

**United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund**  
**Project #:C9-25**  
**Date and Quarter Updated: April - June, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2012**

**Participating UN Organisation: UNOPS**

**Sector: Governance**

**Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry:**

**Ministry of State for Civil Society Affair**

<b>Title</b>	Iraqi Civil Society Empowerment Project				
<b>Geographic Location</b>	National coverage, with specific activities targeting priority areas determined by the location of the selected NGOs. .				
<b>Project Cost</b>	4,255,193				
<b>Duration</b>	24 months + 18 months extension				
<b>Approval Date (SC)</b>	04.12.2008	<b>Starting Date</b>	09.12.2008	<b>Completion Date</b>	09.12.2010 extended until 31.08.2012
<b>Project Description</b>	<p>This project builds on UNOPS experience in supporting Iraq's citizens with the assistance of Iraqi civil society over the past 4 years, be it through capacity-building, grant funding or technical assistance. ICSEP defines <i>empowerment</i> as a process where the Iraqi people, in this instance via civil society, gain greater independence through capacity-building. This project will enable civil society to develop into a stronger and more reliable partner for government and donors in order to better inform, monitor and support processes of democratization, stabilization, development and relief to the benefit of all Iraq's people. The Project comprises 4 stand-alone modules: 1. Capacity-Building, Awareness-Raising and Networking; 2. Emergency Response and Preparedness; 3. Citizen Participation in Local Governance; &amp; 4. Community-based Peace-building. Special attention will be paid to gender and youth-sensitive programming. ICSEP adopts a two-pronged implementation strategy with certain outcomes pursued nationally while others follow area-based models. ICSEP rests on strong partnerships with our Iraqi partners - governmental (Min. of Civil Society, NAO, NCCMD) &amp; NGOs.</p>				

**Development Goal and Immediate Objectives**

*The project contributes to the following development goals in the relevant development strategies for Iraq:*

**Iraqi National Development Strategy (NDS):** 7.5.3. (*Emergency Coordination, Preparedness and Response*); 9.1.1. (*National Dialogue and Reconciliation*); 9.4.1 (*'Engaging with Civil Society'*)

**International Compact with Iraq (ICI):** Section 3.1.1. (*National Dialogue and Reconciliation*), 3.3.1. (*Establish a comprehensive human rights regime country wide*) and Section 4.2.1 (*'Engaging with the Civil Society'*)

**Sector Team Outcome(s) for the Governance Sector:**

Outcome 2: *Strengthening national dialogue and civil society for governance and reconciliation.*

Outcome 3: *Strengthened regulatory framework, institutions and processes of national and local governance.*

**Project objectives:**

1. To establish a liberal legal and administrative framework for Iraqi NGOs, respected both by the authorities and the NGO community itself.
2. To increase organizational capacity for advocacy of the Iraqi civil society.

3. To improve access of Iraqi citizens to relief assistance following increased role of NGO community in conducting emergency response.
4. To strengthen citizen participation in local governance processes, facilitated by civil society, which impacts positively on local economic development and social assistance delivery.
5. To spearhead collaborative initiatives to counter conflict trends through civil society with the ultimate aim of protecting human rights and achieving community development.

### **Outputs, Key activities and Procurement**

<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1: Intn'l standards mainstreamed in draft laws and regulations governing NGO sector</li> <li>1.2: Increased capacity of NGO Assistance Office to register NGOs timely and provide information support.</li> <li>1.3: Higher awareness across civil society, government and public on rights &amp; duties of NGOs.</li> <li>2.1 Increased Iraqi capacity to provide CB support to civil society organizations in core organizational functions and Human Rights Civic Education.</li> <li>2.2: Civic Education campaign on Human Rights conducted by empowered NGO network.</li> <li>3.1: NGO Emergency Preparedness and Response Network (EPRN) established nationwide</li> <li>3.2: Enhanced coordination of local humanitarian NGOs with humanitarian community (GoI, UN, Int. NGOs)</li> <li>3.3: Increased under-standing of humanitarian ethics and advocacy role among NGO community.</li> <li>4.1. Increased capacities for evaluating local governance and producing recommendations to improve citizen participation.</li> <li>4.2: Civic Education campaign on citizen participation in local governance conducted by empowered NGO network.</li> <li>4.3: Citizen participation initiatives increase democratic local governance through close collaboration between NGOs and local authorities.</li> <li>4.4: Stronger policy debate for enhancing civil society and citizen participation in local governance.</li> <li>5.1: A cadre of peace-building resource persons able to initiate change in the larger relational patterns within their communities, is set-up in select locations.</li> <li>5.2: Civic Education campaign on community based peace-building and its contribution to national dialogue and reconciliation process conducted by empowered NGO network in Baghdad.</li> <li>5.3: Tension levels amongst the general Iraqi public decreased by peace-building initiatives run by CSOs and community leaders in select areas.</li> <li>5.4: Formerly divided communities are able to plan their future together.</li> <li>5.5: Stronger policy debate on integrated community-based peace-building.</li> </ul>
<b>Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1.1 Provide TA to GoI and KRG Institutions on NGO legislations</li> <li>1.2.1. NAO staff capacity needs assessment</li> <li>1.2.2. Capacity-building of NAO staff</li> <li>1.2.3. IMS support to NAO NGO Database</li> <li>1.3.1 Training program for government officials on civil society / law</li> <li>1.3.2 Educating NGOs on NGO Law</li> <li>2.1.1. Capacity building of Civil Society Service Center in Sulaymaniyah</li> <li>2.2.1. Support to capacity building of civil society network (HR) by CSSC</li> <li>2.2.2. Network plan and carry out Civic Education Campaign</li> <li>3.1.1. Create and Support EPRN network operations and expansion</li> <li>3.2.1. Set up communication protocols inside EPRN and with 3<sup>rd</sup> parties.</li> <li>3.2.2. Fast track data collection and early warning by EPRN nodes and compilation of all governorate databases into national DB.</li> </ul>

