

**United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund**  
**Project #:F8-08**  
**Date and Quarter Updated: 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter April - June 2010**

**Participating UN Organisation:** UNOPS      **Sector:** Protection  
**Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry:**      **Ministry of Human Rights**

<b>Title</b>	Support to MoHR in Techniques for Mass Grave Excavation and Identification of Missing Persons				
<b>Geographic Location</b>	Baghdad and mass grave site in Kirkuk				
<b>Project Cost</b>	US \$ 974,182				
<b>Duration</b>	12 months				
<b>Approval Date (SC)</b>	01 March 2009	<b>Starting Date</b>	10 March 2009	<b>Completion Date</b>	July 2010
<b>Project Description</b>	<p>This project will support the development of Iraq’s capacity to address the large numbers of missing persons through building further capacity within MoHR to work on excavation and examination of mass graves, including the possible exhumation of Kuwaiti missing PoWs.</p> <p>Between 300,000 and 2 million persons in Iraq are still missing from the Iran-Iraq War of 1980-88, 1990-91 Gulf War, pre-2003 regime crimes, and post-2003 conflict. In addition, since 2003 the Baghdad Medico-Legal Institute (MLI) reports that it receives on average 800 bodies per month, of which a significant proportion remain unidentified due to inadequate technical and forensic equipment. Currently, only one team of 25 persons from MoHR has been trained on techniques related to the excavation of mass graves and forensic and DNA analysis.</p>				

**Development Goal and Immediate Objectives**

*The project contributes to achieving the following development goals and objectives relevant to Iraq:*

**Iraqi National Development Strategy (NDS):**

8.1.1. National dialogue and reconciliation

8.3 *Human Rights*

Goal: Uphold and protect human rights, establish the rule of law, and overcome the legacy of the recent and distant past

8.3.1 Establish a comprehensive human rights regime country wide

**International Compact with Iraq (ICI):** *Although there is not specific benchmark, the project addresses:*

3.1.1 National dialogue and reconciliation

3.3 Uphold and protect human rights, establish the rule of law, and overcome the legacy of the recent and distant past

**Protection Sector Team Outcome(s):**

1. Improved protection of civilians throughout Iraq and creation of an environment which contributes

to the observance of human rights for all Iraqis and mitigates the effects of forced displacement

**Integrated Programme/Project Outcome(s):**

1. The government of Iraq is better able to protect Human Rights in relation to identification of missing persons.

<b>Outputs, Key activities and Procurement</b>	
<b>Outputs</b>	<p><b>Output 1:</b> Improved capacity of MoHR to undertake the excavation of mass graves</p> <p><b>Output 2:</b> Improved capacity of MoHR to perform identification of human remains</p>
<b>Activities</b>	<p>For Output 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of the trainees</li> <li>• Organizing and conducting the training</li> <li>• Purchase required equipment to undertake excavation</li> <li>• Site assessment, including electronic survey mapping</li> <li>• Site recording including crime scene photography and the role of exhibit officer</li> <li>• Site excavation</li> </ul> <p>For Output 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examination of remains including storage, anthropological examination, data recording and management</li> <li>• Electronic survey data collection</li> <li>• Ante mortem data collection</li> </ul>
<b>Procurement (major items)</b>	Procurement of ICMP contract to build Iraqi MoHR's capacity to undertake the excavation of mass graves and to perform identification of human remains

<b>Funds Committed</b>	US\$ 962,156	<b>% of approved</b>	98.7%
<b>Funds Disbursed</b>	US\$ 640,034	<b>% of approved</b>	65.7%
<b>Forecast final date</b>	July 2010	<b>Delay (months)</b>	5 months

<b>Direct Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Number of Beneficiaries</b>	<b>% of planned (current status)</b>
Men		
Women		
Children		
IDPs		
Others	22 additional MoHR staff trained on excavation and identification of missing persons including practical experience in the excavation and examination of mass grave sites.	88% (22 persons out of originally planned 25 have completed the training planned)

Indirect beneficiaries	Relatives of missing persons	
Employment generation (men/women)	MoHR is expected to employ the additional forensic staff trained during this project, 32% of whom are women.	

<b>Quantitative achievements against objectives and results</b>			
<b>Output 1.1:</b> Improved capacity of MoHR to undertake the excavation of mass graves			<b>96.25 % of planned</b>
<b>1.1.1</b> Identification of the trainees	Completed in 2009		<b>100%</b>
<b>1.1.2</b> Organizing and conducting the training	Completed in 2009		<b>100%</b>
<b>1.1.3</b> Purchasing required equipment to undertake excavation	The purchasing of equipment is completed; however the handover of purchased items is outstanding. The equipment is being stored in a secure environment until a formal handover agreement is signed between MoHR and ICMP. The document is pending signature at MoHR at the time of writing.		<b>75%</b>
<b>1.1.4</b> Conducting Site assessment, including electronic survey mapping	Completed in last quarter of 2009		<b>100%</b>
<b>1.1.5</b> Site recording including crime scene photography and the role of exhibit officer	Completed in last quarter of 2009		<b>100%</b>
<b>1.1.6</b> Site excavation	Completed in last quarter of 2009		<b>100%</b>

