



## The Dialogue Grant Fund (DGF)

The Dialogue Grant Fund is a component of the project “*Facilitating Reconciliation in Iraq through Constitutional Review and National Dialogue*” funded by the European Union through the Iraq Trust Fund and implemented by UNOPS and UNAMI.

### Rationale

1. The development of constitutional and legislative mechanisms to support the distribution of water resources and hydrocarbon management, with a focus on revenue sharing as well as other institutional, operational and exploration-related aspects, remain among the key objectives of the UN in Iraq. Another vital area of UN interest is the situation of minority groups in the country. These areas are seen as the principal cornerstones of the efforts towards national reconciliation and political agreement and equally important, economic reconstruction and diversification in Iraq. It was in this context that the goals of The Dialogue Grant Fund were developed. Through supporting four projects: two in each of the two governorates Kirkuk and Erbil, (each project implemented by one civil society organization (CSO)), the grant fund will work towards establishing effective dialogue and debate among various stakeholders at a local, grass roots level; in order to sustain and support a broader, national dialogue over vital issues.
2. Through the provision of funds to selected NGOs in these governorates, the DGF will: (i) raise the awareness and the understanding among Iraqis of issues related to constitutional-democratic government, including particularly, the distribution of water resources, hydrocarbon management and the situation of minorities in Iraq; (ii) promote an open discussion about these issues among Iraqi citizens including student groups; (iii) gather recommendations of civil society regarding the best solution for the discussed issues. These recommendations can then be presented to GoI/CoR and KRG/KP.

### Selection Process

1. A Request for Proposals (RfP) was launched in December 2009. It was advertised electronically to NGOs across Iraq, using several channels: (i) UNOPS distribution list, (ii) NCCI (NGO Coordination Committee in Iraq); (iii) Other UN agencies. Interested NGOs had one month to prepare and send their technical proposal as well as all the detailed information on their structure, past experience and references of donor organizations that had supported them previously. A budget not exceeding 33,000 USD per grant and allocation of maximum two grants per community for each governorate was requested in the RfP.
2. A total of six proposals were received and reviewed by an evaluation panel at UNOPS.
3. 2 proposals received were immediately discarded due to their failure to respond to any of the criteria required. UNOPS team subsequently worked together with the remaining four applying NGOs on upgrading and fine tuning their project proposals so that they would be better aligned with the RFP ToR.

### Implementation period

4. The implementation period of the projects is from 3 to 5 months depending on the grant activities, starting from March 2010 until July 2010. Continuous support by the way of coaching will be provided by UNOPS to the implementing partners and regular coordination will be upheld between UNOPS field staff, UNOPS Amman office and the external monitoring agent and implementing partners.



### Monitoring modalities

5. The NGO projects are monitored through the following mechanisms:
  - UNOPS staff in Amman (with visits to Erbil) closely liaising with all partners, field staff and the monitoring agent, supervising and cross-checking activity reporting and monitoring as well as developments in the field.
  - UNOPS staff located in Erbil and Kirkuk through regular visits to the offices of NGO partners and activity implementation sites.
  - External Monitoring Agent: UNOPS will hire an external company to provide liaison, monitoring and evaluation services in order to ensure coordination of activities between UNOPS and the implementing Iraqi NGOs in the targeted communities. The work required direct, on-the-ground, daily coordination and monitoring of NGOs grantees activities. One monitoring officer per governorate will be assigned by the Monitoring Agent. Monitoring officers will be attesting the events organised. In addition they will assess the quality of the activities conducted and their compliance with project proposals, as well as evaluating the immediate impact on the participants to these activities. The Monitoring Agent will be playing a complementary role to the monitoring carried out by UNOPS staff on the ground.

