contracts):

- NGO law consultant
- Local Governance & Participation Specialist

III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

- **Summarize the implementation mechanisms primarily utilized and how they are adapted to achieve maximum impact given the operating context.**

UNOPS Project staff in Amman and Iraq (Sulaymaniyah, Baghdad, Basrah, Al Hilla) share responsibility for overall supervision of activities. The staff is supervised by the Amman based team composed of a Programme Manger, an international Project Officer and National Project Officers. The delivery mechanism selected by this project also taking into account the current security situation, also rely on partnerships with Iraq-based implementing partners. In addition, the Programme Manager and international Project Officer travel regularly to Baghdad and Erbil. Both stay in regular contact with various stakeholders relevant for implementation of the project including government, parliament and civil society representatives.

The project proposal foresees convening Steering Committee meetings every 6 months. The committee is to be composed of various stakeholders relevant to the project in including the Chairwoman of the Civil Society Committee, Ministries of Civil Society (central, KRG), MoPD, UNAMI, OCHA and 2-3 prominent Iraqi NGOs (not benefiting financially from the project). Due to the project development and the fact that some of the components could not be implemented as planned (some are still waiting to be started due to developments in Iraq) it was only possible to convene a meeting of various stakeholders once, in November 2009. The meeting was hosted by the Chairwoman of the Civil Society Committee at the Council of Representatives and also attended, inter alia, by: Minister of State for Civil Society Affairs, Director of NGOs Directorate, representatives of NGOs, representative of National Center for Consultancy and Management Development at the Ministry of Planning and Development. In addition, the Programme Manger attempts to meet the Minister of Civil Society Affairs as well as the Chairwomen of the CoR Civil Society Committee, representatives of NGOs Directorate and NCCMD on a regular basis in Baghdad depending on whether there is a possibility to conduct missions to Iraq (app. every 6 weeks). Ongoing communication is maintained with all the stakeholders on regular basis via phone and e-mail directly with the Programme Manger or via the National Project Officer based in Baghdad.

With regards to the KRG, the KRG Ministry of Civil Society (primary contact for the project implementation) was dissolved in 2009. The new Civil Society Committee at the Kurdistan Parliament was established instead and UNOPS Programme Manager is in direct contact with its members.

The international Project Officer is directly or via national project officers and field associates in continuous contact with all UNOPS NGO implementing partners for this project.

In Amman, a continuous coordination is maintained with OCHA (Amman and Erbil), UNAMI, NCCI, DRC and Iraqi Red Crescent Society with regards to preparations of the Disaster Risk Reduction training scheduled for March (Erbil). All the agencies jointly work on planning or training agenda, participants and coordinate logistics of the event.

The Project Implementation Committee meeting, as planned, per the project proposal has not been convened yet due to the constraints related to developing some of the components of the project (ex. two of the presented, in the project proposal, partners, who were planned to be members of the Committee, could eventually not be contracted, which caused delays in identifying alternative partners). However, ongoing intensive communication ensures that there is a very good level of coordination maintained.

Furthermore, close coordination with ILO and UNOPS LADP team is maintained with regards to citizens' participation module (local governance assessment component). Further coordination with other LADP involved agencies will follow as the intervention develops.

While this Project is reported through the Governance SOT, information will also be shared with the Protection SOT for Modules 2 (Disaster Risk Reduction) and 4 (Peace-building) since they relate as well to protection issues.

- **Provide details on the procurement procedures utilized and explain variances in standard procedures.**

UNOPS utilizes standard procurement process, including:

- a) Request for Quotations
- b) Invitation to Bid
- c) Request for Proposal

UNOPS procures goods and services in close collaboration with the Clients, Iraqi authorities, and the Beneficiaries. While the individual arrangements vary depending on the Client and the specific project requirements, the general modalities are:

Requirements

- Upon request of Client, and together with the Iraqi counterparts, identify the goods and services for UNOPS to provide or contract.
- Preparation of detailed specifications of equipment and services and work plan, by UNOPS, based on input and with the support from the Client, the Iraqi authorities and the beneficiaries.

Short-listing

- UNOPS has developed and maintains a database of known suppliers and service providers in Iraq (incl. performance assessment, capacity, registration in Iraq, etc.) and a roster of registered experts.
- Qualified and potentially interested vendors in the area can also be drawn from the local authority's relevant company registration offices.
- Alternatively, interested companies can be requested to submit their profiles in response to an Expression of Interest ad published in the Iraqi and/or international media (incl. internet).
- Where necessary and relevant, information on companies/vendors can also be drawn from other UN agencies and entities operating in Iraq.
- The short-list of companies selected to be included in the procurement exercise requires approval by the Regional Director, confirming that all relevant sources of information have been utilized for compiling the list.

