



**UNDG Iraq Trust Fund  
ANNUAL PROGRAMME<sup>1</sup> NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT  
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2010**

<b>Programme Title &amp; Number</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme Title: Restoration of Al Askari Shrine in Samarra City and Rehabilitation of Other Damaged Sites Throughout Iraq</li> <li>• Programme Number 66992 C10-08</li> <li>• MDTF Office Atlas Number: 54992</li> </ul>

<b>Country, Locality(s), Thematic Area(s)<sup>2</sup></b>
<p><i>Iraq, Salah Al Din, Samarra Economic Development (ERDSOT)</i></p>

<b>Participating Organization(s)</b>
<p><i>UNESCO (Lead) and UNDP</i></p>

<b>Implementing Partners</b>
<p>National counterparts Iraqi Government, Prime Minister's Office, Qaim Maqamiyat (Samarra Mayor City Council) and Local Tribal leaders</p>

<b>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</b>	
MDTF Fund Contribution:	\$8,000,000
• UNESCO	5,400,000
• UNDP	2,600,00
Agency Contribution	
• UNDP TRAC 3	\$225,000
Government Contribution	\$3,000,000
Other Contribution (donor)	
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>11,225,000</b>

<b>Programme Duration (months)</b>	
Overall Duration	12 months
Start Date <sup>3</sup>	21 February 2007
Original End date	21 February 2008
Revised End Date	UNESCO 30 June 2011 UNDP 31 October 2011
Operational Closure Date <sup>4</sup>	
Expected Financial Closure Date	

<b>Programme Assessments/Mid-Term Evaluation</b>
<p>Assessment Completed - if applicable <i>please attach</i>  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: An evaluation is planned for 2011            Mid-Evaluation Report – if applicable <i>please attach</i>  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: _____</p>

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<sup>1</sup> The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.  
<sup>2</sup> Priority Area for the Peacebuilding Fund; Sector for the UNDG ITF.  
<sup>3</sup> The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MDTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MDTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org) (<http://mdtf.undp.org>).  
<sup>4</sup> All activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MDTF programme have been completed. Agencies to advise the MDTF Office.

## **NARRATIVE**

### **I. Purpose**

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.

### **Main outputs and outcomes/objectives:**

- Output 1.1: Urgent intervention works on Al-Askari Shrine in Samarra completed: Site protected and cleaned, materials classified, and structure reinforced (UNESCO).
- Output 1.2: Prepare works for the restoration project of the Al-Askari Shrine in Samarra completed. (UNESCO).
- Output 1.3: Personnel of State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) in technical areas related to restoration and preservation trained.
- Output 2.1 Highest priority damaged religious sites rehabilitated (UNDP).
- Output 2.2: Contribute towards reconciliation, restoration of stability and security, consensus and peace building.
- Output 3.1: Implement sub-projects related to the Samarra Shrine completed (UNDP).
- Output 3.2: Community ownership through involvement in sub-project identification and implementation promoted.
- Output 3.3: Generation of temporary short and medium term employment opportunities.

### **Relevance to UN frameworks**

During 2010 the UN Country Team made a transition in the documents in which it used. Three key new documents were developed which have a direct affect on this project and UNESCO/ UNDP-Iraq. These documents are described below.

### **2011-2014 (UNDAF)**

. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2011-2014 is the first for Iraq, marking a significant milestone in the nation's recovery and transition towards longer term development. Based upon and prepared in parallel with the Iraq Five Year National Development Plan (NDP) 2010-2014,

the UNDAF provides a coherent and coordinated strategy for the delivery of UN assistance that embodies the Paris Principles, and supports the newly elected Iraqi administration in meeting its various obligations. The focus of the UNDAF implementation is to foster national capacity and leadership of the development process, within governmental, non-governmental and social institutions, in order to transition the country from the impact of violence and repression characterizing recent decades. Five UNDAF priorities have been identified, providing the scope and strategic direction of the UN system's support to Iraq in the next four years, namely:

1. Improved governance, including the protection of human rights.
2. Inclusive, more equitable and sustainable economic growth.
3. Environmental management and compliance with ratified international environmental treaties and obligations.
4. Increased access to quality essential services.
5. Investment in human capital and empowerment of women, youth and children.

