

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #: F8-13
Date and Quarter Updated: April – June 2012 (2nd Quarter)

Participating UN Organisation: UNESCO (Lead Agency), UNOPS	Sector: Protection
Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Ministry of Human Rights Communications and Media Commission	

Title	Protection of Media Professionals, Members of the Academic Community and Human Rights Defenders in Iraq				
Geo. Location	Nationwide with hubs in Baghdad and Erbil				
Project Cost	US\$ 1,000,000 (UNESCO: USD 589,452 / UNOPS: USD 410,548)				
Duration	12 months + 12 months extension				
SC Approval Date	27.06.2010	Starting Date	09.07.2010	Completion Date	09.07.2011 extended till 09.07.2012
Project Description	<p>This project aims at supporting the following groups: media professionals, Human Rights Defenders and members of the academic community, who have been especially targeted by extremists, due to the consequences of violence and threats inside Iraq. The project is divided into three inter-outputs: (i) National institutions (e.i. MoJ, MoHR, CMC and IBA) and CSOs have an Federation promoting a greater understanding and increasing the capacity to react to human rights issues, including raising awareness of human rights abuses in Iraq. A series of consultative meetings to address human rights concerns will focus on the development of an official Iraq wide federal CSOs. The federation will work to raise human rights awareness among the general public through national institutions and the target groups and monitor human rights issues; (ii) the targeted groups will receive specialized training on human rights protection systems and monitoring human rights violations. In addition, roundtables will be held on human rights protection between the targeted groups, government officials and members of the Iraqi Bar Association; (iii) personal and safety training will be provided to increase their capacity to cope with threats and professionals risk; and two local NGOs will be supported to work within an Iraqi NGO in Baghdad and Erbil to create its capacity to serve as regional resource on safety and security issues, to monitor and report on the security situation in Iraq, coordinate trainings, as well as serve as a regional network coordinator for beneficiaries.</p> <p>While UNESCO will lead the overall project, the division of labour will be shared according to UNESCO and UNOPS mandates and expertise, and in association with NGOs and with Iraqi civil society, as well as with the beneficiary groups.</p>				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives
<p>Project Outcome: Independent civil society and media enabled through legal and regulatory frameworks, professional development and strengthened institutions.</p> <p>Objective 1: Develop an active Federation between national institutions, such as the MoJ, the MoHR, the CMC, the Iraqi Bar Association, and CSOs, in promoting a greater understanding and the increased capacity to react to human rights issues, including raising awareness of human rights abuses in Iraq. This will result in the creation of an official federation of CSOs which will be responsible in the continued awareness raising and reporting on human rights issues among the general public, national institutions and the target groups.</p> <p>Objective 2: Strengthen the capacity of the targeted groups to promote a human rights system by providing practical tools to report and monitor human rights violations to national and international institutions.</p> <p>Objective 3: Increase the capacity of the targeted groups to cope with threats and professionals risk by providing practical tools on security issues to ensure their personal safety.</p>

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement	
Outputs	<p>Output 1: National institutions and CSOs have an active Federation promoting a greater understanding and increasing the capacity to react to human rights issues, including raising awareness of human rights abuses in Iraq.</p> <p>Output 2: Government officials, HRDs, media organizations, members of the academic community and professional unions have strengthened capacities to promote human rights protection systems and report to national and international human rights institutions.</p> <p>Output 3: HRDs, academics and media workers have increased capacities to cope with threats and professional risks.</p>
Activities	<p>Output 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultative meetings to establish key issues within the domain of human rights in Iraq and to coordinate a unified response mechanism. - Monthly news sheets and mailing list. - National Conference in Baghdad to launch a Federation of CSOs. - Interactive website. <p>Output 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trainings of trainers in human right protection systems. - Roundtables in human rights. - Trainings in human rights protection and personal safety and security issues. - Legal awareness training to governmental officials and lawyers. <p>Output 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trainings of trainers in personal safety and security issues. - Establishment of two resources centres/hubs (Baghdad and Erbil). - Reproducing and distributing of a Field Work Safety Manual.
Procurement	N/A

Funds Committed (UNESCO)	US\$ 527,313.56	% of approved	89.46%
Funds Disbursed	US\$ 277,472.01	% of approved	47.07%
Forecast final date	July 2012	Delay (months)	12 Months
Funds Committed (UNOPS)	US\$ 330,041.60	% of approved	80.4 %
Funds Disbursed	US\$ 330,041.60	% of approved	80.4 %
Forecast final date	September 2011	Delay (months)	12 months

***Above figures reflect actual commitments and disbursements out of a total UNOPS budget of \$410,458.**

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men	209	70%
Women	85	28%
Children	0	0
IDPs	0	0
Others	0	0
Indirect beneficiaries	19 human rights activists attend a ToT on human rights protection mechanisms from 12-17 December 2010 (20 human rights activists attended the first several days of the ToT, but for medical reasons, one participant withdrew).	95%
Employment generation (men/women)	0	0

