

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #66992: C10-08
Date and Quarter Updated: December 2010 (4th Quarter)

Participating UN Organisation: UNESCO (lead) and UNDP **Sector: ERDSOT**
Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Iraqi Prime Minister’s Office

Title	Restoration of Al Askari Shrine in Samarra City and Rehabilitation of Other Damaged Religious Sites Throughout Iraq				
Geo. Location	Salah El Din Governorate, Samarra District ,Samarra City and Baghdad Governorate, Resafa District, Baghdad City				
Project Cost	US\$8,000,000 ITF + USD 3,000,000 GOI				
Duration	12 months				
Approval Date	13.12.2006	Starting Date	21 Feb. 2007	Completion Date	21.02.2008, extended to 30.06.2011 (UNESCO) and 31.10.2011(UNDP)
Project Description	Promotion of national reconciliation through community-level initiatives, with restoration/reconstruction of religious sites as the entry point to respond to six key areas such as increasing access to potable water in urban areas, increasing sewage treatment and access to urban sewerage systems, increase solid waste collection and disposal, access to potable water and sanitation in rural areas.				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

1. To ensure the safety and preservation of the Al Askari Shrine site in order to prepare for its restoration as a symbol of peace and reconciliation in Iraq, while enhancing the national capacity to perform similar tasks on other damaged cultural/religious sites.
2. To initiate the process of rehabilitation of other damaged religious sites throughout Iraq as part of the reconciliation process.
3. To provide employment opportunities and ensure citizens’ involvement in the rebuilding of their communities through sub-projects focused on rehabilitation related to the Samarra Shrine.

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement

Outputs	<p>Output 1.1: Urgent intervention works on Al-Askari Shrine in Samarra completed: Site protected and cleaned, materials classified, and structure reinforced (UNESCO).</p> <p>Output 1.2: Prepare works for the restoration project of the Al-Askari Shrine in Samarra completed. (UNESCO).</p> <p>Output 1.3: Personnel of State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) in technical areas related to restoration and preservation trained.</p> <p>Output 2.1: Highest priority damaged religious sites rehabilitated (UNDP).</p> <p>Output 2.2: Contribute towards reconciliation, restoration of stability and security, consensus and peace building.</p> <p>Output 3.1: Implement sub-projects related to the Samarra Shrine completed (UNDP).</p> <p>Output 3.2: Community ownership through involvement in sub-project identification and implementation promoted.</p> <p>Output 3.3: Generation of temporary short and medium term employment opportunities.</p>
Activities	<p>1.1.1 Establishment of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) comprising United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation (MOPDC), Shiite and Sunni Awqaf, United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Samarra community representative.</p> <p>1.1.2 Under the guidance of UNESCO restoration experts and the supervision of trained SBAH specialists, a selected international company will undertake urgent and preventive works to preserve the site.</p> <p>1.2.1 Under the guidance of UNESCO restoration experts and the supervision of trained SBAH specialists, a selected international company will undertake works preparing the final restoration project of the Al Askari Shrine in Samarra.</p> <p>1.2.2 UNESCO will prepare the project document and the budget estimate for the restoration phase (Phase II).</p> <p>1.3.1 Arranging and delivering a special training programme for the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) improving their technical capacity to conduct the works supervision of the Al Askari Shrine in Samarra.</p>