### Country Programme Document (CPD)

The first Country Programme of UNDP Iraq was endorsed by GoI and approved by the Executive Board of UNDP on 3 September 2010. The Country Programme is aligned with the National Development Plan and is nested within the UNDAF. The Country Programme takes into account that UNDP operates under the overall mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) focussing on the role of supporting the Government of Iraq (GoI) in the transition towards national reconciliation, peace and stability through work on governance, poverty alleviation, economic recovery and environment guided by conflict prevention and recovery approaches identified in five outcomes and respective outputs. Five Country Programme priorities have been identified, providing the scope and strategic direction of UNDP to Iraq in the next four years, namely:

- 1) GoI and civil society have strengthened participatory mechanisms in place for electoral processes, national dialogue and reconciliation
- 2) Enhanced rule of law, protection and respect for human rights in line with international standards
- 3) Strengthened regulatory frameworks, institutions and processes in place for accountable, transparent and participatory governance at national and local levels
- 4) GoI has the institutional framework to develop and implement MDG-based pro-poor, equitable and inclusive socio-economic and environmental policies and strategies
- 5) Enabling policy and frameworks for rapid economic recovery, inclusive and diversified growth and private sector development

### **Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP)**

The CPAP of UNDP Iraq was signed by the Ministry of Planning 14 March 2011. The CPAP is a signed legal agreement between the Government and UNDP based upon the Country Programme Document. The 2011-2014 CPAP is a four-year living document defining the mutual cooperation and programme of work shared between the Government and UNDP. It is a response to the specific challenges identified in the UN Common Country Assessment 2009 and the UN response as outlined in the UN Development Assistance Framework 2011-2014. These, in turn, take account of the Millennium Development Goals, the Iraq National Development Plan as well as the lessons learned from past UNDP programming in Iraq. The CPAP, has been prepared in close consultation with key stakeholders, defines the goals, and broad outline of strategies and activities that the Government and UNDP jointly subscribe to, with agreed financial

parameters. The CPAP further elaborates the five CPD outcomes and respective outputs of UNDP which has incorporated this ITF project.

### **Economic Reform and Diversification Sector Outcome Team (ERDSOT).**

The programme directly addresses the joint UN Assistance Strategy for Iraq within the Sector Outcome Team for Economic Reform and Diversification (ERDSOT).

Economic recovery is one of the major challenges faced in post-conflict societies. While economic development effectively reduces the risk of relapsing into conflict, it takes a long time. Over the past couple of years, Iraq has shown good signs of economic recovery. Despite notable economic improvements, however, the political and security situation is still a detriment to sustained macroeconomic development. This project is aimed to increase tourism and build heritage sites and tolerance which is in line with enhancing key sectors of local economy in most deprived areas indentified in Outcome 2 in the ERDSOT.

This project's key objectives are the promotion of national reconciliation, safeguarding Iraq's cultural heritage, strengthening national capacity and promoting and ensuring national ownership.

### **UN Millennium Development Goals**

Within the Samarra Project MDGs are being addressed. The project is providing access of MDG 2 Target 1 for primary education and MDG 3 Target 1 on gender disparity in primary and secondary levels. This project also addresses MDG 4 and MDG 5 for maternal and child health. The Samarra Project also addresses MDG 7 Target 3 on access to safe drinking water. Additionally, the structure of participation in Samarra is also looking at issues within MDG 3 with women being empowered in decision making.

This project contributes towards the attainment of the MDGs in Iraq by working towards reconciliation and a more stable community that will foster the necessary environment for building consensus in priority setting of expenditure for service delivery, pride in their community and reducing the level of poverty. The project contributes to the attainment of the MDGs, in particular MDG 1, by fostering reconciliation and peace building within the Samarra community as a result of the positive impact of employment creation and income generation through the emergency infrastructure projects and a boost to the economy with the return of religious tourism.

### **Iraqi National Development Strategy (NDS)**

The NDS emphasizes that fostering participatory dialogue and cultural heritage are key to addressing challenges facing peace building. This project seeks to build tolerance and reduce tensions in Iraq by restoring the damaged Samarra Al-Askari Shrine as well as other damaged religious sites around the Shrine. It engages the leadership of both religious sects to work together as well as the community. Two pillars that have been covered have been in the Education Pillar within a) physical rehabilitation and reconstruction of primary and secondary schools and the Health Pillar in within the overarching objective of health care to "promote health and improve access to quality health care irrespective of ethnic, religious or geographic origin or socio economic status".

### **The International Compact with Iraq (ICI)**

The ICI sets out certain features that directly relate to this community peace building activity. Section 3.1.1 The Government will widen dialogue to promote unity and national reconciliation. Programs will be carried out to achieve genuine dialogue between parties in conflict aimed at lessening tensions in Baghdad and other strife torn parts of the country.

## II. Resources

UNESCO: The Government of Iraq has provided a contribution of USD 3,000,000 for UNESCO component activities.