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results		% of planned
Objective 1: Develop an active Federation between national institutions, such as the MoJ, the MoHR, the CMC, the Iraqi Bar Association, and CSOs, in promoting a greater understanding and the increased capacity to react to human rights issues, including raising awareness of human rights abuses in Iraq. This will result in the creation of an official federation of CSOs which will be responsible in the continued awareness raising and reporting on human rights issues among the general public, national institutions and the target groups.	Activities	
	Consultative meetings to establish key issues within the domain of human rights in Iraq and to coordinate a unified response mechanism.	100%
	Monthly news sheets and mailing list.	100%
	Creation and launch of Federation (Setting up a Steering Committee; Drafting Federation Charter & ToR; Launching Federation)	90%
	National Conference on the situation of HRDs in Iraq.	100%
Objective 2: Strengthen the capacity of the targeted groups to promote a human rights system by providing practical tools to report and monitor human rights violations to national and international institutions.	The development and design of the interactive website was completed during the previous quarter and the site is now online at http://www.modafaaun.com/ . This site benefits activist, academics and journalists who are on a regularly growing mailing list and notified whenever articles or reports are uploaded to the site. The website is open to the public.	100%
	Trainings of trainers in human right protection systems completed in the last reporting period.	100%
	Roundtables in human rights.	100%
	Trainings in human rights protection and personal safety and security issues.	100%
	Legal awareness training to governmental officials and lawyers.	100%
Objective 3: Increase the capacity of the targeted groups to cope with threats and professionals risk by providing practical tools on security issues to ensure their personal safety.	Trainings of trainers in personal safety and security issues.	100%
	Establishment of two resources centres/hubs (Baghdad and Erbil).	50%
	Reproducing and distributing of a Field Work Safety Manual.	100%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results
Objective 1 During this reporting period, the Steering Committee for the Federation held its third meeting on 19 June 2012 in Erbil. The Committee members agreed on (1) holding the conference on the launch of the Federation of Human Rights Defenders on 14 July 2012 in Erbil. Due to the limited budget, the Committee will seek the sponsorship and support of the KRG on the venue booking. A total number of 75 participants from within the field of human rights, academia and the media are expected to be invited, as well as the Ministry of Human Rights and other government officials from GoI and KRG; (2) the final draft of the Federation's rules and procedures were approved with one amendment related to the dissolution of the current steering committee. After the creation of the Federation this committee will continue serving as interim board of directors for a period of two years or until the Federation law is enacted by the Iraqi Parliament, whichever occurs first.
Objective 2 UNESCO organized 9 safety and security awareness courses in Basra, Erbil and Baghdad. A total 129 HRDs, journalists and university professors (33 women; 96 men) trained in the protection mechanisms of human rights during the second quarter of 2012 participated in these courses. Feedback received from the individuals trained was positive. The trainings conducted were in the area of safety and security with a weight in security planning and managing in different daily areas, explosives, kidnap awareness, weapon awareness and trauma first aid. First aid kits and the UNESCO Safety Manual were distributed in the courses. In general there was a noted

increase in the expertise the participants held in the area of safety and security following the training. Generally participants stated that they had gained from the experience and found it useful to partake in this training activity.

Additionally, a legal awareness training session was conducted in Erbil from 16-18 May. 22 individuals (7 women; 15 men) from the Ministries of Justice, Interior and Defence, in addition to the Iraq's Bar Associations, were trained in the following topics: International Human Rights Framework (UN and regional protection mechanisms); international and domestic implementations; lawful limits and restrictions on human rights; the relation between civil society organizations, the government and human rights; and freedom of expression in Iraq. The trainees undertook practical exercises in order to deepen in their understanding of human rights and their responsibilities as government officials. The trainers –Dr John Pace and Dr Ben Saul- surpassed all participants' expectation, as they showed to have the perfect combination of global, legal and humanitarian experience. The course was completed successfully to the satisfaction of all participants, all of whom gave positive feedback.

Objective 3

Following the safety and security awareness courses, UNESCO conducted a Training of Trainers in safety and security in Basra, Erbil and Baghdad. A total of 61 individuals (24 women, 40 men) were trained to become proficient trainers in their workplace and communities on safety and security procedures. Participants were selected based on a number of criteria including active participation in the Security Awareness Course, their professional background, their previous experience with security and safety matters, geographical distribution, gender balance and representation of minority groups. The training covered topics such course administration and safety; training needs analysis; preparing for training; training methods and techniques; training session planning; learning outcomes; and presentation skills. In addition, participants were required to prepare and deliver three security oriented training sessions to their peers, in which they were put where their abilities were critiqued and improved upon. All participants showed significant improvement from their first session.

The UNESCO Safety and Security Coordinator in Baghdad completed the assessment of 3 Baghdad-based NGOs. Based on the outcomes of the conducted evaluations a final decision has been made by the Project Management Team as to which NGO will be serving as the Security Recourse Hub: Society to Defending Press Freedom. Cooperation with the chosen NGO will be established through the provision of office equipment and technical assistance by UNESCO. The chosen NGO is committed to this activity and has asseverated to be able to sustain it without external financial support.

Lastly, UNESCO issued a contract with a consulting firm to conduct the project external as soon as all project activities are completed in the next quarter.

Main Challenges

The security situation in Iraq remains a concern for the project implementation, especially when safeguarding the safety of participants and trainers of training activities.

The initial plan was to deliver two legal awareness session; one in Erbil and another in Baghdad. However, the Arab Nuclear meeting was taking place in Baghdad during the same week as the Baghdad session. This would mean lengthy delays travelling around the city, and it would be almost impossible to access the Baghdad International Airport Hotel, where the course was to be held. In addition, the response from the various ministries in Baghdad to nominate students was poor to non-existent. So UNESCO decided to deliver one course in Erbil and invite potential participants from Baghdad.

Furthermore and due to the mentioned high-level meeting, the safety and security awareness course, taking place during the same week, was reduced to 2 sessions instead of the planned four. Invitations were sent to the expected 80 participants, but only 54 presented for training.

UNESCO took the strategic decision not seeking a replacement for the Erbil Safety and Security Coordinator, who resigned shortly after taking the position. Instead, UNESCO decided to select a local NGO in Baghdad that has also coverage in the northern region of Iraq. Thus, the northern region may also benefit from the safety information collected and distributed from the Baghdad Safety Resource Hub. The chosen NGO has subsidiary offices in Sulaymaniyah and Kirkuk, in addition to having a comprehensive database of journalists and media institutions in Iraq.