

COMPLETION REPORT FOR PROJECT: Empowerment of Women and Youth in Iraqi Electoral Process

Summary

Participating UN Organization:

UNAMI/UNEAD
UNOPS

Cluster:

Cluster G- Electoral Support
(previously Cluster 11)

Project No. and Project Title:

G11-13 Empowerment of Women and Youth in
Iraqi Electoral Process

Report Number:

3

Reporting Period:

1 January to 30 June 2007

Operationally Closed on Feb 2007

Project Budget:

Total Project Budget USD 2,843,985

List Implementing Partners:

UNEAD/UNOPS
ACHRS

Project Coverage/Scope:

Iraq and Jordan

Abbreviations and acronyms:

EAD – Electoral Assistance Division
ACHRS – Amman Centre for Human Rights
Studies
NGOs – Non Governmental Organizations
TOT – Training of Trainers.

Project Duration/Closed Project:

Project approved duration was 9 months
From 1 Feb 2006 – 31 Oct. 2006
Actual start of activities: 1 May 2006
Project Extension until 28 Feb. 2007 was
approved.

I. Purpose

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

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

To enhance the position of women and youth in the Iraqi political process through:

- 1- Consolidating the role of women in the National Assembly so these women can perform a more effective role, particularly in regard to women's issues and concerns
- 2- Increasing free and open participation of women and youth in the electoral process.
- 3- Strengthening the role of young people in the National Assembly so that the issues of the youth might be highlighted by the youth themselves and thereby encourage more complete participation of this sector of society.
- 4- Assisting the young men and women devise, develop and lead "advocacy strategies", which will place pressure on the political parties and blocs in Iraq that they might increase their number of young men and women candidates in the electoral lists for the National Assembly and also place these candidates higher up in the lists of candidates.

The expected outcomes of the project are:

A range of projects have been developed and designed by Cluster G to facilitate the organisation and implementation of the elections such as the provision of logistical support to the IECI. However, while such projects are essential to ensure that electoral process is correctly and properly run, it is also imperative that support is provided to relevant NGO/CSO to ensure that under-represented groups such as women and youth increase their level of participation in future elections. It is with this objective in mind that this project has been designed by the UNEAD/ACHRS supported by the project's executing agency, to assist in the realisation of the Cluster G Electoral Assistance Strategy.

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

1. Sixty nine partner NGO/CSO are identified as capable of providing the required project support to women and youth groups to enable them improve the involvement and participation in the Iraqi electoral process
2. Twenty three representatives (one for each three of the 69 NGO/CSO involved in the project) are trained in public outreach and the preparation of advocacy strategies in 'Training of Trainer' (ToT) courses
3. A Guide for the women and youth is drafted, printed and distributed (in 10,000 copies) to help educate them as to how they might be able to participate more effectively in the electoral process and the transitional period in Iraq. In addition, this guide will serve as an 'Awareness Guide' for the general Iraqi public while also focusing on those issues most pertinent to women and young people.
4. Up to 6210 women and youth participants are trained in 207 Awareness sessions/workshops organised by the NGO/CSO in order to inform them of the relevant major issues and to encourage their participation to as great an extent as possible in the electoral process
5. A publicity campaign using multi- media strategies promotes the concept of women and youth involvement in future electoral processes inside 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 :

“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.”¹

The project contributes tangentially to the Millennium Development Goal 3- Promote gender equality and empower women- the project will support the efforts of women to be more involved in the political process.

Project Management arrangements

UNOPS: The executing agency UNOPS will be supported by UNEAD through provision of technical supervision. Management and oversight of the project will be according to standard UN procedures laid out in the programming manuals of UNOPS and the reporting requirements agreed between UNEAD and Cluster G.

UNEAD: Supervising Agency. UNEAD will be providing technical supervision.

ACHRS: The ACHRS will carry out activities based on a Letter of Agreement which has been signed between ACHRS, UNEAD and UNOPS. ACHRS will conduct all training courses outside of the country in cooperation with UNOPS/EAD. ACHRS will also supervise the overall progress of work on the project through a full-time team which will be based in various locations in Iraq for all the in-country activities. The project implementation strategy will be continuously reviewed by the ACHRS and where it proves necessary corrective action will be taken. ACHRS will sign an MOU with each selected organization to specify the use of the funds received, equipment received and public outreach funds. UNOPS and UNEAD will review the single MOU documents prior to signature by ACHRS. The MOUs will also require the recipient of the funds to provide reporting on activities and expenditure.

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):

A total amount of **USD 2,843,985** was approved by UNDG ITF for project G11-13 Empowerment of Women and Youth in the Iraqi Electoral Processes. The project is funded in its entirety by the UNDG ITF.

