

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project Number 66973: G11-20
Date and Quarter Updated: 01 January – 31 March 2012
1st Quarter 2012

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				
Geo. 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	24 months with 25 months extension				
Approval Date	04.12.2008	Starting Date	08.12.2008	Completion Date	08.12. 2010 extended 31.12.2012
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: IHEC has a permanent voter registry with safeguards to prevent fraud and mechanisms for inclusion of all Iraqis in elections.

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	None

Funds Committed	USD 5, 104, 134	% of approved	93.1 %
Funds Disbursed	USD 4, 820, 932	% of approved	88.0 %
Forecast final date	31 December 2012	Delay (months)	12

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. A further no cost extension was approved on 20 December 2011, stretching the project duration to 31 December 2012.

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

		% of planned
Output 1: Increased institutional capacity of IHEC to independently carry out elections.	No activities were implemented during the reporting period. However discussions were conducted with the IHEC on the recruitment of international electoral experts to support the planning and implementation of the Kurdistan Region Governorate Council elections which are scheduled for 27 September 2012. This support will also be extended to the implementation of Governorate Council elections for the other 15 provinces in Iraq which are expected to take place in early 2013. The international experts will be responsible for the provision of technical advice and operational support.	N/A

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

During the reporting period, UNDP and IHEC agreed on the need to have international experts, mainly to support the planning and implementation of the KRG electoral process as well as the capacity building programme of the IHEC. In this regard, the recruitment process following international experts was initiated:

1. Procurement Advisor
2. Media Advisor
3. Public Outreach Advisor

The recruitment process for these three positions will be finalised in the second quarter. UNDP will continue to discuss with IHEC on other specific areas of technical assistance that may be required during the implementation of the electoral process.

The following positions have also been earmarked for recruitment:

1. Database Development Advisor
2. Senior Operations Policy Advisor
3. Voter Registration Advisor

UNDP will continue to discuss with IHEC on specific areas of technical assistance that may be required to be provided by the international advisors during the implementation of the electoral process.

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. In January, there was limited access into IHEC National Office, thus reducing face-to face time with IHEC counterparts. However, from February to March 2012, access of UN personnel to the IHEC National Office had improved, with new measures in place to increase UN access to the IHEC facilities.