

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #66973: G11-20
Date and Quarter Updated: 01 October – 31 December 2011
4th Quarter 2011

Participating UN Organisation: UNDP

Sector: Governance

Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq (IHEC)

Title	Technical Assistance to IHEC, Phase II				
Geographic 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 (SC)	4 December 2008	Starting Date	8 December 2008	Completion Date	8 December 2010 Extended to 31 December 2012
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

NDS: Strengthening good governance and improve security.
ICI: Section 3.1.2: Implementation of political/legislative timetable.
Article 4.2: Strengthen institutions to improve governance.
UNDAF: Outcome 1: Improved governance, including the protection of human rights; 1.2 The Iraqi state has more efficient, accountable and participatory governance at national and sub-national levels.
UNDP Country Programme: Strengthened institutional framework, organizational and human resource capacity of the IHEC to effectively conduct any electoral processes as Iraq's permanent electoral institution, established under the constitution.
Sector Team Outcome: 1. Strengthened electoral processes in Iraq.
Integrated Program Outcome: 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	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) monitors 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 (major items)	None

Funds Committed	USD 4,854,802	% of approved	88.6 %
Funds Disbursed	USD 4,805,170	% of approved	87.7 %
Forecast final date	31 December 2012	Delay (months)	24

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 31 December 2011 was approved on 26 August 2010 and a further no cost extension until 31 December 2012 was approved on 20 December 2011.

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

Output 1:		% of planned
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 preparations for future elections. Five international consultants, recruited in previous quarters, worked closely with the IHEC and UNAMI to ensure the proper planning, coordination and execution of activities in support of future elections. Recruitment was initiated for one additional short-term consultant.	88 %

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

During the reporting period, the following international experts were in place, to provide technical advice, operational support and capacity development to the IHEC in Baghdad.

1. Procurement and Logistics Advisor (initial 6 month contract from March 2011 extended until April 2012)
2. Electoral Complaints Advisor (7.5 month contract closed mid November 2011)
3. Coordination Advisor (11 month contract closed end November 2011).

The Coordination Advisor continued to support the implementation of the 2011 technical assistance plan for the IHEC, and to ensure appropriate coordination takes place in the implementation of this plan, both with the IHEC and also between UN and other partners.

The Procurement and Logistics Advisor worked closely with the IHEC to ensure the proper planning and execution of procurement and logistics activities, and to work towards ensuring preparedness of the IHEC in electoral and public procurement for future electoral events.

The Electoral Complaints Advisor continued activities with the IHEC to improve IHEC electoral complaints processes, and completed a review with the IHEC of relevant components of the electoral legal framework for potential elections in Iraq.

This represents on-going 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 of electoral events, and in capacity development through ongoing guidance to IHEC staff. UNDP specific contribution to this overall goal is the timely mobilization of technical expertise to support the IHEC.

Main implementation constraints and 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. For the same reason of security some international electoral experts (who are limited in number) are reluctant to take positions in Iraq; nevertheless, UNDP continues to seek qualified personnel and identify them for recruitment.

An important aspect of the UN's electoral support is the close relationship with the IHEC and daily presence in Baghdad, working directly with IHEC counterparts. From January-August 2011, access of UN personnel to the IHEC National Office was limited, thus reducing face-to face time with IHEC counterparts. This, however, improved in September 2011, with new measures in place to increase UN access to the IHEC facilities and regular access was facilitated for UN advisors to the IHEC for most of the reporting period.