Tendering Process

- UNOPS issues an Invitation to Bid/Request for Proposal to all short-listed companies, requesting them to submit an Offer/Proposal in line with the specific requirements. The document also stipulates the exact process of submission, receipt, opening, and evaluation of bids and it informs on the nature of the contract/purchase order the selected bid could result in.
- Requests for clarification received from potential bidders are responded to by UNOPS, if necessary upon consultation with the Client, relevant Iraqi authorities, and/or Beneficiaries.
- After expiration of the submission deadline, all Bids received are opened by a UNOPS Bid Opening Committee. The opening ceremony is open to observers from the Client, relevant Iraqi authorities, the Beneficiaries, as well as for companies participating in the tender.
- The evaluation follows UNOPS standard procedure, varying on procurement type and value, and should result in a recommendation for award of contract to the lowest, compliant bid. This recommendation requires approval by the relevant authority within UNOPS.

- Provide details on the monitoring system(s) that are being used and how you identify and incorporate lessons learned into the ongoing project.

The Project is currently monitored based on the following arrangements:

- Baghdad based UNOPS National Project Officer for the coordination with GoI, CoR, NCCMD, NGOs directorate, NGOs on activities related to NGO law, relations between Government and civil society, capacity building of NGOs Directorate and implementation of peacebuilding grant.
- UNOPS Field Associates in Erbil and Kirkuk for coordination with KRG on the issues related to KRG NGO law, implementation of Human Rights component, Peacebuilding component, and DRR training.
- UNOPS National Project Officers based in Amman are in charge of overseeing grants implementation and contractual/logistical arrangements related to various components.
- UNOPS International Project Officer is in charge of implementing all the grants under Reconciliation and Civil Society Portfolio, including grants under this project, Project Officer takes a lead on emergency preparedness component.
- UNOPS Programme Manager, has overall responsibility for the supervision of the project and for tracking funds, carries out regular supervision and technical back-up missions to Iraq as well as takes lead component of NGO law, relations between Government and Civil Society, local governance assessment and capacity building of governmental institutions related to civil society.

Management and oversight of the project is governed by the regular procedures laid out in the programming manual of and other reporting requirements agreed between UNOPS and ITF. UNOPS prepares periodic progress and final reports and is also responsible for preparation of the project's Final Financial Statement.

- Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken.
 1. Institutional assessments carried out by NCCMD on:
 - Iraqi Ministry of State for Civil Society Affairs;
 - Council of Ministers Secretariat NGOs Directorate.
 2. Legal analysis of draft NGO law.
 3. UNDAF Common Country Assessment paper on analysis of Iraqi civil society.

IV. Results

- Provide a summary of Programme progress in relation to planned outcomes and outputs; explain any variance in achieved versus planned outputs during the reporting period.
- Report on the key outputs achieved in the reporting period including # and nature of the activities (inputs), % of completion and beneficiaries.

Outcome 1 - Establishment of a liberal legal and administrative framework for Iraqi NGOs, respected both by the authorities and the NGO community itself.

Output 1.1: International standards mainstreamed in draft laws and regulations governing NGO sector

Completion: 50%

Progress/Results in the reporting period:

1. In January 2009 Iraqi Council of Ministers approved a draft NGO law and transferred it to the Council of Representatives for a final approval (March). The draft did not adhere to international best practices and earlier agreements on the content (facilitated by UNOPS and UNAMI in 2008) hence posing serious risk on imposing very restrictive regulations on Iraqi Civil Society. Throughout the whole reporting period UNOPS has been actively involved in the process of support more enabling changes of the law. Continuous communication with GoI, CoR (with it Civil Society Committee) and Iraqi Civil Society as well as coordination among UNAMI, UN agencies, EC Delegation, US Embassy, MNF-I, embassies of other countries represented in Baghdad, USAID, and other donors as well as various other organisations has been carried out. In this respect a very close operational cooperation has been established and maintained in principal with International Center for Not-for-profit Law and Iraqi NGO Al-Amal as well as others. Thanks to UNOPS efforts the coordination among various actors involved in the process was maintained, which allowed international community to talk one voice when advocating for the law with the GoI and CoR. NGO law Roundtable organized in May in Baghdad was attended by high number of participants/observers representing very wide variety of stakeholders involved/interested in the issue. At the last stage of before the final approval of the law by the CoR a common delegation of EC, US Embassy and UN met with the CoR Speaker to advocate for passing the law. Other informal advocacy activities have also been done, which complemented separated actions undertaken by Iraqi Civil Society.

Overall the concerted efforts resulted in final endorsement of the law by the CoR on 25th of January 2010. Arabic and English versions of Law of Non-Governmental Organisations is attached to this report.

