

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #:F8-08
Date and Quarter Updated: 1st quarter, January - March 2010

Participating UN Organisation: UNOPS

Sector: Protection

Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry:

Ministry of Human Rights

Title	Support to MoHR in Techniques for Mass Grave Excavation and Identification of Missing Persons				
Geographic Location	Baghdad and mass grave site in Kirkuk				
Project Cost	US \$ 974,182				
Duration	12 months				
Approval Date (SC)	01 March 2009	Starting Date	10 March 2009	Completion Date	July 2010
Project Description	<p>This project will support the development of Iraq's capacity to address the large numbers of missing persons through building further capacity within MoHR to work on excavation and examination of mass graves, including the possible exhumation of Kuwaiti missing PoWs.</p> <p>Between 300,000 and 2 million persons in Iraq are still missing from the Iran-Iraq War of 1980-88, 1990-91 Gulf War, pre-2003 regime crimes, and post-2003 conflict. In addition, since 2003 the Baghdad Medico-Legal Institute (MLI) reports that it receives on average 800 bodies per month, of which a significant proportion remain unidentified due to inadequate technical and forensic equipment. Currently, only one team of 25 persons from MoHR has been trained on techniques related to the excavation of mass graves and forensic and DNA analysis.</p>				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

The project contributes to achieving the following development goals and objectives relevant to Iraq:

Iraqi National Development Strategy (NDS):

8.1.1. National dialogue and reconciliation

8.3 *Human Rights*

Goal: Uphold and protect human rights, establish the rule of law, and overcome the legacy of the recent and distant past

8.3.1 Establish a comprehensive human rights regime country wide

International Compact with Iraq (ICI): *Although there is not specific benchmark, the project addresses:*

3.1.1 National dialogue and reconciliation

3.3 Uphold and protect human rights, establish the rule of law, and overcome the legacy of the recent and distant past

Protection Sector Team Outcome(s):

1. Improved protection of civilians throughout Iraq and creation of an environment which contributes to the observance of human rights for all Iraqis and mitigates the effects of forced displacement

Integrated Programme/Project Outcome(s):

1. The government of Iraq is better able to protect Human Rights in relation to identification of missing persons.

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement	
Outputs	<p>Output 1: Improved capacity of MoHR to undertake the excavation of mass graves</p> <p>Output 2: Improved capacity of MoHR to perform identification of human remains</p>
Activities	<p>For Output 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of the trainees • Organizing and conducting the training • Purchase required equipment to undertake excavation • Site assessment, including electronic survey mapping • Site recording including crime scene photography and the role of exhibit officer • Site excavation <p>For Output 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination of remains including storage, anthropological examination, data recording and management • Electronic survey data collection • Ante mortem data collection
Procurement (major items)	Procurement of ICMP contract to build Iraqi MoHR's capacity to undertake the excavation of mass graves and to perform identification of human remains

Funds Committed	877,493.56 USD \$	% of approved	90 %
Funds Disbursed	586,598.91 USD \$	% of approved	60 %
Forecast final date	July 2010	Delay (months)	5 months

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men		
Women		
Children		
IDPs		
Others	22 additional MoHR staff trained on excavation and identification of missing persons including practical experience in the excavation and examination of mass grave sites.	73% (22 persons out of originally planned 25 have completed 83% of training planned)
Indirect beneficiaries	Relatives of missing persons	
Employment generation (men/women)	MoHR is expected to employ the additional forensic staff trained during this project, 32% of whom are women.	

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results			
<p>Output 1.1: Improved capacity of MoHR to undertake the excavation of mass graves</p>		<p>96.25 % of planned</p>	
<p>1.1.1 Identification of the trainees</p>	<p>Completed in last reporting period</p>	<p>100%</p>	
<p>1.1.2 Organizing and conducting the training</p>	<p>Completed in last reporting period</p>	<p>100%</p>	
<p>1.1.3 Purchasing required equipment to undertake excavation</p>	<p>The purchasing of equipment is completed; however the handover of purchased items is outstanding. The last shipment of equipment arrived in Baghdad at the end of February, and has been brought to the ICMP compound. The final inventory list is to be prepared and checked or with the head of the MoHR's Mass Graves Department in preparation for the final handover to MoHR</p>	<p>75%</p>	
<p>1.1.4 Conducting Site assessment, including electronic survey mapping</p>	<p>See report for previous quarter</p>	<p>100%</p>	
<p>1.1.5 Site recording including crime scene photography and the role of exhibit officer</p>	<p>Completed in last reporting period</p>	<p>100%</p>	
<p>1.1.6 Site excavation</p>	<p>Completed in last reporting period</p>	<p>100%</p>	
<p>Output 1.2: Improved capacity of MoHR to perform identification of human remains</p>		<p>42% of planned</p>	

<p>1.2.1 Examination of remains including storage, anthropological examination, data recording and management</p>	<p>Initial classification and documentation of remains and other forensic evidence was carried out during the excavation (see the report for the previous quarter.</p>	<p>60%</p>	
<p>1.2.2 Electronic survey data collection</p>	<p>This activity was not fully carried out in the earlier stages of the project following a decision by ICMP to concentrate on increasing trainee capacity in traditional non electronic survey techniques as opposed to also teaching electronic techniques. However, at this time ICMP is planning to complete a course for beneficiaries on electronic survey before the end of the project. The course was expected to take place this quarter, in February, 2010 , however, due to visa constraints the international expert due to deliver the training has been unable to enter Iraq and the training is now postponed but expected to take place in the next quarter.</p>	<p>30%</p>	
<p>1.2.3 Ante mortem data collection</p>		<p>0%</p>	

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

Activities in this reporting period were limited due to implementation challenges explained below and because of the election period, which generally slowed down work on the project.

