

**United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project # 63969:G11-20**

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

Participating UN Organisation: UNDP	Sector: Governance
GoI- Responsible Line Ministry: Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq (IHEC)	

Title	Technical Assistance to IHEC, Phase II				
Geo. Location	Primarily in Baghdad with impact and possible activities elsewhere.				
Project Cost	USD 5,479,950 (Initial budget was USD 3,674,736. An additional USD 1,805,214 was approved by the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund Steering Committee on 21 March 2010).				
Duration	3 Years				
Approval Date	4 Dec. 2008	Starting Date	8 Dec. 2008	Completion Date	31 Dec.2010 extended to 31.12.2011
Project Description	The programme aims to provide the Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq (IHEC) with essential and urgent technical assistance through securing the required number of international electoral experts and advisers for the 2009/2010 electoral events. The UN was mandated under SCR 1770 to provide assistance to the IHEC. The assistance is divided into 2 categories: long-term institutional development and immediate electoral operational support.				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives
<p>NDS: Strengthening good governance and improve security.</p> <p>ICI: Section 3.1.2: Implementation of political/legislative timetable. Article 4.2: Strengthen institutions to improve governance.</p> <p>Sector Team Outcome:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthened electoral process in Iraq. <p>Integrated Program Outcome:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthened electoral operations in Iraq, ensuring free and fair elections.

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement	
Output 1	Increased institutional capacity of IHEC to independently carry out elections.
Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Identify and select international electoral experts to be recruited by UNDP. 1.2 Obtain security clearance for staff. 1.3 Ensure that all necessary staff security and protection measures arrangements are in place. 1.4 Secure the necessary office space and the logistical arrangements. 1.5 Ensure that each staff develops and implements a work plan in line with the IHEC needs. 1.6 The Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) to monitor staff performance and plans implementation. 1.7 Issue 300 Series (ALD) and/or SSA contracts to staff members selected by UNEAD. 1.8 Arrange for staff travel (Home country – Amman – Home country). 1.9 Administer staff human resources (HR) and administrative issues.
Procurement	No major items procured

Funds Committed	USD 4,064,903.67	% of approved	74.00 %
Funds Disbursed	USD 4,000,482.37	% of approved	73.00 %
Forecast final date	31 December 2011	Delay (months)	12 months

Note: Initial budget was USD 3,674,736. An additional USD 1,805,214 was approved by the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund Steering Committee on 21 March 2010. A no cost extension until 31st December, 2011 was approved on August 26th 2010.

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men	1300	100 %
Women	400	100 %
Children	N/A	
IDPs	N/A	
Others	N/A	
Indirect beneficiaries	Entire Iraqi Population of registered voters	
Employment generation (men/women)	n/a	

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results		% of planned
Output 1: Increased institutional capacity of IHEC to independently carry out elections.	The required international electoral advisors were in place during the reporting period to provide assistance to the IHEC in its post-election activities. Two international consultants were contracted during the reporting period to work closely with IHEC, UNAMI, UNOPS other UN and partner agencies to ensure the proper planning, coordination and execution of activities in support of capacity building and training activities in 2011.	74 %

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results
<p>During the reporting period, the following staff were in place to provide the necessary operational support and capacity development to the IHEC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Team Leader / Senior Capacity Building Advisor 2. Procurement and Logistics Advisor 3. Public Outreach Advisor 4. Associate Administrative Officer 5. Interpreters/Translators 6. Service Contract Staff <p>UNDP contracted two international consultants (3 months consultancy) as Capacity Building Advisor and Coordination Advisor to support the development and implementation of a technical assistance plan for the IHEC in 2011. This includes planning and establishment of timelines for technical assistance activities in support of the IHEC Commissioners, management team and staff, as well as working with the International Electoral Assistance Team to ensure implementation of the plan.</p> <p>This represents ongoing technical assistance to the IHEC by securing international electoral experts to provide the necessary technical advice and operational guidance to the IHEC for electoral activities. All project activities were undertaken for all international expert advisors. All advisors have assisted in providing both operational technical support to preparation and implementation of electoral activities, and in capacity development through providing ongoing guidance and mentoring to IHEC staff.</p> <p>UNDP specific contribution to this overall goal is the timely mobilization of technical expertise to support the IHEC.</p>

Main implementation constrains & challenges

The security factor remains the main obstacle to the deployment of additional staff in Iraq. However, the staff ceiling has been slightly raised to accommodate additional UN personnel to support the electoral process. It is not anticipated that there will be any more problems in this regard during the programme life. Access of UN personnel to the IHEC building has been reduced during the reporting period, due to limited resources for required security escorts, thus reducing face-to-face time with IHEC counterparts. However, this is expected to improve in early 2011 with an increase in UN security resources.

It is also understood that for the same reason of security some international electoral experts (who are limited in number) are reluctant to take positions in Iraq; nevertheless, UNEAD continues to seek qualified personnel and identify them for immediate recruitment.