2. 1 NGO law consultant was hired and delivered commentaries on the draft NGO law as well as other papers. The commentary was widely distributed among GoI, CoR, Iraqi Civil Society and international community. 2 consultants were hired to facilitate organization of NGO Law Roundtable in May.
3. NGO Law Roundtable (Baghdad, 9th -11th May) was organized. It was attended by total of 73 participants representing GoI, CoR and Iraqi and International NGOs as well as observers (donors, embassies, EC, UN). The event resulted in developing set of recommendations on amendments to the draft NGO law. The recommendations postulated to align many provisions of the Iraqi NGO law with international standards. The value of recommendations was that they constituted an outcome of a consensus between participants representing various points of view and interests (GoI, CoR and NGOs). The recommendations were distributed widely among Iraqi Civil Society and International Community and become one of the main tools for advocating changes to the draft NGO law.
4. NGO law - coordination, advocacy meeting for representatives of Iraqi NGOs was organized in Baghdad on 12th of May. An advocacy planning meeting allowed NGOs to propose main advocacy activities in the planned campaign for a better NGO law. The outcomes of this meeting helped International Center for Not-for-profit Law in designing and launching a small

grant programme, whereby 13 NGOs were granted small grants and implemented projects on NGO law advocacy.

See attached press release, and list of recommendations prepared by Roundtable participants.

5. UNOPS Programme Manager participated on 10th of January 2010 in Baghdad, in ad hoc meetings convened by the Chair of CoR Civil Society Committee. This meeting gathering representatives of CoR, NGOs and MoCS resulted in preparing last review of NGO law and recommendations for amendments before final third reading at the CoR.
6. In January 2010 UNOPS was requested by Civil Society Committee of the Kurdistan Parliament to support development of the KRG NGO law. Preparatory work and coordination with other involved stakeholders is underway.

Output 1.2: Increased capacity of NGO Assistance Office to register NGOs timely and provide information support.

Completion: 20%

Progress/Results in the reporting period:

1. NCCMD, contracted by UNOPS, completed an institutional assessment of the Iraqi Ministry of State for Civil Society and the NGOs Directorate⁵.
2. Outcomes of the assessment were used for preparing Terms of Reference for complex capacity building programme for NGOs Directorate. *Project proposal from NCCMD, on the capacity building programme is due to be submitted to UNOPS in mid March 2010.*

Output 1.3: Higher awareness across civil society, government and public on rights & duties of NGOs.

Completion: 10%. *Bulk of the activities can start only when the NGO law is approved and implementation guidelines are in place. UNOPS will focus on supporting government in preparing implementation guidelines and subsequent on increasing awareness among concerned parties as per output 1.3.*

Progress/Results in the reporting period:

1. Study visit to Lebanon on relations between Government and Civil Society and on NGOs registration processes was organized from 11th to 17th of October. Nine participants included representatives of CoR, GoI, NGOs Directorate and NGOs. The current study visit offered an opportunity to extensively increase participants' understanding of civil society and its role in a democratic state. During its numerous meetings with representatives of the Lebanese Government and Parliament as well as local and international NGOs and networks the delegation discussed and examined the situation of civil society in Lebanon as operating in a volatile security context, its position vis-à-vis state institutions (including the NGO registration system) and modalities of cooperation between government and NGOs. The study visit, first of this kind of events targeting NGOs Directorate staff (five participants) created a very good and

⁵ NGOs Directorate constitutes part of Iraqi Council of Ministers Secretariat and is a primary GoI body charged to deal with Iraqi NGOs. NGOs Directorate is in charge of registering NGOs working in Iraq.

open atmosphere for discussing relations between Government and Civil Society in Iraq. Not only did it allow the participants to gain more awareness of what civil society is and what are the benefits of working with civil society but opened communication channels which further project activities will build on.

See attached press release

2. Following recommendations from the Study Visit, on 19th of November a roundtable was organized in Baghdad (hosted by CoR) gathering 14 participants representing key stakeholders in the development of the Government, the Council of Representatives, and Civil Society relations in Iraq, including representatives of CoR, GoI, NGOs Directorate and Civil Society. The meeting was the first in a planned series of events, which will address reform of their roles and mutual relations. The issue of relations between government and civil society in Iraq was targeted for the first time in this form, enabling dialogue between all stakeholders. This was appreciated jointly by all the parties participating in both Lebanon Study Visit and the roundtable meeting. Both initiatives proved that there is room and readiness for sincere dialogues. Assistance to the NGOs Directorate, including the increased awareness of what civil society is, was highly appreciated by the Directorate management.

See attached press release

Outcome 2 - Increased organizational capacity for advocacy of the Iraqi civil society.

Output 2.1 Increased Iraqi capacity to provide CB support to civil society organizations in core organizational functions and Human Rights Civic Education.