	<p>3.3.1. Produce media materials raising awareness of CSOs on humanitarian principles and advocacy.</p> <p>3.3.2. Hold governorate-level awareness raising events.</p> <p>4.1.1. Adapt &amp; fine-tune local governance assessment (LGA) methodology.</p> <p>4.1.2. Carry out local governance assessments in 2 locations</p> <p>4.2.1. Capacity building of Civil Society Service Center in Basrah</p> <p>4.2.2. Support to capacity building of civil society network (citizens participation) by CSSC</p> <p>4.2.3. Network plans and implements Civic Education Campaigns in Citizen Participation</p> <p>4.3.1. Implement citizen participation initiatives in 2 target areas</p> <p>4.3.2. Evaluate impact of initiatives (including baseline) via academic / research centers.</p> <p>4.4.1. Organize Roundtable to debate project outputs and propose policies to increase nation-wide citizen participation.</p> <p>5.1.1. Carry out conflict assessments in 2 select areas Baghdad, Mosul)</p> <p>5.1.2. ToT on Peacebuilding and Awareness-raising for community stakeholders in alternative conflict / dispute resolution mechanisms</p> <p>5.2.1. Capacity building of Civil Society Service Center in Baghdad</p> <p>5.2.2. Support to capacity building of civil society network (peacebuilding) by CSSC</p> <p>5.2.3. Network plans and implements Civic Education Campaigns on Peacebuilding</p> <p>5.3.1. Peacebuilding projects implemented by local CSOs through grant funding</p> <p>5.3.2. Evaluate impact of initiatives.</p> <p>5.4.1. Organize community planning exercises after peace-building projects.</p> <p>5.4.2. Secure support of local authorities and civil society for funding of community plans through regular budget.</p> <p>5.5.1. Organize Roundtable to debate project outputs and propose policies to increase community-based peace-building networks and initiatives, with involvement from GoI and civil society at large.</p>
<b>Procurement</b>	In the reporting period there were no major procurement items.

<b>Funds Committed</b>	\$ 4,183,645.16	<b>% of approved</b>	98%
<b>Funds Disbursed</b>	\$ 3,966,140.79	<b>% of approved</b>	91%
<b>Forecast final date</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2012	<b>Delay (months)</b>	18 months

<b>Direct Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Number of Beneficiaries</b>	<b>% of planned (current status)</b>
Men		
Women		
Children		
IDPs		
Others	(At the end of the project it is expected that app. 1,300 NGOs and app. 600 GoI officials will have benefited)	
Indirect beneficiaries		
Employment generation (men/women)		

*In general the project is to benefit the Iraqi public on a number of levels. The project is to provide certain short-term benefits through its direct activities in addition to long-term benefits obtained through adoption of the NGO law, improved capacity of civil society, and enhanced cooperation with the central, regional and local authorities of Iraq in order to improve the situation of the Iraqi people throughout the country.*

