

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #: C10-12
Date and Quarter Updated: 2011-Q4, January 20, 2012

Participating UN Organisation: UNIDO **Sector:** PWG Inclusive Economic Growth
Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Iraqi Ministry of Industry and Minerals

Title	Enterprise Development through Information and Communication Technologies (EDICT)				
Geographic Location	All districts of Baghdad, Thi Qar and Erbil				
Project Cost	USD 2,940,000				
Duration	24 months				
Approval Date	02.09.2009	Starting Date	10.09.2009	Completion Date	10.09. 2011 extended to 31.12.2012
Project Description	<p>The project is designed to encourage the establishment of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Iraq, and the creation of employment opportunities for Iraqi people through the promotion of domestic and foreign investment in the productive sectors of the economy. The project will build on the resources and success of UNIDO project “Enterprise Development and Investment Promotion for the SME sector in Iraq”. In this regard, the following will be sought:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance capacities of Iraqi institutions on providing enterprise development services through the use of information and communication technologies, and 2. Facilitate the creation of new enterprises and increase competitiveness of existing enterprises in order to provide employment and income generating opportunities for the people and to reduce poverty. <p>For these activities, the Ministry of Industry and Minerals in Baghdad, KRG Ministry of Trade and Industry and Thi Qar Provincial Council will serve as counterpart/host institutions.</p> <p>In these regards, the project support government’s efforts in promoting economic development through fostering private sector and UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) outcome on job creation.</p>				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

Encourage the establishment/expansion of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Iraq, and the creation of employment opportunities for Iraqi people through the promotion of domestic and foreign investment in the productive sectors of the economy.

1. Enhance capacities of Iraqi institutions on providing enterprise development services with the use of information and communication technology.
2. Facilitate the creation of new enterprises and increase competitiveness of existing enterprise in order to provide employment and income generating opportunities for the people and to reduce poverty.

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement

Outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. Enterprise Development Centers (EDCs) have increased capacity to deliver training modules local entrepreneurs. 1.2. Enhanced capacities of EDCs to provide business advisory services to existing and new enterprises.
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Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. Prepare a comprehensive proposal for the revision of Institutional set up in the governorate of Erbil, Baghdad and Thi Qar, 1.2. Conduct participatory workshops with all stakeholders to present and discuss the proposal. 1.3. Amend proposal according the results of the workshop. 1.4. Establish a Project Steering Committee involving the main counterparts to oversee the project activities and advice as necessary. 1.5. Finalize contract with UNINETTUNO Telematic University 1.6. Organize kick-off meeting for the endorsement of the project work-plan and institutional set up 1.7. Carry out assessment of local conditions on ICT status in each governorate, including internet bandwidth, the extent of spread of satellite television, computer literacy among potential beneficiaries, internet usage 1.8. Carry out a detailed assessment of equipment required to equip and make operational a technological pole within the EDC (by UNINETTUNO) 1.9. Based on the assessment, procure, install and commission three technological pole for e-learning within the premises of EDC (in each Governorate) (by UNINETTUNO) 1.10. Create, publish and update on monthly basis a UNIDO dedicated web platform to support e-learning activities (by UNINETTUNO) 1.11. Adapt UNIDO training material on EDIP and SPX according UNINETTUNO required to be properly broadcasted by Satellite TV and Internet (UNINETTUNO) 1.12. Distance learning capacity building of 6 counselors and 6 tutors on UNINETTUNO methodology for remote counseling and tutoring (by UNINETTUNO) 1.13. Production of 360 hours of UNIDO (EDIP and SPX) training modules by UNINETTUNO (160h of video-lessons and 200h of training materials) 1.14. Broadcast training course through Internet for 24 months and through satellite TV for 12 months. (by UNINETTUNO) 1.15. Encourage and promote EDCs on-line service and activities through local business community 1.16. Official launch of EDC with e-learning component (in each governorate) 1.17. Organize on-line interactive sessions to consolidate training learning of on-line students 1.18. Organize on-line counseling sessions to support trained entrepreneurs 1.19. Monitor enrolment/registration/ course completion of interested on-line and off-line entrepreneurs 1.20. Organize two classroom Training of Entrepreneurs per Governorate <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. Provide business advisory to entrepreneurs and local SMEs (on-line and off-line) through EDC based counselors 2.2. Preparation of EDC counseling reports 2.3. Provide support through business counselors placed at EDC to entrepreneurs and local SMEs on legal/procedural requirements to start/expand their business 2.4. Provide continuous mentoring support through international EDIP specialist to EDC`s counselors and trainers to provide quality services 2.5. Organize mentoring missions/workshops with EDCs on how to improve efficiency and effectiveness of EDC
Procurement	3 technology poles (for each target governorate), each comprised of 12 computers and video-conference facilities

Funds Committed	2,427,471 USD	% of approved	83%
Funds Disbursed	1,744,266 USD	% of approved	59%
Forecast final date	December 31, 2012	Delay (months)	15

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men	186	40%
Women	25	
Children	NA	NA
IDPs	NA	NA
Others	NA	NA
Indirect beneficiaries	NA	NA
Employment generation (men/women)	440	NA

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results			% of planned
1.1	Number of technological infrastructure in place	3	100%
1.2	Number of training courses recorded	3	75%
1.3	Number of entrepreneurs (male/ female) trained online	Pending	Pending
1.4	a. Number of entrepreneurs (male/ female) trained (offline)	211	105%
1.4	b. Number of offline training courses	8	80%
1.5	% of trainees (male/ female) passing the training assessment	95%	112%
2.4	Number of counseling reports prepared	147	147%
2.5	Number of mentoring visits conducted by technical experts to advise EDC staff	4	65%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

Enterprise Development Centers (EDCs), which were established through UNIDO support within Iraqi institutions mandated with supporting the private sector in Baghdad, Thi Qar and Erbil in 2008, resumed providing training and business advice to local entrepreneurs. They have made considerable progress towards reaching project targets pertaining to these services. In particular, the project has already and in a timely manner has reached its targets for offline components including classroom training of entrepreneurs and one-to-one business counseling, as well as capacity-building and mentoring for EDC staff for delivery of these services. This has allowed UNIDO to expand its impact on the ground by supporting more business/investment projects, particularly small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), ultimately contributing to poverty reduction through investment, employment and income generation in Iraq. Moreover, UNIDO has been working with EDCs to ensure their sustainability after the project comes to an end. For this purpose, in 2012, the Steering Committee has decided for UNIDO to subcontract on-the-ground implementation activities of the project to the EDC host institutions, while maintaining a mentoring role.

Meanwhile, UNIDO has continued working with UNINETTUNO, the partner for the e-learning component of the project, to make e-learning services, which will be administrated by the EDCs, fully operation. Currently, UNINETTUNO is working with UNIDO Headquarters to record the remaining UNIDO training course modules to be delivered over a website platform and satellite television.

Main implementation constrains & challenges

Due to unforeseen administrative issues involving Iraqi customs, the receipt of technology poles by host institutions in all targeted governorates were delayed by three months. Moreover, adaptation and recording of training material for e-learning training courses were also delayed due to administrative issues involving UNIDO Headquarters. Since the successful launch and delivery of e-learning courses is a major output of the project, these activities are crucial for project implementation, and delay in their execution caused for the project to be extended. To mitigate any possible consequences of this delay, UNIDO will launch a comprehensive communications campaign targeting project governorates to increase outreach and promote EDC services, particularly e-learning.