

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #: 00074126
Date and Quarter Updated: January-March 2010

Participating UN Organisation: UNDP Sector: Governance
Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Ministry of Planning

Title	Support to the GoI in Implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness				
Geographic Location	All of Iraq				
Project Cost	1,000, 000 USD				
Duration	18 months.				
Approval Date (SC)	19 th November 2009	Starting Date	19 th November 2009	Completion Date	19 th May 2011
Project Description	<p>The Project is a 1-million USD, 18-month UNDP initiative to support the GoI to localize and implement the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in Iraq. The overall outcome of the project is to institutionalise mechanisms for managing international assistance in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.</p> <p>The Project does not seek to achieve the entire Paris Declaration in 18 months, but rather will assist and support Iraq in the initial period to make progress and lay the foundations for continued reform, in line with its own soon-to-be-published aid harmonisation strategies. The Project will achieve this predominantly by providing upstream policy advice and capacity development to the GoI to improve the delivery and effectiveness of aid to Iraq structured around each of the five principles of the Paris Declaration: Ownership, alignment, harmonisation, managing for results, and mutual accountability.</p> <p>The primary counterparts for the project in the GoI are the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO), the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation (MoPDC), the Ministry of Finance (MoF) as well as development partners. These Government Ministries/Offices currently constitute a Paris Declaration Task Force that has contributed substantially to the project formulation and will provide oversight to ensure that it is a nationally-owned and led initiative. Following completion of the project, the Task Force and/or these three main GoI Government entities will ensure sustainability of the Paris Declaration process in Iraq by being in possession of all the networks, the information systems and training modules created in the lifetime of the project. This aside, beyond the Task Force, the project will seek to engage all the line Ministries as well as local authorities as far as is possible and relevant.</p>				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

Development Goal: The overall objective of the project is to ensure that GoI has institutionalized mechanisms for managing international assistance in line with the Paris principles on aid effectiveness.

Outputs, Key Activities and Procurement

Outputs	Output 1.1: Output 1: Ownership of the aid effectiveness agenda in Iraq strengthened through support to core mechanisms and policies
Activities	Activities: 1.1 Provide support and facilitate regular meetings and technical assistance, including an initial Paris Declaration overview workshop. 1.2 Support the drafting of an Aid Policy for Iraq and a National Action Plan for its implementation at the national and regional levels through provision of expertise. 1.3 Deliver and support sustainable, national-led capacity development activities in aid effectiveness and related areas through needs assessments and training. 1.4 Support regular interaction between the Task Force and global experts from international organisations, such as the OECD Development Assistance Committee, as well as other relevant stakeholders from other countries emerging from crisis, to promote skills and knowledge transfer by facilitating meetings and partnerships with global and regional initiatives.
Output 2.1: Alignment of donors improved with GoI's national development strategies, institutions and procedures.	Activities: 2.1 Identify opportunities to enhance the use of aid flows through review mechanisms such as the Iraqi Strategic Review Board (ISRB), the Public Financial Management System and Procurement Assistance Centre (PAC). 2.2 Provide technical support & trouble shooting to the DAD teams based at the MoPDC & MoP KRG to maintain essential operations and ensure effective risk management. 2.3 Conduct a review of both the data captured through the Development Assistance Database (DAD) Iraq and DAD Kurdistan and the systems themselves to critically assess utility and identify areas for improvement. 2.4 Encourage donors (through lobbying measures) to provide regular information on their rolling three to five year forward expenditure and implementation plans, with at least indicative resource allocations so that GoI can integrate into their medium term planning and macroeconomic framework. 2.5 In collaboration with appropriate contractors, provide technical assistance and training to the GoI to integrate aid flows and national capital investment within a consolidated budgetary mechanism to establish a holistic framework for policy making and resource allocation.
Output 3.1: Mechanisms established that enhance donor harmonisation, transparency and collective effectiveness.	3.1 Support the Task Force to share good practices systematically and agree on a set of principles for country-led division of labour, with special attention on inclusion of vertical funds, emerging donors and civil society organisations. This will be achieved through a mixture of training and networking activities. 3.2 In consultation with stakeholders (GoI and main donors) support the Task Force to set specific targets for the harmonization of donor activities in Iraq, such as common arrangements and joint field missions. 3.3 Engage with donors through meetings and roundtables, and other mechanisms (such as the Iraq Partners Forum), to encourage simplification of aid delivery, reduction of tied aid and further compliance with GoI systems and processes.
Output 4.1: Results-based management systems strengthened to	4.1 Support current results based management initiatives, such as ICI and IraqInfo, by promoting usage through the Task Force and by providing data on aid effectiveness from DAD, backed up by extensive training. 4.2 Develop the capability of MoPDC in Baghdad and KRG to manage for results across the GoI through training in monitoring and evaluation and related areas.

