

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #:C10-10
Date and Quarter Updated: 31st March 2010 (1st Quarter)

Participating UN Organisation: UN-HABITAT **Sector:** Governance and Human Development
Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works

Title Local Government Association and Urban Development Capacity Building Project
Geographic Location The project will be implemented in collaboration with staff from the headquarters office of the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works. Project activities will involve Ministry staff working in local offices and municipal officials throughout Iraq.
Project Cost \$1,985,256
Duration [15 months]
Approval Date (SC) 17 March 2008 **Starting Date** 26 March 2008 **Completion Date** 26 June 2009 1st extension approved till 26 December 2009, 2nd extension approved till 26/06/2010
Project Description The project will provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works for the preparation of city master plans and for enhancing the skills of the professional planning staff in the Ministry's Physical Planning and Municipalities Directorates involved in reconstruction, urban planning and local economic development activities. It will also assist the Ministry with the establishment of an Iraq Municipal Association

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

Better planned municipalities playing an effective role in managing reconstruction and future development and contributing to an enhanced quality of life for Iraqi citizens.

Immediate Objective 1. To improve the capabilities of 250 urban, regional and rural development planners within the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works' Physical Planning Directorate and Municipalities Directorate in the areas of urban planning and reconstruction, development control and local economic development planning.

Immediate Objective 2. To establish an Iraqi Municipal Association which will enable municipalities to share information and experiences, voice their concerns and priorities to regional and central governments, play a role in future deliberations regarding decentralization and local government reform and sponsor future conferences and training programmes.

Outputs Key activities and Procurement

Outputs

- 1.1 Two hundred and fifty planners from the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works trained in the areas of urban planning and reconstruction, development control and local economic development planning.
- 1.2 Ministry planners effectively managing the preparation of master plans for Iraqi cities and towns.
- 2.1 A fully established Iraqi municipal association with a constitution, board of directors, budget and work plan.
- 2.2 A municipal association policy statement regarding decentralization and local government reform.

Activities

- 1.1.1 Prepare a training needs assessment and a capacity development and training plan for the Ministry's planners.
- 1.1.2 Engage international and Iraqi institutions/consultants to design a training course in urban planning and reconstruction, the preparation of master plans, development

- control and local economic development planning for MMPW planners.
- 1.1.3 Train Iraqi academic staff to deliver the basic training course for MMPW planners in Iraq.
 - 1.1.4 Deliver the basic training course and distribute supporting materials to up to 250 MMPW planners in Baghdad and at selected regional locations.
 - 1.1.5 Engage international and Iraqi institutions/consultants to design and deliver an advanced training course for up to 50 Ministry planners in specialized priority areas.
 - 1.1.6 Organize a study tour(s) and attendance at an international planning and economic development conference for up to 15 Ministry planners to learn about urban planning, reconstruction and local economic development practises in other countries.
 - 1.2.1 Prepare generic terms of reference and a project management manual for use by MMPW planners in the preparation of future city and town master plans.
 - 1.2.2 Provide project management and technical advice to MMPW planning staff regarding the completion of the city master plan projects in at least three selected cities.
 - 2.1.1 Engage international and Iraqi consultants to prepare an information and discussion paper that: identifies the issues of common concern to municipalities; describes international best practises of relevance to Iraq in the establishment and operation of a national municipal association; and recommends the nature, scope and benefits of a national municipal association for Iraq.
 - 2.1.2 Make arrangements for up to 15 municipal mayors, councillors and senior Ministry staff to attend an international municipal association conference and visit municipal association in other countries.
 - 2.1.3 Organize a series of regional meetings with municipal stakeholders throughout the country to review the information and discussion paper and develop understanding and support for the idea of a municipal association.
 - 2.1.4 Prepare a report that recommends a vision, mission and constitution for an Iraq Municipal Association and a work plan, staffing arrangements and budget for its first three years of operation.
 - 2.1.5 Organize a second series of regional meetings with municipal stakeholders in the 15 governorates to review the report and further promote the idea of a municipal association.
 - 2.1.6 Organize a founding conference for up to 500 participants from municipalities across the country to establish an Iraq Municipal Association
 - 2.2.1 Assist the newly formed municipal association with the formulation of a policy paper on decentralization and local government reform.