Completion: 30%. *UNOPS faced constraints during the reporting period in selection of project partner. The project proposal foresaw cooperation with NCCI on this component. However, due to persisting problems NCCI was not able to obtain registration with NGOs Directorate in Baghdad. UNOPS therefore would not be in a position to grant NCCI. Therefore alternative partners had to be identified.*

Progress/Results in the reporting period:

1. Complete process led to selection of NGO Al-Mesalla. The main component of the project are awareness raising and capacity building. The goal is to increase the capacity of a Network of Iraqi Human Rights Organizations (NGOs) and activists and of a selected CSSC (Al Mesalla) to better protect, promote, and advocate for human rights and the rule of law in Iraq. The objectives of the grant are: i) To strengthen one civil society service center to be able to provide a professional and planned, capacity building for Iraqi CSOs; ii) to empower one Iraqi local NGOs network internally, providing comprehensive capacity building assistance to its members and governing bodies; and iii) to have about 30 empowered NGOs implementing a nation-wide civic education campaign on human rights standards and norms.
2. The main achievements until the end of 2009 were related to objective one as follows: a comprehensive training of trainers organized for 9 persons of Al Mesalla's staff/Volunteers; study visit in Jordan for four key staff of Al Mesalla's on training on setting up capacity building work plan; developed business plan for three years for the CSSC. Phase I of project i.e. empowering CSSC was completed.

Output 2.2: Civic Education campaign on Human Rights conducted by empowered NGO network.

Activities on empowering NGO network and carrying out civic education campaign will be carried out in 2010.

Outcome 3 - Improved access of Iraqi citizens to relief assistance following increased role of NGO community in conducting emergency response.

Project proposal assumption was that this component would be implemented by an NGO NCCI, which was preselected already at the stage of project proposal preparations, hence was explicitly mentioned in the project document. However, as mentioned earlier, NCCI was not supposed to obtain registration in Iraq. UNOPS has therefore held numerous consultations with various NGOs involved in humanitarian activities as well as with pertinent UN agencies in order to determine what would be the best way of approaching this component of the project. In the course of the consultations it was agreed together with OCHA and NCCI that the best way of contributing the project funds for this component would be to strengthen governorate level Disaster Risk Reduction mechanisms. The project will empower NGOs in selected governorates to set up and run coordination activities linking governmental Governorate Emergency Cells, Iraq Field Coordination, NGOs, IFRC and others. It is planned that:

- (i) UNOPS in coordination with others would organise a training on DRR for all the involved stakeholders from selected governorates would be involved.
- (ii) Next step will be that NGOs, which will have been trained, submit to UNOPS project proposals tackling development of coordination mechanisms in their respective Governorates and designing a governorate coordination plan. Once NGO per governorate is selected to implement the project.
- (iii) Projects are implemented creating/strengthening coordination mechanisms and ensuring the prominent role of NGOs in the system.
- (iv) Last stage is to organise evaluation lessons learnt meeting where the project would be analyzed and the way forward planned.

The new plan of activities was approved by SCSO in November 2009 as despite the changes in the implemented activities the project will contribute achievement of outcome 3: "Improved access of Iraqi citizens to relief assistance following increased role of NGO community in conducting emergency response", as the new proposed activities will focus exactly on working towards this outcome. The activities will also contribute to achievement of outputs 3.2. and 3.3. UNOPS would not establish Emergency Preparedness and Response Network (output 3.1) per se but networking NGOs mechanisms within particular governorates and then between selected governorates will be established and strengthened.

Output 3.1: NGO Emergency Preparedness and Response Network (EPRN) established nationwide

Completion: 0%, please see explanation above.

Output 3.2: Enhanced coordination of local humanitarian NGOs with humanitarian community (GoI, UN, Int. NGOs)

Completion: 10%

Progress/Results in the reporting period:

1. Based on consultations (UNOPS, OCHA, NCCI and DRC) have preselected: Ninewa, Dahok, Diyala, Wassit, Thi Qar and Missan.

2. Coordination on preparation for the DRR training (scheduled for 28th March – 1st April in Erbil) is ongoing between UNOPS, OCHA, NCCI, DRC, IFRC and IRCS as well as with authorities.
3. Two trainers for the training were contracted, IFRC and NCCI agreed to provide two remaining trainers.

Output 3.3: Increased under-standing of humanitarian ethics and advocacy role among NGO community.

Completion: 0%, please see explanation above.

Outcome 4 - Strengthened citizen participation in local governance processes, facilitated by civil society, which impacts positively on local economic development and social assistance delivery.

Output 4.1. Increased capacities for evaluating local governance and producing recommendations to improve citizen participation.

Completion: 5%. Training and technical assistance provider for this component was selected but subsequently was not able to undertake the assignment. This led to postponement of a first of planned meetings between technical advisors and Iraqi counterparts and delay of in implementation of the component.

Progress/Results in the reporting period:

1. One consultant, Local Governance & Participation Specialist, in charge developing the project component was hired.
2. The concept paper guide and presentation on how to conduct a local government assessment has been prepared by the Governance & Participation Specialist. Locations for the assessment have been identified (districts of Said Sadiq in Sulaymaniyah and Al Hilla in Babil). Consultations with prospective partners are underway.

