



Iraq

IRFFI/UNDG IRAQ TRUST FUND (UNDG ITF)
ANNUAL PROGRAMME NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2009

Submitted by:

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Country and Thematic Area

Iraq
Governance

Programme No: G11-20
Atlas Award No: 54973
MDTF Office Atlas No: 66973
Programme Title: Technical Assistance
to IHEC – Phase II

Participating Organization(s):

UNDP
UNEAD - UNAMI

Implementing Partners:

International Partners: ***UNDP, UNEAD – UNAMI***

National Partners:
***Independent High Electoral
Commission of Iraq (IHEC)***

Programme Budget (from the Fund):

UNDP: USD 3, 674,736

Programme Duration (in months): 24
Start date: 1 January 2009
End date: 31 December 2010

Budget Revisions/Extensions:

***Budget revision is in process to be
reviewed and modified beginning of
March 2010***

NARRATIVE REPORT

I. Purpose

This programme aims at providing the Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq (IHEC) with essential and urgent technical assistance by securing the required number of international electoral experts and advisors to provide the required electoral technical assistance and support to the IHEC during the 2009/2010 electoral events. The UN was mandated under SCR 1770 to provide assistance to the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq. The assistance is divided into two categories. First is the longer term institutional development and second deals with immediate electoral operational support.

The international electoral experts and advisors have been providing the required technical assistance to IHEC since 2004. Funds needed to secure the required number of international electoral experts and advisors during 2004 – 2008 were provided through the “Technical Assistance to IECI/IHEC” programme, which expired on 31 December 2008. Phase II is providing the necessary funds to continue the provision of international electoral experts and advisors.

Relevant to the following Benchmarks:

- NDS: Strengthening good governance and improve security
- ICI: Although there is not a specific benchmark for elections, this programme supports:
 - Section 3.1.2: Implementation of political/legislative timetable
 - Article 4.2: Strengthen institutions to improve Governance

Sector Team Outcome:

- Strengthened Electoral Process in Iraq.

Integrated Program Outcome:

- Strengthened electoral operations in Iraq, ensuring free and fair elections.

II. Resources

Financial Resources:

No other funding resources were received by the programme and no budget revisions were necessary. The activities were delivered on time and no bottlenecks were experienced during project implementation.

Human Resources:

- National Staff: Project Assistant, National Project Officer, Training Coordinator
- International Staff: Project Manager

III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

The project is executed by UNDP. The executing agency is supported by UNEAD - UNAMI through the provision of technical supervision. Management and oversight of the project is according to standard UN procedures laid out in the programming manual of UNDP and other reporting requirements agreed between UNAMI, UNDP and UNDG/ITF. All project activities were carried out in accordance with the project document and its work plan.

The following consultants were contracted in accordance with UNDP regulations on SSA modality and deployed to Baghdad during the reporting period:

1. Database Development Advisor
2. OCV Advisor
3. Two Public Outreach Advisors
4. International Interpreter
5. Chief of Operations

Management and oversight of the project are governed by the normal procedures laid out in the programming manuals of UNDP and other reporting requirements agreed between UNEAD-UNAMI, UNDP, and the funding source UNDG/ITF.

Technical monitoring, quality control and impact assessment are carried out by the technical supervisor UNEAD-UNAMI and rely on the UN's broad experience of electoral support for Iraq and globally.

UNDP is preparing periodic progress reports (narrative and financial) as defined by the MoU with the funding source UNDG/ITF. UNDP is also responsible for preparation of the project's Final Financial Statement with particular respect to the components for which they have responsibility.

An extraordinary effort was made in the final quarter of 2009 to provide technical assistance for Overseas Voting. This required an intensified effort of identification of experts and their recruitment and assignment to 16 locations, including 15 countries.

IV. Results

An excellent indicator of the success of the project was the actual holding of the March 2010 general elections whereby the UN advisers provided the necessary advice to IHEC in the design and implementation of this event. This aside, there will be a lessons learned and assessment exercise to be conducted around May 2010, whereby IHEC, UNDP and UNAMI will assess the conduct of the elections, including the performance of the international electoral assistance team.

