

COMPLETION REPORT FOR PROJECT: Provision of Support to Observer Groups of the Iraqi Elections Phase II

Summary

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| Participating UN Organization: UNAMI/UNEAD UNOPS | Cluster: Electoral Support Cluster G |
| Project No. and Project Title: G11-10 Provision of Support to Observer Groups of the Iraqi Elections | Report Number: 5 |
| Reporting Period: 1 January to 30 June 2007 Operationally Closed on Feb 2007 | Project Budget: <u>G11-10</u> Total Approved Project US\$ 5,526,763 Budget revision requested US\$ 515,000 Total Budget US\$ 6,041,763 |
| List Implementing Partners: IECI UNEAD | Project Coverage/Scope: 18 governorates of Iraq Amman, Jordan (Institutional Memory) |
| Abbreviations and acronyms: IECI- Independent Electoral Commission, Iraq EAD- Electoral Assistance Division NDI - National Democratic Institute EIN - Electoral Information Network ACHRS- Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies FES- Fredrich-Ebert-Stiftung | Project Duration/Closed Project: Support to Observer Groups 15 September 2005 - 15 January 2006 Institutional Memory sub-project Phase I 1 October 2005 - 16 February 2006 Institutional Memory sub-project Phase II 23 August - End December 2006 Revised project end date - 31 July 2006 Project extension was requested in Dec. 2006 for an end date on 28 Feb. 2007, with liquidation until 31 May 2007. |

I. Purpose

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

The key immediate objectives of the programme/project are to:

1. Provision of financial support to independent electoral observer groups in Iraq through carefully selected intermediary organisations in order to ensure transparency, accountability and credibility of the upcoming October Referendum and December General Elections
2. Development of a sustainable and easily accessible Institutional Memory Facility for the IECI based on documents and other materials generated by the January 2005 elections.

The expected outcomes of the programme project are:

The project is devised to cater to the two components: Institutional Memory Facility and support to independent observers groups in Iraq.

The January 2005 elections were a success despite challenges. In this respect, supporting the presence of impartial observer groups has been identified and highlighted as an area of importance and one that support should be provided by cluster G.

Furthermore, the institution of an effective Institutional Memory capacity for the IECI will be of great benefit in enabling the IECI to avail of previous material and documentation, so avoiding duplication of effort, and also refer to lessons learned and best practices gleaned from the January Elections. This Institutional Memory capacity once developed will also be capable of serving as a base for the guarding and maintaining of crucial documentation and materials from future electoral activities the IECI is involved with.

The expected outputs of the programme/project within this reporting period are:

1. Collect documents and materials relevant to October 15th Referendum and December 15th Elections.
2. Compilation and categorization of all available relevant documentation and materials.
3. Designed, developed, and easy to use database to host these materials and to Serve as the Institutional Memory/historic archive for the IECI and the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division.
4. Enhance the information sharing and knowledge management efforts of both institutions.
5. Provide a primary reference resource for governments, research institutions, academics and individuals researching best practices and/or the Iraq electoral process, through development of a website to host and make this database widely accessible.
6. Contribute to IECI's institution building.

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 :

- **UN Assistance Strategy for Iraq**

The project falls under the guidelines for UN involvement in Iraq. As stated in the UN strategy document:

“Recognising the presently evolving and anticipated future circumstances leading eventually to peace and stability in Iraq, the UN system is committed to supporting the effective and efficient organisation and delivery of its humanitarian, rehabilitation, and development assistance and technical cooperation as opportunities and security conditions permit. UN assistance and technical cooperation seek to encourage, strengthen and support Iraqi authorities at all levels to exercise their leadership, managerial, co-ordination and accountability roles effectively and transparently, to empower civil society in the development of participatory processes and social

capital, and to promote sound economic growth including the role of the private sector.”

