



**Iraq UNDAF Fund
Joint Programme/ Project Revision Request Form**

To: Jacqueline Badcock , DSRSG
Co-Chair – Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee

Date: 21 April 2014

Thamir Ghadban , Government of Iraq
Co-Chair – Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee

Requesting UN Organization/s: UNDP

Through: Titon Mitra
Head of Steering Committee Support Office

From: Adam Abdelmoula
UNDP Iraq Country Director

Adam Abdelmoula

JP/ Project Title:	Empowering CSOs in Iraq		
JP/ Project Number:	P1-01	Original Budget:	USD 2,221,818
Participating UN Organizations(s)	UNDP		
JP/ Project Start Date ¹ :	12 March 2012	Original JP/ Project End Date:	30 June 2014
Previous Requests:	No-cost extension granted in July 2012		
JP/ Project Location:	Nation-wide		

Type of Programme /project variation requested (Please check as required and provide details under Justification):

- Extension of JP/ project duration *New end date 31 December 2014*
- Movement of funds between budget components
- Change of JP/ project scope

Note: This project is composed of two separate components. The UNDP component, Output 2 is funded under the UNDAF Trust Fund. The UNOPS component, Output 1 is bilaterally funded by DANIDA directly to UNOPS and respectively UNOPS will report directly to DANIDA. This revision request therefore covers the UNDP portion (Output 2) of the Project Document.

¹ The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MDTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the MDTF Office GATEWAY (<http://mdtf.undp.org>).

1. Progress of Project:

Outputs (JP outputs and/ or UN Organization specific) expected as per approved programme/ project document	Status of Achievement				
	Fully achieved	Partially achieved	%	Not achieved	
Output 2: CSOs have an enhanced capacity to promote citizen oversight mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant guidelines model developed. • 31 local CSO regrouped in 8 consortia have received UNDP grants for projects on citizen oversight mechanisms • An extensive capacity development accompaniment mechanism has been rolled out. • Two CSO Peer knowledge exchange workshops have been completed successfully 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31 local CSO are implementing projects with UNDP grants • Capacity development activities of CSO are almost completed, including formal trainings, coaching 	80%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 trainings sessions (accounting and internal NGO governance) • Closure of 31 CSO grant projects • Production of technical report on lessons learned and best practices • Final workshop conference to consolidate all capacity development achievements • Technical support to the NGO Directorate on CSO Grant mechanisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational consultancy overall schedule Identifying : a challenge • The project both to imp and particip capacity de To avoid ur the CSOs, to be delay • The genera situation in challenges workshops required m availability government

Note: Output 1 is handled by UNOPS and bilaterally funded by DANIDA to whom UNOPS reports directly. Output 2 is the adoption of the CSO Compact establishing relations between CSOs and public authorities in the Kurdistan Region. I

2. JP/ Project Expenditure to Date:

Total Consolidated figures:

□ Total Commitments² USD 2,144,837

□ Total Disbursements³ USD 1,578,132

3. Justification / Explanation of Revision Requested:

A. Background

This project is composed of two separate components. The UNDP component, Output 2 is funded under the UNDAF Trust Fund. The UNOPS component, Output 1 is bilaterally funded by DANIDA directly to UNOPS and respectively UNOPS will report directly to DANIDA. This revision request therefore covers the UNDP portion (Output 2) of the Project Document.

The main achievement of the project so far has been to create a momentum for CSO support by demonstrating a good practice model for CSO grants. This has contributed to encourage parliamentary and governmental actors to put forward a draft law proposal to allow for state sponsored grants to support CSOs in Iraq. The project has also demonstrated a participatory and transparent model where all key stakeholders have been involved from the inception in the design of the grant model. The combination of grants and capacity development that is benefiting 31 local CSOs has allowed them to effectively engage in citizen-led oversight mechanisms and taking actions to hold the government to account. Those 31 CSOs are engaged in implementing interventions related to Human Rights, Anti-Corruption and Service Delivery. At the same time the CSOs have benefited from a comprehensive accompaniment mechanism that is addressing demand-based capacity issues. As a result, CSOs have gained credibility and professionalism and public authorities are increasingly accepting them as partners for positive change in Iraq. The project has developed trust-based partnerships with the CSO parliamentary Committee, the NGO Directorate, equivalent authorities at Kurdistan Regional level and the CSO community at large. This good will capital will help reinforce the project's final results and future interventions.

The project is on track but a number of final consolidation activities need more time for their implementation. Due to the success of the project and the strong relation developed with the NGO Directorate a final activity to ensure the sustainability of the experience and best practices generated through the project is planned for the second half of 2014.

B. Request for time Extension

B1. Justification

The project is progressing well and is aiming at achieving all planned results. The 31 local CSOs engaged in the project are finalizing the implementation of their grant projects by the end of April 2013. The capacity development activities are almost completed except for 2 activities that have been requested by the CSOs for training on accounting and internal governance of the CSOs. These activities are planned for May 2014. These activities could not be completed earlier to avoid overloading CSOs as these have been very solicited by the project for training related activities.

² Commitments: All legally binding contracts signed (for goods, works, and services -including services performed under individually recruited personnel contracts) as permissible by the respective UN Organization's financial rules and regulations. Please note that the commitments reported are the total amount of binding contracts entered by the UN Organization and SHOULD NOT BE REDUCED as a result of disbursements made against the commitments since the purpose is to determine the balance of funds available for project activities.