Output 4.2: Civic Education campaign on citizen participation in local governance conducted by empowered NGO network.

Completion: 5%. Project proposal assumption was that this component would be implemented by an NGO NCCI, which was preselected already at the stage of project proposal preparations, hence was explicitly mentioned in the project document. However, as mentioned earlier, NCCI was not supposed to obtain registration in Iraq.

UNOPS issued a RFP for this component in early July 2009 soliciting project proposals from NGOs to implement the activities. The RFP did not yield positive results in terms of finding suitable partners to implement the activities. Thereby, the second RFP was issued in late August 2009. This RFP process did not allow identifying suitable partner either. Therefore in December 2009 it was proposed to SCSO and approved to amend the approach of this component for the following activities:

- (i) Submission of project proposals to implement activities in four governorates, one per each governorate of: Basrah, Missan, Thi Qar and Muthanna;
- (ii) NGOs would be requested to work via informal local networks but this would not be a precondition for selecting proposal, i.e. the option of having one NGO implementing the activities on governorate level would be also possible;
- (iii) Four NGOs partners (working through local networks or alone) would be selected, one per

- governorate;*
- (iv) NGOs would receive training, organised in Iraq, from UNOPS consultant on principles of citizen partnership in local governance and mechanisms of carrying out effective civic education campaign;*
 - (v) Each NGO would implement civic education campaigns on citizens participation in their respective governorates;*
 - (vi) Lessons learnt/reporting meeting, facilitated by UNOPS consultant, would be organised in Iraq upon completion of the four grants' implementation. Representatives of local authorities from the four governorates would be invited to attend.*

The proposed activities will contribute to achievement of Outcome 4 of the project through achieving Output 4.2.

Progress/Results in the reporting period:

1. A third RFP was issued soliciting proposal from NGOs working in four separate governorates of the Lower South: Missan, Basrah, Muthanna, Thi Qar. The main components are: i) to provide technical assistance to the NGOs on basic democratic values and citizens participation modalities and ii) for each selected NGO, to organize a civic education campaign at the governorate level. Deadline for submission of project proposals is on the 20 of January.

Output 4.3: Citizen participation initiatives increase democratic local governance through close collaboration between NGOs and local authorities.

Completion: 0%. This component will be implemented following Local Governance Assessment.

Output 4.4: Stronger policy debate for enhancing civil society and citizen participation in local governance.

Completion: 0%. This component will be implemented following Local Governance Assessment.

Outcome 5 - Collaborative initiatives to counter conflict trends spearheaded by the people of Iraq through civil society with the ultimate aim of protecting human rights and achieving community development.

Project proposal assumption was that this component would be implemented by an NGO Mercy Hands, which was preselected already at the stage of project proposal preparations, hence was explicitly mentioned in the project document. However, due to the complexity of the required tasks UNOPS decided to look for an implementing partner through competitive process.

Output 5.1: A cadre of peace-building resource persons able to initiate change in the larger relational patterns within their communities, is set-up in select locations.

Completion: 10%.

Progress/Results in the reporting period:

1. First RFP, soliciting project proposals for this component, was launched in June 2009. However, the selected NGO was unable to present registration documents and the other applicants did not have the technical capacities and necessary qualifications to implement the activities.

2. The second RFP was launched in September. Based on this the NGO Insan Iraqi Society was selected as a partner for project implementation. Field activities begun in early 2010.

Output 5.2: Civic Education campaign on community based peace-building and its contribution to national dialogue and reconciliation process conducted by empowered NGO network in Baghdad.

Completion: 0%. Activities to be implemented in 2010.

Output 5.3: Tension levels amongst the general Iraqi public decreased by peace-building initiatives run by CSOs and community leaders in select areas.

Completion: 0%. Activities to be implemented in 2010.

Output 5.4: Formerly divided communities are able to plan their future together.

Completion: 0%. Activities to be implemented in 2010.

Output 5.5: Stronger policy debate on integrated community-based peace-building.

Completion: 0%. Activities to be implemented in 2010.

- **Explain, if relevant, delays in programme implementation, the nature of the constraints, actions taken to mitigate future delays and lessons learned in the process.**

Delays were explained in details above. The reasons can be categorized as follows:

1. Delays in passing Federal NGO law and freezing works on KRG NGO law. Many project components depend on having a new NGO laws in Iraq;
2. Project proposal foresaw working with preselected partners. Eventually UNOPS was not able to engage with most of them thus identification of alternative partners was necessary;
3. Difficulties in identifying NGO partners who are reliable, posses sufficient capacities and have valid registration in Iraq;
4. Difficulties in identifying NGO networks;
5. Insufficient responsiveness of Iraqi official institutions;
6. Political development in Iraq related to elections.