## Annex 1

### List of Projects funded through the Dialogue Grant Fund

1. **Al Mesalla Organization for Human Resources Development** implements a project in the governorate of **Erbil**. The project mainly aims to gather Iraqis together to discuss vital issues such as the sharing of natural resources and minority issues, through building partnerships with the KRG Ministry of Oil and Natural Resources, the government and the parliament in Kurdistan region, Erbil governorate, 5 independent NGOs to form committee to discuss and compile the recommendations for this specific project. The project will present 3 lectures in Erbil on laws and constitutions regarding oil and gas in the Iraq and KRG region, each lecture will bring together 15 participants (a total of 45 participants representing communities of Kurds, Assyrians, Turkmens and Kildani will participate in lectures), 4 radio programs on laws and constitutional aspects of regulations regarding oil and gas in Iraq and KRG will be aired on Erbil local radio. A total number of 1500 participant will take part in 6 focus groups, referenda among students in 3 colleges of Salahaden University in Erbil will be organised with questions on whether oil is a good tool to be used for coexistence and for building peace in Iraq, the average number of participants is expected to be 335 per referendum (1000 people will share their opinions on hydrocarbon revenue sharing and their role in building peace and coexistence in the country). A meeting with 20 NGOs in Erbil city will be organised to discuss hydrocarbon as a good tool to be used for bringing Iraqis together, to live in coexistences and to build peace in the country (committee of 5 NGOs will be elected and prepared to follow up with the concerned sides regarding the suggestions). A final one day conference, gathering 100 participants representing civil society, parliament, government and media will be organised in Erbil. The conference will present outcomes of the focus groups, radio program and the referendum.

#### **Achievements to date of Al Mesalla Organization for Human Resources Development:**

The NGO organized 3 Lectures on laws of oil and gas in Iraq and Kurdistan region, in addition to minority's issues for a total of 47 beneficiaries, conducted 6 focus groups for a total of 140 participants about Oil and Gas law in Khabat, Shaqlawa and Erbil city centre. 4 series of radio programs were broadcasted which aimed at raising awareness about the Constitution on the articles of hydrocarbon revenue targeting 500 beneficiaries. A survey was conducted among 1000 of students in 3 faculties in Salahaddin University (Art and Language, Law, Management and

Economics faculties, as well as a meeting with 20 LNGOs in Erbil which discussed openly the issues related to Oil and Gas. The preparations for the final conference with the participation of 20 people from 18 NGOs is under preparation.

- 2. The Ainkawa Centre for Employment (ACE)** implements a project in **Erbil** governorate. The NGO will work closely with the International organizations that are implementing similar initiatives in the region to sustain and support a broader national dialogue over vital issues like water, oil resources and the situation of minorities in Iraq through a series of meetings at the community level among stakeholders at grass roots level. ACE will select around 15 strategically located communities to host up to 20 moderated meetings to discuss key national issues; each community meeting will target 10-15 people as appropriate. Experienced facilitators will provide training on facilitation skills, conflict sensitivity, and will conduct awareness sessions on key constitutional issues. ACE will develop materials for participants on the current constitutional/legislative situation on each issue for discussion. Participants of the 20 meetings will develop strategies to raise wider awareness of the populations on key issues, then moderated discussions among key stakeholders at meetings to identify relevant issues of concern to local communities and recommendations to address them (at least 5 issues of concern will be identified through discussion, along with recommendations for resolving them and relevant parties address the issues, at each meeting or focus group). In addition to the mentioned points, the NGO will provide technical support to communities' agreed awareness raising strategies to work for continued discussion and debate. The results of the discussions will be made publically available on the ACE website and exhibited at the ACE centre to stimulate further discussion. Collated notes of community meetings, issues raised, and recommendations made will be shared with relevant local authorities in booklet form. Synthesized community concerns and recommendations consolidated into 5-10 points will be shared with to KRG/GoI. A one-day workshop in Erbil will be held to bring the results of the project to attention of decision makers.

**Achievements to date of The Ainkawa Centre for Employment:**

ACE conducted ToT training course for 19 facilitators in ACE office to facilitate and supervise the implementation of the the awareness rising sessions and project activities, conducted 15 community meetings with 237 participants discussing and rising the awareness of the constitutional issues, particularly the situation of minority groups in Iraqi permanent constitution and Kurdistan proposed constitution and KRG oil law, in addition, conducting 5 focus groups with a total number of 28 participants for raising the awareness of constitutional issues particularly the minorities situation and the hydrocarbons resources.

