

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #: F8-13
Date and Quarter Updated: October – December 2011 (4th Quarter)

Participating UN Organisation: UNESCO (Lead Agency); UNOPS **Sector: Protection**

Government of Iraq – Ministry of Human Rights; Communications and Media Commission

Title	Protection of Media Professionals, Members of the Academic Community and Human Rights Defenders in Iraq				
Geo. Location	Nationwide with hubs in Baghdad, and Erbil				
Project Cost	US\$ 1,000,000 (UNESCO: USD 589,452 / UNOPS: USD 410,548)				
Duration	12 months + 12 months extension				
Approval Date	27/06/2010	Starting Date	09/07/2010	Completion Date	9/07/2011 extended to 09/07/2012
Project Description	<p>This project aims at supporting the following groups: media professionals, Human Rights Defenders and members of the academic community, who have been especially targeted by extremists, suffering the consequences of violence and threats inside Iraq. The project is divided into three inter-related outputs: (i) National institutions (e.i. MoJ, MoHR, CMC and IBA) and CSOs have an active Federation promoting a greater understanding and increasing the capacity to react to human rights issues, including raising awareness of human rights abuses in Iraq. A series of consultative meetings to address human rights concerns will focus on the development of an official Iraq wide federation of CSOs. The federation will work to raise human rights awareness among the general public national institutions and the target groups and monitor human rights issues; (ii) the targeted groups will each receive specialized training on human rights protection systems and monitoring human rights violations. In addition, roundtables will be held on human rights protection between the target groups, government officials and members of the Iraqi Bar Association; (iii) personal and safety training will be provided to increase their capacity to cope with threats and professionals risk; and two local experts to work within an Iraqi NGO in Baghdad and Erbil to create its capacity to serve as regional resources on safety and security issues, to monitor and report on the security situation in Iraq, coordinate the trainings, as well as serve as a regional network coordinator for beneficiaries.</p> <p>While UNESCO will lead the overall project, the division of labour will be shared according to UNESCO and UNOPS mandates and expertise, and in association with NGOs and with Iraqi civil society, as well as with the beneficiary groups.</p>				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

Project Outcome:

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

Objective 1: Develop an active Federation between national institutions, such as the MoJ, the MoHR, the CMC, the Iraqi Bar Association, and CSOs, in promoting a greater understanding and the increased capacity to react to human rights issues, including raising awareness of human rights abuses in Iraq. This will result in the creation of an official federation of CSOs which will be responsible in the continued awareness raising and reporting on human rights issues among the general public, national institutions and the target groups.

Objective 2: Strengthen the capacity of the targeted groups to promote a human rights system by providing practical tools to report and monitor human rights violations to national and international institutions.

Objective 3: Increase the capacity of the targeted groups to cope with threats and professionals risk by providing practical tools on security issues to ensure their personal safety.

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement	
Outputs	<p>Output 1: National institutions and CSOs have an active Federation promoting a greater understanding and increasing the capacity to react to human rights issues, including raising awareness of human rights abuses in Iraq.</p> <p>Output 2: Government officials, HRDs, media organizations, members of the academic community and professional unions have strengthened capacities to promote human rights protection systems and report to national and international human rights institutions.</p> <p>Output 3: HRDs, academics and media workers have increased capacities to cope with threats and professional risks.</p>
Activities	<p>Output 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultative meetings to establish key issues within the domain of human rights in Iraq and to coordinate a unified response mechanism. - Monthly news sheets and mailing list. - National Conference in Baghdad to launch a Federation of CSOs. - Interactive website. <p>Output 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trainings of trainers in human right protection systems. - Roundtables in human rights. - Trainings in human rights protection and personal safety and security issues. - Legal awareness training to governmental officials and lawyers. <p>Output 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trainings of trainers in personal safety and security issues. - Establishment of two resources centres/hubs (Baghdad and Erbil). - Reproducing and distributing of a Field Work Safety Manual.
Procurement	N/A

(UNESCO)

Funds Committed	US\$ 169,475.30	% of approved	28.75%
Funds Disbursed	US\$ 132,899.33	% of approved	22.55%
Forecast final date	July 2012	Delay (months)	

(UNOPS)

Funds Committed	US\$ 330,041.60	% of approved	80.4 %
Funds Disbursed	US\$ 330,041.60	% of approved	80.4 %
Forecast final date	September 2011	Delay (months)	

*Above figures reflect actual commitments and disbursements out of a total UNOPS budget of \$410,458.