Procurement (major items) N/A

Situation as of 31/12/2009

Funds Committed	\$802,148.35	% of approved	40%
Funds Disbursed	\$442,337.91	% of approved	22%
Forecast final date	25 June 2010	Delay (months)	12

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men	Upto 250 planners (gender breakdown, not yet known)	
Women	N/A	
Children	N/A	

IDPs	N/A	
Others	N/A	
Indirect beneficiaries	Residents of towns and cities in Iraq up to 20 million people. Private sector investors able to make investment decisions based on clear public policies and programmes	
Employment generation (men/women)	The project aims to improve municipal performance in planning, service delivery and local economic development. Beneficiary numbers not known but should accompany increase in any resultant public private partnerships in municipal service delivery and enterprise growth and development.	

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Quantitative achievements against objectives and results			
1.1 Two hundred and fifty planners from the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works trained in the areas of urban planning and reconstruction, development control and local economic development planning.	7 Iraqi Urban planners and economic development specialists' planners selected and contracted to be Trainers of Trainers in Iraq. A 12 day Urban Planning and Economic Development Training of Trainers (ToT) Workshop was held in Cairo between 27 th January and 8 th February. 10 Senior Iraqi officials, academics and consultants attended the course as ToT consultants. 14 proposed modules on various aspects of urban and economic development planning were presented by experts and reviewed by the ToT consultants. A plan to pilot the training materials in April was prepared and the various further investigation of various initiatives to support longer term capacity building discussed (e.g Institute of Planners, E-based resource package)	% of planned	45%
1.2 Ministry planners effectively managing the preparation of master plans for Iraqi cities and towns.	Meetings held with consultants for the Basra City Master Plan to assess approach, progress and issues prior to the recruitment of an International Urban / Economic Consultant who will examine the links between City Master Plans and parallel local planning processes such as Provincial Development Strategy. Recruitment processed for proposed consultant.	% of planned	15%
2.1 A fully established Iraqi municipal association with a constitution, board of directors, budget and work plan.	Following discussions about the Strategic Plan with Chair and Vice Chair of the Iraq Local Government Association support to the Association has been placed on hold while the current institutional set up is investigated by consultants on behalf of USAID to ensure	% of planned	15%

transparency and accountability of operations.

2.2 A municipal association policy statement regarding decentralization and local government reform.

Decisions regarding the delivery mechanism and focus of support to the municipal association still ongoing. Draft scope of work to be covered under an Agreement of Cooperation with local government agency prepared and under discussion.

% of planned

5%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

Successful completion of the training of trainers course by the Government Organisation of Physical Planning in Egypt. The 10 senior Iraqi consultant ToT's reviewed and approved the training materials and prepared a plan for piloting the training in Baghdad and Erbil with MMPW and MoPDC staff. Review meeting on the Basra City Master Plan prior to the recruitment of an International Consultant to examine the options for linking the city master plan to other governorate level planning processes and effectively managing implementation.

Main implementation constrains & challenges (2-3 sentences)

Two specific challenges in implementing this project have been highlighted. The first, scheduling visits, missions and proposed workshops to accommodate the programmes of senior government and university staff in Iraq has been overcome with adequate planning but this has an impact of the work planning and delivery of the training in Iraq. The pilot training courses for planners is due to be held in April and the review of the pilot and finalising the materials not until June. The second key challenge in implementing this project has been in ensuring support to the ILGA is designed in such a way so as not to undermine efforts by the organisation and other donors to ensure the organisation is established on a sustainable footing. Issues related to the later point have been particularly important this quarter. The major donor USAID for the ILGA has commissioned a third party review of the organisation and its support to fast track the move towards institutional arrangements that provide for transparent financial expenditure and will create the basis for sustainable financial set up in the future.