monitor and evaluate the impact of aid.	This will be linked to RCO/M&E Unit initiative. 4.3 Enhance the MoPDC's ability to manage aid within a results-based framework by establishing a cross-ministerial aid management capability - under the leadership of the Paris Declaration Task Force - to collate information and provide analysis on the impact of aid in collaboration with the ICI Secretariat, COSIT and other relevant actors.
Output 5.1: Mutual accountability mechanisms improved to assess development results.	5.1 Promote accountability by supporting the establishment of planning and monitoring functions at the central and regional levels, especially the Kurdistan Region, in line with the Government of Iraq's decentralisation framework. This can be integrated in DAD where the tools already exist. 5.2 Support the establishment of a co-financing mechanism to promote usage of this aid modality and monitor initial implementation to capture lessons learned for aid effectiveness in Iraq. 5.3 Establish a survey to monitor the Paris Declaration in Iraq through baseline indicators and follow up survey in 2011. This will be done by directly supporting the MoPDC and COSIT. 5.4 Enable the Paris Declaration Task Force to lead regular mutual assessment reviews, based on country results reporting and information systems complemented with available donor data and credible independent evidence, to hold all parties accountable for mutually agreed results in keeping with Iraqi development and aid policies.
Procurement (major items)	Consultant, Contractors, Training, etc

Funds Committed	USD 100,000,000	% of approved	100%
Funds Disbursed	USD 35,000	% of approved	3.5%
Forecast final date	25 th November 2010	Delay (months)	

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results

5. Mutual accountability mechanisms improved to assess development results	One portal training was conducted for the Ministry of Electricity, this training promoted accountability by supporting the establishment of planning and monitoring functions at the central and regional levels, in line with the GoI's decentralisation framework.	% of planned	10%
--	--	---------------------	-----

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

Progress in meeting the overall objective of the project was hindered due to the March 2010 Parliamentary elections. With this being a natural priority on the Government agenda, it was not feasible to begin setting out a concrete workplan for implementing this initiative with the relevant Iraqi counterparts. It also impacted upon the possibility of undertaking field visits and assessments to
--

take place in Baghdad and KRG as UN ‘slots’ became scarce in this period. However, UNDP through assisting the GoI in establishing a comprehensive inter-ministerial, decentralized, sustainable, transparent and accountable aid management system, based on multidimensional capacity building both at the federal Government and regional/sub-national levels, conducted a **‘Portal Management and E-Government’** training from 21-25 February, 2010 in Amman. This training targeted 8 participants from the Ministry of Electricity. The training focused on the following:

- How to harness the potential of the portal to develop sustainable effective services and communications and promote the role and achievements of each ministry.
- Increasing participants’ awareness on the importance of the portal and the different services and features that it available to implement.
- Building the necessary managerial and practical skills, and providing the participants with the best practices, standard guidelines and steps required to develop, manage and maintain the portal, portal contents and performance,
- Building staff competency and technical skills on how portal technology is organized and used, as well as providing the related instructions that the user should follow when managing portal content and admin tools.
- Collecting and discuss participants’ feedback and ideas on how to enhance the portal performance.

Main implementation constrains and challenges (2-3 sentences)

Security and availability of field ‘slots’ remain serious challenges for the UN operations in Iraq. In addition, the Parliamentary elections phase meant that most UN operations were put on hold between January – March 2010.