UNDP: An amount of USD 225,000 UNDP Core Resources (TRAC 3) was initially mobilized for the launching of the first four projects for the purpose of fostering stability and creating employment for the poorest families in Samarra. Subsequently, the European Commission provided an additional USD 2.6 to UNDP under this ITF project. At the end of 2010 UNDP is committed to 91.37% and has disbursed 54.85% of funds.

- Provide details on any budget revisions approved by the appropriate decision-making body, if applicable.

First extension approved by ITF from 22 February 2008 till 31 December 2009

Second Extension approved by ITF from 31 December until 30 September 2010

Third Extension approved by ITF from 30 September 2010 until: 30 June 2011 for UNESCO and 31 October 2011 for UNDP.

The above mentioned budget revisions allowed the necessary funding for the budget line relating to national and international staff according to the requested extensions.

**Good practices and constraints in the mechanics of the financial process, times to get transfers, identification of potential bottlenecks, need for better coordination, etc.**

### Constraints

- Operational - delays in construction.
- Organizational – institutional capacity: limited size of counterpart team in Samarra.
- Security situation delayed the implementation of works.
- Limited opportunities for movement to Samarra.

### Project Issues (Remedial Actions- Good Practices)

#### UNESCO

- **Project Issue:** The contract signed with the specialized contractor in June 2007 for the implementation of the Phase I of the restoration of the Al-Askari Shrine was cancelled in May 2008 because the contractor failed to start site works.
- **Good Practice:** UNESCO went ahead with the implementation of the interim and signed a new contract with the Iraqi Technical Committee for the Restoration of the Al-Askari Shrine- Office of the Prime Minister
- **Project Issue:** UNESCO had in place a permanent Site Manager from May 2008 to April 2009, to oversee day to day implementation. Backstopped by the Project Manager in Amman who coordinated all the implementation process while arranging regular visits to the site.
- **Good Practice:** After April 2009 UNESCO decided to employ a CCTV monitoring equipments to assess and monitor technical matters from Amman office the works on site as well as for security reasons. This technology allows UNESCO Project Manager to follow assessments and implementation from Amman without having a permanent Site Manager.

## UNDP

- **Good Practice:** The community and decision makers worked together to identify priorities within the community which resulted in the Samarra Development Agenda published in both Arabic and English May 2009. US Department of State has stated that this model has proved helpful at the Governorate level.
- **Project Issue:** The first procurement exercises UNDP carried out to procure programme sub-projects' works were all concluded as non-responsive and therefore unsuccessful. This resulted in delays of more than five months.
- **Good Practice:** UNDP pursued a comprehensive outreach programme broadening the pool of potential local contractors. This proved successful as reflected by the outcome of recent procurement exercises.
- **Remedial Actions:** UNDP decided to launch the project through a national execution hybrid modality concluded with a Letter of Agreement (LoA) with Qaim Maqamiyat.
- **Project Issues:** Following entering into a LoA with the counterparts, security deterioration resulted in works being halted several times by the contractor.
- **Good Practice:** UNDP initiated a capacity strengthening initiative with a view to build the counterparts' capacity in relevant technical and commercial fields. This resulted in positive outcomes that are maintained to date. UNDP delivered a capacity development workshop with the same objective.
- **Good Practice:** UNDP is collaborating with relevant local actors to support programme implementation.

### Human Resources:

- National Staff:

**UNESCO:** 2 National Staff recruited (1 at Iraq Office in Amman and 1 in Samarra) paid directly by the project. Other National Staff working on Operations Support Functions co-shared on pro-rated partial basis.

**UNDP:** 1 National Staff recruited on the project and a Project Assistant recruited to work within operations. Support Functions co-shared on pro-rated partial basis.

- International Staff:

**UNESCO:** 1 Project Manager and 1 expert as Site Manager (May 2008 to April 2009) in Samarra.

**UNDP:** 1 Project Manager and support functions co-shared on pro-rated partial basis.

### III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

**UNESCO:** UNESCO and the Iraqi Technical Committee signed a contract for the preparation of the final Restoration Project in October 2008. UNESCO purchased technical equipments and trained Iraqi engineers/architects in order to implement this activity.

Several groups of UNESCO experts undertook field missions to supervise and implement the works. From May 2008 to April 2009, UNESCO had a permanent expert in the field assisted by a local engineer. Backstopped by the Project Manager in Amman who coordinated all the implementation process while arranging regular visits to the site, the team was composed of one UNESCO expert (Site Manager) and an Iraqi engineer from Samara. The team was also strengthened by an advisory group of UNESCO experts in architectural restoration dedicated to the project who undertook missions on site when the security situation and logistics began to allow for such.