Total Amount Committed by end December 07: US \$ 2,801,624

Total Amount Disbursed by end December 07: US \$ 2,800.694

Human Resources

- International Project Personnel:
(2) ACHRS Project Officers in Iraq

- National Project Personnel/ ACHRS:
(1) Project Officer in Jordan
(23) Local Coordinators in Iraq
(1) Project Assistant
(1) Admin Assistant

- National Project Personnel/ UNOPS:
(1) Admin Officer

III. Results

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

Outputs	Narrative	
	%	
1. Sixty nine partner NGO/CSO are identified as capable of providing the required project support to women and youth groups.	100%	<p>This process was finalized during the first two months of starting the project activities (May and June 2006).</p> <p>A list of 69 NGOs was presented to UNEAD and UNOPS as a recommended list by ACHRS based on the work experience with those NGOs and their ability to implement activities towards the objectives of the project. The list was approved by UNOPS and endorsed by UNEAD.</p> <p>ACHRS signed MOAs with the 69 Iraqi approved NGOs. According to the MOAs each participating NGO has to organize three workshops in Iraq (each with duration of three days and for 30 participants). The objective of these workshops is to enhance the public's understanding of the role of women and youth in a developed and democratic society. The workshops were held in the period between 10 July and 30 October.</p>
2. Twenty three representatives (one for each three of the 69 NGO/CSO involved in the project) are trained in public outreach and the preparation of advocacy strategies in 'Training of Trainer' (ToT) courses.	100%	<p>A coordination meeting was held in Amman by ACHRS from 27 – 31 May 2006 and the project's timeframe was discussed including the identification of the Agenda for the workshops to be held in Iraq by the 69 organizations.</p>
3. A Guide for the women and youth is drafted, printed and distributed (in 10,000 copies) to help educate women and youth as to how they might be able to participate more effectively in the electoral process and the transitional period in Iraq. In addition, this guide will serve as an 'Awareness Guide' for the general Iraqi public while also focusing on those issues most pertinent	100%	<p>The advisory guide is drafted and printed. Distribution is done on monthly basis.</p>

to women and young people		
4. Up to 6210 women and youth participants are trained in 207 Awareness sessions/workshops organised by the NGO/CSO in order to inform them of the relevant major issues and to encourage their participation to as great an extent as possible in the electoral process.	100%	The training sessions were successfully held. 6,210 women and youth participated in the awareness sessions. All sessions were conducted by end of October 2006.
5. A publicity campaign using multi-media strategies promotes the concept of women and youth involvement in future electoral processes inside Iraq.	100%	A German Organisation, Media In Cooperation & Transition (MICT), contracted by ACHRS, cooperated with three Iraqi women editors, engaging them in producing and broadcasting radio shows concerning women issues. With prior coordination and agreement with three Iraqi radio stations located in three Iraqi cities (one in the north, the south and the centre), MICT installed the three editors in those radio stations and started the production of radio shows (radio reports, live shows, call ins and features). The general focus of the production was on promoting gender balance and raising awareness on certain issues concerning the conditions of women in Iraq nowadays.

Main activities undertaken and achievements/ impacts:

- Selection of 69 NGO/SCO
- ACHRS signed MOAs with the selected organisation regarding the use of funds received.
- Training Courses "Training of trainers" was delivered for the appropriate trainees selected by partner NGOs.
- Transfer of workshops support funds from UNOPS to ACHRS and further to the 69 NGOs/SCOs to support the cost of the workshops.
- Drafting, printing and distribution of an advisory guide "awareness guide" to women and youth in Iraq.
- Organising and holding 207 awareness sessions for the public. In total, each of the 69 NGO/CSO delivered 3 workshops at different locations throughout Iraq making a total of 207 in all. The awareness guide produced by the project was distributed to all the participants in these workshops.
- Giving a media focus on women issues in Iraq, a public outreach campaign was delivered to promote the role of women and youth in future Iraqi elections.

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

The main challenge of security situation and the limited ability of movement of people in Iraq is the greatest obstacle towards smooth implementation.

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

UNOPS is collaborating with ACHRS and UNEAD for the successful implementation of this project

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

Security: The security situation in Baghdad did not allow ACHRS to conduct one of the initial seminars planned for the center (Baghdad). Three attempts to hold this session ended by cancellation, therefore it was decided to adopt the outcome of the other two initial sessions of (North and South) provided that a third session to be held in Baghdad immediately when the security assessment allows for such an activity to take place.

Gender: As this project is specifically designed to promote the increased involvement of women and young people, it will benefit both women and men. Furthermore, the project deals extensively with gender issues in addition to improving the political status of under-represented sectors of the Iraqi population.

The project's outreach campaign ensured that also (older) men are addressed and thus included in the awareness raising (e.g. re women's access to the political process).

Human Rights: This project has human rights as a central component of the project through its objective of ensuring that women and youth are able to participate fully in the evolving political situation in Iraq.

Employment: This project does not have a direct long-term impact on employment. There is a number of short-term positions, which are available during the project's actual implementation phase.

By providing support to the selected NGO/CSO the project will enable these bodies to improve their delivery of support to women and youth and to increase their participation in the electoral process. In consequence, these organisations will be in a better position to access funds from donors for future programmes.

It is anticipated that the more successfully future Iraqi electoral processes are conducted and the greater the acceptance of their outcome is as a result, the greater the possibility there will be for Iraq to develop and for all its citizens to benefit from the increased employment opportunities that will surely arise consequently.

Environment: There are 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:

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