

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project # 66956:C9-27
Date and Quarter Updated: 1 July 2011 – 30 September 2011
3rd Quarter 2011

Participating UN Organisation: UNDP **Sector: Governance**

Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Iraqi High Judicial Council (HJC), Ministry of Justice (Baghdad and KRG)

Title	Support to the Development of Justice and the Rule of Law				
Geographic Location	Nationwide (All Iraq)				
Project Cost	USD 5,909,994				
Duration	36 months				
Approval Date (SC)	4 December 2008	Starting Date	8 December 2008	Completion Date	8 December 2010 extended to 31 December 2011
Project Description	<p>The ‘Support to the Development of Justice and the Rule of Law’ Project is providing the Iraqi Government with technical support and training necessary for the improvement of key components of the judicial system, specifically the functioning of courts and the penitentiary system. UNDP Iraq is supporting the establishment of a model court in Baghdad, which will address the limitations of the current court system, including issues of court management, court reporting and recording, and access for all Iraqis to the judicial system. UNDP Iraq will also provide assistance to the Iraqi Judicial Training Institute (JTI) through the provision of training and other support to ensure that Iraq’s new generation of judges, prosecutors and judicial staff benefit from the latest international best practices. The penitentiary system reform component of the project will support the development of a legal and institutional framework, and will support building the capacity of prison management in line with international human rights standards. In addition, the project is finishing the final phase of the Iraqi Legislative Database (ILD) and will hand it over to the Iraqi stakeholders.</p> <p>This project forms part of a consolidated framework in support of the rule of law and justice in Iraq, together with the EU funded project “Support to the Rule of Law and Justice” and the German funded project “Support to the Development of the Judicial Development Institute”.</p>				
Development Goal and Immediate Objectives					

National Development Plan: Enhance social protection and availability of basic services; Commitment to sustainable human development.

UNDAF Priority 1: Improved Governance, including the protection of human rights. **Outcome 1.3:** Rule of Law: Iraq has an improved legal and operational rule of law framework for administration and access to justice.

Sector Team Outcome(s): Outcome 3: Enhanced rule of law and respect and protection for human rights in line with international standards.

UNDP Country Programme: Project sits within Outcome 2: Enhanced rule of law, protection and respect for human rights in line with international standards.

Project Outcome(s):

Outcome 1: Strengthened administration of justice system.

Outcome 2: Strengthened capacity of key government and non-government institutions to protect and promote human rights.

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement	
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- A Pilot Model Court is established in Baghdad 2- Improved curriculum of the Judicial Training Institute, incorporating human rights, gender equity, family code, GBV and juvenile justice 3- Completing the Iraqi Legal Database 4- Increased capacity of GoI to reform the penitentiary system, including its management and treatment of women and juveniles
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Materials on corruption aimed at the Iraqi judicial system and court users produced and disseminated; 1.2 Key judiciary staff trained in court and case management and reporting and case management system institutionalised; 1.3 Pilot court functional with training and legal resource and research facilities and core judicial training provided; 1.4 Help desk and hotline established and operational to handle corruption complaints and provide assistance to women court users. 2.1 Training curriculum reform program of the Judicial Training Institute, incorporating gender equity, family code, GBV and juvenile justice, designed and preparations for implementation in place. 3.1 Completing the Iraqi Legal Database. 4.1 A thorough analysis of the Iraqi penitentiary system conducted and needs assessment reported; 4.2 Prison personnel and ministry staff trained in modern management and prison management methods and Iraqi CSOs supported in advocacy and monitoring; 4.3 Capacity building within the Iraqi government for laws and institutions responsible for the penitentiary system provided.
Procurement (major items)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring Prison Advisor on SSA contract. • Hiring ILD Supervisor on SSA contract. • IT equipment procured for Baghdad Pilot Court.

Funds Committed for activities	USD 4,349,204.44	% of approved	74%
Funds Disbursed	USD 3,602,161.3	% of approved	61%
Forecast final date	31 December 2011 A request for a 6 month no cost extension - until 30/6/2012 - will be submitted during 4th Quarter 2011	Delay (months)	12 months. 18 months required. A no cost extension being developed.

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men	n/a	n/a
Women	40,000	2%
Children	n/a	n/a
IDPs	n/a	n/a
Others	n/a	n/a
Indirect beneficiaries	n/a	n/a
Employment generation (men/women)	This Project is not directly concerned with employment generation.	n/a

This project will improve access to justice for vulnerable groups, including women and juveniles. The Penitentiary Reform component will improve the conditions of women and juvenile inmates and will promote the respect of their human and civil rights within the penitentiary system.