The support provided by this project will relate particularly to Paragraph 7a (ii) of UN Resolution 1546 on Iraq (8 June 2004), describing the UNAMI mandate, namely: *“Advise and support the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq, as well as the Interim Government of Iraq and the Transitional National Assembly, on the process for holding elections.”*

- **UN Millennium Development Goals**

As per the original project document, this project contributes tangentially to the achievement of MDG 8 concerning the development of a global partnership for development. By providing access for the IECI to the most suitable database/internet expertise available internationally the project assists the IECI in their efforts to facilitate in the creation of a stable political system in Iraq. This system is essential to enable Iraq develop in an acceptable and positive manner for all its citizens.

Similarly the support to independent national observer groups also supports this process.

- **Joint Needs Assessment**

The project is based on a needs assessment jointly carried out by UNAMI/IEAT (technical supervision), international organizations active in the field of electoral observer support to Iraq (FES, ACHRS), and the Iraqi civil society (electoral observer groups, etc.).

- **Iraqi National Development Strategy**

n/a

Project Management arrangements

Partners

- UNAMI/EAD: UNOPS is an implementing partner for UNAMI/EAD
- IECI: IECI is an independent body having the full responsibility and authority to run elections in Iraq. Policies for efficient implementation of the elections are determined by a Board of commissioners. The IECI is additionally tasked with overseeing the actual electoral process

Partner Organisations interfacing with Iraqi Observer groups

- **NDI**: National Democratic Institute
- **EIN**: Electoral Information Network
- **ACHRS**: Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies
- **FES**: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

Partner organisations are responsible for ensuring that all possible mitigating measures to provide safety for their national partners were taken.

Monitoring of the national partners was undertaken on a continuous basis by the Iraq based representatives of the partner organisations.

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 budget is US \$6,041,763

Total Amount Committed as at end Dec 2007: US \$5,140,708*

Total Amount Disbursed as at end Dec 2007: US \$ 4,477,626*

* Please note that these figures are tentative while the financial certification process is still ongoing. For certified data, please refer to the Financial Report which is due on 15 September 2008 (as per standard reporting timeline).

The project is operationally closed as of 28 Feb. 2007 and now in the phase of financial closure.

Human Resources:

1 Team Leader for Institutional Memory component (programme/operation)

7 National Staff: Provide details on the number and type (operation/programme)

- 2 Project Assistant for Institutional Memory (operation)

- 1 Support staff for project office (operation)

III. Results

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

Support to Observer Groups

Initially two intermediary organisations were identified for the project – NDI.EIN and ACHRS- to be responsible both for training of national observer groups and for handling the transfer of funds to independent observer groups in Iraq. The total amount of funds to be transferred through these two organisations was set at USD 4,756,000 to be disbursed in instalments and covering the two phases of the electoral process- referendum (October 15th) and general elections (December 15th).

Additionally it was requested by UNEAD that funds be allocated for training and support activities proposed by a third organisation FES- and the project budget was amended accordingly to include an amount of USD 515,000, payable in two instalments to FES.

100% achieved

Partnering Agreements

1. ACHRS- Final reports have been received and final payment made to ACHRS
2. NDI-EIN- Final reports have been received and final payments made to NDI-EIN. Supporting documentation has been made available to UNOPS for all expenses incurred in supporting the national grass roots monitors.
3. FES- Final narrative and financial reports have been received and final payments made to FES.

100% achieved

Institutional Memory Sub-Project Phase I:

Drafted by EAD in June 2005, with a budget allocation of USD \$371,789, the project compiled, archived, indexed and stored electronically documentation relating to the January 2005 elections. The compiled documentation will be consolidated in a database, and a website will be designed to create easy access for individuals and institutions seeking information pertaining to the Iraqi electoral process.

The first phase of the project was completed mid February and a request to extend the project for a four month period to cover the additional electoral processes during 2005 was submitted and approval received on March 6th.

100% achieved.

Institutional Memory Sub-Project Phase II:

On agreement with UNEAD, the same team, which undertook activities of archiving for the documentation related to the January 2005 Iraqi elections for the Institutional Memory phase I, restarted the second phase of the sub-project on 23 August 2006 in order to incorporate documentation from the October 2005 Constitutional Referendum and the December 2005 Council of Representatives elections.

