

**United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund**

**Project #: F8-09**

**Date and Quarter Updated: 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, July-Sep. 2010**

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

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

<b>Title</b>	Support to Iraq's Preparation for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)				
<b>Geographic Location</b>	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).				
<b>Project Cost</b>	US\$ 1,700,000				
<b>Duration</b>	18 months - from May 2009 to November 2010.				
<b>Approval Date</b>	21 May 2009	<b>Starting Date</b>	27 May 2009	<b>Completion Date</b>	28 Nov 2010 (extended to 27 May 2011)
<b>Project Description</b>	<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**

<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MOHR and CSOs have the capacity to report on the HR situation in Iraq based on UPR mechanism.</li> <li>• Improved dialogue between government and civil society on human rights issues.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Activities</b></p>	<p><b><u>Activities for the MoHR will include:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support/Assistance to the working group in drafting the reports through provision of an international consultant to be based in Iraq</li> <li>• Information campaign through media and publications on the UPR process, including publication of documentation and final recommendations.</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Activities to support Human Rights Civil Society Organizations:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• One training on reporting draft skills specifically targeting the UPR reporting.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Support/Assistance in drafting the report through provision of an international consultant. Coaching and mentoring on report drafting will also be provided.</li> </ul> <p>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 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><b><u>Activities to Support the UPR process:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>
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	issuance of the recommendations by the Human Rights Council. <b>After the UPR Reporting:</b> 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.
<b>Activities as per workplan</b>	<b>1.1</b> Trainings on international human rights obligations <b>1.2</b> Study Tour to Iraq <b>1.3</b> Support to report writing <b>1.4</b> Participation to UPR working group session and OHCHR briefings <b>1.5</b> Information campaigns on UPR Mechanism <b>1.6</b> Selection of CSOs <b>1.7</b> Trainings for CSOs on UPR and reporting mechanisms <b>2.1</b> Support to report writing <b>2.2</b> CSOs grants <b>2.3</b> Creation of CSOs network <b>2.4</b> Steering Committee meetings <b>2.5</b> Final Conference
<b>Procurement</b>	Selection of 10 NGOs to carry out UPR awareness activities in Iraq for different beneficiaries under the UPR grants.

<b>Funds Committed</b>	\$1,041,979	61%	
<b>Funds Disbursed</b>	\$630,691	37%	
<b>Forecast final date</b>	November 2010	<b>Delay (months)</b>	6

<b>Direct Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Number of Beneficiaries</b>	<b>% of planned (current status)</b>
Men		
Women		
Children		
IDPs		
Others	Government of Iraq GOI and 25 selected CSOs in addition to 10 NGOs grantees	
Indirect beneficiaries	Iraqi population	
Employment generation (men/women)		

1. MOHR and CSOs have the capacity to report on the HR situation in Iraq based on UPR mechanism.		<b>86% of planned</b>
1.1 Trainings on international human rights obligations	See reports from 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2009	<b>100%</b>
1.2 Study Tour to Iraq	See report from 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2009	<b>100%</b>
1.3 Support to report writing		<b>100%</b>
1.4 Participation to UPR working group session and OHCHR briefings		<b>100%</b>
1.5 Information campaigns on UPR Mechanism		<b>0%</b>
1.6 Selection of CSOs	See report from 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2009	<b>100%</b>
1.7 Trainings for CSOs on UPR and reporting mechanisms	See report from 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2009	<b>100%</b>
2. Improved dialogue between government and civil society on human rights issues.		<b>60% of planned</b>
2.1 Support to report writing	See report from 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2009	<b>40%</b>
2.2 CSOs grants		<b>50%</b>
2.3 Creation of CSOs network	See report from 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2009	<b>50%</b>
2.4 Steering Committee meetings		<b>50%</b>
2.5 Final Conference		<b>0%</b>

## **Qualitative achievements against objectives and results**

In this quarter the project finalized grant contracts for 10 NGOs to conduct awareness activities in Iraq on the UPR recommendations. The first shadow reporting training course also took place in Erbil for five days, and the project supported the MoHR in preparing a draft plan of action for the implementation of the UPR recommendations for Iraq.

### ***1. MOHR and CSOs have the capacity to report on the HR situation in Iraq based on UPR mechanism.***

As mentioned in the previous report, in order to provide technical assistance to the MoHR to develop an implementation plan for the UPR recommendations, to be presented at a national conference organized by the project, an international consultant was sent to Baghdad from 14 July to 12 August to provide technical advice to the MoHR. An initial draft was prepared by the GoI and is being discussed internally among relevant ministries in terms of its final content and implementation resources. The project will follow up on the draft and where necessary, additional technical advice will be provided by UNAMI HRO in order to have the final draft ready for presentation at the national conference.

During the quarter, work on plans to provide support to the MoHR Media Unit in its public information and publication work for the UPR continued. Consultancy companies that would be able to provide capacity building training on public information campaigns and support the media unit in producing a short brochure on the UPR were identified. Although it was originally expected this activity would be implemented this quarter, as a result of the summer holiday period the availability of suitable trainers was limited. The activity will therefore be implemented later in the year in agreement with MoHR.

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

During the previous quarter, a request for proposals was launched for civil society grants to be awarded to perform awareness raising activities on the UPR recommendations. 34 grant proposals were received in total and were evaluated this quarter. 10 proposals were selected to receive grant funding. However, the general quality of proposals received was not very high and although 10 were selected as suitable for funding, 6 of the proposals underwent further revisions at the contract negotiation stage in order to ensure that the full requirements of the terms of reference for the grants were met. This led to some delay in beginning the implementation of the grants, however all 10 grant contracts were signed by the end of the quarter and activities have started to take place. UNOPS field staff will monitor implementation and provide assistance to NGOs in fulfilling the administrative requirements of their grant contracts.

Also during this quarter, the first shadow reporting training course for CSOs (described in the last report) was delivered from 2-6 August in Erbil. 16 NGO representatives attended the training. The purpose of the first workshop was to consolidate participants' understanding of human rights standards and introduce the UN treaty body system and the concept of shadow reporting. The relation between the treaty body mechanisms and the Universal Periodic Review was also clarified. The training was delivered in Arabic by human rights experts. The methodology included presentation, discussion, group work exercises, and sample reports/case studies.

In order to further promote dialogue between government and civil society, a selected number of government officials were invited to attend certain selected sessions of the training. The same arrangement will be used for the next training, which will take place from 27 September-1 October in Erbil.

Under Output 2, the project intends to hold a national conference on the UPR and the implementation of the recommendations for Iraq. As mentioned above, work on the draft implementation plan for the UPR recommendations is still ongoing. As the draft plan is intended to be the main working document of the national conference, it is unlikely that the project will be able to implement the conference by the time of the current project end date in November 2010. For this reason, the project requested a six month extension from the ITF in order to have more time to work on the conference and plan of action. The request was submitted in September and an official response is expected in October 2010.

## **Main implementation constraints & challenges**

The implementing partner contracted to deliver the training package on shadow reporting did not perform as well as expected in terms of making logistical arrangements for the first training course. As a result, there was a lower participant turnout than expected. The quality of the training and level of trainers was nevertheless excellent, so a plan of action to address shortcomings in logistical capacity was put in place ahead of the second training in the package.

