

**United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund**  
**Project # 66955 (C9-26)**  
**Date and Quarter Updated: 1 October - 31 December 2011**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2011**

<b>Participating UN Organisations: UNDP (Lead), UNESCO, UNOPS, UNAMI</b>	<b>Sector: Governance</b>
<b>Government of Iraq – Responsible Authority: Communication and Media Commission</b>	

<b>Title</b>	Support the Media in its Role of Fostering Peace and Democracy				
<b>Location</b>	Baghdad, Erbil, Suleiymanieh and Basrah				
<b>Project Cost</b>	Total USD 6,131,285 UNESCO budget USD 763,265 UNDP budget USD 5,368,020				
<b>Duration</b>	January 2009 –March 2012				
<b>Approval Date</b>	04.12.2008	<b>Starting Date</b>	08.12.2008	<b>Completion Date</b>	08.12.2010 extended till 31 May 2012
<b>Project Description</b>	This Project promotes the development of an independent, pluralist and professional media. The project has three broad areas of intervention: (1) to develop or strengthen participatory processes leading to sustainable media self/co-regulatory mechanisms and legislative frameworks; (2) to support the development of local content; and (3) to identify the key institutions (e.g. training institutions, regulatory bodies and professional entities) for targeted capacity building to enhance professionalism.				

<b>Development Goal and Immediate Objectives</b>	
<b>Project Outcome:</b>	Independent civil society and media enabled through legal and regulatory frameworks, professional development and strengthened institutions.
<b>Objective 1:</b>	<b>Support regulatory frameworks to build capacity of an independent, pluralist and professional media leading to the articulation and/or enhancement of sustainable media self/co-regulatory mechanisms and legislative frameworks to protect fundamental human rights including the rights to freedom of expression, access to information and data protection.</b>
<b>Objective 2:</b>	Support to key institutions – e.g. training institutions, regulatory bodies and professional entities for targeted training and capacity building to enhance professionalism.
<b>Objective 3:</b>	Development of local content to support national dialogue and reconciliation through targeted training.

<b>Outputs, Key activities and Procurement</b>	
<b>Outputs</b>	<p>1.1 Increased dialogue and advocacy related to A38 legislation and A19 freedoms through establishment of a media law working group.</p> <p>1.2 Increased understanding by government and media on right to know, data protection, and freedom of expression.</p> <p>1.3 Increased dialogue and reconciliation at community level through the provision of six small grants to community-based media.</p> <p>1.4 Increased exposure of media professionals to global media development through the provision of seven small grants for scholarships and study tours.</p>

	<p>1.5 Availability of self-regulatory monitoring mechanisms at CSOs and media institutions.</p> <p>1.6 Availability of quality media curricula at four media institutes and mass communication faculties.</p> <p>1.7 Availability of media data setting the baseline for the media sector – UNESCO lead.</p> <p>1.8 Increased capacity of independent news agency as a model for media in Iraq towards self-sufficiency.</p> <p>1.9 CMC functions within a strategic plan.</p> <p>1.10 Identified gaps and opportunities related to performance of Iraq Media Network (IMN).</p>
<b>UNDP report against Outputs</b>	
Output 1.1	<p>Achieved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased dialogue and advocacy related to A38 legislation and A19 freedoms through establishment of a media law working group.</li> </ul>
Output 1.2	<p>Increased understanding by government and media on right to know, data protection, and freedom of expression.</p>
Output 1.4	<p>Increased exposure of media professionals to global media development through the provision of seven small grants for scholarships and study tours.</p>
Activities	<p>EITI reporting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A one page analysis of Iraq's first EITI report was issued on December 23rd, 2011.</li> <li>A fuller (nine page analysis) on the report;</li> <li>A full (second edition) of the Iraq Oil Almanac (updated to 287 pages, 1,000 references and 90,000 words);</li> <li>A full edition in Arabic of the Iraq Oil Almanac (in Word format);</li> <li>A preliminary study of activities by the IOCs around Article 26 and CSR activities more broadly: the second PPP paper, as per the ToR;</li> <li>A paper on progress in Iraq's EITI process;</li> <li>The report submitted in September on Shell's ethical reputation in Iraq;</li> <li>A paper outlining the range of governance issues in Iraq jointly authored with IAU -- together with a paper on ExxonMobil's recent move into Kurdistan and its implications for management of the oil industry, as an annex to that paper.</li> </ul>
Output 1.6	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Availability of quality media curricula at four media institutes and mass communication faculties.</p>
Output 1.8	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Increased capacity of independent news agency as a model for media in Iraq towards self-sufficiency.</p>
Output 1.9	<p>Achieved</p> <p>CMC functions within a strategic plan.</p>
Output 1.10	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Identified gaps and opportunities related to performance of Iraq media Network (IMN).</p>
<b>Procurement</b>	<p>Nothing to report for the quarter</p>

<b>Funds Committed</b>	USD 6,037,682.90	<b>% of approved</b>	<b>98.5%</b>
<b>Funds Disbursed</b>	USD 5,964,032.32	<b>% of approved</b>	<b>97.3%</b>
<b>Forecast final date</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2012	<b>Delay (months)</b>	18