From April 2009 2010, UNESCO employed CCTV monitoring equipment to assess and monitor technical matters from long distance for the restoration of the Al-Askari Shrine monitor from Amman office the works on site as well as for security reasons.

UNESCO has regular meetings with the Technical Committee for the Samara Shrine Restoration established by the Iraqi Prime Minister to coordinate activities on site, to evaluate progress of works and to exchange views regarding the implementation of the project.

**UNDP:** UNDP made a choice based on the prevailing security situation and restrictions placed on the movement of UN staff over the majority of Iraq, factoring in the unique security conditions in Samarra City. This resulted in the Samarra Qaim Maqamiyat and its team of engineers and architects being chosen to implement the project through an LOA. This project design is a hybrid moving close to national execution implementation modality. Several assessments were carried out in strict coherence to procedures to ensure counterparts possessed the implementation capacity.

Local Samarra contractors are employed by the Qaim Maqamiyat to implement works. In this way, the projects are contributing indirectly to reconciliation and peace building among the Samarra community. An independent monitoring consultant verifies the quality and quantity of works implemented at each stage through progress reports. The UNDP infrastructure team quality assesses, approves and quality controls all the completed works as per the original designs and Bill of Quantities as well as ensures that procurement standard operating procedures are followed.

#### **Details on the procurement procedures utilized and explain variances in standard procedures.**

All procurement activities included in this project are implemented according to UNESCO's standard rules and procedures of international competitive bidding. Within this framework, procurement for goods up to a ceiling of \$100,000 may be undertaken directly by the Amman based team. For procurement of goods above \$100,000, a committee in Headquarters reviews and authorizes the contract in question.

UNDP Iraq follows the Financial Regulation and Rules (FRR) and the Procurement Manual posted under the Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP) which provides the framework to carry out procurement processes. The following bullets serve as guiding principles within the procurement process at UNDP Iraq. These principles are:

- Best Value for Money
- Fairness, Integrity, Transparency
- Effective International Competition

Further, in order to ensure compliance with UNDP regulations, rules, policies and procedures, all procurement activities at UNDP-Iraq are subject to a review and approval process prior to an award of a procurement contract.

#### **Monitoring:**

**UNESCO:** UNESCO has monthly meetings with the Technical Committee for the Samarra Shrine Restoration established by the Iraqi Prime Minister to coordinate activities in site, to evaluate progress of works and to exchange views regarding the implementation of the project. From May 2008 to April 2009 an UNESCO Site Manager was located in Samarra for work on the Samarra Shrine to follow the works and evaluate the progress. Any problems were reported to the Samarra Shrine Project Manager. Additionally, UNESCO has installed during this reporting period a CCTV monitoring system in order to allow UNESCO to remotely monitor the implementation of the works from the Amman Office.

**UNDP:** The implementation of three religious and priority infrastructure projects related to the Al-Askari Shrine are completed, while the fourth has been identified in this reporting period. All the projects are being regularly monitored. The Samarra City Qaim Maqamiyat has set up a Local Project Team who is on site daily to monitor the progress and quality of implemented works. The Local Project Team carries out all required progress reporting and certification of works as well as monitors quality. This ensures that sub-contractors for various technical works (electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, etc) comply with the Bill of Quantities of the projects.

UNDP's technical team is fully engaged in advising and guiding the sub-contractors throughout the implementation phase. The implementing agents are paid in arrears based on predetermined milestones that are independently verified by UNDP's Consultant. Progress of works and the submission of all supporting documentation by the contractor including monthly progress reports, photography of before, during and after and quality control verification of the works are required before payment.

## **Lessons Learnt**

Phase I provided much instruction on the rehabilitation of buildings and restoration of religious sites to foster reconciliation within a volatile environment; how best to build the capacity of the communities in selecting priorities in the aftermath of conflict? UNDP worked with the communities to find a balance and accommodate a variety of opinions and priorities to prevent future flash points resulting in the rehabilitation of two other religious sites which were the Al Shaheed Mosque and the Hassan Pasha Mosque damaged by in the aftermath of the 22 February 2006 bombing. Additionally, during Phase I two schools were rehabilitated and reopened, after occupation by security forces, which were the Mixed Secondary School for Girls and Boys and the Al Riyadh Primary School for Boys.

