Participating UN Organisation: UNAMI-UNOPS   **Sector: Governance**

Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq (IHEC)

Title	Institutional Development – Organizational and HR Capacity Building for the IHEC Phase 2
Geographic Location	Activities will mostly take place in Baghdad and Erbil, however participants will come from all Governorate Elections Offices.
Project Cost	USD 4,792,669
Duration	18 months
Approval Date (SC)	26 October 2008	**Starting Date**	1 November 2008	**Completion Date**	30 April 2010

Project Description	Building on the results and lessons learned from Phase 1 and following the same implementation approach, Phase 2 will work on the capacity building of various prioritised departments and units of the Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq (IHEC) through the provision of 34 workshops/training activities with up to 1,054 IHEC participants from HQ as well as from GEOs. Considering the diversity of the training areas, SOPs for delivery will be refined to address the specific circumstances of the new training activities and to ensure a harmonised approach vis-à-vis the trainings provided through UNDP and other IEAT partners. As in Phase 1, UNOPS will focus on implementation only (e.g. logistics, accommodation, procurement/contracting, etc.) and the role for content provision will remain with UNAMI's Electoral Assistance Team (e.g. TOR development, liaison with IHEC and IEAT partners, technical monitoring and evaluation). Specific attention has been given to ensure that the UNAMI/UNOPS work plan complements the UNAMI/UNDP work plan 2008/2009 (with focus on managerial and policy issues) and that overlaps are avoided already at the planning stage. The Project will also address the issue of security provision for UN staff working within the IHEC compound. In January 2009 the project was revised to include a third output. Due to developments in the context of the Iraqi provincial elections scheduled which took place on 31 Jan 2009, UNAMI, after consultations and in agreement with the Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq (IHEC) requested UNOPS to urgently increase the number of domestic electoral observers to be trained by 1,500 and mobilized by 5,000. 3,750 of these observers were mobilised under this project. Default location for all activities will be Iraq. Iraqi contractors/service providers will be given preference to the degree possible under UNOPS procurement and contracting rules.

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

To contribute to an enhanced implementation of electoral processes in Iraq in line with UNCT Outcome 1: *Strengthened Electoral Processes in Iraq*
This project's immediate objective is: Strengthened Capacity of IHEC staff at HQ and Governorate Electoral offices

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement

Outputs	Output 1 Improved capacity of up to 850 IHEC employees through the delivery of training courses in priority areas: a) IT & Database b) Capacity Building c) Security d) Public Outreach e) Logistics

	f) Graphic Design g) Operations (VRU) Output 2 Private Security support for UN Electoral Assistance Team and UNAMI-SSU/DSS is available. Output 3 Mobilization of 3,750 electoral observers on E-day for the provincial elections in 14 governorates of Iraq in 2009
Activities	1.1 Defining 19 activity outlines 1.2 Select qualified training providers (when applicable) 1.3Organise activity 1.4 Deliver activity to IHEC staff 1.5 Monitor activity and outcomes 2.1 Draft TORs agreed upon by all parties 2.2 Select and contract qualified provider 2.3 Monitor security service provided for supporting UN Electoral Assistance Team 3.1 Develop work plan and modalities 3.2 Enter into contract with partner NGO ACHRS (pre-selected by UNAMI based on capacity, past experience and procurement rules) 3.3 Monitor service provision and administer contract (payments, etc.) 3.4 Evaluate and report
Procurement (major items)	None

Funds Committed	4,145,843 USD	**% of approved**	87 %
Funds Disbursed	3,509,270 USD	**% of approved**	73 %
Forecast final date	30 April 2010	**Delay (months)**	