<p><b>Output 1.2:</b> Improved capacity of MoHR to perform identification of human remains</p> <p><b>1.2.1</b> Examination of remains including storage, anthropological examination, data recording and management</p> <p><b>1.2.2</b> Electronic survey data collection</p> <p><b>1.2.3</b> Ante mortem data collection</p>	<p>At the end of May ICMP held a practical training course covering the analysis of remains, recording and reporting practices completing this activity.</p> <p>In late May ICMP gave a comprehensive training on the use of electronic survey equipment for data collection, including how to use related computer software, thus completing their practical training in this area.</p> <p>This activity was completed during the May training on analysis of remains (see below).</p>	<p><b>100% of planned</b></p> <p><b>100%</b></p> <p><b>100%</b></p> <p><b>100%</b></p>	

**Qualitative achievements against objectives and results**

This quarter focused on finalizing the last elements of the project in time for the project end date in July.

**Output 1.1: Improved capacity of MoHR to undertake the excavation of mass graves**

The main activities under this output have been completed and reported on in the previous quarters. However, the final handover of equipment procured for MoHR, to be used for training purposes and then handed over by the end of the project, still needs to be finalised. In particular, a formal handover agreement between ICMP and MoHR needs to be signed for the handover to take place. Discussions on the final written agreement are ongoing with MoHR, however it is expected that the document will be signed by the Minister shortly.

**Output 1.2 Improved capacity of MoHR to perform identification of human remains**

From 30<sup>th</sup> May– 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010, an additional 2 day course on the use of certain types of advanced electronic survey equipment was given to consolidate previous practical training on site assessment and survey techniques and train participants on electronic data collection. Specifically, the trainees were given additional training on the use of GPS and ‘Total Station’ survey machines and related computer software for collecting data.

It should be noted here, however, that not all 22 members of the team trained under this project (15 MoHR staff and 7 MLI staff) received the electronic survey and data collection training. This was because ICMP made a needs-based decision to split the team according to area of competence and job function in order to maximize the next level of advanced training. The team was split into 2 groups; an anthropology group and an archaeology group. The archaeology team focused on issues related to forensic archaeology, including survey and excavation techniques was then further split according to job specification. Only those with a relevant IT and engineering background who would actually work with the specialist electronic survey equipment in the future received the

advanced training. This amounted to a total of four participants. All the other members of the original 22 strong team have nevertheless been trained on standard surveying techniques and tools during the theoretical training delivered August 2009.

As explained in the previous fiche report, the final component of training under the project, on the analysis of remains, could not be completed following the Tob Zawah excavation in December as had been planned because of security constraints in Kirkuk, which meant ICMP international staff could not be present to give the practical training. It was therefore decided that this component would be implemented following further excavation work undertaken by MoHR at another site in Al Mahawil, which took place from 7 April – 5 May 2010.

Following this excavation, a training was held from 3rd – 6<sup>th</sup> June, during which members of the team received practical training on the examination of remains. Following the splitting of the team according to specialty as explained above, only members of the anthropology group received this advanced training (a total of ten trainees, 7 from the MLI and 3 from MoHR). Topics included forensic and anthropological analysis, data and reporting methodologies and storage and management of remains.

The examinations carried out under the training were collected for use in future identification procedures and for reporting purposes. ICMP trainers worked with participants on taking bone measurements for the estimation of age and sex. Practical exercises were also done on skeletal layout and how the results can be used for age, sex and stature estimation. Instruction on identifying perimortem trauma (trauma that occurs at around the time of death and may actually be the cause of death) and documenting and analysing ante mortem injury for use in the identification process was also given under training.

Information taken from the analysis training has not as yet led to any positive identification of missing persons, however, the data will be included in the MLI's anthropology reports and entered into a database for future work to interview family members reporting missing persons (this type of work is not envisioned under this specific project). Bone samples were also taken for storage and future DNA extraction that may help with identification at a later stage.

Ante mortem data collection topics were completed during the May training on analysis of remains, including the practical ante mortem trauma analysis mentioned above and theoretical training covering issues such as interviewing family members, what type of information to collect, access the previous medical records of the missing to assist identification etc.

These two trainings complete the training activities planned under the project.

It is worth noting here that although the excavation and analysis training done under this project was not related to the identification of Kuwaiti missing persons, as had been hoped at the start of the project (see previous reports for reasons), given the good progress made under this project in building capacity within the MoHR and as a result of ongoing dialogue at the political level, the Kuwaiti government has offered additional funding as a follow up to this project to procure additional excavation equipment for the MoHR mass graves department.

### **Main implementation constraints & challenges (2-3 sentences)**

The main constraint in this quarter has been the delay in finalizing the equipment handover agreement, which is yet to be signed by MoHR. This delay has been caused in part by the political climate in Iraq, which has generally slowed government work, and in part by the busy schedules of certain MoHR staff key to the project. Because of this, much time was needed in order to complete the inventory of equipment with MoHR and agree on handover modalities in order to draft a final agreement. The project is now waiting for the final signature of the agreement by the Minister of Human Rights to begin the handover process.