UNDP decided early-on that the Samarra Project would become one of the first hybrid National Execution Projects in which capacity would developed within the communities and local government. UNDP was challenged as the situation was violent and in Samarra City there were opposing groups and common priorities needed to be identified. UNDP initiated partnership and capacity development with the Mayor and Local Authorities which resulted in a process being identified that encouraged the bringing of the communities together to set priorities and agree on how to move forward within UNDP's component of this project. This was a lengthy and difficult process but took the dialogue away from violence toward the future and allowed their input, respecting differences of opinion that resulted in increased tolerance and finding consensus for the four initial projects.

Early in Phase I the Mayor's Office, Qaim Maqamiyat, was empowered to execute the UNDP Samarra projects. Simultaneously, UNDP facilitated quality control through an independent engineering consulting firm which verified quantity and quality of works, audited and certified all payment requests. As works were progressing on the initial four projects, the Qaim Maqamiyat, the Community Elders and the Shiekhs reinitiated the process of bringing communities together and identifying priorities for the UNDP second

phase. Discussion for priorities in Phase II involved extensive discussions resulting in a lengthy list of desires. Through a series of negotiations and prioritization exercises Phase II projects were identified and consensus reached that was very much in line with development recovery and the Millennium Development Goals. Three major projects were identified in Samarra all of which are community-based public services.

The consensus reached in Phase II of the UNDP component of this project includes the rehabilitation of a Samarra City Water Treatment Plant, rehabilitation and extension of the surgical unit at Samarra General Hospital, and the construction of a playground in Samarra City. Through this community based process of identifying priorities one of the salient ideas was to conduct a workshop focused on identifying future direction in Samarra City furthering the reconciliation process.

The Workshop was conducted during 2008 which brought in segments from all different groups in the society including women and youth. There were activities for capacity development conducted including procurement, contracting procedures and other enabling tools.

A major result of this Workshop was that the Qaim Maqamiat acquired additional institutional capacity and confidence. This led the participants to integrate what they learned into work routines especially in procurement and contracting in Samarra. During this project, the Qaim Maqamiat and UNDP together initiated bringing in the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) as a partner for improved synergy and development cooperation. This has resulted in the PRT in March 2010 taking the Mayor of Samarra to Washington D.C. U.S.A. and suggesting that Samarra is a model for Iraq. This is an example of Department of State, Local Officials and the UN working together: in harmony.

Another spin off result of the Workshop has been the establishment of a Planning Commission within the Samarra Municipality. This is the first time that they have a planning unit which oversees the implementation of the Samarra Development Plan, monitors the progress and seeks budgets from the Governorate and Federal Budgets. This is young but the expected results are showing encouraging progress.

#### **Assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken.**

**UNESCO:** A team of ten (10) UNESCO 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” activity. During this reporting period interim reports have been submitted by the experts on;

- Building materials and fine arts
- Completion of structural studies
- Architectural studies and final project.

The following reports were submitted:

- Technical reports define the level of intervention including methods and material related to the building materials and fine Arts, structural studies, mechanical and electrical studies and Architectural studies

**UNDP:** Assessment of the Al Lateen Church in Baghdad was conducted and works started in November 2008 and completed in 2010.

Assessment at the Samarra General Hospital on the rehabilitation and evaluation on the extension of the operations block/ surgical theatre and pre-post operative sections was conducted and works completed in 2010.

A study was undertaken to develop designs, technical specifications and drawings for the installation of a water treatment plant in Samarra during 2010 with completion anticipated in 2011.

External Evaluation is under preparation and will be completed during 2011.

#### **IV. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2010 with the bidding opened in 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter. During 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter bidding was opened but due to technical changes rebidding had to be re-launched in late 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2010. During 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.
- Report on the key outputs achieved in the reporting period including # and nature of the activities (inputs), % of completion and beneficiaries.

Key Outputs and Nature of Activities			
UNESCO			
		Beginning of 2010 % of planned	End of 2010 % of planned
Mobilization activity (building site installations)	Completed	100	100
Removing any outside elements that may lead to further collapses.	Completed	100	100
Cleaning the site and within the Shrine building	Completed	100	100
Classifying, originating and storing the discovered architectural elements and the materials scattered on the site in a temporary warehouse;	Completed	100	100
Urgent preventive works	Completed	100	100
Historical Documentation	Completed	80	100
Architectural Documentation	UNESCO has purchased related equipments and trained Iraqi engineers/architects on its use. Completed	50	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	80	100
Final Project and Tender Submission Documentation	This activity started in July 2010	10	30