- **List the key partnerships and collaborations, and explain how such relationships impact on the achievement of results.**

1. Council of Representatives Civil Society Committee, State Ministry of Civil Society Affairs – overall coordination of project activities in particular with regards to NGO law and relations between Government/Parliament and Civil Society. This is a critical partnership.
2. NGOs Directorate at CoMSec – coordination of activities on support to capacity building of NGOs Directorate and developing relations between GoI and Civil society. Critical partnership.
3. Kurdistan Parliament Civil Society Committee – providing support to work on KRG NGO law. Critical relationship.
4. NCCMD – capacity building support to NGOs Directorate. Future plans related to activities on awareness on NGO law.

5. ICNL, NCCI, Al Amal, Kurdish Human Rights Watch – strategic partnership in working on NGO law on federal and KRG level, on improving relations between GoI and civil society and future activities on awareness on NGO law.
6. NGOs Al Messala, Insan – Implementing partners for Human Rights and Peacebuilding components.
7. OCHA, UNAMI, NCCI, DRC, IFRC and IRCS – strategic partners for implementation of DRR component.
8. Local authorities of Said Sadiq, Al Hilla – critical partnership for implementation of LGA in these areas.
9. UNAMI and UN agencies – coordination of activities.

- **Other highlights and cross-cutting issues pertinent to the results being reported on.**

Human Rights: The ICSEP works directly with ‘duty bearers’ in order to promote and defend the rights of civil society (GoI and COR). The project engages with these bodies to increase their understanding and respect of freedoms of association and expression which will enhance the ability of civil society to operate effectively and establish a more predictable relationship with authorities. The project works also with NGOs the rights holders, who are also duty bearers when it comes to the responsibility they have to defend people’s rights, by addressing their ethical basis and enhancing their neutrality, humanitarian spirit, accountability and efficiency so that they live up to the international human rights standards that define civil society action. In addition, the Project works directly on human rights issues by supporting a network of HR NGOs in Module 1.

Gender: Women are very active in the Iraqi civil society, on gender issues and beyond. Women NGOs are numerous and generalist women-headed NGOs are also prominent. With regards to grant projects, currently under implementation in the framework of ICSEP, women will be targeted in the following way: A fair number of women will be selected to be focal points in targeted locations; Awareness raising activities conducted by focal points in their community will target in particular women, considered as peace building champions; Peace Building proposals designed by local NGOs will contain women specific activities in an aim to enhance the role of women in taking part to peace building processes. With regards to Al Messala: the project is based on the documented assumption that women are the most vulnerable victims of human rights violations in Iraq. Accordingly, the project will try to keep the number of women activists participating to capacity building activities at least at 40% of the total and will make sure that the same percentage is respected among the beneficiaries of advocacy activities.

Youth: The role of youth in Iraqi civil society cannot be minimized. A great number of Iraqi NGOs have a strong youth component and youth groups are known for being a fervent supporter of civil society action, perhaps on account of their genuine openness to the notions of democracy and freedom that arrived in Iraq only a few years ago. In the newly adopted NGO law the rights of youth to participate in the NGOs were strengthened if compared to the draft law presented by the Government in early 2009.

V. Future Work Plan (if applicable)

- **Summarize the projected activities and expenditures for the following reporting period (1 January-31 December 2010), using the lessons learned during the previous reporting period.**

Outcome 1

1. Work in support to development of KRG NGO law;
2. Activities in support to drafting implementation instructions to federal NGO law;

3. Awareness activities on federal NGO law and implementation instructions for representatives of the administration, judiciary and civil society;
4. Capacity building of NGOs Directorate;
5. Meeting on building up relations between GoI/CoR and civil society with invited Lebanese experts;

Outcome 2

1. Further implementation of Al Messala project – phase of building capacities of HR NGO network and carrying out civil education campaign on Human Rights;

Outcome 3

1. Organise DRR training for representatives of 6 governorates;
2. NGOs, trained, submit to UNOPS project proposals tackling development of coordination mechanisms in their respective Governorates.
3. Projects are implemented by NGOs.
4. Lessons learnt meeting.

Outcome 4

LGA:

1. Preparations for LGA including participatory methodology drafting, training of assessments;
2. Implementation of field LGA activities;
3. Preparation of reports and endorsement of communities;
4. Preparation and implementation of grant project in targeted communities based on results of LGA;
5. Conference on presenting results of the project and discussing related policies.

Citizens participation civic education:

1. Selection of NGOs partners;
2. Training for NGOs on principles of citizen partnership in local governance and mechanisms of carrying out effective civic education campaign;
3. Implementation of grants;
4. Lessons learnt/reporting meeting

Outcome 5

Continuation of implementation of Insan Peacebuilding project including:

1. Capacity building of community leaders;
2. Assessment of conflict level in targeted communities;
3. Addressing communities needs by projects implemented by community based NGOs (granted directly by UNOPS, monitored by Insan)
4. Capacity building of peace/conflict resolution network;
5. Civil education campaign on peacebuilding.

