

**COMPLETION REPORT FOR PROJECT:
Basra Leadership Human Rights Awareness Project**

Summary

Participating UN Organization:

UNAMI HRO and UNOPS

Cluster:

Cluster B (Education and Culture)

Project No. and Project Title:

Basra Leadership Human Rights Awareness Project

Project Location/Region/Province:

Basra, Southern Iraq

Reporting Period:

Final Report: Jan-June 2007

Operationally Closed in January 2007

Report no:

3

Counterpart organizations / implementing partners:

UNOPS and the Ministry of Human Rights

Project cost:

US\$ 62,538

Abbreviations and acronyms:

MoHR – Ministry of Human Rights
MoHR/Basra – Ministry of Human Rights/Basra branch
UNOPS – United Nations Office for Project Services
UNAMI HRO – United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq/Human Rights Office

Project Duration:

From August 2006 until January 2007.

I. Purpose

Main objectives and outcomes expected as per approved Project/Programme/project document:

Key immediate objectives:

1. To improve the understanding of the concept of Human Rights in law-enforcement decisions and thus contribute to the overall international efforts against arbitrary arrests, government-sponsored violence and torture.
2. To engage wider community in the discussion on relevance and applicability of human rights standards as well as best practices for promotion and protection of human rights, and thus expand and broaden the community pressure on the government institutions to apply and adhere to their international and nationally-legislated obligations.
3. To strengthen the profile of the Ministry of Human Rights and consolidate its relationship and coordination with NGOs and the community as a whole.
4. To strengthen skills and experiences of newly trained Iraqi trainers in the field of human rights and rule of law and help review and update the existing human rights teaching materials with an aim of having it further adjusted to Iraqi context.

Outcomes/Outputs:

1. Improved communication and relationship between Human Rights Office, Human Rights Institutions and Iraqi Government Officials facilitating the work of HRO and Ministry of Human Rights in promotion and protection of Human Rights.
2. At least 100 government officials have received detailed and internationally approved training related for their work.
3. An open forum for debate and discussion among leaders of different sector and ethnic groups within Iraqi society leading to continued and ongoing dialogue is established and maintained.
4. Profile of the Ministry of Human Rights is increased in respect to its role in promoting respect for human rights and rule of law, and its relationship with NGOs and the community as a whole is strengthened.
5. Trainers' skills are strengthened and they are able to carry out further training sessions in Basra and in Iraq as a whole. This will help create a pool of Iraqi human rights trainers who could be utilized in future human rights projects in Iraq. The training will also help consolidate and adjust teaching materials and ensure that they are updated and modified to reflect international standards.
6. Production of a publication on the proceedings of the sessions in addition to the training materials which will be used in the replicated activities which are planned in other parts of Iraq.

Reference to how the programme/project related to the UN Assistance Strategy to Iraq and how it aimed to support Iraq national development goals and the Millennium Development Goals :

UNAMI Human Rights Mandate stems from the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1564 (2004) and its 2006 extension, UNSC Res. 1700, which declares the responsibilities of UNAMI to be, inter alia, to "*promote the protection of human rights, national reconciliation and judicial and legal reform in order to strengthen the rule of the law in Iraq.*" UNAMI HRO work, in coordination with UNOPS, is therefore divided into two pillars: promotion and protection. As part of the promotion component of its mandate, HRO is cooperating closely with the Ministry of Human Rights, Ministry of Justice, as well as the Ministries of Interior in order to design necessary educational and promotional activities in the area of human rights and the rule of law in Iraq. This particular project has grown out of many conversations and meetings between the HRO and the Ministry senior staff on the need to establish better human rights understanding in Basra. This project is a pilot project.

Project Management arrangements

The Project has planned for several partners: 1) **UNAMI HRO** holding primary responsibility over the key decision regarding the partners and substance of the training; 2) **UNOPS** holding overall

responsibility over contractual and logistical arrangements necessary for the successful execution of the project, 3) **Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR)** holding the primary responsibility over the execution of the project and sharing the overall responsibility with (a) UNAMI HRO on substantive issues and (b) UNOPS on issues of logistics.

In particular:

- a. **UNAMI HRO** and **UNOPS** share the responsibility over the training in the following manner: **HRO**¹ is responsible for the substantive organization and quality of the training as well as the approval of trainers, participants and training materials, **UNOPS**, on the other hand, is to bear responsibility over the organizations and logistics side of the training, including issuing of contract, supervision of the procurement side of the contract.
- b. **UNOPS** signed the contract with the **Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR)** whose contractual obligation is to, under the supervision of UNOPS and HRO, organize the training, propose trainers and participants, liaise with both and issue invitations, organize the materials necessary for the execution of the training such as background papers, folders, pencils and note-pads.
- c. **Note:** HRO has originally planned to involve the Tunis-based **Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR)** in order to help the HRO and MoHR develop training program, select the core group of two trainers and supervisors, and develop training modules in Arabic, as well as ensure the satisfactory level of delivered trainings, where HRO is unable to attend. Due to the deteriorating security situation and inability of the UN to provide protection guarantees to the AIHR, the AIHR was unwilling to engage in the trainings.