All activities were implemented in accordance with the project work plan. During this reporting period, the required number of international advisers was secured, thus IHEC has received the necessary technical assistance and capacity development during a critical pre-elections period.

As noted above, the recruitment of experts to support Overseas Voting for the 2010 national elections was accomplished on time. The performance of the Overseas Voting, with technical assistance from these especially recruited professionals, was acknowledged by IHEC and widely reported in the media, contributing to reduce tensions regarding access to the right to vote by all Iraqis, irrespective of their temporary residence outside the country.

Output 1:

Increased institutional capacity of IHEC to independently carry out elections

Physical progress: Fully achieved (100%), including the following activities:

- ✓ Identify and select international electoral experts to be recruited by UNDP.
- ✓ Obtain security clearance for staff.
- ✓ Ensure that all necessary staff security and protection measures arrangements are in place.
- ✓ Secure the necessary office space and logistical arrangements.
- ✓ Ensure that each staff develops and implements a work plan in line with IHEC's needs.
- ✓ The Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) to monitor staff performance and plan implementation.
- ✓ Issue 300 Series (ALD) and/or SSA contracts to staff members selected by UNEAD.
- ✓ Arrange for staff travel.
- ✓ Administer staff human resources (HR) and administrative issues.

As stated above, the required number of international electoral advisers was provided /available during the reporting period to support the Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq (IHEC) in its efforts to implement and follow up on the August – September 2009 national voter registration update period, as well as plan for the March 2010 Council of Representatives election. IHEC technical capacity was enhanced in the targeted areas.

The following international advisers were in place to provide the necessary operational support and capacity development to IHEC:

- Senior Operations Advisor
- Team Leader / Senior Capacity Building Advisor
- Capacity Building Officer
- Procurement and Logistics Advisor
- Security Advisor
- Two Public Outreach Advisors

- Graphic Design Advisor
- Associate Administrative Officer
- Interpreters/Translators
- Service Contract Staff

All activities were undertaken for all international staff members. All staff members have assisted in providing both operational technical support to preparation and implementation of electoral events, and in capacity development through providing ongoing guidance and mentoring to IHEC staff.

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

The security factor remains the main obstacle to the deployment of additional staff in Iraq. However, the staff ceiling has been slightly raised to accommodate additional personnel related to the UN's support to the electoral process, and it is not anticipated that there will be any problems in this regard during the programme life.

It is also understood that for the same reason of security some international electoral experts (who are limited in number) are reluctant to take positions in Iraq; nevertheless, UNEAD continues to seek qualified personnel and identify them for immediate recruitment.

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

This programme is collaboration between UNEAD, represented by UNAMI, and UNDP. UNEAD has identified electoral experts and advisors to work in Iraq and Jordan. UNDP has recruited those experts based on the selection of UNEAD and in accordance with UN rules and regulations. Due to the security restrictions regarding the number of international staff accommodated in Iraq at any given time, international electoral experts were requested from time to time to operate out of the UNAMI office in Jordan. Specifically, the roles are as follows:

UNAMI: Overall coordination of support/assistance/advice to IHEC under SCR 1770, including identification of expert requirements as needs arise and where not covered by UNAMI core team. UNAMI has also supervised all international experts and their input.

UNDP: Recruitment, movement, and contract administration of short-term experts. UNDP was also responsible for financial and narrative reporting.

Other stakeholders and partners: IHEC (recipient of assistance/advice/support and UNAMI's main partner in need identification), UNOPS/UNDP/IFES/and others as applicable were implementing specific training and institutional support activities.

In elections, the most sacred commodity is time, and in this project, UNEAD –UNAMI and UNDP have coordinated their efforts and worked jointly on securing/deploying the required number of international advisers according to a strict/tight electoral timetable.

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

The original project did not have specific results for security, gender, human rights, employment or environment.

