

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project # 63966
Date and Quarter Updated: October-December 2009

Participating UN Organisation: UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNIFEM and UNAMI-HRO **Sector: Governance**

Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Iraqi Higher Judicial Council (HJC), Ministry of Justice (Baghdad and KRG)

Title	Support to the Development of Justice and the Rule of Law				
Geographic Location	Nationwide (All Iraq)				
Project Cost	USD 6,059,994				
Duration	24 months				
Approval Date (SC)	December 4, 2008	Starting Date	December 1, 2008	Completion Date	November 30, 2010
Project Description	<p>Support to the Development of Justice and the Rule of Law Project is providing the Iraqi Government with technical support and training necessary for the improvement of key components of the judicial system, specifically the functioning of courts and the penitentiary system. UNDP-Iraq will support the establishment of a model court in Baghdad, which will address the limitations of the current court system, including issues of court management, court reporting and recording, and access to the judicial system for all Iraqis. UNDP-Iraq will also provide assistance to the Iraqi Judicial Training Institute (JTI) through the provision of training and other support to ensure that Iraq's new generation of judges, prosecutors and judicial staff benefit from the latest international best practices. The penitentiary system reform component of the project will support the development of a legal and institutional framework, and the capacity building of prison management in line with international human rights standards. In addition, the project is at the last phase of finalising the Iraqi Legislative Database (ILD) and will hand it over to the Iraqi stakeholders.</p> <p>This project forms part of a consolidated framework in support of the rule of law and justice in Iraq, together with the EC funded project "Support to the Rule of Law and Justice".</p>				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

The Support to the Development of Justice and the Rule of Law Project is contributing to priorities of both the National Development Strategy (NDS) and the International Compact for Iraq (ICI). This Project is contributing to the NDS priority of strengthening good governance and improving security (Pillar 4) and the ICI benchmarks (3.1.1) as follows:

Outcome 1: ‘Strengthened administration of justice system’ is aligned to:

- (i) Establish and implement effective rule of law institution and policy;
- (ii) Private sector development and investment promotion of the rule of law and judicial system in commercial and financial activities.

Outcome 2: ‘Strengthened capacity of key government and non-government institutions to protect and promote human rights’ is aligned to:

- (i) National Dialogue and reconciliation, protection of human rights systems to respect the rule of law and human rights;
- (ii) Establish a comprehensive human rights regime country wide.

The "Rule of Law" project is also contributing towards MDG 3: ‘Promote gender equality and empower women’. The lack of application of rule of law is rendering women more vulnerable to social, tribal and religious rulings and practices. This leaves the Iraqi women as the most vulnerable group in society, for example, vulnerability to variances in application of court rulings. The project’s support to capacity development of the judges and prisons’ administrators, and empowering women within the penal system, through the penitentiary reform programme, addressing their rights and concerns during incarceration and ensuring their participation in the complete penitentiary reform, should go some way to contribute towards this goal in Iraq.

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement

Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- A pilot model court in Baghdad. 2- Reform of curriculum in specialized areas of the Iraqi Judicial Training Institute (JTI). 3- Implementation of Phase III of the Iraqi Legal Database (ILD). 4- Reform of the penitentiary system, including its management and treatment of women and juveniles.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The pilot court expert is progressing in his work on the Baghdad pilot court. He has conducted two trips to Iraq during the reporting period. 2. The implementing partner for the penitentiary system reform, including a needs assessment, training curriculum, and security assessment, has been contracted. 3. The implementing partner for the penitentiary system reform component has delivered the inception report, which has been reviewed and accepted by UNDP. 4. The implementing partner for the legal training component has approached different UN agencies for their inputs into the planning for the legal training of the judiciary. 5. The implementing partner for the law library and legal research centre at Baghdad pilot court has been contracted. 6. The implementing partner for library and legal research centre has delivered the inception report. 7. Implementing partner for media awareness campaign for the Baghdad pilot

