

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund

Project # 63765

Date and Quarter Updated: January – March 2010

Participating UN Organisation: UNDP(Lead), UNESCO, UNOPS, UNAMI	Sector: Governance
Government of Iraq – Responsible Authority:	Communication and Media Commission

Title	Support the Media in its Role of Fostering Peace and Democracy				
Location	Baghdad, Erbil, Suleiymanieh and Basra				
Project Cost	USD 6,131,285				
Duration	January 2009 – January 2011				
Approval Date	December 2008	Starting Date	1 st January 2009	Completion	1 st January 2011
Project Description	<p>The Project promotes the development of an independent, pluralist and professional media as a fundamental infrastructure to contribute to the achievement of good governance and appropriate legislative and regulatory frameworks to enable this. It builds on work already carried out by UN agencies, in particular UNESCO and UNDP.</p> <p>The project has three broad areas of intervention: (1) to develop or strengthen participatory processes leading to sustainable media self/co-regulatory mechanisms and legislative frameworks enabling independent and professional media, (2) to support the development of local content, and (3) to identify the key institutions (e.g. training institutions, regulatory bodies and professional entities) for targeted capacity building to enhance professionalism at editorial, technical and policy levels. A critical intervention will also be a baseline survey identifying audience trends and ownership /funding in the media sector.</p>				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives
The objective is “independent civil society and media enabled through legal and regulatory frameworks, professional development and strengthened institutions.”

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement	
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IHEC Out-of-Country Voting HQ supported with technical assistance by UNDP in addition to the 21 advisors deployed in 16 countries. • Support was extended to the Iraq Out-of-Country Voting (OCV) public outreach operations. This included initiation of OCV website and New Media outreach initiative and websites in 16 countries. • Pre-Elections two-day seminar on Election Reporting Regulations and Public Service Broadcasting conducted bringing together IHEC, CMC, IMN and KRG representatives. • Survey on Oil Journalism in Iraq started in consultation with UNDP’s Anti-Corruption project to assess reporting on oil issues in Iraq. This is part of an effort to develop curricula and indicators to promote transparency in line with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). • Survey commissioned by media project on mobile phone usage in Iraq was concluded.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start of national survey on election outreach initiatives.
Activities	<p>The focus of this reporting period was media regulation in relation to elections and elections outreach activities.</p> <p>In January 2010 a two-day seminar was conducted in which the IMN, CMC and IHEC were brought together and introduced to the principles of election related public service broadcasting, political campaigns and media regulations. This resulted in the development of plans by all three institutions for activities to be undertaken in the run-up to the elections.</p> <p>The Media Project also facilitated the participation of 63 media professionals (of whom 13 are women) representing 20 media organizations from 10 Iraqi provinces in trainings on election related reporting.</p> <p>Also in relation to the project support for the election outreach activities, the Media Project manager was stationed in Erbil between 28 February and 13 March to provide technical advice and guidance for the Out-of-Country Voting HQ in Erbil. This activity insured the provision of timely accurate information to voters and introduced participatory engagement techniques to IHEC.</p> <p>The Media Project manager participated in January 2010 in a closed seminar on Iraqi media consumption organized by YouGov. The aim was to discuss findings of a survey carried out in late 2009 on Iraqi media consumption and attitudinal trends.</p>
Procurement (major items)	No major items procured; none foreseen

Funds Committed	USD 4,539,767	% of approved	75 %
Funds Disbursed	USD 1,799,334	% of approved	29 %
Forecast final date	1 st January 2011	Delay (months)	0

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men	500	50%
Women	100	15%
Children	-	0%
IDPs	-	
Others (people with disabilities)		50%
Indirect beneficiaries	Iraqi public independent media	
Employment generation (men/women)	-	0%

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results		
Initiation of dialogue between CMC and KRG	% of planned	100%
Initiating technical working group on elections	% of planned	100%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results
Stakeholders from independent media, national authorities and governments are extremely pleased with the initiatives to promote dialogue on legal and regulatory framework.

Main implementation constrains and challenges (2-3 sentences)

Project progress is relatively smooth although being based in Amman is a constraint.