Iraqi women are among the most vulnerable in society. The lack of application of rule of law is rendering women more vulnerable to social, tribal and religious rulings and practices. Examples include increases in early marriages, crimes in the name of honour, and vulnerability to variances in application of court rulings. By developing the capacity of the judges, and prisons' administrators this project seeks to contribute to the improvement in the conditions of women. Gender equality will be pursued through:

- Selection of an equal number of men and women for all capacity-building activities;
- Pro-actively addressing the rights of women during incarceration and ensuring their participation in all components of penitentiary reform activities.

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results		
The implementation of the activities in support of the Baghdad Pilot Court	% of delivery	95% complete
The implementation of the activities in support of the Judicial Training Institute	% of delivery	100% complete
Iraqi Legal Database activities	% of delivery	95% complete
Activities in support of reform of the penitentiary system	% of delivery	80% completed
Qualitative achievements against objectives and results		

Output 1. A Pilot Model Court is established in Baghdad

The implementation of the activities in support of the Baghdad Pilot Court is 95% complete. During this quarter the following key activities were undertaken:

- a. The procurement of legal reference books for the Legal Research Unit is ongoing, with bidders requesting further extensions of the bidding period to allow them additional time to prepare quotes for the large numbers of books required (over 5,000 books in total).
- b. A contract has been awarded for the installation of remaining IT equipment and installation is underway. VSAT equipment has been fully installed in the Rusafa Court House.
- c. Stakeholder consultations and revisions of public awareness materials continued for the legal awareness campaign and court users' handbook. The launch of the public awareness campaign is planned for the following quarter. UNDP has raised the issue of campaign impact with the Chief Justice as there has been a lengthy period of consultations and reviews and delay in the starting date which has been rescheduled several times.
- d. The project team visited the Rusafa Court Complex. The purpose of this visit was to introduce the new project manager to Judge Jaafar, Head of the Court, to take stock of progress made so far in the implementation of the project and to discuss the way forward.

Output 2: Improved curriculum of the Judicial Training Institute, incorporating human rights, gender equity, family code, GBV and juvenile justice

This output has already been successfully completed.

Output3: Completing the Iraqi Legal Database

The implementation of the activities in support of the Iraqi Legal Database (ILD) is 95% complete.

During this quarter the following key activities were undertaken:

- a. The High Judicial Committee (HJC) formed the 'Judicial Decision Documentation Unit' and nominated 5 employees to run the Unit through an official order. The Judicial Decision Documentation Unit is responsible for sustaining and maintaining the ILD.
- b. Finalized the action plan, including the methodology and the process of implementing the sustainability plan, an update on the needed tasks to complete the ILD, and the respective time schedule for executing needed tasks.
- c. Finalized the plan and design of the training sessions for the Unit employees including training on; managing the administrative unit, managing the project for completing the ILD, documenting the legal information, managing the ILD software and working with data entry.

Output 4: Increased capacity of GoI to reform the penitentiary system, including its management and treatment of women and juveniles

During this quarter the following key activities were undertaken and activities are 80% complete:

- a. As part of efforts to build the capacity of key penitentiary institutions in Iraq, a study tour for senior Iraq penitentiary staff took place from 30 June till 9 July. The purpose of this visit was to expose the Iraqi delegation to the French penitentiary system, focusing on three areas of expertise: overall management of the system, daily management of prison facilities, and new trends in the management of convicted inmates. 16 major priorities were identified to reform the system and the report is uploaded within the project Gateway.
- b. During 3rd Quarter extensive discussions have been held to identify two pilot projects aimed at reforming the Iraqi penitentiary system. Two pilots have been endorsed by the KRG Authorities: i) Development of standard operating procedures and supporting tools for inmate intake and reception process in Sulaymaniyah Prison and ii) Support for improving interactions of prison guards and prison social workers in either Fort Susa or Sulaymaniyah Prison. Both projects are due to commence during 4th Quarter 2011.
- c. The contract of UNDP's expert has been amended to enable travel to Kurdistan and monitor the implementation of the two prison pilot projects during 4th Quarter.

Main implementation Constraints and Challenges (2-3 sentences)

Delays in the approval process by the HJC for the awareness raising material has continued to negatively impact the pace of implementation and monitoring of that activity. Similarly the highly centralised decision making process in the judiciary system and approval by HJC senior management inevitably has and continues to create delays for the implementation of certain activities.

The security situation and limited UN operational support make it difficult to access the targeted institutions and to continuously monitor the implementation of activities at Sulaymaniyah and Fort Susa Prisons for Output 4.