- **Indicate any major adjustments in strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs planned.**

It is anticipated that budget revision, time extension request will be submitted in 2010 in order to enable completion of the following components:

1. Support to implementation of federal NGO law and developing of KRG NGO law;
2. Developing relations between GoI/CoR and Civil Society;
3. Awareness campaign on NGO law;
4. Local Governance Assessment and subsequent community based grant projects.

VI. Performance Indicators (optional)⁶

- Fill the table in this section to report on the indicators set at the output level as per the approved results framework in the programme document.

See table below

VII. Abbreviations and Acronyms

- List the main abbreviations and acronyms that are used in the report.

CoR – Council of Representatives;
 CoMSec – Council of Ministers Secretariat;
 DRR – Disaster Risk Reduction;
 GoI – Government of Iraq;
 OCHA - United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs;
 NCCI - NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq;
 DRC - Danish Refugee Council;
 IFRC - International Federation of Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies;
 IRCS Iraqi Red Crescent Society
 RFP- Request for Proposal
 NCCMD – National Center for Consultancy and Management Development at the Ministry of Planning and Development.
 ICNL – International Center for Not-for-profit Law
 SCSO – Steering Committee Support Office
 LGA – Local Governance Assessment

I. Performance Indicators assessment

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baselines	Planned Indicator Targets	Achieved Indicator Targets	Means of Verification	Comments (if any)
IP Outcome 1 Establishment of liberal legal and administrative framework for Iraqi NGOs, respected by authorities and NGO community						
IP Output 1.1 Intn'l standards mainstreamed in draft laws and regulations governing NGO sector	Indicator 1.1.1 No. of draft laws brought in line with intn'l standards	N/A	2 NGO draft Laws (Iraq / Kurdistan) fully compliant with intn'l standards before final vote in COR/KNA.	1 (federal) NGO law passed by CoR	Reports from CoR	
IP Output 1.2 Increased capacity of NGOs Directorate register NGOs timely and provide information support.	Indicator 1.2.1 - No. of NGOs registered with NAO. - Period needed to obtain registration.	- 3,000 NGOs registered (2007) - Minimum 3 months to obtain registration	- 6,000 NGOs by project's end - Less than 3 months in 90% of cases.			Process of capacity building of NGOs Directorate is only to start.
IP Output 1.3 Higher awareness across civil society, government and public on rights &	Indicator 1.2.1 - No of governmental officials trained - No. of NGOs with	N/A	- 500 government officials trained. - 1,200 NGOs educated	- 5 staff members of NGOs Directorate trained		Process of awareness raising is to start upon adoption of implementing instructions for NGO

⁶ E.g. for the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund and the MDG-F.

duties of NGOs.	raised awareness on NGO Law					law.
IP Outcome 2 Increase organizational capacity of the Iraqi civil society for advocacy						
IP Output 2.1 Increased Iraqi capacity to provide CB support to civil society organizations in core organizational functions and Human Rights Civic Education.	Indicator 2.1.1 No. strengthened CSSCs with viable business plans. No. of improved training modules	N/A	- 1 CSSCs (Sulay.) with business plans for 3 years. - 6 modules (ethics, finance, HR, planning, training skills, fund-raising)	- 1 CSSCs (Erbil) with business plans for 3 years. - 6 modules (ethics, finance, HR, planning, training skills, fund-raising)	NGO partner reports, UNOPS reports	
IP Output 2.2 Civic Education campaign on Human Rights conducted by empowered NGO network	Indicator 2.2.1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network supported and registered. • No of CSOs trained. • Functioning web portal. • Civic Education campaign conducted and no. of Iraqis reached. • New funding received from intn'l donors. 	Iraqi civil society studies describe NGO organizational capacity as generally low. Networks rarely survive beyond specific funding program. Iraqi networks organize one-off events but rarely organize longer-term campaigns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 CSOs trained. • At least 2000 persons reached directly through a advocacy Civic Education campaign. • 1 web portal 			Not achieved yet.
IP Outcome 3 Improved access of Iraqi citizens to relief assistance following increased role of NGO community in conducting emergency response.						
IP Output 3.1 NGO Emergency Preparedness and Response Network (EPRN) established nationwide	Indicator 3.1.1 No. of NGO Emergency Network established	No EPRN yet existing.	1 EPRN set up.	No EPRN set up		See explanation above about the change of approach in the component.
IP Output 3.2 Enhanced coordination of local humanitarian NGOs with humanitarian community (GoI, UN, Int. NGOs)	Indicator 3.2.1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of communication protocols established. • No. of partners linked with EPRN • No. of reports sent to UNAMI-IAU 	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 comms protocols • 4 partners linked (GoI/PM, NSA, UN, Local authorities). 			Not achieved yet. Please also see explanation above