	<p>2.1.1 Identifying, as endorsed by PSC, other priority religious sites to be considered for rehabilitation, which will ultimately include two mosques (one Shiite and one Sunni) and one church.</p> <p>2.1.2 Undertake comprehensive site assessment, perform all required structural stability studies and analyses assessment and define the nature of required interventions.</p> <p>2.1.3 Performing networks analyses and studies assessing all water supply, wastewater, electrical power supply facility conditions and define the nature of required interventions as deemed applicable for implementation.</p> <p>2.1.4 Preparing of detailed construction drawings, specifications, bills of quantities, scope of works.</p> <p>2.1.5 Rehabilitation activities, relying on local implementing partners wherever possible.</p> <p>2.1.6 Preparing budget estimates for rehabilitating other priority religious sites and buildings.</p> <p>2.1.7 UNDP and UNESCO Directors and Project Managers will evaluate the works completed and will report to the PSC that will decide on the following action plan for the other religious sites to be rehabilitated during the Phase II.</p> <p>2.2.1 Establishment of a PSC including Shiite and Sunni Awqaf and religious dignitaries of both religious communities, relevant government authorities, will promote the intercultural inter-sectarian dialogue and lay the ground for a region specific peace building and reconciliation process that will contribute to the broader nationwide processes (UNESCO and UNDP).</p> <p>2.2.2 Development of media material illustrating the situation before and after the attacks on the Samarra Shrine and other religious sites as part of an integrated campaign targeting reconciliation and peace building (UNESCO).</p> <p>2.2.3 Support the existing Iraqi-led Baghdad peace initiative in direct collaboration with the government, UNAMI and all involved local authorities (UNESCO).</p> <p>2.2.4 Initial activities towards building consensus leading to increase tolerance among the local religious communities through joint participation in all projects activities (micro context) (UNESCO and UNDP).</p> <p>3.1.1 Identify with participation from religious dignitaries of both religious communities and the Awqaf, a recovery agenda of priority activities that will provide tangible and highly visible benefits. It will be done through the rehabilitation of priority infrastructure aimed at benefiting both communities, as formulated in the recovery agenda. It is expected that the agenda will include several of the following project categories and other small scale projects focusing on supporting the local community. Some of the component activities will be implemented through an IREP like community labour intensive modality.</p> <p>3.2.1 Community awareness campaign in local media and through other public outreach mechanisms (Friday prayer, posters, leaflets) (UNESCO).</p> <p>3.2.2 Dedicated engagement of community members and entities within all projects activities including identification, planning, provision of in-kind donations and the implementation supervision (UNESCO and UNDP).</p> <p>3.3.1 Following all necessary assessments, verifications, study, design, implementation of some project activities through the labour intensive implementation modality and through employment of local community members (UNESCO and UNDP).</p>
Procurement	All procurement activities included in this project were implemented according to the UN procurement standard rules.

Funds Committed	UNESCO: UNDG- USD 4,994,138.00 UNDP: USD 2,375,525.82 GOI - USD 2,823,567	% of approved % of approved	92.48% 91.37% 94,12%
Funds Disbursed	UNESCO: UNDG- USD 4,934,913 UNDP: USD 1,426,071.82 GOI - USD 1,653,769.00	% of approved % of approved	91.39% 54.85% 55,13 %
Forecast final date	31October 2011 for UNDP 30 June 2011 for UNESCO	Delay (months)	32 28

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men	Three hundred fifty (350) worshippers per day or a total of 91,250 worshippers per year. Men from all over the country and internationally who attend or are pilgrims to the Shrine. Men who are Christian in Baghdad.	100% UNDP-UNESCO
Women	Women who practice the Muslim faith or require surgery in	98% UNDP-UNESCO

	Samarra. Women from all over the country and internationally who attend or are pilgrims to the Shrine. Women who are Christian in Baghdad.	
Children	Two thousand one hundred thirteen (2,113) school children per academic year or four thousand two hundred twenty six (4,226) students over the last two (2) academic years and those in future who will utilize the two schools and the unknown additional children who will use the playground. Indirectly, eighty three (83) educational staff at the two schools.	98% UNDP
IDPs		
Others		
Indirect beneficiaries		
Employment generation (men/women)	600 workers UNESCO 1,200 vulnerable families benefitted from employment through UNDP supported projects. The water treatment plant and the playground will employ additional community workers.	100% UNESCO 80% UNDP

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results		% of planned
UNESCO		
Mobilization activity (building site installations)	Completed	100
Removing any outside elements that may lead to further collapses.	Completed	100
Cleaning the site and within the Shrine building	Completed	100
Classifying, originating and storing the discovered architectural elements and the materials scattered on the site in a temporary warehouse;	Completed	100
Urgent preventive works	Completed	100
Historical Documentation	Completed	100
Architectural Documentation	UNESCO has purchased related equipments and trained Iraqi engineers/architects on its use. Completed	100
Soil and Foundation Studies; Building Materials and Fine Art Studies & Structure Stability Studies	UNESCO has purchased related equipments and trained Iraqi engineers/architects on its use. Completed	100
Final Project and Tender Submission Documentation	This activity started in July 2010	30
UNDP		
Rehabilitation of Al Riyadh Primary School for Boys	A major school in Samarra, its rehabilitation attracted the attention of the community on the need for improved basic services in the city.	100
Rehabilitation of Mixed Secondary School	The school was occupied by local security forces for some time and its rehabilitation and use as an educational facility serves a noble purpose including girl child education.	100
Rehabilitation of Al Shaheed Mosque	It was one of the damaged mosques. Works at the site were very risky at times.	100
Rehabilitation of Hassan Pasha Mosque	The works were suspended on several occasions as a result of the deterioration in security.	100
Preparation of Samarra Recovery Agenda	A comprehensive development plan for Samarra is available in English and Arabic with endorsement and consensus from the Governorate, City, Qada' and the Municipality and their technical departments.	100
Rehabilitation of Al Lateen Church in Baghdad	The works completed during 2nd Quarter 2009.	100
Rehabilitation and Extension of Surgical Department of Samarra General Hospital	The rehabilitation works completed. Final completion reported received with photos provided. Substantial Completion signed by Qaim Maqam Samarra, Mayor and Department of Health. An	100

