

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #: F8-13
Date and Quarter Updated: April – June 2011 (2nd Quarter)

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

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

| |
|--|
| Development Goal and Immediate Objectives |
| <p>Project Outcome: Independent civil society and media enabled through legal and regulatory frameworks, professional development and strengthened institutions.</p> <p>Objective 1: Develop an active Federation between national institutions, such as the MoJ, the MoHR, the CMC, the Iraqi Bar Association, and CSOs, in promoting a greater understanding and the increased capacity to react to human rights issues, including raising awareness of human rights abuses in Iraq. This will result in the creation of an official federation of CSOs which will be responsible in the continued awareness raising and reporting on human rights issues among the general public, national institutions and the target groups.</p> <p>Objective 2: Strengthen the capacity of the targeted groups to promote a human rights system by providing practical tools to report and monitor human rights violations to national and international institutions.</p> <p>Objective 3: Increase the capacity of the targeted groups to cope with threats and professionals risk by providing practical tools on security issues to ensure their personal safety.</p> |

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

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Funds Committed (UNESCO) | US\$ 46,798.48 | % of approved | 7.94% |
| Funds Disbursed | US\$ 35,025.92 | % of approved | 5.94% |
| Forecast final date | July 2012 Request extension submitted | Delay (months) | 12 month |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Funds Committed (UNOPS) | US\$ 349,493.17 | % of approved | 85.14% |
| Funds Disbursed | US\$ 141,251.17 | % of approved | 34.41% |
| Forecast final date | July 2012 Request extension submitted | Delay (months) | 3 month |

*Above figures reflect actual commitments and disbursements out of a total UNOPS budget of \$410,458.

| Direct Beneficiaries | Number of Beneficiaries | % of planned (current status) |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Men | 0 | 0 |
| Women | 0 | 0 |
| Children | 0 | 0 |
| IDPs | 0 | 0 |
| Others | 220 Iraqi human rights Activists | 95% |
| Indirect beneficiaries | 0 | 0 |
| Employment generation (men/women) | 0 | 0 |

| Quantitative achievements against objectives and results | | % of planned |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
| Objective 1: Develop an active Federation between national institutions, such as the MoJ, the MoHR, the CMC, the Iraqi Bar Association, and CSOs, in promoting a greater understanding and the increased capacity to react to | <u>Activities</u> Consultative meetings to establish key issues within the domain of human rights in Iraq and to coordinate a unified response mechanism. Monthly news sheets and mailing list. | 100% 63% |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>human rights issues, including raising awareness of human rights abuses in Iraq. This will result in the creation of an official federation of CSOs which will be responsible in the continued awareness raising and reporting on human rights issues among the general public, national institutions and the target groups.</p> | <p>National Conference in Baghdad to launch a Federation of CSOs.</p> <p>The development and design of the interactive website was completed during the previous quarter and the site is now online at http://www.modafaun.com/. This site benefits activist, academics and journalists who are on a regularly growing mailing list and notified whenever articles or reports are uploaded to the site. The website is open to the public.</p> | <p>0%</p> <p>100%</p> |
| <p>Objective 2: Strengthen the capacity of the targeted groups to promote a human rights system by providing practical tools to report and monitor human rights violations to national and international institutions.</p> | <p>Trainings of trainers in human right protection systems completed in the last reporting period.</p> <p>Roundtables in human rights.</p> <p>Trainings in human rights protection and personal safety and security issues.</p> <p>Legal awareness training to governmental officials and lawyers.</p> | <p>100%</p> <p>100%</p> <p>0%</p> <p>0%</p> |
| <p>Objective 3: Increase the capacity of the targeted groups to cope with threats and professionals risk by providing practical tools on security issues to ensure their personal safety.</p> | <p>Trainings of trainers in personal safety and security issues.</p> <p>Establishment of two resources centres/hubs (Baghdad and Erbil).</p> <p>Reproducing and distributing of a Field Work Safety Manual.</p> | <p>10%</p> <p>0%</p> <p>0%</p> |

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

This quarter, UNESCO, in cooperation with UNAMI HRO, completed 12 consultative meetings held in Erbil, Basra & Baghdad. Participants from CSOs, media sector and the academic community discussed examples of human rights federation and its mandates, with the aim of coming up with recommendations on how an Iraqi active network could function. Due to prior commitments, no UNAMI HRO local staff could lead the discussion of the final meeting held Baghdad. However, the project partners agreed with the human rights protection trainer to facilitate the meeting discussions. For the next quarter, a Steering Committee will be set up to consolidate the meeting recommendations and prepare the Federation Charter and ToR.

In addition, UNAMI HRO conducted 12 roundtables on human rights as part of the consultative meeting under Output 1.1. as to keep supporting on human rights topics and issues. As part of UNOPS protection trainings on how to promote human rights protection systems, in coordination with UNAMI HRO, was carried out to attend the last segment of each training day which allowed for the interaction of UNAMI HRO with the participants to discuss issues such as UNAMI's role in Iraq and gave the participants the opportunity to theoretically create their own federations and how give ideas on how the structure's breakdown needed to be. This information was later collected by UNAMI HRO.

UNESCO has started recruitment of qualified and interested candidates for the 2 positions of safety and security coordinators, responsible for setting up the two Regional Resource Centres to be based in Erbil and Baghdad.

During this quarter, UNOPS organized 12 trainings in the protection mechanisms of human rights in Erbil, Basra & Baghdad. Civil society members trained in the last quarter of 2010 were able to deliver the protection seminars alongside the Ministry of Human Rights trainers to 20 trainees from the fields of academia, journalist and human rights activists/organizations across Iraq. Feedback received from the individuals trained was positive. The trainings conducted were in the field of human rights and provided participants with a solid background in human rights the mechanisms in which they would defend human rights principles in their daily work. Acquired knowledge of the participants was measured through written tests both prior to and after the trainings. In general there was a noted increase in the expertise the participants held in the field of human rights following the training. Additionally, participants were requested to rate the trainings and generally participants stated that they had gained from the experience and found it useful to partake in a civil society / Ministry of Human Rights joint training activity.

Main Challenges

According to the project document, this project is meant to end by July 14, 2011. However, more time is needed to complete and coordinate with the Iraqi counterparts the remaining activities. Therefore, an extension of the project for an additional 12 months has been requested.

The security situation in Iraq continues to be a factor affecting the implementation of the project. In the past month, a strategic decision to immediately implement elements of the project that would be in direct response to the SRSG's call to action for a rapid response to issues surfacing in Iraq as a result of the Arab Awakening that was taking place in Tunisia, Egypt and elsewhere in the region. In response to these rapidly changing times, UNESCO was forced to implement elements of the project while bids were being evaluated. This action now requires that UNESCO reissue the tender reflecting a reduced number of activities. The issuance of a new tender slowed down the project implementation. However, UNESCO expects to have an implementing partner in place by the end of August, so the remaining activities could be implemented in due time.

UNOPS, in coordination with its implementing partner and UNESCO, needs to begin preparing for the HRD national conference to discuss the situation of Human Rights Defenders in Iraq, and thus how to develop the Iraqi human rights system. This conference is also intended to serve as a launchpad for the National Federation of CSOs committed to enhance awareness of human rights issues and abuses in the country. UNOPS will coordinate with UNESCO to implement this last activity by the first week of September to complete tasks set out in the project document.