



FINAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE REPORT

<p>Programme Title & Number</p> <p>Programme Title: “Distance Learning Project” Programme Number: B1-31 MDTF Office Atlas Number: 66864</p>	<p>Country, Locality(s), Thematic Area(s)²</p> <p>Baghdad – Serving all of Iraq.</p>
<p>Participating Organization(s)</p> <p>UNESCO</p>	<p>Implementing Partners</p> <p>Ministry of Education, Baghdad</p>
<p>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>MDTF Fund Contribution: • <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i></p> <p>Agency Contribution • UNDG ITF US\$ 5,605,228</p> <p>Government Contribution US\$ 900,000 (In Kind)</p> <p>Other Contribution (donor) <i>(if applicable)</i></p> <p>TOTAL: US\$ 6,505,228</p>	<p>Programme Duration (months)</p> <p>Overall Duration: 3 years and 5 months</p> <p>Start Date³ 31st of July 2007</p> <p>Original end date 31st of Jan. 2009</p> <p>Revised End Date, 31st March 2011</p> <p>Operational Closure Date⁴ 30th of Dec 2010</p> <p>Expected Financial Closure Date 30th of Sep 2011</p>
<p>Final Programme/ Project Evaluation</p> <p>Evaluation Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: March 2011 _____</p> <p>Evaluation Report - Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>Submitted By</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Name: Riyadh Minawi <input type="checkbox"/> Title: Project Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Participating Organization (Lead): UNESCO <input type="checkbox"/> Contact information: 0776 723 402

¹ The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

² Priority Area for the Peacebuilding Fund; Sector for the UNDG ITF.

³ The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MDTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MDTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org) (<http://mdtf.undp.org>).

⁴ All activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MDTF programme have been completed. Agencies to advise the MDTF Office.

FINAL PROGRAMME REPORT

I. PURPOSE

Development Goal

- The goal is to increase the participation and involvement of primary and secondary school students in their studies within the context of the deteriorating security situation through distance learning tools designed according to the Iraqi formal school curricula.

Objectives of the programme/project:

- To provide school students with immediate access to class lessons, covering all curricula subjects at all school levels through producing and broadcasting TV and Radio educational programs.

Outcomes of the programme project:

- Training 150 educational specialists from MOE, 20 educational specialists from Colleges of Education as well as 80 radio and TV technical specialists on the use of distance learning tools and the design and broadcasting of curricular lessons.
- Producing and broadcasting educational TV and Radio programs covering all subjects to students in Iraq

Outputs of the project:

1. MOE educational specialists, TV and IT specialists trained on producing and broadcasting educational lessons using distance learning tools.
 - 1.1 Capacity building of 20 MOE technical staff on operating the TV satellite broadcasting unit through specialized training workshops.
 - 1.2 Capacity building of 40 educational specialists from MOE on designing Educational TV programs.
 - 1.3 Capacity building of directors on 8 scenario developing, producing and directing children / Youth TV programs.
 - 1.4 Capacity building of 2 managers on “TV Management and Production / Broadcasting Planning and Coordination”.
 - 1.5 Capacity building of 20 MOE technical staff on operating the TV production unit through specialized training workshops.
 - 1.6 Capacity building of 6 MOE IT technical staff on developing and operating the new Iraqi curricula website through specialized training workshops
2. Educational TV and website lessons, covering all subjects for levels 6, 9 &12, produced and broadcasted to students all over Iraq and the world.
 - 2.1 Building scenarios and designing 624 TV educational lessons covering all subjects based on the Iraqi school curricula by MOE national educational experts.
 - 2.2 Contracting a private Iraqi station in Iraq for the production of school-based educational TV programs.