	opening ceremony is planned during 2 nd Quarter 2010.	
Construction of a new Playground in Al Muatasim suburb area in Samarra	Land has been cleared with legal papers provided during 1 st Quarter 2010. Project is under a local competitive tender process. During 3 rd Quarter UNDP has not received the tender.	63%
Provision and installation of a Water Treatment Plant in Samarra	The bidding process was launched during 1 st Quarter 2010. However, it was recalled due to technical changes and re-launched on 26 June. Technical financial evaluations have been carried out and the contract has been prepared for the CAP during 3 rd quarter. The contract was made ready for signature in December 2010 but delayed in operations. This will be awarded and signed in January 2011.	70%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

UNESCO Achievements

UNESCO and the Iraqi Technical Committee have signed a contract for the activities under Phase I on 9 October 2008. From this date the Technical Committee is in charge of implementing Phase I under the supervision of UNESCO experts.

- UNESCO signed a contract with the Iraqi Technical Committee for the implementation of the Soil and Foundation Studies; Building Materials and Fine Art Studies & Structure Stability Studies. UNESCO has already purchased equipments and trained Iraqi engineers/architects on the use of equipments and the studies related to the Soil and Foundation, Fine Art and Structure Stability are well under progress. This activity started in February 2009 and is approaching completion in the near future. In addition, the final project and tender submission documentation has already started and the entire project scheduled to be finalized by the end of the year.
- The Samarra Shrine project has contributed to employment creation and income generation for families in Samarra City. Approximately 600 workers from Samarra have been employed since February 2008.
- In addition to these works this component is to ensure the capacity building among Iraqis to perform similar restoration work tasks on other damaged cultural/religious sites.
- UNESCO and the Technical Committee have frequent meetings to evaluate progress of works and to exchange views regarding the implementation of the project.
- Beginning of May 2009 UNESCO Director-General and Iraqi Prime Minister signed two Memorandum of Understanding for establishing a College of Archaeology in Samara and Restoration of the Al-Malawyah Minaret, the Great Mosque of Samarra. UNESCO has been actively involved in restoration of historical sites in Iraq.
- On 17-20 July 2009 UNESCO organized a workshop in Lebanon-Beirut with Iraqi tribal leaders, regional and local authorities related to the progress of the Samarra Shrine project, this workshop also included discussions related to future project activities in Samarra.
- UNESCO Iraq office organized an exhibition entitled "Iraq: UNESCO Post-Conflict Response" being held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris during 10-23 September 2009. The aim of the exhibition was to demonstrate UNESCO's contribution in Post Conflict & Post Disaster settings. The exhibition presented diverse information on UNESCO projects in Iraq; among others, the progress of the restoration of Al-Askari Shrine was presented with the support of panels.
- A team of 10 experts undertook two missions to Samarra in October and December 2009, related to the implementation of the "Completion of the Final Restoration Project of al-Askari Shrine in Samarra – Iraq".
- In December 2009 the Japanese Government (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry) and the League of Arab States (LAS) established the Japan –Arab Economic Forum. The purpose of the establishment of the Japan-Arab Economic Forum is to strengthen mutual economic relations between Japan and the LAS members through cooperation in a wide range of fields such as trade, investment, energy, technology, tourism and human resources development. UNESCO had a successful role in providing a clear vision of its programmes and achievements in Iraq among others the Restoration of the Samarra Al-Askari Shrine.
- A mission to Samarra of UNESCO team and European Union delegation scheduled for 29 June 2010 was cancelled due to bad weather. A new one is scheduled for last week of November 2010.
- The studies forming a basis to the preparation of the restoration project were completed in July 2010.
- The study for the preparation of the restoration project of Al Askari Shrine started Shrine started in July 2010.
- A team of 05 UNESCO experts undertook a mission to Samarra in August 2010 related to the "Completion of the Final Restoration Project of al-Askari Shrine in Samarra – Iraq"

UNDP Achievements

Phase I Completed which included;

- The building of capacity within the Mayor's Office and Local Government to develop a community participation model and hybrid NEX;

- The completion of the rehabilitation of the Al-Shaheed Mosque in Samarra City;
- The completion of the rehabilitation of the Hassan Pasha Mosque in Samarra City;
- The completion of the rehabilitation of the Al Riyadh Primary School in Samarra City;
- The completion of the rehabilitation of the Mixed Secondary School in Samarra City;
- The use of the participatory model to identify the projects in Samarra City with consensus reached by the communities for Phase II.

