

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #:C9-20
Date and Quarter Updated: April - June, 2nd Quarter 2011

Participating UN Organisation: UNOPS

Sector: Governance

Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Iraqi Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) (part of Council of Representatives)

Title	Facilitating Reconciliation in Iraq through Constitutional Review and National Dialogue				
Geographic Location	Nationwide with bulk of activities in Baghdad.				
Project Cost	US\$ 6,033,807				
Duration	56 months				
Approval Date (SC)	16.10.2006	Starting Date	26.10.2006	Completion Date	26.10.2007 extended to 31.08.2011
Project Description	UNOPS is implementing this project with UNAMI Office of Constitutional Support to allow the continuation of UNAMI-OCS support to the constitutional review process in order to finalise a constitution that can truly be considered a social contract between the peoples of Iraq, and that in today's environment might double as a peace agreement in so far as a truly consensual document should see resolution of the key divisive issues in Iraq. The project includes activities in direct support of the CRC (infrastructural, organisation of Multi Party Dialogues, Study Tours, provision of constitutional) as well as assistance to the Iraqi civil society initiatives supporting process of constitutional review and national reconciliation.				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

Development Goal

To ensure transparent, inclusive, consensus-based resolution of divisive constitutional issues in Iraq through constitution-making processes, focusing in particular on the rule of law, federalism, governance and identity-based issues, by supporting Iraqi institutions through the review of the Constitution and through the implementation of constitutional mandated laws and by engaging key actors of the Iraqi society into reconciliation initiatives.

The project contributed to the following development goals set out for Iraq:

UN Assistance Strategy for Iraq

This project directly contributes to achieving the fourth goal of the UNCT Assistance Strategy matrix: *“To promote good governance and democratic processes, assist to uphold the rule of law and establish a human rights regime”*.

UN Millennium Development Goals

MDG: 8

“Develop a global partnership for Development”, point 1, which “...includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction— nationally and internationally.”

Iraqi National Development Strategy

The Programme contributes to the following Iraq National Development Goals:

“Strengthening good governance and security”

International Compact with Iraq

Benchmarks/Indicators: 4.2.1. (Engaging with Civil Society)

Immediate Objectives:

1. Provide support to key Iraqi governmental institutions, and in particular the Constitutional Review Committee, to manage the constitutional amendment process and implement constitutional mandated laws.
2. Nurture a consensus-based constitution-review and implementation process by raising the awareness of the key issues in such a way that they are prioritised, internationalised and technicised.
3. Increase inclusiveness and transparency of the constitutional review and implementation process and foster national reconciliation through public outreach and support to civil society initiatives.

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement	
Outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved management of the constitutional review process and implementation of constitutional mandated laws, and enhanced capacity, both operational and technical, of the Constitutional Review Committee in order to ensure optimal discharge of its responsibilities 2. Enhanced dialogue between political actors, based on improved understanding, of options for resolution of issues, for consensus-based constitution making process.. 3. Multi-stakeholders working towards the resolution of divisive constitutional issues, the contribution to cessation of violence to provide an environment for constructive dialogue 4. Empowerment of civil society to advocate constitutional and national reconciliation concerns.
Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide knowledge-based support to key Iraqi institutions, and develop panel of experts to contribute to elaboration of papers/present options on <i>ad hoc</i> workshops, on relevant topics to Constitution process when proposed by Iraqis counterparts. 2. Provide infrastructure support to the CRC, including Secretariat, and establish and support a Public Outreach Unit 3. Organise study tours relevant to the Constitutional process, and organise second-generation multiparty thematic dialogues on relevant topics. 4. Raise capacity of CRC and other negotiators through expert advice on negotiation and training workshops. 5. Engage on constitutionally-related reconciliation and transitional justice issues with HRO, Human Rights NGOs, UN agencies, Ministry of State for National Reconciliation, and others. 6. Receive proposals from NGOs, CSOs and academic institutions interested in carrying out initiatives of National Reconciliation, and support technically / financially selected proposals.
Procurement	Request for proposal launched – Provision of Grant Administrators to implement activities that will tackle outstanding constitutional issues.