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men	0	0
Women	0	0
Children	0	0
IDPs	0	0
Others	0	0
Indirect beneficiaries	0	0
Employment generation (men/women)	0	0

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results		% of planned
<p>Objective 1: Develop an active Federation between national institutions, such as the MoJ, the MoHR, the CMC, the Iraqi Bar Association, and CSOs, in promoting a greater understanding and the increased capacity to react to human rights issues, including raising awareness of human rights abuses in Iraq. This will result in the creation of an official federation of CSOs which will be responsible in the continued awareness raising and reporting on human rights issues among the general public, national institutions and the target groups.</p>	<p><u>Activities</u> Consultative meetings to establish key issues within the domain of human rights in Iraq and to coordinate a unified response mechanism.</p>	100%
	<p>Monthly news sheets and mailing list.</p>	100%
	<p>Creation and launch of Federation (Setting up a Steering Committee; Drafting Federation Charter & ToR; Launching Federation)</p>	50%
	<p>National Conference on the situation of HRDs in Iraq.</p>	100%
	<p>The development and design of the interactive website was completed during the previous quarter and the site is now online at http://www.modafaaun.com/. This site benefits activist, academics and journalists who are on a regularly growing mailing list and notified whenever articles or reports are uploaded to the site. The website is open to the public.</p>	100%
<p>Objective 2: Strengthen the capacity of the targeted groups to promote a human rights system by providing practical tools to report and monitor human rights violations to national and international institutions.</p>	<p>Trainings of trainers in human right protection systems completed in the last reporting period.</p>	100%
	<p>Roundtables in human rights.</p>	100%
	<p>Trainings in human rights protection and personal safety and security issues.</p>	50%
	<p>Legal awareness training to governmental officials and lawyers</p>	0%
<p>Objective 3: Increase the capacity of the targeted groups to cope with threats and professionals risk by providing practical tools on security issues to ensure their personal safety.</p>	<p>Trainings of trainers in personal safety and security issues.</p>	0%
	<p>Establishment of two resources centres/hubs (Baghdad and Erbil).</p>	35%
	<p>Reproducing and distributing of a Field Work Safety Manual.</p>	0%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

During this reporting period, the Steering Committee for the Federation has been very active since the HRD Conference held in September 2011. Following are some of the latest activities of the Committee: (1) Designating 3 members who were nominated by the Committee (taking into consideration regional and professional backgrounds) to work on and update the project website: www.modafaaun.com. These 3 members continue to liaise by email with the previous Web Manager with regards to uploading current reports and articles to the website; (2) Meeting with the Deputy Minister of Human Rights held on 17 October 2011, in which both parties had the opportunity to open bridges of cooperation and partnership; (3) Distributing questionnaire on the federation idea among Iraqi activists and CSOs; (4) Drafting the rules of procedures for the federation; and (5) Organizing the second committee meeting on 21 December 2011. The meeting was convened to assess the committee's performance during this period, to revise and approve the drafted rules of procedures and to set up the committee's action plan for 2012. However, due to security reasons the meeting was postponed to 6 February 2012.

UNOPS completed all the activities for which it is the lead implementing agency in the last quarter. This quarter was therefore spent on finalizing administrative requirements and payments as well as on follow up on the project website and the handover of website functions to the 3 federation steering committee members, as mentioned above. This handover is intended to support the sustainability of the website beyond the duration of the project as it is expected that the federation will continue its work beyond the project timeframe. UNOPS will continue to support UNESCO in the remaining project activities in 2012.

UNESCO is in the final phase of recruitment of selected candidates for the position of Safety and Security Coordinator in Erbil and Baghdad. The Coordinators are expected to be on board in February 2012.

Lastly, UNESCO completed the contracting of its implementing partner in December. The partner will support the implementation of project activities in Iraq in accordance with the project document: safety and security basic training and ToT, legal awareness training, and field safety manual.

Main Challenges

The security situation in Iraq remains a factor of concern for the implementation of the project. For instance, the second meeting of the Steering Committee for the Federation, initially scheduled for December 2011, has had to be canceled because of the unstable and unsafe situation as result of Iraqi political conflicts. Due to the blockade of highways and the security situation, Committee members decided to postpone the meeting.

The completion of the selection process was delayed due to the transition in leadership in the sector that manages the project, since management changes were underway during this quarter.