- 2.3 Producing 25 animated TV clips for promoting peace, human rights, gender equality, right to education, health care and noble values by UNESCO
- 2.4 Rehabilitation of the educational TV building including the provision of a power generator and a UPS unit as well as preparing the floor design for the TV station.
- 2.5 Establishing and equipping a TV broadcasting studio with a satellite broadcasting / transmission unit at MOE for broadcasting educational TV programs.
- 2.6 Establishing a TV production studio with editing suits
- 2.7 Providing the TV library with over 700 hours of external TV programs to be broadcasted and used in the production of the new educational TV programs (scientific, educational...etc films and TV programs).
- 2.8 Designing and establishing the Iraqi curricula website

Explain how the Programme relates to the Strategic (UN) Planning Framework guiding the operations of the Fund.

The project aims at providing quality education to all Iraqi students inside and outside Iraq including enrolled, out of school, IDPs, refugees, females at home and people with special needs by producing and broadcasting quality TV lessons as well as interactive lessons, school textbooks...etc, all produced based on the Iraqi school curricula. For broadcasting, the project established two distance learning tools namely the Iraqi Educational TV Satellite Station and the Iraqi School Curricula Website. Its activities included building the capacity of MOE educational experts, technical staff (TV & IT) as well as professionals and managers. All produced material promoted human rights, gender equality, noble values, environment protection...etc. Increase access to quality education increases the chances of Iraqi youth in finding jobs; hence it increases employment and decreases poverty.

Primary implementing partners and stakeholders including key beneficiaries.

In this project UNESCO partnered, mainly, with MOE only. The type of the project made it difficult to cooperate with other UN agencies since they never implemented similar projects and don't have any experience in this field of work.

In Baghdad, UNESCO cooperated with IMN for TV production activities and the training of MOE educational specialists. It also cooperated with other Iraqi construction companies for the renovation activities. As for the provision, installation and training on the TV professional equipment, UNESCO cooperated with ITECO, a company in Jordan that has a branch in Baghdad.

UNESCO also worked with Spacatoon, an international company with branches in Jordan and Baghdad for the production of the TV animated clips. As for designing and establishing the curricula website and the training of MOE IT staff on developing and operating the website, UNESCO cooperated with Vast Technologies, a Jordanian company who will provide technical support for an additional year after project completion.

For the remaining TV training activities, UNESCO worked with SIA in Syria, a very professional institute with full TV training facilities.

From the above, it is obvious that regarding all TV production and broadcasting activities (activities that will keep on developing over the years), UNESCO partnered with either Iraqi companies or companies that have branches in Iraq. This not only resulted in speeding up implementation but also guarantees continuous technical support and project sustainability.

As for the curricula website activities (activities that will keep on developing over the years), UNESCO's partner is in Jordan since the work required direct and weekly meetings with UNESCO's project manager that was impossible to take place in Baghdad due to security and logistics difficulties; nevertheless, and since technical support is provided on-line (no need for the designer to be in Baghdad) the designer is contracted to provide one year technical support after project completion. This resulted in speeding up implementation and guarantees continuous technical support and project sustainability.

Since the conducted capacity building activities were to take place for one time only and do not require any future technical support, UNESCO partnered with a Syrian institute not only because of its good reputation in the field and its training facilities (including very qualified instructors) that are not available in Iraq but also for their ability to conduct quality trainings in Arabic. This contributed to the success of these activities.

II. ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAMME/ PROJECT RESULTS

Key outputs achieved and explain any variance in achieved versus planned results:

Based on early assessments and analysis, supported by requests from MOE, some project components were modified and approved through budget revisions. This resulted in the fact that achieved results exceeded the ones expected before implementation as stated below:

- 20 MOE technical staff members trained on operating the TV satellite broadcasting and production units and are, successfully, performing their duties at the station.
- 40 MOE educational specialists trained on designing, writing, developing and presenting educational TV programs are successfully developing all TV educational programs and lessons at the station including the already produced 624 lessons produced at a private TV station.
- 8 MOE directors trained on Scenario developing, producing and directing children / Youth TV programs successfully directing the new production at the educational TV station.
- 2 MOE TV managers trained on “TV Management and Production / Broadcasting Planning and Coordination
- 6 MOE IT technical staff members trained on developing and operating the new Iraqi curricula website and are now fully responsible for the newly established website.
- 624 Educational TV programs, covering all subjects of 6th, 9th & 12th educational levels produced and broadcasted.
- 25 animated TV clips for promoting peace, human rights, gender equality, right to education, health care and noble values are produced and broadcasted
- Rehabilitation of the educational TV building including the provision of a power generator and a UPS unit as well as preparing the floor design for the TV station.
- Establishing and equipping a TV broadcasting studio with a satellite broadcasting / transmission unit at MOE for broadcasting educational TV programs
- Establishing and equipping a TV production studio (TV Studio and a control room) with editing suits
- Over 700 hours of external TV programs provided to the TV library with to be broadcasted and used in the production of the new educational TV programs (scientific, educational...etc films and series).
- Designing and establishing the Iraqi curricula website.

Notes:

- The established Iraqi educational TV broadcast its programs through NileSat – **Titled: Iraqi Edu**
- The Iraqi curricula website is: www.iraqicurricula.org

How achieved outputs have contributed to the achievement of the outcomes and explain any variance in actual versus planned contributions to the outcomes. Highlight any institutional and/or behavioural changes amongst beneficiaries at the outcome level.

The achieved activities mentioned above contributed directly to the achievement of the project outcomes which was fully achieved at the end of the project. Any variance occurred was based on requests from MoE based on their needs and was on activity level.

The overall contribution of the programme to the Strategy Planning Framework or other strategic documents as relevant, e.g.: MDGs, National Priorities, UNDAF outcomes, etc.

UN Assistance Strategy:

The project contributes to the efforts aiming at providing quality education and building the capacity of relevant teaching experts and staff which contributes to the UN Assistance Strategy educational outcomes:

Outcome 1: Enhanced access to all levels of quality education with particular focus on girls.

Outcome 2: Strengthened institutional and human capacity of the Education Sector to deliver quality Education.

Iraqi National Development Strategy:

Within the Iraqi National Development Strategy, this project contributes mainly to *Pillar Three: Improving the quality of life*. It serves the following targets and goals:

Target 4: Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary and secondary schooling.

Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women.

Target 5: Eliminate gender disparity in all levels of education.

UN Millennium Development Goals:

The project directly addresses three MDG outcomes, (i.e. Goals 1, 2 and 3) that relate to poverty reduction, achieving universal primary education, and eliminating gender disparities respectively. The Distance Learning Project is designed to help in the attainment of gender equality and girls' participation, retention and provision of quality education.

Who have been the primary beneficiaries and how they were engaged in the programme/ project implementation? Provide percentages/number of beneficiary groups, if relevant.

All Iraqi students inside Iraq and around the world including enrolled, out of school, IDPs, girls at home, refugees, people with special needs...etc, those who are studying the Iraqi school curricula or the accelerated learning program even those studying the literacy program at all levels. In a few years, over 9 million students will be using these new distance learning tools in addition to approximately half a million teacher and educational experts as well as the Iraqi community at large.

Highlight the contribution of the programme on cross-cutting issues pertinent to the results being reported.

Security:

- Security conditions had a negative effect on the progress of the project, it forced remote management, delayed rehabilitation activities, equipment installation and production of TV lessons; however, UNESCO succeeded in overcoming these problems with good planning, developing appropriate monitoring tools, low profile implementation and early procurement.

Gender, human rights, noble values:

- All project capacity building activities considered gender balance. It is always requested by UNESCO from its GOI partners to nominate appropriate numbers of female staff to attend any workshop.
- Training materials are also requested to consider and promote human rights, gender equality, social noble values, environment protection...etc when applicable.
- All produced TV programs and spots considered gender balance, human rights, social noble values, environment protection...etc during scenario writing and all production phases.

Has the funding provided by the MDTF/JP to the programme been catalytic in attracting funding or other resources from other donors? If so, please elaborate.

No additional funding was secured

Provide an assessment of the programme/ project based on performance indicators as per approved project document using the template in Section IV, if applicable.