Phase II ongoing which includes;

- The priorities of the communities resulted in meetings at UNDP in Amman with the Samarra Qaim Maqam and the UNDP consultant 23-27 March 2008. The Inception Report for Phase II was presented, discussed and approved during the meetings. Planned activities include: 1) Rehabilitation and extension of Surgical Department of Samarra General Hospital; 2) Construction of Playground in Al-Mutasim suburb area in Samarra City; 3) Rehabilitation of Water Treatment Plant 4) Rehabilitation of Al-Lateen Church in Baghdad.
- A follow-up meeting was held with the Samarra Qaim Maqam in Amman on 22 April 2008. Phase II was discussed in detail and an action plan was drawn up.
- Technical meetings took place in Amman between UNDP and the head of Samarra PRT 13-15 July and 22-23 July 2008. Discussions included the workshop on Samarra Recovery Planning in Istanbul, the cooperation between UNDP and the PRT, and the future trend of UNDP activities in Samarra.
- Two (2) new projects; rehabilitation and extension of Surgical Department of Samarra General Hospital and construction of a new playground in Al-Muatasim suburb were signed and launched September 2008.
- LoA Agreement with Samarra Qaim Maqamiyat signed for second phase works September 2008.
- Al Latten Church Rehabilitation contract was signed 4 November and works initiated on 13 November 2008 with completion in April 2009.
- Further building of capacity in the NEX modality for the Surgical Unit at the General Hospital.
- A kick-off meeting for the Samarra Hospital and Playground was held in Amman on 17-18 November 2008 with the Samarra Qaim Maqam initiating the bidding, preparation of Bill of Quantities and tech designs.
- The land for the playground has been identified and had to wait for legal processing and land title clearance which cleared in 1st Quarter 2010. Designs are complete and local tender initiated. UNDP awaits the tender documents from this community initiated process.
- *The Samarra Development Agenda* evolved from a Workshop in July 2008 and participants went back to their representative groups to further define and mature the issues from the Workshop. After two months of additional work consensus was reached. This work was realized in *The Samarra Development Agenda* which identifies the priorities and the sequence of priorities within the major sectors of development including: health, education, water and sanitation, agriculture, tourism, communications and infrastructure. *The Samarra Development Agenda* is presently available in both English and Arabic with a Conference planned to roll out the Agenda post elections and formation of the Government during 2010.
- The major construction works the surgical/operating theaters at the Samarra Hospital is complete with the final completion reported received and photos provided. Substantial Completion has been signed by Qaim Maqam Samarra, Mayor and Department of Health and the facility is open to receive members in the community.
- The water treatment plant was launched during 1st Quarter 2010 with the bidding opened in 1st Quarter. During 2nd Quarter bidding was opened but due to technical changes rebidding had to be re-launched in late 2nd Quarter 2010. During 3rd Quarter technical financial evaluations have been carried out and the contract has been prepared for the CAP.
- To support the no-cost extension of the project till October 2011, UNDP will charge personnel costs according to time on project.
- The Mayor of Samarra accompanied by a Senior USAID and PRT person visited UNDP Iraq at the Amman Office 17-18 March 2010. These two key persons met with UNDP staff and the Senior USAID Official, Michael Craft, clearly stated that the work in Samarra has been innovative and serves as a model which he shared in Washington with State Officials.
- It has been recommended that a Conference be held with other Cities and Governorate Officials to discuss the process of development in Samarra as a peace and consensus building tool.

Main Implementation Constrains and Challenges

The delay in project implementation was mainly due to the security issues in Samarra and the need to develop capacity and consensus. At present, UNDP only has projects in Samarra City. Samarra is particularly vulnerable at this juncture with the withdrawal of USF-I and the delay in formation a National Government, months after the elections (it must be noted that the sectarian violence during 2006 and 2007 initiated in Samarra). This could affect the release of the Federal Budget to the Governorates and thus affect development work in the communities with the project currently experiencing some delays due to the instability.