	<p>court has been contracted.</p> <p>8. The Implementing partner for media awareness campaign has delivered their survey outcome in the form of a “Strategy paper to review Iraqi Media Market.” The report is under review by UNDP.</p> <p>9. The implementing partner for IT systems development and capacity building has been contracted.</p> <p>10. The implementing partner for IT systems has submitted its inception report for Baghdad pilot court to UNDP. The report is currently under review by UNDP.</p> <p>11. Project manager conducted a mission to Brussels in attendance of a coordination meeting between international organisations working on Legal Reform and Rule of Law in Iraq.</p> <p>12. During the reporting period, the project manager conducted different missions to Baghdad and meetings with the Iraqi stakeholders, including the Iraqi Chief Justice, and international counterparts.</p> <p>13. UNDP recruited three experts to oversee the implementation of the 3rd phase of the ILD. This recruitment included the technical advisor, project manager, and the IT manager for the database work.</p> <p>14. UNDP contracted the implementing partner for the 3rd phase of the ILD.</p> <p>15. The implementing partner for the Legal Training component has been contracted.</p> <p>16. The implementing partner for the Legal Training component provided its inception report that is currently being reviewed by UNDP.</p> <p>17. UNDP conducted a two-day meeting with its implementing partners for the project in Amman from 2-3 February 2010. The meeting aimed at coordinating work with the implementing partners to implement the project activities assigned; in addition to discuss the issues of donors’ visibility and mutual coordination.</p>
Procurement (major items)	<p>1. The implementing partner for the penitentiary system reform, including a needs assessment, training curriculum, and security assessment, has been contracted.</p> <p>2. The implementing partner for the law library and legal research centre at Baghdad pilot court has been contracted.</p> <p>3. Implementing partner for media awareness campaign for the Baghdad pilot court has been contracted.</p> <p>4. The implementing partner for IT systems development and capacity building has been contracted.</p> <p>5. UNDP recruited three experts to oversee the implementation of the 3rd phase of the ILD. This recruitment included the technical advisor, project manager, and the IT manager for the database work.</p> <p>6. UNDP contracted the implementing partner for the 3rd phase of the ILD.</p>

Funds Committed for activities	USD 2,706,438.32	% of approved	% 45
Funds Disbursed	USD 967,668.72	% of approved	% 16
Forecast final date	November 30, 2010	Delay (months)	n/a

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men	n/a	n/a
Women	n/a	n/a

Children		
IDPs		
Others	n/a	n/a
Indirect beneficiaries		
Employment generation (men/women)	This Project is not directly concerned with employment generation.	

The project will improve access to justice for vulnerable groups, including women and juveniles. The Penitentiary Reform component will improve the conditions of women and juvenile inmates and will promote the respect of their human and civil rights within the penitentiary system.

Iraqi women are among the most vulnerable in society. The lack of application of rule of law is rendering women more vulnerable to social, tribal and religious rulings and practices, for example increases in early marriages, crimes in the name of honour, and vulnerability to variances in application of court rulings. By developing the capacity of the judges, and prisons' administrators, the project seeks to contribute to the improvement in women conditions. Gender equality will be pursued through:

- Selection of an equal number of men and women for all capacity-building activities;
- Penitentiary reform activities, addressing the rights of women during incarceration and ensuring their participation in all components of reform.

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results		
- The Pilot court expert has been recruited for 12 months.	% of planned	%22
- Contract for the reform of the Iraqi penitentiary system has been awarded.		%10
- Contract for law library and legal research centre has been awarded.		%10
- Contract for media awareness campaign has been awarded.		%15
- Contract for IT System has been awarded.		%10
- Experts for the ILD 3 rd phase have been recruited.		%10
- Contract for data collection and ILD 3 rd phase has been awarded.		%10
- Contract for Legal Training signed and work ongoing.		%10

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results
<p>This project is starting the implementation phase. During the reported quarter, the implementing partners of the project's components have been contracted. UNDP has officially briefed and discussed the implementation phase with the implementing partners. In addition, the implementing partners have delivered their inception reports to UNDP for review and acceptance in order to move to the following assessment phase.</p> <p>The project's main impact will strengthen the administration of the justice system, including increased access, transparency and efficiency, and strengthened capacities of key government and non-government institutions to protect and promote human rights.</p>

Main implementation constrains and challenges (2-3 sentences)
<p>The security situation in Iraq, especially in Baghdad, has been a major constraint in implementing the project activities. Field visits to the pilot court, Ministry of Justice, and JTI, and meeting with the Iraqi counterparts have been difficult and faced security impediments.</p>