

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #: F8-09
Date and Quarter Updated: 2nd Quarter, Jan-Mar 2010

Participating UN Organisation: UNOPS – UNAMI Sector: Protection
HRO, OHCHR

Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR)

Title	Support to Iraq's Preparation for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)				
Geographic Location	Baghdad and communities served by 25 selected CSOs from different governorates (Kirkuk, Muthanna, Missan, Ninewa, Erbil, Anbar, Wassit, Kerbala, Babil, Basrah, Diyala and Salah Al-Din).				
Project Cost	US\$ 1,700,000				
Duration	18 months - from May 2009 to November 2010.				
Approval Date (SC)	27 May 2009	Starting Date	27 May 2009	Completion Date	27 November 2010
Project Description	<p>In its Resolution 60/251, the United Nations General Assembly requests the new Human Rights Council (HRC) to, inter alia, undertake a Universal Periodic Review (UPR), based on objective and reliable information, of the fulfilment of each State of its human rights obligations and commitments in a manner which ensures universality of coverage and equal treatment with respect to all States. Iraq is scheduled to be examined by the UPR Working Group of the HRC in February 2010.</p> <p>This project will focus on developing the capacity of the Government of Iraq to meet its obligations, as well as the capacity of Civil Society to fulfil the role assigned to them within the context of the UPR. These two elements will be addressed through a capacity building program including training, workshops and technical advice and assistance designed to enable both the Government of Iraq and the civil society organizations to meet their reporting requirements. A final conference gathering Iraqi stakeholders will facilitate discussions on the recommendations of the Human Rights Council and possible way forward.</p>				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

The project contributes to the following development goals in the relevant development strategies for Iraq:

Iraqi National Development Strategy (NDS):

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 a specific benchmark, the project supports section 3.3 regarding Human Rights:

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

- 3.3.1 Establish a comprehensive human rights regime country wide
 - The Government's capacity to report on its international human rights treaty obligations will be strengthened...;
 - The role of civil society will be strengthened

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

Joint Programme Outcome:

1. Transparent and accountable institutional mechanisms in place to report and respond to human rights situation in Iraq.

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement**Outputs**

- MOHR and CSOs have the capacity to report on the HR situation in Iraq based on UPR mechanism.
- Improved dialogue between government and civil society on human rights issues.

Activities**Activities for the MoHR will include:**

- Support/Assistance to the working group in drafting the reports through provision of an international consultant to be based in Iraq
- Information campaign through media and publications on the UPR process, including publication of documentation and final recommendations.
- Capacity building of the MoHR working group through a training in OHCHR Office in Geneva (including 2 days to observe a UPR Working Group session and 2 days of additional briefings to be organized by OHCHR). The working group will then participate in the discussion of the reporting in front of the UPR working group
- Study tour to Iraq of representatives from neighboring countries which have already taken part in the UPR process. The tour would enable sharing of experiences, lessons and dialogue on best practices in the region which the GoI can then apply as relevant to its own participation in the UPR process. Consultations are underway to identify appropriate and available participants.

Activities to support Human Rights Civil Society Organizations:

- Identification of a cadre of at least 25 non-governmental human rights entities that would benefit from increased capacity in monitoring and reporting on human rights and who would participate in the production of the information report. The selection process will be conducted through a competitive process organized by UNOPS aimed at identifying CSOs already involved in monitoring and reporting activities and with links to grass root networks and access to relevant information on the human rights situation in Iraq. UNOPS will use its experience in creating the network of judicial CSOs in this process.
- Two workshops/trainings in Iraq focused on dissemination of the General Guidelines to CSOs which would include intensive capacity building training on methodologies of monitoring and reporting for the selected network members.
- One training on reporting draft skills specifically targeting the UPR reporting.
- Provision of 10 Grants to CSOs to undertake complementary awareness campaigns at the community level, to promote civil engagement on human rights monitoring and reporting.
- The creation of a network specifically among those CSOs involved in the process will also look at other future reporting obligations and will monitor progress on the issues identified in the UPR process. This will build on the successes of previous projects undertaken by the UN, leveraging existing networks where appropriate and supporting membership of new entities identified in the course of the programme.
- Support/Assistance in drafting the report through provision of an international consultant. Coaching and mentoring on report drafting will also be provided.