IP Output 3.3 Increased understanding of humanitarian ethics and advocacy role among NGO community.	Indicator 3.3.1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of printed/audio-visual materials produced No. of awareness-raising events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Manual, 1 DVD, posters, stickers, etc. 50 awareness initiatives targeting 500 CSOs. 				Not achieved yet.
IP Outcome 4 Strengthened citizen participation in local governance processes, organized by civil society, for impacting positively on social assistance delivery and local economic development						
IP Output 4.1 Increased capacities for evaluating local governance and producing recommendations to improve citizen participation.	Indicator 2.1.1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methodology developed No. of local evaluators trained. No. of local governance assessments carried out No. of recommendations produced for 2 areas. 	Methodology fine-tuned to Iraq not existing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LGA method for Iraq ready (2009). 10 local governance evaluators trained. 2 pilot LGAs carried out 10 recommendations per pilot locations 			Not achieved yet.
IP Output 4.2 Civic Education campaign on citizen participation in local governance conducted by empowered NGO network	Indicator 4.2.1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Network supported and registered. No of CSOs trained. Functioning web portal. Civic Education campaign conducted in Basrah and people reached. New Funding received from international donors 	Iraqi civil society studies describe NGO organizational capacity as generally low. Networks rarely survive beyond specific funding program. Iraqi networks organize one-off events but rarely organize longer-term campaigns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 CSSCs (Basrah) with business plans for 3 years. 6 modules (ethics, finance, HR, planning, training skills, fund-raising) 30 CSOs trained. At least 2000 persons reached directly through the Civic Education campaign on citizen participation in Basrah Web portal 			Not achieved yet. Please see explanation above on the change of approach.
IP Output 4.3 Citizen participation initiatives increase democratic local governance through close collaboration between NGOs and local authorities.	Indicator 4.3.1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No of citizen participation initiatives carried out. No. of citizens involved. Evaluation method for impact of citizen participation 	Various initiatives implemented with international support but lack of efforts on evaluation and developing best practices for Iraq.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 citizen participation initiatives implemented and evaluated 50% more citizens involved 			Not achieved yet.

	<p>existing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % citizens in pilot areas finding local governance democratic. 	Baseline on citizen perceptions to be done at project's onset.				
IP Output 4.4 Stronger policy debate for enhancing civil society and citizen participation in local governance.	<p>Indicator 4.4.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance at RT by government officials • No. of policy decisions in favor of participatory local governance.. 	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RT attended by at least 5 ministries • 10 policy recommendations 			Not achieved yet.
IP Outcome 5 Collaborative initiatives to counter conflict trends spearheaded by civil society, with the ultimate aim of protecting human rights and achieving community development.						
IP Output 5.1 A cadre of peace-building resource persons able to initiate change in the larger relational patterns within their communities, is set-up in select locations	<p>Indicator 5.1.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. peace-building resource persons available in select communities and categories they belong to. 	N/A	110 resource persons including 10 focal points, representing civil society, political / religious leaders, tribal leaders, women / youth leaders.			Not achieved yet.
IP Output 5.2 Civic Education campaign on community based peace-building and its contribution to national dialogue and reconciliation process conducted by empowered NGO network in Baghdad.	<p>Indicator 5.2.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network supported and registered. • No of CSOs trained. • Functioning web portal. • Civic Education campaign conducted in Baghdad and no. of Iraqis reached. • New Funding received from international donors 	<p>Iraqi civil society studies describe NGO organizational capacity as generally low. Networks rarely survive beyond specific funding program. Iraqi networks organize one-off events but rarely organize longer-term campaigns.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 CSSCs (Baghdad) with business plans for 3 years. • 6 modules (ethics, finance, HR, planning, training skills, fund-raising) • 30 CSOs trained. • At least 2000 persons reached directly through the Civic Education campaign on Peace-building 			Not achieved yet.

			in Baghdad. • Web portal			
IP Output 5.3 Tension levels amongst the general Iraqi public decreased by peace-building initiatives run by CSOs and community leaders in select areas.	Indicator 5.3.1 • No. of peace-building initiatives carried out. • No. of incidents between two or more groups in target communities • % community members pessimistic on chance to decrease conflict between groups in mid-term (3 years)	N/A	• 2 CT initiatives • Decrease by 50% of inter-group incidents • Decrease by 50% of pessimistic answers.			Not achieved yet.
IP Output 5.4 Formerly divided communities are able to plan their future together.	Indicator 5.4.1 • No. of pilot community plans developed. • % of needs (financial, technical) for implementing plans covered by GoI and civil society.	N/A	• 2 plans developed. • 50% of plans supported by Iraqi sources.			Not achieved yet.
IP Output 5.5 Stronger policy debate on integrated community-based peace-building.	Indicator 5.5.1 No. and kind of attendees at Roundtable.	Policy debate exists but remains mostly limited to civil society.	At least 5 ministries attend + 4 large political groups.			Not achieved yet.