

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #: F8-13
Date and Quarter Updated: July - September 2010 (3rd Quarter)

Participating UN Organisation: UNESCO (Lead Agency); UNOPS **Sector: Protection**
Government of Iraq – Ministry of Human Rights; Communications and Media Commission

Title	Protection of Media Professionals, Members of the Academic Community and Human Rights Defenders in Iraq				
Geographic Location	Nationwide with hubs in Baghdad, and Erbil				
Project Cost	US\$ 1,000,000 (UNESCO USD 589,452; UNOPS USD 410,548)				
Duration	12 months				
Approval Date (SC)	27 June 2010	Starting Date	9 July 2010	Completion Date	9 July 2011
Project Description	<p>This project aims at supporting the following groups: media professionals, Human Rights Defenders and members of the academic community, who have been especially targeted by extremists, suffering the consequences of violence and threats inside Iraq. The project is divided into three inter-related outputs: (i) National institutions (i.e. MoJ, MoHR, CMC and IBA) and CSOs have an active Federation promoting a greater understanding and increasing the capacity to react to human rights issues, including raising awareness of human rights abuses in Iraq. A series of consultative meetings to address human rights concerns will focus on the development of an official Iraq wide federation of CSOs. The federation will work to raise human rights awareness among the general public national institutions and the target groups and monitor human rights issues; (ii) the targeted groups will each receive specialized training on human rights protection systems and monitoring human rights violations. In addition, roundtables will be held on human rights protection between the target groups, government officials and members of the Iraqi Bar Association; (iii) personal and safety training will be provided to increase their capacity to cope with threats and professionals risk; and two local experts to work within an Iraqi NGO in Baghdad and Erbil to create its capacity to serve as regional resources on safety and security issues, to monitor and report on the security situation in Iraq, coordinate the trainings, as well as serve as a regional network coordinator for beneficiaries.</p> <p>While UNESCO will lead the overall project, the division of labour will be shared according to UNESCO and UNOPS mandates and expertise, and in association with NGOs and with Iraqi civil society, as well as with the beneficiary groups.</p>				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

Project Outcome:

Independent civil society and media enabled through legal and regulatory frameworks, professional development and strengthened institutions.

Objective 1: Develop an active Federation between national institutions, such as the MoJ, the MoHR, the CMC, the Iraqi Bar Association, and CSOs, in promoting a greater understanding and the increased capacity to react to human rights issues, including raising awareness of human rights abuses in Iraq. This will result in the creation of an official federation of CSOs which will be responsible in the continued awareness raising and reporting on human rights issues among the general public, national institutions and the target groups.

Objective 2: Strengthen the capacity of the targeted groups to promote a human rights system by providing practical tools to report and monitor human rights violations to national and international institutions.

Objective 3: Increase the capacity of the targeted groups to cope with threats and professionals risk by providing practical tools on security issues to ensure their personal safety.

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement

Outputs	<p>Output 1: National institutions and CSOs have an active Federation promoting a greater understanding and increasing the capacity to react to human rights issues, including raising awareness of human rights abuses in Iraq.</p> <p>Output 2: Government officials, HRDs, media organizations, members of the academic community and professional unions have strengthened capacities to promote human rights protection systems and report to national and international human rights institutions.</p>
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	Output 3: HRDs, academics and media workers have increased capacities to cope with threats and professional risks.
Activities	<p>Output 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultative meetings to establish key issues within the domain of human rights in Iraq and to coordinate a unified response mechanism. - Monthly news sheets and mailing list. - National Conference in Baghdad to launch a Federation of CSOs. - Interactive website. <p>Output 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trainings of trainers in human right protection systems. - Roundtables in human rights. - Trainings in human rights protection and personal safety and security issues. - Legal awareness training to governmental officials and lawyers. <p>Output 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trainings of trainers in personal safety and security issues. - Establishment of two resources centres/hubs (Baghdad and Erbil). - Reproducing and distributing of a Field Work Safety Manual.
Procurement	N/A

Funds Committed (UNESCO)	US\$ 15,458	% of approved	2.58%
Funds Disbursed	US\$ 0	% of approved	0%
Forecast final date	July 2011	Delay (months)	

Funds Committed (UNOPS)	US\$ 1,783.33	% of approved	0.434%
Funds Disbursed	US\$ 1,613.46	% of approved	0.393%
Forecast final date	July 2011	Delay (months)	

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men	0	0
Women	0	0
Children	0	0
IDPs	0	0
Others	0	0
Indirect beneficiaries	0	0
Employment generation (men/women)	0	0

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results			
Develop an active Federation between national institutions, such as the MoJ, the MoHR, the CMC, the Iraqi Bar Association, and CSOs, in promoting a greater understanding and the increased capacity to react to human rights issues, including raising awareness of human rights abuses in Iraq. This will result in the creation of an official federation of CSOs which will be responsible in the continued awareness raising and reporting on human rights issues among the general public, national institutions and the target groups.	NA	% of planned	NA
Objective 2: Strengthen the capacity of the targeted groups to promote a human rights system by providing practical tools to report and monitor human rights violations to national and international institutions.	NA	% of planned	NA
Objective 3: Increase the capacity of the targeted groups to cope with threats and professionals risk by providing practical tools on security issues to ensure their personal safety.	NA	% of planned	NA

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

The second quarter has been for set-up of the project including the development of a tender for implementation of certain project elements. This has required consultations with stakeholders, which has required more time than anticipated. The tender, however, will be released in the first few days of the next quarter.

UNOPS received the transfer of project funds from the UNDG ITF on 9th July 2010, and thereafter started project implementation as agreed. During the 3rd quarter, UNOPS completed its public bidding process for selecting an implementing partner and is finalizing the contract. Once contracting is completed, project activities are expected to start during the next quarter. UNOPS has also recruited a project associate who is on board and will support project implementation in accordance with the staffing allocation in the project document.

Preparations have started for arranging the project steering committee meeting in the next quarter (November).

Main implementation constraints & challenges (2-3 sentences)

No challenges were faced during this early stage of project implementation.