³ Disbursements

Actual payments (for goods, works, and services -including for services performed under individually recruited personnel contracts) made against signed contract commitments. In most cases, total reported disbursements should not exceed total commitments, except in cases where disbursements are made against non-committed project funds (such as small scale payments, indirect programme costs etc, where no commitments are raised prior to payment).

After the completion of their projects in April, CSO will require a period of 6-8 weeks to complete their final reporting with additional time required for technical support planned to continue training the CSOs on reporting skills and for UNDP's review and approval. It is expected that a number on financial settlement issues will arise and handling them will bring the project to June 2014.

The key next step is the production of a technical report compiling the lessons learned and best practices the project has generated. The findings will be presented at a national conference that will take place in the Parliament as the CSO parliamentary committee has been our main counterpart. The technical report is to be produced using the final reports from the CSOs and will therefore be finalized during the 3rd quarter of 2014.

The final conference timing is coinciding with the end of the Parliamentary term and then Ramadan. It is therefore more realistic to plan for a delay in the holding of the conference if we are to ensure all key parliamentary, government and CSO counterparts can attend.

The project has been very successful at presenting a granting model that has engaged closely parliament and government counterparts of the NGO Directorate. This has created a momentum for CSO empowerment and inspired a draft law proposal for a state fund to provide grant to NGOs through the NGO Directorate. This practice has in fact initiated in the Kurdistan Region in 2013. In order to ensure the sustainability of these results, the NGO directorate is keen to receive support to design its own CSO granting mechanism using the experience of UNDP. This activity is planned for the second half of 2014 once the technical report of the project has been produced and presented. A consultant (or a small consultant team) will provide technical assistance to the NGO Directorate to help them develop grant guidelines and grant management tools that will comply with their own requirements while absorbing the lessons learned and best practices of this UNDP project. This final activity will be a unique opportunity to institutionalize the model set by UNDP and will bridge very well with a planned new project (potentially funded by SIDA) that will reinforce the capacity development unit of the NGO Directorate.

B2. Activities to be completed during the requested extension period

During the extended period of time the project will focus on achieving the following:

- Closing the grants to 31 CSOs (including final reporting, and final payment settlement)
- Production of technical report on lessons learned and best practices
- Final conference to present findings
- Technical assistance to the NGO Directorate on CSO grant mechanism and tools.

C. Request for Change of scope

C.1 Change Requested

No change in the scope is planned.

C.2 Justification

No change in the scope is planned.

D. Request for Budget Revision

D1. Movement of funds requested: (increase or decrease in budget line by %)

No budget revision is requested.

D.2 Justification

No budget revision is required.

4. Mitigation strategy in place to ensure compliance with timeline extension requested:

The project team is in place and any additional consultant support will be procured as soon as the extension is granted to avoid any operational delays.

The extension is planned based on a conservative estimate of the work plan including consideration for the end of the parliamentary term, the month of Ramadan and delays in final reporting by the CSOs.

5. Documents Attached:

- X Revised budget sheet
- X Revised work plan

**Head of Coordinating UN
Organization:**

Signature:

Date:

6. Approval requirements:

- Request requires approval by Co-Chairs of the Iraq UNDAF Fund Steering Committee
- Request requires approval of Iraq UNDAF Steering Committee

9. Work Plan (Revised April 2014)

Work Plan for: Empowering CSOs in Iraq

Period Covered by the Work Plan March 2012 to December 2014

UNDAF Priority Outcome: The Iraqi state has a more inclusive and participatory political process reflecting improved national dialogue.		UNDAF Priority Area Outcome: Improved governance, including protection of human rights.														
UN Organizational-specific Annual targets	Key Activities	Time Frame (by activity)	Implementing Partner	Planned Budget (by output)	2012				2013				2014			
					Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Output 1: Government is supported to facilitate free engagement of CSOs in development and reconciliation processes																
UNOPS component¹ remains unchanged as per the original project document.																
JP Output 2: CSOs have an enhanced capacity to promote citizen oversight mechanisms.																
Enhanced capacity of CSOs to promote citizen oversight mechanisms (UNDP)	CSO capacities mapping		X													
	Preparatory Workshop with CSOs on the Call for Proposals process															
	Drafting of Calls for Proposals Guidelines			X												
	Establishing the Evaluation Committee															
	Eligibility check of applicants								X							
															2,221,818	

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		2012				2013				2014				
		Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Evaluation of Concept notes					X									UNDP, Service provider 1
Discussion with successful applicants for the development of the full proposal					X									UNDP, Service provider 1
Evaluation of Concept notes prior to developing full proposals					X									UNDP, Service provider 1
Evaluation of full proposal						X								UNDP, Service provider 1
Arrange for Community of practice live workshop.			X			X		X						UNDP, Service provider 2
Negotiation of full proposals and contracting						X								UNDP, Service provider 1
Establish an online community of practice						X	X	X	X	X	X			UNDP, Service provider 2
Conduct awareness raising activities targeting representatives of public authorities and civil society on programme scope, objectives, and projects funded		X	X			X		X	X	X	X			UNDP, Service provider 2
Monitoring and Evaluation of CSO grants					X	X	X	X	X	X	X			UNDP, Service provider 2
Programme Evaluation														UNDP
	Total UNDP (USD)													2,221,818