UNDP			
		Beginning of 2010 % of planned	End of 2010 % of planned
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	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	100
Rehabilitation of Al Shaheed Mosque	It was one of the damaged mosques. Works at the site were very risky at times.	100	100
Rehabilitation of Hassan Pasha Mosque	The works were suspended on several occasions as a result of the deterioration in security.	100	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.	95	100
Rehabilitation of Al Lateen Church in Baghdad	The works completed during 2nd Quarter 2009.	100	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 opening ceremony is planned during 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2010.	90	100
Construction of a new Playground in Al Muatasim suburb area in Samarra	Land has been cleared with legal papers provided during 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2010. Project is under a local competitive tender process. During 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter UNDP has not received the tender.	30	63
Provision and installation of a Water Treatment Plant in Samarra	The bidding process was launched during 1 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>rd</sup> quarter. The contract was made ready for signature in December 2010 but delayed in operations. This will be awarded and signed in January 2011.	35	70

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned
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 Samarra. Women from all over the country and internationally who attend or are pilgrims to the Shrine. Women who are Christian in Baghdad.	98% UNDP- UNESCO
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	n/a	
Others	n/a	
Indirect beneficiaries	n/a	
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

## **Delays in programme implementation, the nature of the constraints, actions taken to mitigate future delays and lessons learned in the process.**

The delay in project implementation was mainly due to the security issue in Samarra. The second bombing of the Shrine on 13 June 2007 caused delay in the start of the field works. The contract was signed on 25 June 2007 but the contractor could not start works because of the volatile security situation in Samarra.

UNESCO initiated field works in February 2008 after the Iraqi Government secured the site and the road between Baghdad and Samarra. The Technical Committee, which is directly affiliated to the Office of the Prime Minister of Iraq joined UNESCO at the site and then, put in place all necessary technical and security requirements in order to complete the project.

UNDP entered into a Letter of Agreement with the Qaim Maqamiyat due to several stoppages in works by the contractor related to deterioration in security delaying the project more than six months. Procurement sub-projects were unsuccessful and had to be redone resulting in delays of more than five months. Presently delays are being faced on the initiation of the playground due to delays in land ownership clearance and with the water plant which has been resolved and under construction at the time of completing this report.

- List the key partnerships and collaborations, and explain how such relationships impact on the achievement of results.

### **UNESCO**

The main counterpart is the Iraqi Government, Technical Committee for the Samarra Shrine Restoration established by the Iraqi Prime Minister Office, Qaim Maqamiyat and Local Tribe leaders which are all in charge of:

1. Securing the Samarra site and access roads
2. Installing mobilization and security site equipments
3. Allowing the contractor to start the field works.

At the time of this report, the security situation in Samarra City is improved and UNESCO continues field works started in February 2008. UNESCO has regular meetings with the Technical Committee for the Samarra Shrine restoration to coordinate activities on site, to evaluate progress of works and to support UNESCOs involvement in the project implementation.

### **UNDP**

As a consequence of the restrictions placed on the movement of UN staff in Iraq, UNDP has pursued ways to overcome the situation on the ground in order to reach the target populations. Hence, a strong partnership has developed with the Samarra local authorities, religious and community leaders resulting in a LoA with the Qaim Maqamiyat. This arrangement is a hybrid moving towards a hybrid national execution which has allowed UNDP to assess the local capacities for project implementation as well as to support its counterparts in identifying and reaching consensus on major development priorities. UNDP has completed the works in Baghdad and continues its works in Samarra.

- Other highlights and cross-cutting issues pertinent to the results being reported on.
  - There are five cross cutting issues in UNDP. These are: Gender, Environment, Youth, Human Rights and Capacity Development.
  - Security: the security in Samarra is now guaranteed. The Government of Iraq posted troops to secure the city and the Shrine.
  - Employment: the start of the field works at the Samarra Shrine had already guaranteed the employment of about 600 workers from Samarra and other works in Samarra has guaranteed employment of about 1,200 workers
  - Gender: the participatory process has enabled increase involvement of women and their input into the priorities in their community.
  - MDG: Focus and working on multiple MDGs.
- Provide an assessment of the programme/ project based on performance indicators as per approved project document using the template in Section VIII, if applicable.

#### **Future Work Plan**

UNDP: Completion of Samarra Water Treatment Plant which will signal operational closure.

