

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #: F8-13
Date and Quarter Updated: January – March 2012 (1st Quarter)

Participating UN Organisation:
 UNESCO (Lead Agency); UNOPS

Sector: Protection

Government of Iraq – Ministry of Human Rights; Communications and Media Commission

Title	Protection of Media Professionals, Members of the Academic Community and Human Rights Defenders in Iraq				
Geographic 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 (no cost extension for additional 12 months was approved)				
Approval Date (SC)	27 June 2010	Starting Date	9 July 2010	Completion Date	9 July 2011 (extended till 9 July 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, suffering the consequences of violence and threats inside Iraq. The project is divided into three inter-related outputs: (i) National institutions (e.i. MoJ, MoHR, CMC and IBA) 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. A series of consultative meetings to address human rights concerns will focus on the development of an official Iraq wide federation of CSOs. The federation will work to raise human rights awareness among the general public national institutions and the target groups and monitor human rights issues; (ii) the targeted groups will each 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 target 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 experts to work within an Iraqi NGO in Baghdad and Erbil to create its capacity to serve as regional resources on safety and security issues, to monitor and report on the security situation in Iraq, coordinate the 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 (major items)	N/A

Funds Committed (UNESCO)	US\$ 484,455.31	% of approved	82.19%
Funds Disbursed	US\$ 198,134.31	% of approved	33.61%
Forecast final date	July 2012	Delay (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)	

*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	154	128%
Women	54	45%
Children	0	0
IDPs	0	0
Others	0	0
Indirect beneficiaries	19	95%
Employment generation (men/women)	0	0

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results			
	Activities	% 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.	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)	55%	
	National Conference on the situation of HRDs in Iraq.	100%	
	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%	

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.	Trainings of trainers in human right protection systems completed in the last reporting period.	100%	
	Roundtables on human rights.	100%	
	Trainings in human rights protection and personal safety and security issues.	55%	
	Legal awareness training to governmental officials and lawyers.	10%	
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.	0%	
	Establishment of two resources centres/hubs (Baghdad and Erbil).	40%	
	Reproducing and distributing of a Field Work Safety Manual.	90%	

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

During this reporting period, the Steering Committee for the Federation held its second meeting on 6 February 2012 in Erbil. The Committee members discussed (1) the draft rules and procedures of the Federation. Afterwards and in order to finalize this process, the Committee sent the draft rules and procedures to a Legal expert for review; (2) the adoption of an official logo; (3) the legal recognition of the Federation; (4) the areas where the Committee members need specialized trainings such in strategic planning, human rights advocacy and project design; (4) holding of a conference in the summer of 2012 to launch the federation and inform its rules and procedures to Iraq's human rights community; (5) a proposal on conducting seminars with CSOs in different Iraqi provinces in order to publicize the Federation work throughout Iraq and within local communities; (6) sources of funding for the Federation: membership, donations, etc.; (7) the reactivation of the website created by UNOPS and its implementing partner as part of this project.

In addition, the Committee met the President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission, Dr. Saleem Al-Jabory, who welcomed this initiative and offered full cooperation and collaboration towards the committee and its work.

Furthermore, UNESCO, in cooperation with its implementing partner, developed the Work Field Safety Manual. The manual is intended as an information source for journalists, academics and HRDS, providing basic knowledge and practical skills needed to effectively address and mitigate critical security threats and risks faced by the target groups. Participants of the safety and security seminars will receive copies of this manual.

Preparation work also began for the implementation of 12 safety and security seminars, expected to be implemented in the next quarter in Basra, Erbil and Baghdad. Those participants who attended the human rights seminars held last year are being contacted and preliminary work was done to arrange the venues. In addition, the legal awareness training is being organized in coordination with UNESCO's implementing partners. This training course will take place in Erbil and Baghdad on May 2012. Letters to the Ministries of Interior, Justice and Defence and to Iraq's Bar Associations have been sent requesting nominees to participant in the mentioned course.

Lastly, UNESCO recruited two Safety and Security Coordinators, who are currently assessing local NGO in order to identify the most suitable organization to host the regional safety resource hubs. These Coordinators have already begun to approach various local authorities to ensure maximum security coordination among them and the regional hubs and to gather information on security conditions/incidents in Iraq.

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.

Shortly after the conclusion of the recruitment process for the Safety and Security Coordinators, the Erbil Coordinator notified his resignation. It has meant a constraint to the establishment of a regional resource center in Erbil. Despite countless efforts, UNESCO has not been able to find a skilled local expert to take over this position.