

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #76154: C9-34
Date and Quarter Updated: 1 July to 30 September 2011
Q3 2011

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

Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Council of Representatives (High Commission for Human Rights once established)

Title	C9-34 High Commission for Human Rights in Iraq: Capacity Building and Technical Support				
Geographic Location	Baghdad, Iraq				
Project Cost	USD 500,000				
Duration	18 months Discussions have opened for a no cost extension of six months				
Approval Date (SC)	27 June 2010	Starting Date	25 August 2010	Completion Date	25 February 2012 Extension proposed till 30 June 2012
Project Description	<p>There is timely and demonstrated need for an effective High Commission for Human Rights (HCHR) in Iraq, in line with the mandate, power, resources and capacities stemming from the enabling law, which is able to play a crucial protection role at the national level, and represents an effective Paris Principles compliant institution at the regional and international levels. This project intervention seeks to ensure that the HCHR is in place and that it properly fulfils its roles. The intervention aims to ensure that the HCHR is being established and develops initial capacities to be an effective actor in the promotion and protection of human rights, to be a port of call for improvement of the human rights system in Iraq, including through provision of remedies to and prevention of human rights violations and abuses, and to deliver increasingly effective human rights services and programming. This will be done in a progressive manner, as funding is mobilized and in synchrony with the establishment of the policy and legal framework that will guide the HCHR. Initial activities as highlighted in this proposal will encompass the establishment of the Commission, through the support to the selection of its members and the provision of essential tools to bridge the gap until the next fiscal period, in which Iraqi government resources will be available. The project will support initial capacity development of the Commissioners and key staff, and assist the Commission to lay the foundation for a medium and long term strategic plan. While UNAMI Human Rights Office will be the technical lead of the project, UNDP will be the implementing agency.</p>				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives
<p>National priority or goals (NDS 2007- 2010 and ICI):</p> <p>NDS:</p> <p>Section 8.3 (Human Rights) Goal: Uphold and protect human rights, establish the rule of law, overcome the legacy of the recent and distant past;</p> <p>8.3.1 Establish a comprehensive Iraqi owned human rights regime country wide.</p>

ICI Benchmarks (as per the Joint Monitoring Matrix 2008):

Section 3.3 (Human Rights) Goal: Uphold and protect human rights, establish rule of law, and overcome the legacy of the recent and distant past.

3.3.1: Establish a comprehensive human rights regime country wide.

Sector Team Outcome(s):

Outcome 3: Enhanced rule of law and respect and protection for human rights in line with international standards.

UNDAF Priority 1: Improved Governance, including the protection of human rights. **Outcome 1.4** Human Rights: Government and non-governmental institutions protect and promote the human rights of all people in Iraq, with a focus on the most vulnerable.

Country Programme Action Plan and Project Outcome(s):

Enhanced rule of law and respect and protection for human rights in line with international standards.

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement	
Outputs	Output 1.1: Council Of Representatives (CoR) Committee on Human Rights (HR) and Experts Panel have a transparent process of nomination and selection of Commissioners and for the staff of the temporary Secretariat. Output 1.2: HCHR temporary secretariat is able to support the work of the HCHR. Output 1.3: HCHR has an enhanced capacity to perform its mandate.
Activities	Output 1.1: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Procurement of basic office equipment and supplies, to be transferred to the Secretariat once established;• Placement of advertisements for nominations of the Commissioners;• Provision of technical assistance and advisory services;• Support for outreach and public information on the process of nomination and selection of Commissioners. Output 1.2: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Procurement of additional basic office equipment;• Limited support for HCHR Secretariat operations until it receives its GoI budget allocation;• Support for the establishment of the HCHR’s outreach and public information office;• Training for Commissioners and Secretariat staff;• Technical Assistance and advisory support for the IHCHR (travel of experts from Geneva; contract of specialized technical assistance). Output 1.3: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training of Commissioners and key stakeholders on HR protection, prevention, women’s rights, and outreach;• Exposure of Commissioners to relevant experience of HR Commissions in select countries;• Development by HCHR of basis for a medium and long term Strategic Plan.
Procurement (major items)	Office equipments and supplies; Advisory Services for capacity development activities.

Funds Committed	\$99,753	% of approved	20%
Funds Disbursed	\$ 227,089	% of approved	45 %

Forecast final date	30 June 2012	Delay (months)	4
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Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)	
Men	N/A		
Women	N/A		
Children	N/A		
IDPs	N/A		
Others	Includes the 11 elected Commissioners and three substitutes, HCHR staff (both temporary and newly recruited staff in 2010), HR Committee at CoR, and Experts Committee. The constitutive law provides for women representation of the Commissioners of not less than one third, and minority representation of the Commissioners not less than one member and one alternative member.	50%	
Indirect beneficiaries	All of Iraqi's population with no discrimination to gender, race, ethnicity or political affiliation, will benefit as indirect beneficiaries, with special focus on marginalized and vulnerable communities including women, minorities, and population in rural areas and underdeveloped urban areas, will benefit from the establishment and the functioning of the HCHR.	30%	
Employment generation (men/women)			

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results			
Output 1.1 1.1.1. Procurement of basic office equipment and supplies, to be transferred to the Secretariat once established. 1.1.2. Placement of advertisements for nominations of the Commissioners. 1.1.3 Provision of technical assistance and advisory services. 1.1.4 Support for outreach and public information on the process of nomination and selection of Commissioners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Project Manager has been recruited - Request for IT Equipments to the support the work of the Secretariat has been processed. - A five day Workshop was organised for 20 members of the Secretariat and Committee of Experts in Beirut 1-7 June to assist in the establishment of the selection mechanism and framework - A five days workshop was organised for 	% of planned	70%