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results		% of planned
1. To establish a liberal legal and administrative framework for Iraqi NGOs, respected both by the authorities and the NGO community itself.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNOPS continued to provide support to the development of the KRG NGO Department, by analysing the institutional and organisational structure and making specific recommendations for the improvement of program implementation through Clic Consultants_, as well as continuing to engage with senior officials and conduct supporting program activities.</li> <li>The institutional assessment of the NGO Directorate is complete. <a href="#">Clic Consultants</a> submitted a draft of the final report in June 2012 in which they explained the organisational structure and institutional challenges of the Directorate, as well as made specific recommendations for organizational restructuring and capability building. This comprehensive evaluation of the NGO Directorate allows for a more accurate identification of the needs of the NGO Directorate, the provision of more streamlined and effective support from external organisations to help meet those needs, and enhanced cooperation between the NGO Directorate and their stakeholders.</li> <li>Individual grants have been awarded to 13 NGOs to implement follow up sessions to previous awareness activities to increase the awareness of NGO law no. 12 in different Iraqi governorates, certain Iraqi Governorate Offices and inside the CoR. 67% of the follow-up sessions have been implemented and completed.</li> </ol>	95%
2. To increase organizational capacity for advocacy of the Iraqi civil society.	All the planned activities under this objective have been delivered and reported on in previous quarters.	100%
3. To improve access of Iraqi citizens to relief assistance following increased role of NGO community in conducting emergency response.	All the planned activities under this objective have been delivered and reported on in previous quarters.	100%
4. To strengthen citizen participation in local governance processes, facilitated by civil society, which impacts positively on local economic development and social assistance delivery.	All the planned activities under this objective have been delivered and reported on in previous quarters.	100%
5. To spearhead collaborative initiatives to counter conflict trends through civil society with the ultimate aim of protecting human rights and achieving community development.	All the planned activities under this objective have been delivered and reported on in previous quarters.	100

## Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

### Objective 1:

Clic Consultants continued its work with the NGO Directorate and completed the needs assessment which intended to give a complete picture of the structural challenges facing the Directorate in implementing its mandate. The Assessment was conducted between January and June 2012. The Assessment Team performed a comprehensive assessment, utilizing all available documentation and conducted field assessment activities to gather more information and data for this assignment. The assessment used key indicators comprising business and operational factors which gave insight into the many challenges and opportunities the Directorate is facing at this point. Findings covered the NGO Directorate's organizational motivation, governance structure, strategic leadership, organizational structure and administrative set up, organizational Information Technology infrastructure, human resources management, and process management: operational methodologies and rules of procedure.

1- ICNL and UNOPS organized three training sessions for trainers between November and December 2011, with 14 total participants. The first session targeted local public authorities and NGOs, the second session targeted the police and NGOs, and the third session targeted representatives of the justice system, the police and NGOs. Following these trainings, UNOPS and ICNL in March 2012 co-funded the 14 NGOs participating in the original training sessions on the Iraqi NGO law to conduct awareness seminars on the NGO law no. 12 for other NGOs and public authorities across Iraq. UNOPS issued 7 of the 14 grants.

2- One participating NGO, the Kurdistan Civil Society Organization, successfully implemented 6 workshops in 3 governorates (two in Dahuk, two in Sulaymaniyah and two in Erbil). The Kurdistan Civil Society Organization provided the training that they received to local NGOs together with public local authorities and provincial councils in their respective governorates.

The Babil National Society for Human Rights, based in Babil, implemented and successfully completed 10 workshops in 5 governorates (two workshops in Babil, two in Kerbala, two in Qadissiya, two in Wassit and two in Muthanna).

The Izzihar Society successfully completed 6 workshops in the 3 governorates of Wassit, Qadissiya (implemented in Diwaneyah) and Muthanna.

The Kheir Society, successfully completed 6 workshops in the following governorates: Kerbala, Thi-Qar and Missan.

The Alintilaq organization successfully completed two workshops in Salah Al-Din.

The Iraqi Firdaws Association also implemented 5 workshops in Basrah and Muthanna.

The Al-Salam Network for Creativity and Development will implement 4 workshops for the Ministry of the Interior in Baghdad.

3- In the course of the support to the Iraqi NGO law, UNOPS organized a study visit and ToT in Lebanon between 13-18 of February 2012 for a group of 25 Iraqi Parliament Members, government officials and NGOs. The study visit was for three days, during which the group visited the Lebanese Parliament, the Ministry of Environment, various NGOs, local authorities, and a university where they met with the Lebanese Minister of Environment, MPs, civil society leaders, academics and public officials. As a follow up to the training received in Lebanon, NCCI and 5 other Iraqi NGOs have agreed to provide training on the law for the Ministry of Education - Public Relations and International Cooperation Department, the CoR, the MoHR, the NGO Directorate, the Justice Commission and the MoLSA in June and July 2012. 50% were completed as of the end of this reporting period.

**Main implementation constraints & challenges (2-3 sentences)**

- Given restrictions imposed by security concerns, ensuring proper monitoring of grants is a challenge. However, great efforts are made to make up for the limited access to Iraq and to follow up that all activities are properly monitored by UNOPS staff. External monitoring companies are also hired along with UNOPS monitoring staff.
- NGOs under the Lebanon study visit and ToT follow up grant fund faced delays in their project implementation due to the recess in the Iraqi Parliament (from the last week of May until 15 June 2012). NGOs have been granted an extension until the end of July to be able to implement their projects.