- 3. Iraqi Human Rights Establishment (IHRE)** in **Kirkuk** governorate with activities implemented in the city centre of Kirkuk, districts of Hawija and Al Zab and the Sub Districts of Al Riyadh and Al Rashad. The partner NGO will be targeting the topic of bridging the existing gaps among the various political blocs, the ethnic groups, the religious groups, and vulnerable groups such as (juveniles and women, through promoting understanding on the areas in the constitution that should be subject to constitutional review. This will cover issues of management of water and hydrocarbon revenue sharing as well as tensions between the different minority groups. To this effect a roundtable will be organised in each of the selected districts with 20 participants invited at each session. The total number of the sessions will reach 20. Each session will last for one day.500 copies of participant booklets will be printed for the 500 participants (the booklet will contain information about the training modules and concentrate on conflict resolution and peaceful coexistence). 500 copies of questionnaires will also be distributed asking participants about the reasons behind the conflict and the best approach to address them.

Lastly, a conference bringing together approximately 100 persons will be held with the aim to discuss the reasons behind the existing disputes, the types of disputes and the best means to tackle them. The results of the survey will be presented during this conference.

**Achievements to date of The Iraqi Human Rights Establishments (IHRE):**

IHRE conducted 25 workshops in Zab, Hawija, Riyadh and Rashad with the participation of 555 participants in total about reconciliation in Iraq through constitutional review & national dialogue, they conducted workshops targeted building the national dialogue between local community members, tribal leaders, community influential's, community representatives and the whole community participation in general, with giving an advanced attention to a specific topics like; minimizing violence between farmers and tribes, raising the awareness of conflict management and resolution by peaceful approach in country side and rural areas, accepting the different opinions of the others in rural areas.

**4. Civil Development Organization (CDO),** the project will be implemented in **Kirkuk** governorate. Through its project; the NGO primarily targets raising the awareness and understanding among Kirkuk inhabitants about issues related to constitution- democratic government, including particularly, the distribution of water resources, hydrocarbon management and situation of minority rights. 8 Community Dialogue meetings with 20 participants for each will be held. The agenda of meetings will cover topics of: distributing natural recourses in federal government, democratic governance and minority rights. 2 workshops for 20 participants each, addressed to key stakeholders in the communities, will be conducted. 2 debate sessions will also be organised. The first one will bring together 5 members of the Kirkuk Provincial Council and the second will host 5 university teachers and civil society activists. The outcomes of the debates will be published in 2 newspapers, one in Kurdish and one in Arabic. The NGO will work closely towards establishing a network containing 8 youth and student organizations working among various ethnic and religious groups. 100 youth and students will debate and make their recommendations on water resources, hydrocarbon management and situation of minority and will aim to find a base for a fruitful dialogue among the ethnic and religious groups and religions toward peace and coexistence through participating in 5 seminars. Subsequently, a conference gathering 75 participants representing Council of Representatives members, Kurdistan Parliament members, and political party leaders, religious representatives, tribal leaders, Kirkuk Provincial Council members, international NGOs, Media foundations and Iraqi Civil Society representatives will be conducted. Water distribution, hydrocarbon revenue sharing and minority rights in Iraq will be discussed in a final conference supported by 2 researches prepared by the university teachers about minority rights and the situation of minorities in Iraq and other about sharing of natural resources in the federal government. This information together with the recommendations collected throughout the implemented project's community dialogue sessions, workshops and seminars will be the base for the discussions during the conference.

**Achievements to date of Civil Development Organization (CDO):**

CDO conducted 8 awareness rising community meetings in Rahimawa, Domez and Al Wasiti areas with a total of 154 participants, 1 debate session with 5 participants, the debates results were published in 2 newspapers to in Arabic and Kurdish languages to Raise the awareness and understanding among Kirkuk inhabitants about issues related to constitution- democratic government, total number of beneficiaries for both copies of the debate were 20750 beneficiaries. Conducted 8 meetings with 7 NGOs to Promote open discussion about natural recourses distribution and minority situation among Kirkuk, the network results were organizing 5 seminars with a total of 95 participants to discuss natural recourses distribution and minorities' situation among Kirkuk inhabitants particularly among youth and students. conducted 2 meetings with the researchers who will Gather civil society recommendation, outcomes of open discussions/meetings regarding solution of discussed issued and present it to GoI and KRG, Iraqi parliament and Kurdistan parliament to issue a research about distributing natural resources and stability.