Please see below

III. EVALUATION & LESSONS LEARNED

Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken relating to the programme and how they were used during implementation. Has there been a final project evaluation and what are the key findings? Provide reasons if no evaluation of the programme have been done yet?

The project's general design, assessments, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation was done by UNESCO – Iraq Office in close coordination with MOE, the major national partner, at all levels.

UNESCO developed a monitoring & evaluation system to follow up on the implementation of all rehabilitation and installation activities which allowed project management to closely monitor the progress of the work and efficiently solve any emerging problems. An evaluation system was designed for all capacity building activities to evaluate quality of training and trainees performance. Technical evaluation of the performance of the TV station was also conducted at the end of the trial broadcasting period.

An external evaluation was accomplished and submitted to UNESCO Iraq office in August 2011 (A copy of the External Evaluation Report is attached).

Challenges and Lessons Learned:

Security, electricity, MOE delays and lack of experience of MOE staff were the main implementation constrains facing the project; however, due to the expertise of UNESCO staff, these constrains were dealt with to minimize their effect on implementation through the following:

I. Regarding MOE delays:

1. Delay in rehabilitation activities due to the fact that MOE delayed the delivery of the assigned building for over two months. UNESCO did the building assessment, designed the floor plans, issued the rehabilitation contracts before receiving the building and designed a strict monitoring system with weekly progress reports to guarantee fast quality implementation.
2. Delay in installation of TV studios professional equipment for 7 months due to MOE delay in issuing the customs exemption letters. UNESCO contracted the suppliers earlier and used that time for building the capacity of staff. It also outsourced all production activities to gain time.
3. Delays in nominations of trainees by MOE. UNESCO requested the nominations two months earlier than usual to receive them on time.

II. Regarding security conditions:

1. The MOE project focal point was informed of all shipment two hours before reaching the site.
2. All shipments were DDU Baghdad and were stored at the site to minimize transportation of goods.
3. The TV production service provider had to provide state of the art production facilities located in a safe area. This is to guarantee the safety of MOE TV staff while working at the facilities of the production service provider.
4. A copy of all produced TV educational lessons / programs, animated clips and external TV programs bought for the educational TV station are kept at UNESCO – Iraq Office in Amman as a back-up.

III. Regarding lack of experience of MOE staff:

1. Each and all produced TV lessons / programs were revised by UNESCO to guarantee quality and avoid any violations to human rights, gender equality...etc as well as to prevent promoting any political content or disagreed religious issues.
2. Contracting the suppliers of the TV professional equipment to provide one year technical support and to provide spare parts for three years. They were also requested to repeat the technical training for three times and involve MOE technical staff in the installation process.
3. The TV broadcasting system allows automatic transmission to avoid any possible human error.

IV. Regarding electricity failure:

- 1- The TV station was provided with a large power generator and a UPS and was connected

through automatic changeovers to the country electricity network and to the old building generator (a system with 3 electricity resources).

- 2- Additional emergency UPSs were added to the system to provide more protection to the professional equipment and this complete system guarantees continuous and stable electricity supply 24 / 7.

V. International common risks:

1. To avoid the risk of currency fluctuation, all major contracts and payments were done in US\$.
2. To avoid the discontinuity of some professional equipment, spare parts were provided to cover the needs of 3 years.

In fact, the assessments done by UNESCO before the implementation of the project activities helped identifying the following:

- I. The possible future partners (TV Iraqi private stations for production activities) and resulted in contracting IMN, through competitive bidding, to do the TV production activities and training of MOE education specialists.
- II. Training needs of MOE TV staff.
- III. Rehabilitation needs of the educational TV building
- IV. Design the floor plans, the library system and the editing section.
- V. Put the suitable specifications for the professional TV production & broadcasting equipment.
- VI. Identify the suitable satellite transmission service providers and later on contract one of them, namely NileSat through competitive bidding.