The project was due to end in this quarter on 10th March 2010. However, as a result of the delays in implementation in this period, a request was made to the ITF for a no cost extension until 31st July 2010. This request was automatically granted under the rules for first extension requests.

In spite of constraints, some smaller scale activities were carried out during the quarter and the project steering committee meeting was held on Sunday, 31st January 2010.

The aim of the steering committee meeting was to review project progress and discuss planned activities. The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Human Rights and attended by representatives from MoHR Mass Graves Department and Office for Humanitarian Affairs as well as by representatives from UNOPS and UNAMI HRO. The meeting was held in Baghdad with a video link to UNOPS colleagues based in Amman. Unfortunately, ICMP had to cancel their attendance of the meeting at the last moment due to a problem with their security escort to the international zone. However, their head of Programmes was available via telephone to respond to issues raised during the meeting.

During the meeting the main areas of discussion were the finalization of procurement, the shipping of equipment to be handed over to the MoHR and the completion of the third phase of training foreseen under the project on forensic analysis. Because of ICMP's absence, it was agreed that separate meetings would be held between ICMP and MoHR to go over the equipment itinerary, finalise the details for the handover and make the detailed arrangements to complete the final activities.

Progress was made during the quarter in completing the final purchases of equipment for the project. The last shipment of equipment arrived in Baghdad at the end of February. At a meeting in February ICMP and the MoHR reached a verbal agreement that the equipment would be handed over in phases; the field and training equipment would be handed over once all of the material had been received and an inventory made. Technical equipment (i.e. electronic survey equipment and laptop computers) would be handed over after the completion of training on electronic surveying.

ICMP is now due to perform the final inventory check and go through all the equipment with the head of the

MoHR's Mass Graves Department in order to finalize the handover of equipment, including official documentation of the handover. However, because of delays caused by the election period (see section on constraints) it has not been possible to complete this activity as yet.

Completion of the planned forensic training and mortuary activities had to be postponed until the next quarter for logistical reasons: In the last reporting period, it was noted that analysis of the remains from Tob Zawah under training supervision had not been carried out because of security at the mortuary where they were being held was not sufficient for ICMP staff to attend and deliver the training. During this quarter it was decided that these remains would not be analysed as part of the training component of the project because of the issue of location and security (the MoHR would do its own analysis work outside the remit of this project). Instead the forensic analysis component would be taught using remains from a different excavation where conditions for training by the ICMP team could be met. For this reason, ICMP has agreed with MoHR to participate in an excavation expected to take place in April 2010 during which the forensic analysis training will be given.

It should be noted that following lessons learned from the excavation training in December (see previous report), ICMP decided to conduct a number of short refresher courses for its trainees. Although these courses form part of ICMP's wider programme with MoHR and do not fall specifically under this project, the participants trained under this project will benefit from them. Refresher courses were given on forensic archaeology, site assessment and survey and mortuary examination. A representative from UNOPS observed some of the short courses during a visit to ICMP premises to see the equipment and storage areas.

During the short courses, it had also been planned to train participants on electronic surveying. (Electronic surveying is a component of this project, but as noted in the last quarterly report, training on this aspect had not yet been given to participants following a decision by ICMP to wait until sufficient capacity had been built in traditional surveying methods before moving on to more complex electronic methods.) However, as a result of a visa problem when trying to enter Iraq, the international trainer who was to deliver the training had to leave the country. This training has therefore been postponed. It is hoped that it will now take place in April 2010.

Main implementation constrains & challenges (2-3 sentences)

A number of challenges were experienced in this reporting period due to the elections and associated security issues. In particular, the situation meant that ICMP, who are based in the Red Zone in Baghdad had to send all their international staff out of the country during the days surrounding the election and to close their office so that national staff members could stay at home for security reasons. This affected ICMPs ability to complete work on the equipment handover with MoHR, which also faced constraints during the election period in terms of ability to attend meetings to finalise inventory checks. In particular, the physical checking of the equipment inventory was delayed resulting in the Minister of Human Rights not being able to sign the handover agreement.

In addition, the Iraqi Ministry of Interior announced a change in visa policy that affected the international personnel working in Iraq. This decision resulted in a delay in the return of ICMP staff to Iraq while they were waiting for the processing of entry visas. The visas were issued in late March. As noted above, one of ICMP's international trainers was also unable to enter Iraq due to immigration constraints and training was postponed as a consequence. This follows a noticeable trend that shows that it is becoming increasingly challenging for staff and specialized trainers from our implementing partners to get visas for Iraq, outside KRG.