

**United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund**

**Project # 63765**

**Date and Quarter Updated: July- September 2010**

<b>Participating UN Organisations: UNDP (Lead), UNESCO, UNOPS, UNAMI</b>	<b>Sector: Governance</b>
<b>Government of Iraq – Responsible Authority: Communication and Media Commission</b>	

<b>Title</b>	Support the Media in its Role of Fostering Peace and Democracy				
<b>Location</b>	Baghdad, Erbil, Suleiymanieh and Basra				
<b>Project Cost</b>	USD 6,131,285 (of which UNESCO’s budget = US\$ 763,265)				
<b>Duration</b>	January 2009 – January 2011				
<b>Approval Date</b>	4 Dec 2008	<b>Starting Date</b>	8 Dec 2008	<b>Completion Date</b>	8 Dec 2010
<b>Project Description</b>	The Project promotes the development of an independent, pluralist and professional media. The project has three broad areas of intervention: (1) to develop or strengthen participatory processes leading to sustainable media self/co-regulatory mechanisms and legislative frameworks (2) to support the development of local content, and (3) to identify the key institutions (e.g. training institutions, regulatory bodies and professional entities) for targeted capacity building to enhance professionalism				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives
<p><b>Project Outcome:</b> Independent civil society and media enabled through legal and regulatory frameworks, professional development and strengthened institutions.</p> <p><b>Objective 2:</b> Support to key institutions – e.g. training institutions, regulatory bodies and professional entities - for targeted training and capacity building to enhance professionalism</p> <p><b>Objective 3:</b> Development of local content to support national dialogue and reconciliation through targeted training.</p>

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement	
<b>Outputs</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increased dialogue and advocacy related to A38 legislation and A19 freedoms through establishment of a media law working group.</li> <li>2. Increased understanding by government and media on right to know, data protection, and freedom of expression.</li> <li>3. Increased dialogue and reconciliation at community level through the provision of six small grants to community- based media.</li> <li>4. Increased exposure of media professionals to global media development through the provision of seven small grants for scholarships and study tours.</li> <li>5. Availability of self-regulatory monitoring mechanisms at CSOs and media institutions.</li> <li>6. Availability of quality media curricula at four media institutes and mass communication faculties.</li> <li>7. Availability of media data setting the baseline for the media sector – UNESCO lead.</li> <li>8. Increased capacity of independent news agency as a model for media in Iraq towards self-sufficiency.</li> <li>9. CMC functions within a strategic plan.</li> <li>10. Identified gaps and opportunities related to performance of IMN.</li> </ol>
<b>Activities</b>	<p><b>Output 1.2:</b> Contract signed with Article19 and preparations underway for the training of Parliamentarians that will be involved in voting on the Right To Information law. Comparative study tour of EITI expert to Yemen to analyse their progress in the EITI process.</p> <p><b>Output 1.4:</b> Awarded a small grant to Iraqi Institute of Economic Reform (IIER) to monitor media coverage in Iraq of the oil industry. Awarded a grant to Aswat al Iraq’s proposal to strengthen the</p>

institutional management capacity and improve Aswat’s editorial content by improving its capacity to provide video and still images to clients. In this period, UNESCO announced the call for proposals on training journalists in the area of Sustainable Development. 7 local NGO proposals have been received and are currently being reviewed by UNESCO’s Grants Committee.

- Under the webinars component, A meeting with the Erbil Institute for Science and Technology and its dean of the media school and an upcoming series of Webinars to strengthen the curriculum of the university and the overall development of media in the region.
- Output 1.6:** The Curricula Development Steering Committee established to review and update the journalism curriculum has been working during this period, doing an assessment of the current curriculum in Iraq. Two proposals for the development of distance learning component have been submitted by two Steering Committee members from Rutgers University (virtual internship with international media outlets) and Salisbury University (e-learning tools as webinars, video lectures, and e-courses).
- Output 1.8:** All remaining financial obligations from UNDP to Aswat al-Iraq are now terminated including USD 455,875 implemented from a UNESCO allocation. Media Badger has undertaken support work consisting of analytical reports on Aswat’s media outreach and business strategy.

<b>Funds Committed</b>	USD 5,303,062	<b>% of approved</b>	<b>% 86</b>
<b>Funds Disbursed</b>	USD 2,514,412	<b>% of approved</b>	<b>% 50</b>
<b>Forecast final date</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> December	<b>Delay (months)</b>	12

Training to government officials on developing advocacy and PR tools	100%
Further development of baseline survey of oil sector	40%
Webinar series	40%
Support to Aswat al Iraq	100%
Initiation of change management within CMC	10%
Initiating review of IMN	5%
Support to key institutions	40%
Development of local content to support national dialogue and reconciliation	50 %

**Qualitative achievements against objectives and results**

- The Grant Committee under UNESCO and including UNDP, UNAMI and CMC representatives is fully functioning and reviewing grants.
- The Curricula Development Committee is functioning satisfactorily and will support distance learning.
- The support provided by UNDP and UNESCO appears to have allowed Aswat al-Iraq to become a credible and leading independent news agency according to the external ‘Media Badger’ reports delivered over the last two months.

**Main implementation constrains and challenges**

UNDP and UNESCO have not experienced particular challenges aside from the normal ones of access for the PM to stakeholders and technical issues arising with the webinar development.