On the other hand, the M&A system and progress reports as well as all trainings evaluation sheets helped in:

- I. Following on implementation activities.
- II. Identify gaps and emerging difficulties and solving them on time.
- III. Evaluate the outcomes of training activities and identify gaps.

At the end of the trial broadcasting period a technical evaluation was also conducted to measure the performance of the educational TV station.

IV. INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Objectives	Measurable indicators	Means of verification	Outcomes / Results
<p>Development Objective</p> <p>To increase the participation and involvement of primary and secondary school students in their studies, within the context of the deteriorating security situation, through distance learning tools designed according to the Iraqi formal school curricula.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of students benefiting. - Number of TV Programmes designed and beamed - Geographical coverage of broadcasting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Produced TV lessons school levels - Broadcasting contracts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educational TV station established – Iraqi Edu on NileSat - Educational curricula website established – www.iraqicurricula.org - 2.5 million Students of levels 6, 9 &12 are benefiting for now and approximately 9 million students in 5 years in addition to teachers and educational experts all over Iraq (approximately 0.5 million)
<p>Immediate Objectives:</p> <p>1. School students provided with immediate access to class lessons, covering all curricula subjects of all school levels, through producing and broadcasting TV and Radio educational programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of students benefiting. - Number of TV Programmes designed and beamed - Programs’ geographical coverage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring / evaluation / progress reports - Production evaluation (quality and quantity). - Broadcasting quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 624 TV lessons of good quality produced for levels 6, 9 & 12 - 25 animated TV clips produced - over 700 hours of external TV programs provided - TV coverage: Middle East and North Africa – great broadcasting quality - Website coverage: all the world – great broadcasting quality
<p>Outputs:</p>			

<p>1.1 150 teachers and educational specialists from MOE and 20 educational experts from Colleges of Education as well as 80 TV and IT technical specialists trained on the use of distance learning tools, specially, the design and broadcasting of curricular lessons.</p> <p>1.2 Educational TV programs, covering all subjects, produced and broadcasted through TV and a specialized website to Iraqi students all over the world.</p>	<p>- Delivery (inventory), and installation of equipment</p> <p>- Number of programs produced.</p> <p>- Capacity Utilization Rate</p> <p>- Programme Intensity Rate</p> <p>- Programme</p> <p>- Beaming Frequency Rate (beaming hours per programme per day).</p>	<p>- Monitoring / evaluation / progress reports</p> <p>- Photographs and videos</p> <p>- Media coverage.</p>	<p>- 20 MOE technical staff members trained on operating the TV satellite broadcasting and production units and are, successfully, performing their duties at the station.</p> <p>-40 MOE educational specialists trained on designing, writing, developing and presenting educational TV programs are successfully developing all TV educational programs and lessons at the station including the already produced 624 lessons produced at a private TV station.</p> <p>-8 MOE directors trained on Scenario developing, producing and directing children / Youth TV programs successfully directing the new production at the educational TV station.</p> <p>-MOE TV managers trained on “TV Management and Production / Broadcasting Planning and Coordination” are participating in</p> <p>-6 MOE IT technical staff members trained on developing and operating the new Iraqi curricula website and are now fully responsible for the newly established website.</p> <p>-624 Educational TV programs, covering all subjects of 6th, 9th & 12th educational levels produced and</p>
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			<p>broadcasted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -25 animated TV clips for promoting peace, human rights, gender equality, right to education, health care and noble values are produced and broadcasted -Rehabilitation of the educational TV building including the provision of a power generator and a UPS unit as well as preparing the floor design for the TV station. -Establishing and equipping a TV broadcasting studio with a satellite broadcasting / transmission unit at MOE for broadcasting educational TV programs – Broadcasting 24 / 7 of 3 cycles (8 hours each) -Establishing and equipping a TV production studio (TV Studio and a control room) with editing suits -Over 700 hours of external TV programs provided to the TV library with to be broadcasted and used in the production of the new educational TV programs (scientific, educational...etc films and series). -Designing and establishing the Iraqi curricula website – broadcasting 24 /7 and updated weekly.
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