

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund

Project # 63765:C9-26

Date and Quarter Updated: 1 October- 31 December 2010 / 4th Quarter 2010

Participating UN Organisations: UNDP	Sector: Governance
Government of Iraq – Responsible Authority:	Communication and Media Commission

Title	Support the Media in its Role of Fostering Peace and Democracy				
Location	Baghdad, Erbil, Suleimanyah and Basrah				
Project Cost	6,131,285				
Duration	24 months				
Approval Date	04.12.2008	Starting Date	08.12.2008	Completion	08.12.2010 extended until 31.12.2011
Project Description	This Project promotes the development of an independent, pluralist and professional media. The project has three broad areas of intervention: (1) to develop or strengthen participatory processes leading to sustainable media self/co-regulatory mechanisms and legislative frameworks; (2) to support the development of local content; and (3) to identify the key institutions (e.g. training institutions, regulatory bodies and professional entities) for targeted capacity building to enhance professionalism.				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

Project Outcome:

Independent civil society and media enabled through legal and regulatory frameworks, professional development and strengthened institutions.

The project has three broad objectives:

Objective 1: Support regulatory frameworks to build capacity of an independent, pluralist and professional media leading to the articulation and/or enhancement of sustainable media self/co-regulatory mechanisms and legislative frameworks to protect fundamental human rights including the rights to freedom of expression, access to information and data protection.

Objective 2: Support to key institutions – e.g. training institutions, regulatory bodies and professional entities - for targeted training and capacity building to enhance professionalism.

Objective 3: Development of local content to support national dialogue and reconciliation through targeted training.

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement

Outputs

- 1.1 Increased dialogue and advocacy related to A38 legislation and A19 freedoms through establishment of a media law working group.
- 1.2 Increased understanding by government and media on right to know, data protection, and freedom of expression.
- 1.3 Increased dialogue and reconciliation at community level through the provision of six small grants to community-based media.
- 1.4 Increased exposure of media professionals to global media development through the provision of seven small grants for scholarships and study tours.
- 1.5 Availability of self-regulatory monitoring mechanisms at CSOs and media institutions.
- 1.6 Availability of quality media curricula at four media institutes and mass communication faculties.
- 1.7 Availability of media data setting the baseline for the media sector – UNESCO lead.
- 1.8 Increased capacity of independent news agency as a model for media in Iraq towards self-sufficiency.
- 1.9 CMC functions within a strategic plan.
- 1.10 Identified gaps and opportunities related to performance of IMN.

Output 1.2 Increased understanding by government and media on right to know, data protection, and freedom of expression.	
Activities	(UNDP Output) Training of Iraq Parliamentarians on the Right to Information law completed and current law being re-drafted. Second phase of support to Iraq in the Extractive Industry Transparency International (EITI) process under way.
Output 1.4 Increased exposure of media professionals to global media development through the provision of seven small grants for scholarships and study tours.	
Activities	(UNDP Output) Awarded a small grant to Iraqi Institute of Economic Reform (IIER) to monitor media coverage in Iraq of the oil industry. Awarded a grant to Aswat al Iraq's proposal to strengthen the institutional management capacity and improve Aswat's editorial content by improving its capacity to provide video and still images to clients. In this period, UNESCO announced the call for proposals on training journalists in the area of Sustainable Development. Seven local NGO proposals have been received and are currently being reviewed by UNESCO's Grants Committee. Support to the webinars activity completed.
Output 1.6 Availability of quality media curricula at four media institutes and mass communication faculties.	
Activities	(UNDP Output) The Curricula Development Steering Committee established to review and update the journalism curriculum has been working during this period, doing an assessment of the current curriculum in Iraq. Two proposals for the development of distance learning component have been submitted by two Steering Committee members from Rutgers University (virtual internship with international media outlets) and Salisbury University (e-learning tools as webinars, video lectures, and e-courses).
Output 1.8 Increased capacity of independent news agency as a model for media in Iraq towards self-sufficiency.	
Activities	(UNDP Output) All remaining financial obligations from UNDP to Aswat al-Iraq are now completed including USD 455,875 implemented from a UNESCO allocation. Media Badger has undertaken support work consisting of analytical reports on Aswat's media outreach and business strategy.
Outputs 1.9 and 1.10 1.9 CMC functions within a strategic plan. 1.10 Identified gaps and opportunities related to performance of IMN.	
Activities	Change management support ongoing for CMC and underway for the IMN. An international consultancy firm has been identified and the grant has been awarded. The review process for the IMN rejected law was launched.
Procurement	Procurement: Consultancy firm on change management and law drafting for IMAN awarded.

Funds Committed	USD 6,100,523	% of approved	98%
Funds Disbursed	USD 5,030,364	% of approved	95%
Forecast final date	31 st December 2011	Delay (months)	12

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men	N/A	Not part of this project
Women	N/A	Not part of this project
Children	N/A	Not part of this project
IDPs	N/A	Not part of this project
Others	N/A	Not part of this project
Indirect beneficiaries	N/A	Not part of this project
Employment generation (men/women)	Is not a project for employment	Not part of this project

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results

Output 1.2	- Training to government officials on developing advocacy and PR tools	% of planned	100%
Output 1.4	- Further development of baseline survey of oil sector - Webinar series - Support to Aswat al Iraq - Support to key institutions	% of planned	75% 100% 100% 50%
Output 1.6	- Development of local content to support national dialogue and reconciliation		50%
Output 1.9	- Initiation of change management within CMC	% of planned	60%
Output 1.10	- Initiating review of IMN		10%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

- The Grant Committee under UNESCO and including UNDP, UNAMI and CMC representatives is fully functioning and reviewing grants (ongoing from Q3).
- The Curricula Development Committee is functioning satisfactorily and will support distance learning. (ongoing from Q3)
- The support provided by UNDP and UNESCO appears to have allowed Aswat al-Iraq to become a credible and leading independent news agency according to the external 'Media Badger' reports delivered over the last two months. (reports from Q4)
- Right to Information training completed and a new draft law is being prepared. Q4
- Technical assistance to IMN on a management strategy and a new law for its establishment is under way Q4.

Main implementation constrains and challenges

UNDP and UNESCO have not experienced particular challenges aside from the normal ones of access for the Project Manager to stakeholders and technical issues arising with the webinar development.