<b>Quantitative achievements against objectives and results</b>		<b>% of planned</b>
Output 1.1		100%
Output 1.2	- Training to government officials on developing advocacy and PR tools	100%
Output 1.4	- Further development of baseline survey of oil sector	90%
	- Support to Aswat al Iraq	100%
	- Support to key institutions	95%
Output 1.6	- Development of local content to support national dialogue and reconciliation	90%
Output 1.8	- Complete	100%
Output 1.9	- Initiation of change management within CMC	100%
Output 1.10	- IMN change management review truly underway and a new draft law submitted	100%

<b>Qualitative achievements against objectives and results</b>
<p><b>Objective 1:</b></p> <p>This project is quite mature with multiple outputs in Outcome/Objective 1 complete.</p> <p>UNDP and one of its partners under the Media Project – Article 19 - held a Workshop in Beirut, Lebanon from 3-5 December 2010, on the Right To Information (RTI) Law. Twenty-two (22) Participants attended workshop from the Council of Representatives, the Commission of Integrity, the Iraqi Journalists’ Syndicate and academia. The purpose of the workshop was to sensitise the Iraqi participants to the importance of RTI laws and provide case studies from countries as varied as USA, UK, Hungary, Jordan and Lebanon. An overview of best practices and international standards was provided including an interesting analysis of countries where the RTI law is weak but the cultural sense of ‘the right to know’ of the citizens of a country superseded the weak law.</p> <p>The current draft RTI law for Iraq was analyzed and opinions on various key articles and all points of general consensus were recorded. Three working groups identified the key implementation issues that need to be addressed when an RTI law is adopted in Iraq and the inclusion of civil society organisations was highlighted as a critical aspect of successfully pushing a decent RTI law through the countries law-making bodies. A new draft law has been submitted to relevant Parliamentary Committees.</p> <p>A grant was awarded to Aswat al-Iraq to improve Aswat al-Iraq’s institutional capacity to identify and target potential donors and partners; to improve its institutional capacity to design programs and write proposals; and to enrich Aswat’s editorial content with high quality photographic and audiovisual material from across the country.</p> <p>Activities were undertaken to review three university journalism curricula in Iraq: Baghdad University, Salahaddin University and Erbil Technical Institute for Media, in order to agree on recommendations and define how to improve the current journalism curricula. The Curricula Development Steering Committee was established which reviewed and updated the journalism curriculum, conducted an assessment, in close collaboration with the MoHE, of the current curriculum and collected recommendations from media faculty staff.</p> <p>The CMC change management assignment concluded 2011. Extensive reports were provided by subcontractors Moore Stephens including an analysis of CMC processes; CMC human resource analysis; decision making authority analysis; analysis of regulatory processes; ICT requirements; monitoring challenges, etc. Some planned study tours to Egypt and Malaysia did not take place due to financial limits in the overall programme.</p>

**Objective 2:**

The proposed Journalism Curriculum Framework was produced after the conclusion of workshops that took place in Amman in June 2010 and June 2011 and the study tour to the USA in January 2010. During 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, the document has been reviewed, edited and sent for translation into Arabic and Kurdish. Once the Journalism Curriculum Framework is complete, UNESCO anticipates official submission to the Ministries of Higher Education for the Government of Iraq and the KRG with the timeline anticipated to be during 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2012.

**Objective 3:**

Iraqi Institute of Economic Reforms' baseline survey on the level of coverage and understanding of oil issues in Iraq's media and among its decision-making classes has been sent to a printing and design company to be laid out as a booklet. This survey will be distributed among Iraqi decision makers, media executives and civil society, with a view to targeting improved coverage in the future.

In September 2011, UNESCO launched an open grant call to Iraqi NGOs for submission of proposals on training media editors in reporting environmental issues. The NGO applicants had to demonstrate that they have the resources, infrastructure and technical capacity to deliver the activity requested. Of the nine (9) proposals received, only 2 complied with all eligibility criteria outlined in the grant's operational guidelines. The shortlisted proposals – Bustan Association NGO and Ajil Charitable Society NGO- were scrutinized by the Media Grant Committee based on the following evaluation criteria: organization capacity, proposed activities and proposed staff.. The Bustan Association received the highest score from the Media Grant Committee.

The Bustan Association's project aims to raise knowledge and skills of 22 media editors and 8 water engineers in the Disputed Internal Boundaries, northern Iraq, in media education and sustainable development, including conflict-resolution management. The purpose is to raise knowledge on water resource management, and to sensitize the participating beneficiaries to use the information which they receive to raise public awareness on related issues, including conflict-mitigation and water resource management.

At the end of 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2011 two training workshops have been conducted in Diyala and Sulaymaniyah. A last workshop in Al-Al-Hamdaniya, Ninewa, will be held on 18-23 January 2012. The number of participants in Diyala was 11 persons (8 men and 3 women): 8 editors/journalists and 3 water engineer; while in Sulaymaniyah 12 persons (6 men and 6 women): 9 editors/journalists and 2 water engineers attended this training.

**Main implementation constraints and challenges**

The granted project was planned to conclude in late December. However, Bustan Association was forced to postpone the workshop that will take place in Ninewa, as the participants were not available given the fact that the majority are Christians, who observed the Christmas holidays.