

**United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund**  
**Project #:G11-21**  
**Date and Quarter Updated: Jan-March 2010; 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2010**

<b>Participating UN Organisation:</b> UNOPS and UNAMI		<b>Sector:</b> Governance			
<b>Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry:</b>		<b>IHEC</b>			
<b>Title</b>	Support to National Electoral Observer Groups for the Electoral Events of Iraq 2009 - 2010				
<b>Geographic Location</b>	All Governorates of Iraq				
<b>Project Cost</b>	USD 8,000,000				
<b>Duration</b>	10 months				
<b>Approval Date (SC)</b>	16 July 2009	<b>Starting Date</b>	17 July 2009	<b>Completion Date</b>	16 April 2010
<b>Project Description</b>	<p>IHEC requested the UN to support national electoral observer networks during the Electoral Events of Iraq 2009 - 2010.</p> <p>During the project period three major electoral events are scheduled. The first were the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections in the Kurdistan Region which took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2009. The second event was the Voter Registration Update (VRU) in August/September 2009 in all governorates of Iraq as a preparation for the third electoral event, the Iraq Council of Representatives (CoR) Elections in March 2010.</p> <p>In order to prevent the perception of a conflict of interest between the UN's assistance to the IHEC and the independent observer groups, all support for the electoral observers is implemented through international partner organisations (FES, ACHRS) who coordinate/d, jointly with their local NGO network partners, the training sessions and mobilisation of 7,000 Observers for the Kurdistan Elections, the mobilisation of 4,900 Observers for the VRU and the training and deployment of 29,200 Observers for the Iraq CoR Elections.</p> <p>UNAMI Electoral Assistance Team is responsible for technical supervision and monitoring (trainings and observer reports). UNOPS is in charge of financial management (incl. procurement, legal, monitoring).</p>				

<b>Development Goal and Immediate Objectives</b>
<p><b>Development Goal:</b></p> <p>To contribute to an enhanced implementation of electoral processes in Iraq in line with the Governance Sector Outcome 1: <i>Strengthened electoral processes in Iraq</i> through the provision of electoral observation training and refresher courses and support to Electoral Observers during the three above mentioned electoral events of Iraq 2009-2010.</p> <p><b>The Project's Immediate Objectives are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthened capacity of electoral observer networks in Iraq</li> <li>• Successful observation of electoral events in Iraq in 2009/2010</li> </ul>

<b>Outputs, Key activities and Procurement</b>			
<b>Outputs</b>	<p><u>Output 1.1</u> Enhanced capacities of electoral observers to manage the Kurdistan Elections, the Voter Registration Update and the Iraq Parliamentary Elections in a transparent manner.</p> <p><u>Output 2.1</u> Civil society mobilised to fully participate in Kurdistan Elections, the Voter Registration Update and the Iraq Parliamentary Elections in a transparent manner</p>		
<b>Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total of 5,000 electoral observers trained and 2,000 updated on electoral law prior to the Kurdistan Elections</li> <li>• 28,000 electoral observers updated on electoral law prior to the Iraq Parliamentary Elections</li> <li>• 7,000 Observers mobilised for the Kurdistan Elections</li> <li>• 4,900 Observers mobilised for the Voter Registration Update</li> <li>• 29,200 Observers to be mobilised for the the Iraq Parliamentary Elections</li> </ul>		
<b>Procurement (major items)</b>	N/A		
<b>Funds Committed</b>	7,720,380	<b>% of approved</b>	97 %
<b>Funds Disbursed</b>	5,646,514	<b>% of approved</b>	71 %
<b>Forecast final date</b>	16 April 2010	<b>Delay (months)</b>	n/a
<b>Direct Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Number of Beneficiaries</b>	<b>% of planned (current status)</b>	
Men (estimate total 32,880)	30,912	94 %	
Women (estimate total 8,220)	10,188	124 %	
Children	n/a	n/a	
IDPs	n/a	n/a	
Others	n/a	n/a	
Indirect beneficiaries	By contributing to a transparent democratic election process, the mobilisation of electoral observers benefits the population of Iraq and by extension also the populations of the neighbouring countries	n/a	
Employment generation (men/women)	n/a	n/a	
<b>Quantitative achievements against objectives and results</b>			
<u>Output 1.1</u> Enhanced capacities of electoral observers to manage the Kurdistan Elections, the Voter Registration Update and the Iraq Parliamentary Elections in a transparent manner.		<b>% of planned</b>	100 %
1.1.1	Total of 5,000 electoral observers to be trained and 2,000 to be updated on electoral law prior to the Kurdistan Elections	<b>% of planned</b>	100 %
1.1.2	28,000 electoral observers to be updated on electoral law prior to the Iraq Parliamentary Elections	<b>% of planned</b>	100 %

