

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #: F8-09
Date and Quarter Updated: 4th Quarter, Sept - Dec. 2010

Participating UN Organisation: UNOPS – UNAMI HRO, OHCHR **Sector: Protection**
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	2 years - from May 2009 to May 2011.				
Approval Date (SC)	27 May 2009	Starting Date	27 May 2009	Completion Date	28 Nov 2010, extended until 27 May 2011
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<p><u>Activities for the MoHR will include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p><u>Activities to support Human Rights Civil Society Organizations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <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</p>

	<p>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><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: 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 1.2 Study Tour to Iraq 1.3 Support to report writing 1.4 Participation to UPR working group session and OHCHR briefings 1.5 Information campaigns on UPR Mechanism 1.6 Selection of CSOs 1.7 Trainings for CSOs on UPR and reporting mechanisms 2.1 Support to report writing 2.2 CSOs grants 2.3 Creation of CSOs network 2.4 Steering Committee meetings 2.5 Final Conference</p>
Procurement (major items)	Selection of 10 NGOs to carry out UPR awareness activities in Iraq for different beneficiaries under the UPR grants.

Funds Committed	\$1,171,832.47	70%	
Funds Disbursed	\$865,870.17	50%	
Forecast final date	27 May 2011	Delay (months)	6 months
Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)	
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)		

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results		% of planned
1. MOHR and CSOs have the capacity to report on the HR situation in Iraq based on UPR mechanism.		86%
1.1 Trainings on international human rights obligations	See reports from 2nd, 3rd and 4th Quarter 2009	100%
1.2 Study Tour to Iraq	See report from 3rd 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 3rd Quarter 2009	100%
1.7 Trainings for CSOs on UPR and reporting mechanisms	See report from 3rd Quarter 2009	100%
2. Improved dialogue between government and civil society on human rights issues.		75%
2.1 Support to report writing	Three workshops out of a series of four trainings on shadow reporting for CSOs were carried out this quarter, completing the planned training package.	100%
2.2 CSOs grants	80% of CSO grants to increase awareness on the UPR were carried out in this quarter	80%
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 October 2010 the project requested a six month no cost extension from the ITF. The request was made in order to be able to complete the final activities of the project, which include the completion of information activities and the project's final conference on the UPR. The final conference in particular required more time in order for the aims and content of the conference to be planned with the MoHR. The extension was granted and the project will now run until 27th May 2011.</p> <p>In this quarter the project completed shadow reporting training activities and oversaw the implementation of 10 awareness grants on the UPR:</p> <p>1. MOHR and CSOs have the capacity to report on the HR situation in Iraq based on UPR mechanism.</p> <p>Under this output no major activities were carried out during this quarter. Planned training for the MoHR Media Unit on communicating information to the public on the UPR had to be postponed until January 2011 as a result of timing constraints and other commitments for MoHR participants. The training has now been scheduled for mid January and a specialist consultancy company has been contracted by UNOPS.</p>

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

In the previous quarter the project started a package of four training workshops on shadow reporting to treaty bodies for Iraqi human rights organisations. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th workshops were implemented in this quarter, completing the series. The trainings were attended on average by 23 participants from NGOs from across the country. The same organisations attended each training in the series as part of the objective to build knowledge on shadow reporting to each human rights treaty signed and/or ratified by Iraq.

The overall objective of the training package was to help civil society to monitor and report on the human rights situation in Iraq through international mechanisms. The training series focused on the reporting mechanisms and the role of civil society in shadow reporting. Topics included legal frameworks, international standards for reporting and data collection, drafting skills and monitoring and advocacy work as follow up to treaty body observances. The trainings were delivered through a specialist consultancy, which used Arabic speaking human rights experts as trainers. The overall assessment of participants by the trainers at the end of the training package was that the workshops had significantly increased participant knowledge of the treaty bodies and built their capacity to draft shadow reports. It was noted that all participants need to engage themselves in regular report writing as part of their NGO work in order to improve their skills and reap the full benefit of the training series.

A number of officials from MoHR were invited to attend each of the training workshops in order to share experience and promote dialogue between government and civil society. The presence of MoHR officials was welcomed by the NGO participants and fruitful exchange was made during each workshop. Although government presence was initially limited to selected sessions, the success of their participation led to requests from the NGOs that the officials attend all sessions in order to continue their discussions and exchange. This was done during the 3rd and fourth workshops.

During the quarter work on 10 civil society grants continued. The purpose of the grants is for human rights organisations to raise public awareness of the UPR for Iraq and its implications. The grants were awarded in the previous quarter to 10 organisations from across the country. Grant activities include information seminars and workshops as well as radio programmes, poster campaigns and other similar awareness activities. Target groups range from specific groups such as youth and minorities to the general public depending on the grant concerned. The grant activities and target groups were all designed and proposed by the organisations themselves during the proposal stage. The majority of grant activities were completed in this quarter. The few remaining activities will be carried out in the next quarter.

Following the success and momentum of one UPR grant implemented in Myssan, whose main activities were attended by key local government officials, the Myssan Provincial Council held a conference on human rights in the governorate to commemorate Human Rights Day in December 2010. The conference involved local NGOs as well as local government and international stakeholders. It focused on a number of key human rights issues including security and violence, access to basic social services, women's rights and detainee rights. The Provincial Council intends to make the conference an annual event and has set up an official committee to follow up on conference recommendations.

Main implementation constraints & challenges

Activists and advocacy organizations do not enjoy freedom of expression and are often subject to suppression by different groups including state forces. During the quarter one activist participating in the project was exposed to this risk along with his family as a result of his work as a human right activist (although there was no direct link established between the events and his participation in the UPR project)