Since it was not possible to find office space for the entire IMP Team at UNHQ/New York as initially requested by UNEAD, the team resumed its duties in Amman, with coordination done by the team leader from New York who was the first staff recruited by UNOPS to enter on duty in August.

To ensure that all systems were in place for the sub-project to resume operations, and to interview additional national staff, the team leader conducted a one-week mission to Amman from 1 - 8 September.

The IT Officer, who originally developed a database for the sub-project phase I, was re-recruited by

UNOPS and resumed activities on 24 August 2006. The IT Officer worked on customizing the database to accommodate the additional documentation, importing data, doing global coding, and ensuring its operability.

The original local team (Two National Assistants) and one senior information management assistant were recruited by UNOPS under Temporary Assistance Agreements until 23 November 2006. Due to the unexpectedly large volume of documentation to be indexed, the team was enlarged by 3 staff on loan from UNEAD/Amman.

As originally planned for phase II, UNOPS also seconded an Information Officer (Librarian) from DPI/NY based on Reimbursable Loan Agreement with DPI. The secondment was for two weeks from 15 – 30 September during which, she oversaw the Arabic language indexing and conducted additional interviews with some national staff.

There are 1,652 unique documents that have been archived by the IMP team, of which 1,545 have been indexed.

This phase of the sub project has been 100% completed.

Main activities undertaken and achievements/ impacts:

1. Preparation for the second phase of IMP (recruitment of International and National previous project team)
2. Resuming of IMP activities under its second phase. Collection, compilation and categorisation of documents relevant to October 2005 referendum and December 2005 elections.
3. Development of a website to facilitate access to the data.
4. Maintenance of a regular dialogue with UNEAD (Amman) to prevent and/or resolve issues arising from the IM component of the project
5. Maintenance of a regular dialogue with UNEAD (NY).

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

The activities were not impeded by any implementation constraints

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

The project negotiated agreements with partner organisations that facilitated the transfer of funds to the independent observer groups in Iraq. This method was adopted to avoid any potential conflict of interest.

During the project's implementation, the project team worked closely together with the IECI regarding the project activities to be implemented in the area of Institutional Memory. Their input was essential in order to ensure that the correct support is provided in this area and that it is implemented in a manner suitable to their needs.

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

Security: The support to independent observer groups component of this project, emanates from the continuing security concerns throughout the country.

The security situation is of less concern in relation to the Institutional Memory component as the database and website are hosted outside Iraq. The only concern here is the delay in accessing materials if the IECI is faced with more pressing security concerns.

Gender: By improving the IECI management of electoral processes through Institutional Memory support, future electoral processes will be better organised and more adapted to the specific needs of the whole Iraqi population, which given the situation in Iraq will be of particular benefit to women.

The presence of independent electoral observer groups benefited all Iraqis and increased their confidence in participating in the October and December voting processes.

The project team encouraged the equal participation of men and women in its implementation, including in the recruitment of project team members.

Human Rights: The project deals indirectly with the needs of particularly vulnerable and marginalised groups as by contributing to improving the overall organisation of the upcoming Referendum and General Elections through the provision of support to independent observer groups. This support will assist these groups in their activities and so should encourage overall participation in these electoral processes and increase acceptance of their outcome not only amongst the citizens of Iraq but the wider international community.

By providing support to the IECI in the areas of Institutional Memory, the IECI will be able to improve their implementation of electoral processes in Iraq and so encourage and facilitate the participation of all Iraqi voters including disadvantaged groups.

Employment: The project only provided for a short-term employment for the personnel directly involved in its implementation.

Environment: There have been no Environmental Impact/Risk Assessments for this project,

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:

A project entitled "Support to Electoral Observer Groups in Iraq Phase 3" has been initiated as a follow-up on the second phase. The objectives of the phase III is to:

1/ Support election observation networks through Training of Trainer (ToT) capacity building workshops on election observation and media monitoring in Amman and cascade training on these topics in Iraq

2/ Facilitate the work of electoral and media observers during the actual elections through the provision of mobilisation allowances for elections observers and media monitors on Election Day

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