II. Resources

Total approved budget and summary of resources used for the programme/project from the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund (and non-Trust Fund resources where applicable):

The total funds provided by UNDG Iraq Trust Fund was: US \$**62,538**

Amount Committed by Dec 2007: US \$ **33,226**

Amount Disbursed by June 2007: US \$ **33,226**

It was originally planned to involve the Tunis-based Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR) in order to help the HRO and MoHR develop the training programs and to be the implementing partner inside Iraq. However, due to the deteriorating security situation and inability of the UN to provide protection guarantees to the AIHR, the AIHR was unwilling to engage in the trainings, hence leading to a budget variance (Tickets, trainers fee, accommodation...etc). Therefore the MoHR together with UNOPS and UNAMI HRO organised the planned trainings. This lead to a reduction in budget expenditures. Remaining funds are to be returned to UNDG ITF.

Remaining funds to be returned to UNDG ITF: US \$ 29,312

¹ The partnership between UNAMI and HRO in this project serves two purposes: (1) HRO is an office within UNAMI that cannot receive funds bilaterally from donors or through the ITF and (2) UNOPS, unlike UNAMI, has necessary logistical and administrative capacity and a capacity to enter into contractual grants agreements.

A budget revision was submitted to ITF in October 2006 in order to extend the project period to January 2007. The budget revision was approved.

III. Results

An assessment of the extent to which the programme/project component / programme /project has achieved the outcomes and outputs expected

The planned Basra Human Rights Trainings consisted of three training sessions each lasting three days, and were all held successively in the first reporting period: on 20-22 September, 4-6 November and 4-6 December in Basra city.

Since the AIHR did not deliver the trainings, as was planned, the MoHR together with UNOPS and UNAMI HRO organised the trainings in Basra. This led to less project expenditures than budgeted for. In order to use these remaining funds, the MoHR had requested in January 2007 two similar trainings to be held in Najaf and Karbala, where the Ministry had recently hired additional staff and where, according to the MoHR, no substantive training has as of yet taken place. The Ministry also requested that the trainings replicate the Basra training, as these three seem to have been positively received and covered a wide variety of topics in a relatively short period of time.

However, it turned out that the Iraqi government does not give the authority to the different offices of the Ministries of Human Rights, to receive and disperse money independently, as used to be the case in the past. Therefore, UNAMI HRO and UNOPS could not organize similar workshops for Najaf and Karbala, as was requested by the MoHR.

Main activities undertaken and achievements/ impacts:

3 days training on: International and regional human rights instruments and treaty bodies; Women's rights and rights of the child in the international law and Arabic practices; Arab standards and non-governmental organization and the Iraqi reality; Concept of the rule of law and the Iraqi reality; Detention and detention centres according to international and Iraqi standards; Iraqi criminal law

- Participants were drawn from local council, police and military forces, religious organizations, universities, political parties and non-governmental organizations
- Participants also represented different ethnic and religious groups
- 10% of the participants were women

3 days training on: Transitional Justice; Arab and Iraqi standards and non-governmental organizations; National reconciliations and Basra society; Women's rights and rights of the child in the international law and Arabic practices

- 30 participants in total attended the training
- Participants were drawn from local council, police and military forces, religious organizations, universities, political parties and non-governmental organizations
- Members of different ethnic and religious

Women made up 30% of all participants.

3 days training: Concept of the rule of law; Transitional justice; Women and children rights

- Increased number of participation of tribal and religious representatives as per their request
- In total: 25 participants from religious, political parties, tribal sheikhs and NGOs, governmental institutions

There were 85 participants from various sectors and institutional and ethnic backgrounds, including 25% of women. Each training was attended by a combination of professionals, drawn from local government (provincial) council, high-ranking members of the Iraqi security forces, such as Basra police and military, key members of the judiciary, academics, representatives of Ministries and non-governmental organizations, and members of Basra Governorate tribes.

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Implementation constraints, lessons learned from addressing these and knowledge gained from assessments, evaluations and studies that have taken place during the project:

The Project faced numerous implementation constraints including changing and unstable security situation, delays in funds approval at the level of the Iraqi Trust Fund (ITF) and UNOPS, and constraints on the part of UNAMI to recruit necessary national staff in Basra to facilitate the planning and dialogue with the Ministry's staff and trainers. Further delay of the training was caused by the delay in the construction schedule of the UNAMI compound in Basra, thus compelling the partnering organizations to change the location of the training from UNAMI premises in the Basra Palace to the Basra Business Center.