Funds Committed	\$5,811,466.66	% of approved	96.3%%
Funds Disbursed	\$ 5,630,205.31	% of approved	93%
Forecast final date	05 th of July 2011	Delay (months)	

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men		
Women		
Children		
IDPs		
Others		
Indirect beneficiaries		
Employment generation (men/women)		

This project focuses on the support to the political processes, which can benefit the entire state of Iraq. Therefore it is not possible to distinguish particular categories and number of beneficiaries.

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results			
1. Provide support to key Iraqi governmental institutions, and in particular the Constitutional Review Committee, to manage the constitutional amendment process and implement constitutional mandated laws.	In the reporting period preparations were undertaken to organize a roundtable on “Concepts for a Future Legislative Framework on the Protection of the Rights of Ethnic and Religious Communities (Minorities) in Iraq,” with participation of key officials from the federal and regional governments, including representation from the Council of Ministers or Prime Minister’s Office. Another planned event included	% of planned	It is an ongoing process which following extension of the project will be continued for a longer period of time than originally envisioned.

	organising a VTC on Federation Council with participation of Council of Representatives members and an Oxford expert on federalism. The two events had to be postponed due to reasons beyond the control of the project (outlined in section on constraints) and a request for project extension was submitted to SCSO.		Achievements against the extended implementation period – 94% of planned with regards to objective 1 and 2 (no progress reported during the reporting period).
2. Nurture a consensus-based constitution-review and implementation process by raising the awareness of the key issues in such a way that they are prioritised, internationalised and technicised.	No activities took place in the reporting period due to the political situation caused by the protracted process of forming the Government of Iraq.	% of planned	Objective 3 Originally planned activities have been implemented in 100%. New activities implemented in 5%.
3. Increase inclusiveness and transparency of the constitutional review and implementation process and foster national reconciliation through public outreach and support to civil society initiatives.	Al Amal conducted 38 roundtables at the governorate level and 10 roundtables at the regional level. The number of participants in the governorate roundtables was around 700 people from different backgrounds. Additionally, Al Amal organized a national conference in Baghdad on Civil Society Partnerships with the COR to resolve pending constitutional issues. The conference was attended by 121 representatives from parliament, government offices, academia, lawyers, NGO activists, and journalists from all Iraqi governorates. Moreover, Al Amal conducted two interactive roundtables on the relations between parliament and civil society and on freedoms and social justice at the Council of Representatives venue. The roundtable discussed human rights on all levels and was attended by 38 people representing the Chairman of the Human Rights Committee in the CoR, the Chair of the Women and Childhood Committee, and 13 MPs from different committees.		

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

The qualitative achievements from Al Amal's project include members of the Iraqi government openly supporting, promoting, and recognizing the importance of civil society in helping to rebuild Iraq and including them in the constitutional review process. The head of the NGOs Directorate stated that Iraqi civil society proved its credibility through its dedicated work to support the democracy in the post war environment, and praised and wished success for this initiative.

Main implementation constrains & challenges (2-3 sentences)

Overall security situation in Iraq and limited access to beneficiaries;

Difficulties in planning of the project related to political situation in Iraq (in particular of the ongoing formation process of the Government of Iraq).

The project planned to organise roundtable on minorities and a VTC on Federation Council in Iraq. The roundtable on “Concepts for a Future Legislative Framework on the Protection of the Rights of Ethnic and Religious Communities (Minorities) in Iraq,” was originally scheduled for June 29. The decision on postponing the roundtable was taken on 26 June, when it was apparent that UNAMI had not yet been able to secure confirmation from key officials from the federal and regional governments, including representation from the Council of Ministers or Prime Minister’s Office.

With regards to the VTC on Federation Council the main consultant on the topic, an Oxford expert on federalism Cindy Skach, has not been able to secure her availability during the month of June due to health problems and then previously made commitments. A project extension request (till 31st of August) was submitted in order to implement the two events.