The majority of the activities including the selection of CSOs with some ability in report writing will take place in the first six months of the project as the calendar for the UPR reporting mechanism has already been established. The selection of the CSOs will also take into consideration geographical balance and will include organizations from the KRG. Moreover, the selection will take into account existing structures and previous experience of both organizations (UNAMI HRO and UNOPS) in

	<p>working with Human Rights CSOs. The project will hire a dedicated consultant to conduct a timely selection of suitable organizations through a competitive process.</p> <p><u>Activities to Support the UPR process:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After the GoI and CSO reports are submitted to the Human Rights Council, and once the Council's Recommendations are received, a National Conference chaired by the Ministry of Human Rights and involving all stakeholders will be organized. The conference will review the recommendations of the Human Rights Council and discuss how the recommendations may be implemented. • Additionally, an information Campaign on the UPR Mechanism will be developed and conducted in coordination with MoHR and the CSO network. The campaign will aim to raise awareness among Iraqi families and communities about the Government's commitment to Human Rights and how it is addressing the issue. It also will aim to raise the awareness of the community on channels available to deal with human rights abuses. The campaign will be conducted through print, television and radio messages, and scheduled both before the submission of the reports to the UPR and after the issuance of the recommendations by the Human Rights Council. <p>After the UPR Reporting:</p> <p>Once the UPR reporting requirement is completed and presented to the UPR Secretariat in the UN Human Rights Council Geneva, the programme will organize two specific trainings for members of the newly created civil society network and the GoI regarding Treaty Body and Reporting Mechanisms to ensure that both -CSOs and GoI- participate on reporting on human rights treaty obligations. The training will build on the experience and achievements of the training sessions related to the UPR and will include specific training on the preparation of parallel reports from the network to Treaty Body reporting mechanisms. This will allow for input from civil society to the different treaty bodies when Iraq reports to be examined by these bodies. The intention is to have a joint training that will advocate for partnership between the MoHR and the Iraqi population.</p>
Activities as per workplan	<p>1.1 Trainings on international human rights obligations</p> <p>1.2 Study Tour to Iraq</p> <p>1.3 Support to report writing</p> <p>1.4 Participation to UPR working group session and OHCHR briefings</p> <p>1.5 Information campaigns on UPR Mechanism</p> <p>1.6 Selection of CSOs</p> <p>1.7 Trainings for CSOs on UPR and reporting mechanisms</p> <p>2.1 Support to report writing</p> <p>2.2 CSOs grants</p> <p>2.3 Creation of CSOs network</p> <p>2.4 Steering Committee meetings</p> <p>2.5 Final Conference</p>
Procurement (major items)	Selection of implementing partner/service provider to carry out trainings for the selected CSOs

Funds Committed	\$839,160	49.4%	
Funds Disbursed	\$536,584	31.6%	
Forecast final date	November 2010	Delay (months)	

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men		
Women		
Children		
IDPs		
Others	Government of Iraq GOI and 25 selected	

	CSOs	
Indirect beneficiaries	Iraqi population	
Employment generation (men/women)		

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results			
1. MOHR and CSOs have the capacity to report on the HR situation in Iraq based on UPR mechanism.		86% of planned	
1.1 Trainings on international human rights obligations	See reports from 2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th Quarter 2009	100%	
1.2 Study Tour to Iraq	See report from 3 rd Quarter 2009	100%	
1.3 Support to report writing		100%	
1.4 Participation to UPR working group session and OHCHR briefings		100%	
1.5 Information campaigns on UPR Mechanism		0%	
1.6 Selection of CSOs	See report from 3 rd Quarter 2009	100%	
1.7 Trainings for CSOs on UPR and reporting mechanisms	See report from 3 rd Quarter 2009	100%	
2. Improved dialogue between government and civil society on human rights issues.		50% of planned	
2.1 Support to report writing	See report from 4 th Quarter 2009	20%	
2.2 CSOs grants		20%	
2.3 Creation of CSOs network	See report from 3 rd Quarter 2009	50%	
2.4 Steering Committee meetings		50%	
2.5 Final Conference		0%	