	<p>20 members of the Secretariat and the Committee of Experts in Istanbul 6 to 10 September to examine international experiences and best practices, by representatives from South African, Malaysia, and Palestine Human Rights Commissions who were invited to present their experiences on the establishment of their respective Commission, to explain the organizational structure of the various Commissions, and the criteria used for the selection of the Commissioners.</p> <p>-As a result several outputs were identified including the final phase of selection of the human rights commissioners, agreement on a future support to define the organisational structure of the commission, what the role of the commissioners should be, and the exact final selection criteria and interview framework to be.</p>		
<p>Output 1.2. 1.2.1. Procurement of additional basic office equipment. 1.2.2. Limited support for HCHR Secretariat operations until it receives its GoI budget allocation. 1.2.3. Support for the establishment of the HCHR's outreach and public information office. 1.2.4. Training for Commissioners and Secretariat staff. 1.2.5. Technical Assistance and advisory support for the IHCHR (travel of experts from Geneva; contract of specialized technical assistance).</p>	<p>A draft proposal for a public information campaign submitted.</p> <p>A sub-committee established within the Committee of Experts to finalize the public information campaign document.</p> <p>Human Rights Training Programme discussed and approval anticipated during 4th Quarter 2011.</p> <p>Plan of the capacity development through technical advisors commenced.</p>	% of planned	10%
<p>Output 1.3. 1.3.1. Training of commissioners and key stakeholders on HR protection, prevention, women's rights, and outreach. 1.3.2. Exposure of commissioners to relevant experience of HR Commissions in select countries. 1.3.3. Development by HCHR of basis for a medium and long term Strategic Plan.</p>	<p>CoE exposed during 3rd Quarter to relevant experiences and best practices of HR Commissions including Palestine, South Africa and Malaysia.</p> <p>Phase III shortlist completed identifying 164 candidates with 37 female applicants</p>	% of planned	2%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

Output 1.1: Council Of Representatives (CoR) Committee on Human Rights (HR) and Experts Panel have a transparent process of nomination and selection of Commissioners and for the staff of the temporary Secretariat.

Implementation of the project has commenced and recruitment of the Project Manager completed with her arrival in April 2011. An assessment report and work-plan has been shared and approved by UNAMI Human Rights Office (HRO) identifying support to the Committee of Experts on the establishment of the Secretariat, within a limited timeframe.

Members of the Secretariat have been nominated and endorsed by the Council of Representatives. The Members commenced their duties and responsibilities regarding the selection of the Commissioners. The Committee of Experts received a substantive amount of 3,085 applications for the 11 Human Rights Commissioners' posts.

UNDP and UNAMI HRO with technical support from the Asian Pacific Forum organised a five day workshop 1-7 June 2011 to assist in the establishment of the selection mechanism and framework. Twenty participants from the Secretariat and Committee of Experts (COE) participated in this workshop where general criteria for the selection of the Commissioners were outlined. This framework remains as draft and will need to be finalized and endorsed by the CoR. Technical and operational support to the Secretariat continued throughout 3rd Quarter to assist in the selection of the Human Rights Commissioners and support the organisational structure of the Commission.

UN continued to provide support to COE on the selection of the Human Rights Commissioners. At a meeting 7 August 2011, the CoE requested that the UN strengthen its support for the process, specifically requesting the opportunity to examine different experiences, best practices, and lessons learnt from other Commissions.

In response, UNDP and UNAMI HRO organized a workshop from 6-10 September 2011 to provide a forum for the CoE to discuss several outputs including the final phase of selection of the human rights commissioners, agreement upon the future organizational structure of the commission, what the role of the commissioners should be, and the exact final selection criteria and interview framework to be used in the identification of the 11 Commissioners. At this meeting representatives from South African, Malaysia, and Palestine Human Rights Commissions were invited to present their experiences on the establishment of their respective Commission, to explain the organizational structure of the various Commissions, and the criteria used for the selection of the Commissioners.

As a result of this workshop, 164 out of the 3,085 applications have been processed and shortlisted for the final selection phase of the human rights commissioners, including 37 female applicants. COE has agreed to conduct a collective evaluation to be carried out by all members of the COE to identify the top 50 candidates for interview. The COE aims to nominate the 11+3 Human Rights Commissioners before the end of the year 2011.

UNAMI HRO and UNDP agreed to extend the UN support to the Council of Representative Human Rights Committee as the Committee is expected to fill the institutional void while the Commission is being established.

UN anticipates the recruitment of four Advisors in 4th Quarter 2011. Three Technical Advisors will work closely with the Committee of Experts and the COR Human Rights Committee to support the development of the organizational structure, the mandate of the Commission as well as the strategic action plan for the COR Human Rights Committee. Additionally recruitment is anticipated for an IT expert to assist the establishment of the database and the website of the Commission.

COE has submitted the draft public information campaign to the UN. Upon approval by the COE, UNDP will disburse the funds for this activity.

Main implementation constraints and challenges (2-3 sentences)

The endorsement of the members of the Secretariat, by the CoR, generated delay in the provision of support.

The substantive number of applications received by the Secretariat, coupled with limited human resources, has resulted in selection delays of the Commissioners.

Project implementation could not commence until the CoR established the Expert Committee and was endorsed under the new Government, noting that Law No 53 (2008) provides under its Article 7 for the setting of an Expert Committee of a maximum of 15 members representing the CoR, the CoM, the HJC, CSOs and UN, mandated to carry out procedures for the nomination of the Commissioners to be appointed by the CoR.

The COE agreed to conduct a vetting of shortlisted candidates including by the Integrity Commission, Police and De-Ba'athification. The UN will continue as a member of the COE to promote the transparency of the process.