#### **Indicate any major adjustments in strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs planned.**

n/a

**Outcome 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.**

	<b>Performance Indicator</b>	<b>Indicator Baseline</b>	<b>Planned Indicator Established</b>	<b>Achieved Indicator Target</b>	<b>Means of Verification.</b>
<p><b>Output 1.1:</b> Urgent intervention works on Al-Askari Shrine in Samarra completed: Site protected and cleaned, materials classified, and structure reinforced (UNESCO).</p>	<p><b>Indicator 1.1.1</b> Established a Project Steering Committee (PSC) comprised of 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>No structure or committee in place</p>	<p>Establish a Project Steering Committee</p>	<p>Steering Committee Established</p> <p>UNDP and community established Qaim Maqamiyat to act as a steering committee in Samarra</p>	<p>Reports</p> <p>Samarra Recovery Plan</p> <p>Visual Verification</p>
	<p><b>Indicator 1.1.2</b> Under the guidance of UNESCO restoration experts and the supervision of trained SBAH specialists, a selected international</p>	<p>Demolished shrine following the two bombings</p>	<p>Restoration of the shrine. Restoration works contributing to peace and reconciliation among the religious communities in Samarra City.</p>	<p>Urgent preventive works have been 100% completed</p> <p>The removal of outside elements that may lead to further collapses has been 100 % completed</p>	<p>Assessment of the works completed according to the terms of reference/ Certificates of Substantial Completion</p> <p>Regular works progress reports, Site meeting reports, photos</p>

	company will undertake urgent and preventive works to preserve the site.				Documenting the progress of works.
<b>Output 1.2</b> Prepare works for the restoration project of the Al-Askari Shrine in Samarra completed. (UNESCO).	<b>Indicator 1.2.1</b> Under the guidance of UNESCO restoration experts and the supervision of trained SBAH specialists, a selected international company undertook works preparing the final restoration project of the Al Askari Shrine in Samarra.	Perpetrate works has been undertaken, planning a final restoration project of the Al-Askari Shrine in Samarra	Contractor selected and contract signed.  Iraqi workers employed at the site and staff trained	Adherence to UNESCO procurement rules and regulations  Certificates of Substantial Completion Municipality records and reports  Documentation through employment and training records of 600 Iraqis benefiting the Samarra community  Regular works progress reports,  Site meeting reports, photos documenting the progress of works	Adherence to UNESCO rules and regulations.
	<b>Indicator 1.2.2</b> UNESCO will prepare the project document and the budget estimate for the restoration phase (Phase II)				
<b>Output 1.3</b> Personnel of State Board	<b>Indicator 1.3.1:</b> Arranged and	Indicate available technical capacity to	Available trained SBAH personnel	Overall ten Iraqi architects and engineers	Documentation through training records

of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) in technical areas related to restoration and preservation trained	delivered 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	conduct restoration works	capable of conductive restoration works.  A first training of Iraqi engineers and architects on monitoring and following up.  A second training of five Iraqi engineers and architects on use of purchased technical equipments has been 100% completed	have been trained	benefiting Samarra community
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**Outcome 2** To initiate the process of rehabilitation of other damaged religious sites throughout Iraq as part of the reconciliation process.

<b>Output 2.1</b> Highest priority damaged religious rehabilitated (UNDP).	<b>Indicator 2.1.1</b> Identified, as endorsed by PSC, other priority religious sites considered for rehabilitation, which ultimately included two mosques (one Shiite and one Sunni) and one church.	Religious sites in poor condition  Shrine bombed twice  Sectarian violence in Samarra	Restoration of religious sites	Two (2) Mosques rehabilitated in Samarra by UNDP  One (1) Church in Baghdad rehabilitated	Visual verification  Site visits and inspections  CCTV monitoring  Photo documentation  Certificates of Substantial Completion
	<b>Indicator 2.1.2</b> Undertook comprehensive site assessment, perform all required	Structural damage due to bombing and age of religious site	Site assessment completed  Drawings, research, and plans developed	All UNDP Religious structures completed	Site reports  CCTV Monitoring  Photo documentation

	structural stability studies and analyses assessment and defined the nature of required interventions.		Bills of Quantity		Certificates of Substantial Completion
	<b>Indicator 2.1.3</b> Performed networks analyses and studies assessing all water supply, wastewater, electrical power supply facility conditions and defined the nature of required interventions as deemed applicable for implementation.	Infrastructure if available requires repair  Upgrade need that is sensitive to the religious environment	Analysis and studies conducted  Interventions identified	Two (2) Mosque studies and interventions completed  One Church study completed  One Surgical Unit at Local Hospital completed	Site reports  CCTV Monitoring  Photo documentation  Certificates of Substantial Completion
	<b>Indicator 2.1.4</b> Prepared detailed construction drawings, specifications, bills of quantities, scope of works.	Building in need to repair	Drawings, specifications, BoQ completed at each phase of projects	Two Mosques completed.  Two schools completed.  Al Lateen Church Baghdad completed  Surgical Unit at Samarra Hospital nearing completion 90%  Playground pending clearance of land,  Water treatment	Access to drawings, procurement documents and Bill of Quantity