<b>Output 2.1</b> Civil society mobilised to fully participate in Kurdistan Elections, the Voter Registration Update and the Iraq Parliamentary Elections in a transparent manner		<b>% of planned</b>	90 %
2.1.1	7,000 Observers to be mobilised for the Kurdistan Elections	<b>% of planned</b>	100 %
2.1.2	4,900 Observers to be mobilised for the Voter Registration Update	<b>% of planned</b>	100 %
2.1.3	29,200 Observers to be mobilised for the the Iraq Parliamentary Elections	<b>% of planned</b>	90 %

### **Qualitative achievements against objectives and results in this reporting period**

#### **Friederich Ebert Stiftung**

The Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) and the Iraqi Democratic Future Network (IDFN) mobilized 14,600 Iraqi national observers on 7 March 2010 under this project, the actual number is higher as a number of observers were also mobilised on a voluntary basis. During election day, FES posted reports from their observers on <http://www.fes-jordan.org/web/index.php?q=iraq>. The observers were 11,192 male and 3,408 female including observers mobilised on 4 March for special needs voting when the total number of observers were 862 (239 female, 623 male). In addition to this project, FES has supported a group of 50 observers who monitored the Out of Country Voting in Jordan. The project was co-organized with the Identity Center.

#### **Amman Center for Human Rights Studies**

Amman Center for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS) and the Elections Integrity Monitoring Team (EIMT) mobilized 14,600 Iraqi national observers on 7 March 2010. During election day they sent regular reports from their observers to UNAMI/UNOPS. The observers were 11,242 male and 3,358 female observers including observers mobilised on 4 March for the special needs voting when the total number of observers mobilized were 280 (52 female and 228 male). In addition to this project, ACHRS has also reported that they have mobilized observers together with the Elections Network in the Arab Region (ENAR) for the Out of Country Voting in both Jordan and Syria, details of the numbers are still to be confirmed.

#### **General**

At this point in time the NGO networks have released only preliminary reports from their observation of the CoR elections. The reports are overall positive and highlights a few areas where there is still room for improvement; below are the main bullet points from the report:

- The observers noted high participation of voters
- The elections took place in the presence of several independent local observers, Political Entity (PE) agents and Arab as well as other International observers.
- The Observers noted that new measures were implemented including anti-fraud measures, and the IHEC also committed not to extend the voting period
- Main weak points: Campaign irregularities (i.e. camping posters close to the polling centres, campaigning during silence period etc.) , voter list (VL) problems (especially for IDPs and Special Voting), low number of Polling Centers in remote areas, lack of materials in some Polling Centers, proxy voting and collective voting.
- Major Recommendations from the observer networks: To implement a general census as soon as possible in order to improve VL, to ensure the PE Law be passed as soon as possible to allow regulation of PE funding and to announce the polling results as soon as possible in order to prevent any doubts regarding the sorting and counting of votes.

The final reports are expected to be submitted in April and main points will be included in the next quarterly fiche.

It is also worth mentioning that UNOPS project staff visited polling centres in Erbil on special voting day and election day – as well as count centers in Erbil, Mosul, Kirkuk and Baghdad. The visits confirmed the high presence of national observers and political entity agents.

#### **Main implementation constrains & challenges (2-3 sentences)**

The main challenge was the delay of the approval of the election law by the CoR. The election law was agreed

upon on the 6 December 2009. This has caused a delay of the elections initially scheduled for 16 January 2009 and instead rescheduled for 7 March 2010. Both ACHRS and FES managed to train the observers according to schedule before the end of 2009. This implied that all training material was not fully up to date as IHEC procedures were only finalised after the approval of the law. Together with UNAMI, UNOPS reviewed the material from the NGOs, amendments to the observers manual were suggested and the NGOs communicated the amendments to the accredited observers. .