

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project # 63969
Date and Quarter Updated: January – March 2010

Participating UN Organisation: UNDP **Sector: Governance**

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

Title	Technical Assistance to IHEC, Phase II				
Geographic Location	Primarily in Baghdad with impact and possible activities elsewhere				
Project Cost	USD 3,674,736				
Duration	2 Years				
Approval Date (SC)	December 4, 2008	Starting Date	January 1, 2009	Completion Date	December 31, 2010
Project Description	<p>The programme aims at providing the Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq (IHEC) with essential and urgent technical assistance through securing the required number of international electoral experts and advisers for the 2009/2010 electoral events. The UN was mandated under SCR 1770 to provide assistance to the IHEC. The assistance is divided into 2 categories: Long-term institutional development and immediate electoral operational support.</p> <p>The international electoral advisers have been providing the required technical assistance to IHEC since 2004 under Phase I of this project (project # 40554). This project is providing the necessary funds to ensure the provision of international electoral expertise.</p>				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives	
<p>NDS: Strengthening good governance and improve security</p> <p>ICI: Although there is not a specific benchmark for elections, this programme supports: Section 3.1.2: Implementation of political/legislative timetable Article 4.2: Strengthen institutions to improve Governance</p> <p>Sector Team Outcome:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthened Electoral Process in Iraq <p>Integrated Programme Outcome:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthened electoral operations in Iraq, ensuring free and fair elections. 	

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement	
Output 1	Increased institutional capacity of IHEC to independently carry out elections.
Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Identify and select international electoral experts to be recruited by UNDP. 2- Obtain security clearance for staff. 3- Ensure that all necessary staff security and protection measures arrangements are in place. 4- Secure the necessary office space and the logistical arrangements. 5- Ensure that each staff develops and implements a work plan in line with the IHEC needs.

	6- The Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) to monitor staff performance and plans implementation. 7- Issue 300 Series (ALD) and/or SSA contracts to staff members selected by UNEAD. 8- Arrange for staff travel (Home country – Amman – Home country) 9- Administer staff human resources (HR) and administrative issues.
Procurement (major items)	No major items procured

Funds Committed	USD 0	% of approved	0 %
Funds Disbursed	USD 3,048,169	% of approved	83.0 %
Forecast final date	December 31, 2010	Delay (months)	0

Note: A request for an additional USD 1,805,214 was submitted to the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund Steering Committee. This was approved on 21 March 2010. Funds have since been received after the reporting period, and will be reflected in the next reporting period, with the total project budget of USD 5,479,950.

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men	1400	100 %
Women	489	100 %
Children	N/A	
IDPs	N/A	
Others	N/A	
Indirect beneficiaries	Iraqi Population	
Employment generation (men/women)	n/a	

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results			
Output 1: Increased institutional capacity of IHEC to independently carry out elections.	<p>The required number of international electoral advisers was in place during the reporting period to support the Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq (IHEC) in its efforts to prepare for and implement the Council of Representatives election in March 2010. IHEC technical capacity was enhanced in the targeted areas.</p> <p>Additional international consultants were recruited during the reporting period to support the preparations for and implementation of the IHEC's Out-of-Country Voting (OCV) operation in 16 countries worldwide.</p>	% of planned	83 %

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

During the reporting period, the following staff were in place to provide the necessary operational support and capacity development to the IHEC:

1. Senior Operations Advisor
2. Team Leader / Senior Capacity Building Advisor
3. Capacity Building Officer
4. Procurement and Logistics Advisor
5. Public Outreach Advisor
6. Associate Administrative Officer
7. Interpreters/Translators
8. Service Contract Staff

The following consultant was in place to provide the necessary operational support and capacity development to the IHEC:

9. Database Development Advisor

The following consultants were recruited and deployed during the reporting period:

10. Operations Advisor
11. OCV Advisor (22 Consultants)

This represents ongoing technical assistance to the IHEC by securing international electoral experts to provide the necessary technical advice and operational guidance to the IHEC for 2009/2010 electoral events.

During the reporting period, the IHEC was fully engaged in preparations for and conduct of the Council of Representatives election, including the subsequent counting and results tally processes. The primary achievements of the project were therefore in ensuring the necessary advisors were in place to provide necessary technical advice to the IHEC in the identified priority areas listed above.

In addition to this core support, following the passage of the amendment to the Election Law, which stipulates that the IHEC must make provision for voting for Iraqis living outside Iraq, at the urgent request of the IHEC, it was agreed that the project would support the immediate recruitment and deployment of consultants to support the OCV operation. A total of 22 consultants were recruited and deployed: 1 in the National Office in Baghdad, 4 in the OCV Headquarters in Erbil and 17 in the 16 different OCV Country Offices (2 consultants in Iran and one each in Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Turkey, UAE, Lebanon, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Austria, USA, Canada, Australia, UK and the Netherlands). Areas of support to the OCV operation included operations, logistics and public outreach.

All project activities were undertaken for all international staff members. All staff members have assisted in providing both operational technical support to preparation and implementation of electoral events, and in capacity development through providing ongoing guidance and mentoring to IHEC staff.

Main implementation constrains and challenges (2-3 sentences)

The security factor remains the main obstacle to the deployment of additional staff in Iraq. However, the staff ceiling has been slightly raised to accommodate additional personal related to the UN's support to the electoral process, and it is not anticipated that there will be any problems in this regard during the programme life.

It is also understood that for the same reason of security some international electoral experts (who are limited in number) are reluctant to take positions in Iraq; nevertheless, UNEAD continues to seek qualified personnel and identify them for immediate recruitment.