V. Future Work Plan

Sector Outcome (s): Strengthened Electoral Process in Iraq											
IP Outcome(s): Strengthened electoral operations in Iraq ensuring free and fair elections											
UN Organization-specific Annual targets	Major Activities	Time Frame (by activity)								Implementing Partner	PLANNED BUDGET (by output)
		Q1 2009	Q2 2009	Q3 2009	Q4 2009	Q5 2010	Q6 2010	Q7 2010	Q8 2010		
IP Output 1: Increased institutional capacity of IHEC to independently carry out elections											
	1- Identify and select international electoral experts to be recruited by UNDP.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	UNEAD	\$3,431,400
	2- Obtain security clearance for staff.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	UNEAD	
	3- Ensure that all necessary staff security, protection and arrangements measures are in place.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	UNEAD	
	4- Secure necessary office space and logistical arrangements.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	UNEAD	
	5- Ensure that each staff develops a work plan in line with the IHEC needs, and to implement the plan.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	UNEAD	
	6- The CTA to monitor staff performance and plans implementation.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	UNEAD	
	1- Issue 300 Series (ALD) and/or SSA contracts to staff members selected by UNEAD.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	UNDP	
	2- Arrange for staff travel	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	UNDP	
	3- Administer staff HR and administrative issues.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	UNDP	
Total UNEAD											USD 0.0
Total UNDP											\$3,674,736
Total Planned Budget											\$3,674,736

- *Indicate any major adjustments in strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs planned.*
No adjustments.

VI. Performance Indicators

Programme Title:	Technical Assistance to IHEC – Phase 2						
NDS/ICI priority/ goal(s):	NDS: Strengthen good governance and improve security ICI: Implementation of political / legislative timetable Strengthen institutions to improve governance						
UNCT Outcome	Strengthened Electoral Process in Iraq						
Sector Outcome	Strengthened Electoral Process in Iraq						
IP Outcome 1	Strengthened electoral operations in Iraq towards ensuring free and fair elections			NDS: Strengthen good governance and improve security ICI: Implementation of political / legislative timetable Strengthen institutions to improve governance			
IP Outputs	UN Agency Specific Output	UN Agency	Partner	Indicators	Source of Data	Baseline Data	Indicator Target
Output 1: Increased institutional capacity of IHEC to independently carry out elections	UN international technical experts are available and supporting IHEC operations and electoral events	UNDP	UNEAD	Number of UN international experts recruited Staff security and protection measures are in place Availability of approved staff work plans Activities completion rates based on staff	UNDP Electoral advisers' contracts; Approved work plans; International experts results monitoring and evaluation reports	Number of international experts available (6), Available work plans (6) Available results evaluation reports (6)	Target number of international advisers and experts is (14) in the areas of operation, logistics, procurement, security, HR, Finance, IT, Regulations and Procedures, Capacity Building, Public Outreach, Political Entities, Voter Registration, Media and Graphic Design

				<p>work-plans</p> <p>Percentage of UN international electoral experts operating in Baghdad</p>	<p>UNDP attendance sheet records</p>		<p>The required staff work plans are available (14)</p> <p>Fourteen (14) UN international experts</p> <p>The required results evaluation reports are drafted. (14)</p>
	<p>Strengthened capacity of IHEC through technical support provided by IEAT</p>	<p>UNAMI</p>	<p>UNEAD</p>	<p>Number of assessment reports</p> <p>Percentage of reduced IHEC capacity gap out of total gaps identified</p> <p>Availability of policies in support of parliamentary and national elections</p>	<p>Institutional. capacity assessment reports 2006, 2009, 2010</p>	<p>(1) Institutional capacity assessment report, 2006</p> <p>2006 Report</p>	<p>Two Assessment reports are available (2009, 2010).</p> <p>At least 80% of the gaps covered.</p> <p>Policies in place for free and fair elections</p>

VII. Abbreviations and Acronyms

UNOPS – UN Office for Project Services.
UNAMI – UN Assistance Mission to Iraq.
UNEAD – UN Electoral Assistance Division
UNESCO – UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
IHEC - Independent High Election Commission
IHEC BoC - IHEC Board of Commissioners
GEO – Governorate Electoral Office
UNDG ITF – UN Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
IEAT – International Electoral Assistance Team
CTA- Chief Technical Advisor
CO- Country Office
IFES- International Foundation for Electoral Systems
PRT- Provincial Reconstruction Team
BOC – Board of Commission
GEOM: Governorate Electoral Office Manager