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results
<p>In this quarter the project carried out preparation work for major activities to take place in the next quarter. In addition, the project steering committee was held in April 2010 to review the project so far and plan the final project activities and strategy. Moreover, on 11th June 2010, the final UPR recommendations for Iraq were formally adopted at the Human Rights Council's 14th Session:</p> <p>1. MOHR and CSOs have the capacity to report on the HR situation in Iraq based on UPR mechanism.</p> <p>On 11th June 2010 the final outcome report for the UPR for Iraq was formally adopted in Geneva by the Human Rights Council (HRC) marking the last step in this cycle of the review process for Iraq. A delegation headed by the Minister for Human Rights attended the session. Since the initial adoption of the UPR recommendations by the working group in February 2010, when 135 out of 176 recommendations were immediately accepted by Iraq and the remaining 41 recommendations were put under consideration, no further recommendations were officially accepted by the government at this final adoption session. MoHR attributed this to the current political and legal situation in Iraq and it was suggested that the unaccepted recommendations would remain on hold while the ground is prepared for their possible approval at a later date. The Minister also announced during the HRC session that a national conference on the implementation of the UPR recommendations for Iraq would be held in Autumn 2010 and a national action plan for human rights developed as part of Iraq's commitment to follow up on the UPR.</p> <p>The national conference is supported by the project and planning work began this quarter when it was agreed that the project would provide technical assistance to the MoHR to develop its implementation plan for the UPR recommendations that is to be presented at the national conference and to be eventually integrated into the national</p>

action plan for human rights. During the quarter the project therefore worked on the hiring of an international consultant, to begin working with the MoHR on the implementation plan in July 2010.

In the run up to the national conference and beyond, a number of information activities on the UPR are also expected to take place to raise awareness on the outcome of the UPR and its implications. The project is to support civil society in activities to raise awareness among the general public on the UPR recommendations through a series of small grants. In May and June, a request for proposals was prepared and launched for the grants. CSOs are expected to submit proposals by early July and the grants should be awarded by August 2010. Support will also be provided to the MoHR Media Unit in its public information and publication work for the UPR. Consultation meetings were held with the unit to agree on support activities that will be implemented in the next quarter.

In this quarter, the project also carried out a bidding process for the implementation of a training package on treaty body shadow reporting for civil society organizations designed to increase awareness of human rights treaty body mechanisms and improve reporting and monitoring skills. The organization that will deliver the training was selected and contracted. Work on the training package is due to start July 2010 and run to November 2010.

2. Improved dialogue between government and civil society on human rights issues.

On 28th April 2010 the project held its first steering committee meeting in Baghdad with video conference link to colleagues in Amman. The meeting was chaired by the MoHR, represented by the deputy Minister and attended by MoHR counterparts and representatives from UNAMI HRO, UNOPS and civil society participants to the project. The steering committee reviewed the project activities to date and learnt more about the experience of the GoI delegation at the UPR review, which took place in the last quarter. In reviewing the activities to date, the steering committee noted in particular the need to further promote dialogue and networking among civil society and the government for the UPR process and for human rights work in general. In addition, it was agreed that in terms of CSO participation, further efforts should be made to try to ensure a better representation of women in project activities.

The meeting went on to focus on upcoming activities, in particular the national conference that should be held to discuss the implementation of the UPR recommendations and information activities on the UPR process. In order to further promote dialogue between government and civil society, it was agreed that a selected number of government officials will be invited to attend certain selected sessions of the upcoming training on shadow reporting (mentioned above) in order to share information and discuss Iraq's treaty obligations. In addition, CSOs provided with grants for information activities (mentioned above) will be encouraged to coordinate and include government counterparts in their activities where they deem it appropriate.

Main implementation constraints & challenges

There were no major constraints to project implementation this quarter; however during the SC meeting the MoHR officially confirm information that two members of the UPR delegation were targeted in two separate attacks in Baghdad shortly after their return from the UPR session in Geneva in February. One was killed and the other was seriously injured. The link between their targeting and their work on the UPR is not clear, however these tragic events highlight the ongoing security challenges in Iraq, in particular for people working in the field of human rights.

In addition, the general pace of activities was slowed by the ongoing political situation in Iraq as negotiations to form a new government continue. The project therefore focussed on preparatory work for upcoming activities including meetings and procurement and contracting processes as described above.

The request to include government officials in the shadow reporting training package was a challenge in terms of adaptation of the training curriculum, which is in essence intended for civil society. However the contracted organisation delivering the training has been able to integrate the additional participants into selected sessions of the training that cover general information on the treaty bodies relevant to both government and civil society. Moreover, the participation of a small number of officials in selected sessions is considered to be beneficial in terms of sharing experience and promoting dialogue between government and civil society on human rights issues.