				plant design and specification completed	
	<b>Indicator 2.1.5</b> Rehabilitation activities, relying on local implementing partners wherever possible.	Sectarian violence in the city	Build partnership and find positive interactions to benefit Samarra	Establishment of Qaim Maqamiyat as a local partners  Signing of LoA	Dialogue ongoing between UNDP and Qaim Maqamiyat  Capacity development  Participatory process  Bridge with community
	<b>Indicator 2.1.6</b> Preparing budget estimates for rehabilitating other priority religious sites and buildings.	Other religious sites and buildings require rehabilitation	Budgets prepared and priorities identified	Budgets completed and priorities completed	Budgets available
	<b>Indicator 2.1.7</b> 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.	Work evaluated from Phase I  Priorities and Community involved in Phase II Planning	Phase I completed  Phase II planned	Phase I Completed  Rehabilitation of Al Riyadh Primary School for Boys  Rehabilitation of Mixed Secondary School  Rehabilitation of al Shaheed Mosque  Rehabilitation of Hassan Pasha Mosque  Phase II  Publication of	Monitoring  Photo documentation  Certificates of Substantial Completion  Access copy of publication in both Arabic and English Site reports  CCTV Monitoring  Photo documentation  Certificates of Substantial Completion

				Samarra Development Agenda May 2009 Rehabilitation completed on Al Lateen Church in Baghdad	
<p><b>Output 2.2</b> Contribute towards reconciliation, restoration of stability and security, consensus and peace building.</p>	<p><b>Indicator 2.2.1</b> 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>	Sectarian violence	Steering Committee established	<p>Steering Committee established</p> <p>LoA signed</p> <p>Qaim Maqamiyat established</p> <p>Community interaction increased and Samarra Recovery Agenda developed</p>	<p>Meetings with Steering Committee</p> <p>Copy document</p> <p>Meetings with Qaim Maqamiyat</p> <p>Publication can be accessed and is available in both English and Arabic</p>
	<p><b>Indicator 2.2.2</b> Development of media material illustrating the situation before and after the attacks on the Samarra Shrine and other religious</p>	N/A			

	<p>sites as part of an integrated campaign targeting reconciliation and peace building (UNESCO).</p>				
	<p><b>Indicator 2.2.3</b> Support the existing Iraqi-led Baghdad peace initiative in direct collaboration with the government, UNAMI and all involved local authorities (UNESCO).</p>	N/A			
	<p><b>Indicator 2.2.4</b> 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>	Sectarian violence	<p>Violence reduced</p> <p>Increased participation in projects</p>	<p>Violence reduced</p> <p>Communities more engaged in activities and identifying priorities in Phase II</p> <p>Priorities set by community through a participatory process</p> <p>Rehabilitation of Surgical Unit of Samarra General Hospital initiated</p> <p>Construction of a new playground in Al Muatasim suburb</p>	<p>Media and police/MNF-I records of violence in area</p> <p>Samarra Recovery Agenda</p>

				initiated	
				Identified installation of a water treatment plant	

**Outcome 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.**

<p><b>Output 3.1</b> Implement sub-projects related to the Samarra Shrine completed (UNDP).</p>	<p><b>Indicator 3.1.1</b> 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>No recovery agenda Sectarian violence</p>	<p>Recovery Agenda Developed</p>	<p>Samarra Recovery Workshop held  Samarra Development Plan published in both Arabic and English</p>	<p>Access to copy of letters of support to the Samarra Development Plan  Access to copy of both Arabic and English Samarra Development Plan</p>
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<p><b>Output 3.2</b> Community ownership through involvement in sub-project identification and implementation promoted.</p>	<p><b>Indicator 3.2.1</b> Community awareness campaign in local media and through other public outreach mechanisms (Friday prayer, posters, leaflets) (UNESCO).</p>	<p>N/A</p>			
	<p><b>Indicator 3.2.2</b> 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>Lack of dialogue  Sectarian violence in Samarra</p>	<p>Community engaged in process  In kind donations</p>	<p>Communities engaged in priority setting  GoI contributed 3,000,000 to Shrine restoration</p>	<p>Minutes, reports and other documentation</p>
<p><b>Output 3.3</b> Generation of temporary short and medium term employment opportunities</p>	<p><b>Indicator 3.3.1:</b> Following all necessary assessments, verifications, study, design, and implementation of some project activities through the labour intensive implementation modality and through employment of local community members (UNESCO and UNDP).</p>	<p>High unemployment</p>	<p>Establish employment opportunities</p>	<p>600 jobs 1,200 employment</p>	<p>Employment records with contractors and Qaim Maqamiyat</p>