Direct Beneficiaries	**Number of Beneficiaries**	**% of planned (current status)**	
Men	1,182	144 %	
Women	48		
Children			
IDPs			
Others (Observers Mobilised)	3,750	100 %	
Indirect beneficiaries			
Employment generation (men/women)			
Quantitative achievements against objectives and results			
Output 1 Improved capacity of up to 850 IHEC employees through the delivery of training courses the priority areas			
1.1 Defining 19 activity outlines	89	**% of planned**	
1.2 Select qualified training providers (where applicable)	89	**% of planned**	
1.3 Organise activity	89	**% of planned**	
1.4 Deliver activity to IHEC	89	**% of planned**	
1.5 Evaluate and report on Activity	80	**% of planned**	
Output 2 **Private Security support for UN Electoral Assistance Team and UNAMI-SSU/DSS is available**			
2.1 Draft TORs agreed upon by all parties	100	**% of planned**	

2.2 Select and contract qualified provider	100	**% of planned**
2.3 Monitor security service provided for supporting UN Electoral Assistance Team	75	**% of planned**
Output 3 **Mobilization of 3,750 electoral observers on E-day for the provincial elections in 14 governorates of Iraq in 2009**	100	**% of planned**
3.1 Develop work plan and modalities	100	**% of planned**
3.2 Enter into contract with partner NGO ACHRS (pre-selected by UNAMI based on capacity, past experience and procurement rules)	100	**% of planned**
3.3 Monitor service provision and administer contract (payments, etc.)	100	**% of planned**
3.4 Evaluate and report	100	**% of planned**

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results during this reporting period

Output 1

- **Deployment of Graphic Design Advisor:** UNOPS was requested to recruit a Graphic Design Advisor to assist the IHEC Graphic Design Team in designing the ballot and polling material for the CoR elections in March 2010. The Graphic Design Advisor was deployed in October. In January he went with a team of IHEC graphic designers to Dubai to monitor the ballot printing. The team also worked with the out of country voting country offices and helped them with the design and printing of all materials they needed. Working directly with the Graphic Design Advisor on a daily basis the team members received on the job training.

- **Deployment of Security Advisor:** UNOPS was requested to recruit a Security Advisor to work with the UNAMI Electoral Assistance Team and the IHEC. The Advisor acted as liaison between Iraqi counterparts and ensured electoral security matters were included in any dialogue on electoral activities. He attended high level meetings with Iraqi government officials and on a daily basis provided capacity building for the IHEC staff working with security related matters.

- **Deployment of Public Outreach Advisor:**
  UNOPS was requested to recruit a Public Outreach Advisor. The Public Outreach Advisor worked closely with the IHEC to assess the work of the Public Outreach Department and provide advice to ensure the proper development and implementation of programme and processes. The Advisor also supported the IHEC on the planning and implementation of important press events related to the CoR elections.

- **Deployment of Consultant to the Tally Center**
  UNOPS was requested to recruit a consultant to assist in the design and implementation of designated electoral systems and or activities in close consultation with the EAT Chief Technical Advisor and the International Electoral Assistance Team (IEAT), the IHEC and other stakeholders in the electoral process. The consultant provided expert advice and assistance in the development of the ICT support systems utilized in the CoR elections. The main support areas were; Systems development; DEC Systems Support and Data Entry Centre staff supervision, training development and continuous improvement;

- **Assessment of IHEC Tally Centre**
  UNAMI/IHEC requested UNOPS to procure a company to audit the ICT software and hardware infrastructure of the IHEC DEC and to ensure that it was secure and able to effectively support the CoR elections. A company was appointed to perform the assessment / review of the ICT software and hardware intended to tally votes. The company worked directly in the Tally centre in close corporation with both the IHEC and UNAMI team. Suggestions of changes were implemented as necessary.

Output 2

- Based on a UN security assessment, UNOPS was requested to contract additional static security to the IHEC building in order to allow the continued support and daily presence of the UNAMI EAT at the IHEC. A security provider was selected and deployed to cover these requirements.

Output 3

- There was no activity under Output 3 as the activities were finalised in 1st quarter of 2009

Main implementation constrains & challenges (2-3 sentences)

The main challenge for the project during this period was the concern that the security situation would worsen as the CoR elections in March 2010 approached. The Security Advisor deployed in 2009 continued his support to the IHEC and monitored closely the situation and difficulties.

The deployment of extra static security to the IHEC ensured that UNAMI EAT could continue their daily presence at the IHEC providing essential operational support to CoR elections.