HRO, UNOPS and MoHR have been compelled to change the start date of the training several times. The first training was scheduled on 1 June, but the deteriorating security situation and the fact that

UNAMI compound was not ready to receive such a number of people for three consecutive days required shifting the start of the training to the later date. Mid-June proved also not be a suitable time to start the training due to the series of assassinations that occurred in the city, including the killing of one of the prominent Sunni leaders and participants to the training. To circumvent the problem of security, HRO, UNOPS and MoHR agreed to hold the trainings outside the Basra Palace compound and the UNAMI buildings, in the Basra Business Center (BBC). The final start of the training on 20 September was further dictated by the delay in the release of funding and approval of the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with MoHR by UNOPS.

The September, November and December trainings took place without the presence of the UNAMI human rights officer who was unable to obtain security clearance for the visit. The training was however well documented through pictures, participants' evaluations and interviews with individual participants. UNAMI HRO had its opening speech read by the representative of the Ministry on the first day of each training session.

HRO also designed an evaluation form for trainers and participants to be used in each training session. MoHR administered the evaluation forms and submitted the results to UNAMI HRO. The evaluation forms indicate a high degree of satisfaction with the organization and substance of the trainings. Many participants however also stated that the training duration of three days is too short to the participants to examine and learn about human rights subjects in a greater detail.

Furthermore, the training underlined the need for the HRO to continue its engagement and advocacy in the area of treatment of minorities, due process of law and rights of women and children. The issues such as the discriminatory treatment of minorities in particular Sunni, Mandeans and Ahwazi in Basra, persecution of doctors and teachers for their possible former Ba'ath party membership, and rise in fundamentalism affecting women and secular individuals have been known to HRO for some time now. The training participants confirmed the need to further stress the rights of women and children, include more actors and decision-makers into the training programs and place more emphasis on reconciliation of opposing political parties and tribal groups.

Key partnerships and inter-agency collaboration, impact on results:

Inter-agency collaboration, in this case between UNAMI HRO and UNOPS, has been extremely fruitful. The presence and helpfulness of UNOPS national staff in Basra is possibly the single most important factor in ensuring that the training took place and the communication between UNAMI HRO, UNOPS and MoHR remained constant throughout the planning stage.

Highlights and cross cutting issues pertinent to the results e.g. gender disaggregation, policy engagement and participation of the public:

Gender/Human Rights: The project is a human rights project that focused, inter alia, on the rights of women in international law and the reality of their situation in Iraq. There were two women lecturers and reported 25% of all participants were women. As stated above, the project aimed towards gender balance, as well as balance in achieving ethnic and sectarian representation.

IV. Follow up actions and sustainability

Priority actions that should be supported/implemented following completion of project to build on achievements and partnerships rectify shortcomings encountered and use the lessons learned during the project with strong emphasis on achieving sustainability of the outcomes:

N/A

Indication of major adjustments in the strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs:

N/A

Estimated Budget required:

N/A

Annex 1 Key Performance Indicators – Log Frame Matrix

Objectives	Measurable indicators	Means of verification	Outcomes
<p>Development Objective</p> <p><i>Wider problem the programme/project helped to resolve</i></p>	<p>The quantitative ways of measuring or qualitative ways of judging utilised to indicate achievement of objective</p>	<p>Methods and sources used to quantify or assess indicators</p>	<p>Key project outcome against agreed benchmarks including the JNA and NDS where possible</p>
<p>Immediate Objectives:</p> <p><i>The immediate impact on the programme/project area or target group i.e. the change or benefit achieved by the programme/project</i></p>	<p>Quantitative ways of measuring or qualitative ways of judging timed achievement of purpose</p>	<p>Methods and sources to quantify or assess indicators</p>	<p>Key outcomes against each objective</p>
<p>Outputs :</p> <p><i>The specifically deliverable result which were expected from the programme/project to attain the objectives</i></p>	<p>Quantitative ways of measuring or qualitative ways of judging timed production of outputs</p>	<p>Methods and sources to quantify or assess indicators</p>	<p>Key outcomes against projected outputs</p>

Annex 2 PROJECT COSTS

CATEGORY	UNDG ITF approved budget	Actual COST	Percentage of Approved	Budget Revision approved (give date)	Percentage of revision
1. Personnel • including staff and consultants					
2. Contracts • including companies, professional services, grants					
3. Training					
4. Transport					
5. Supplies and commodities					
6. Equipment					
7. Travel					
8. Security					
9. Miscellaneous					
10. Agency Management Support					
Total Expenditure					

Annex 3 List of contract awards by procurement method