

**United Nations Development Group UNDAF Trust Fund**  
**Project #:81967: P1-01**  
**Quarter Updated: 1 April-30 June 2014**  
**2nd Quarter 2014**

**Participating UN Organisation:** UNDP Lead and UNOPS  
**PWG: Governance & Human Rights**  
 UNDP Project 81917  
**Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry:** CSO Committee of the Council of Representatives

<b>Title</b>	Empowering CSOs in Iraq				
<b>Geographic Location</b>	Nationwide for the capacity building of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) under UNDP.  The KRG Compact work under UNOPS is only for KRG.				
<b>Project Cost</b>	Total Cost USD 3,237,419 <b>USD 2,221,818 from UNDAF Trust Fund for UNDP component</b> USD 1,015,601 from DANIDA, for UNOPS component (please refer to note below)				
<b>Duration</b>	18 months				
<b>Approval Date (SC)</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> January 2012	<b>Starting Date</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2012	<b>Completion Date</b>	12 Sep 2013, extended to 31 <sup>th</sup> December 2014
<b>Project Description</b>	UNDP and UNOPS will support Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to effectively monitor Government's compliance with due process and transparency. UNDP through UNDAF Trust Fund will build the capacity of chosen CSOs to hold the Government accountable in the areas of Service Delivery, Corruption, Human Rights and Civil Rights. Through encouraging CSOs to form consortia the project will transfer know-how whilst working on concrete issues. The Project will contribute to opening up permanent and sustainable channels between CSOs and Government to interface and advocate that the voices of civil society are heard and taken into account in relation to public policymaking. The partnership with UNOPS will build on existing strong relationships with the KRG, Kurdistan Parliament and Kurdistan Region civil society.				

**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 to UNOPS and respectively UNOPS will report directly to DANIDA. **This report therefore covers the UNDP portion Output 2 of the Project Document.**

**Development Goal and Immediate Objectives**

**UNDAF Outcome 1.1:** The Iraqi state has a more inclusive and participatory political process reflecting improved national dialogue.

The Project contributes to the following **UNDAF priority areas:**

- Priority 1: Improved governance, including protection of human rights.
- Priority 4: Increased access to quality essential services.
- Priority 5: Investment in human capital and empowerment of women, youth and children.

The Project contributes to **UNDP Iraq's Country Programme Outcome 1:** Enhanced rule of law, protection and respect for human rights in line with international standards.

The project is being implemented in full alignment with work being done by other UN agencies as well as the Human Rights Office.

## Outputs, Key activities and Procurement

<b>Outputs</b>	<p>Output 1: Government is supported to facilitate free engagement of CSOs in development and reconciliation processes. <i>UNOPS reports bilaterally to DANIDA on this component.</i></p> <p><b>Output 2: CSOs have an enhanced capacity to promote citizen oversight mechanisms.</b> <i>UNDP component</i></p>
<b>Output</b>	<b>Activities</b>
<b>Output 2: CSOs have an enhanced capacity to promote citizen oversight mechanisms</b>	<p><b>UNDP Component: Output 2 which is reflected in this report</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 CSO Mapping</li> <li>2.2 Preparatory Workshop with CSOs on the Call for Proposals process</li> <li>2.3 Drafting of Calls for Proposals Guidelines</li> <li>2.4 Establishing the Evaluation Committee</li> <li>2.5 Eligibility check of applicants</li> <li>2.6 Evaluation of Concept notes</li> <li>2.7 Discussion with successful applicants for the development of the full proposal</li> <li>2.8 Evaluation of full proposals</li> <li>2.9 Contract negotiation and contracting</li> <li>2.10 Establish an online community of practice</li> <li>2.11 Arrange for Community of practice live workshop half way through project cycle.</li> <li>2.12 Monitoring and Evaluation</li> <li>2.13 Programme Evaluation</li> </ol>
Output 1: Government is supported to facilitate free engagement of CSOs in development and reconciliation processes.	<p>Bilaterally reported to DANIDA</p> <p><b>UNOPS Component: Output 1</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 Conduct awareness activities targeting representatives of public authorities and civil society</li> <li>1.2 Drafting of the base policy Compact document by technical experts at the start of the programme</li> <li>1.3 Planning/strategy meeting between representatives of the KRG authorities and civil society</li> <li>1.4 Papers prepared and disseminated among various stakeholders on the relevant topic and how they can relate to the situation in Iraq</li> <li>1.5 Study tour takes place</li> <li>1.6 Conduct training of trainers for civil society activists and representatives of the KRG parliaments and subsequent cascade trainings</li> <li>1.7 Consultations of the draft document among civil society organizations in the KRG Iraq carried out through meetings and media.</li> <li>1.8 Conduct consultations of the draft document between representatives of Civil Society and KRG parliament</li> <li>1.9 Adoption of the policy agreement between the KRG parliament and civil society</li> <li>1.10 Final conference announcing adoption of the document, preferably organized at the KRG parliament</li> </ol>
<b>Procurement (major items)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical support entities</li> <li>• Trainers and facilitators</li> <li>• CSO grants (for non-credit related activities)</li> </ul>

<b>Funds Committed</b>	USD 2,045,675.68	<b>% of approved budget (100% of funds received)</b>	92%
	<p>* The commitment calculation formula has been adjusted this quarter to reflect a better project commitment reality. This figure includes all PO expenditure incurred, all committed CSO grants paid and due, salaries of all staff paid and due, open contracts with consultancy companies paid and due, the total GMS for the funds received and other open commitments for the project covering the whole</p>		

	implementation period.		
<b>Funds Disbursed</b>	USD 1,699,507.78	<b>% of approved budget (100% of funds received)</b>	76.4%
<b>Forecast final date</b>	December 2014	<b>Delay (months)</b>	6

### Quantitative achievements against objectives and results

		<b>% of planned</b>	
<b>Output 2:</b> CSOs have an enhanced capacity to promote citizen oversight mechanisms.	2.1 CSO Capacity Mapping		100%
	2.2 Preparatory Workshop with CSOs on the Call for Proposals process		100%
	2.3 Drafting of Calls for Proposals Guidelines		100%
	2.4 Establishing the Evaluation Committee		100%
	2.5 Eligibility check of applicants		100%
	2.6 Evaluation of Concept notes		100%
	2.7 Discussion with successful applicants for the development of the full proposal		100%
	2.8 Evaluation of full proposals		100%
	2.9 Contract negotiation and contracting		100%
	2.10 Establish an online community of practice		70%
	2.11 Arrange for Community of practice live workshop half way through project cycle.		100%
	2.12 Monitoring and Evaluation		80%

### Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

UNDP UNDAF Trust Fund component

#### **Output 2: CSOs have an enhanced capacity to promote citizen oversight mechanisms.**

##### **8 CSO Consortia project implementation**

• Eight grantee CSO Consortia (comprised of 31 local CSOs) have been implementing eight projects aimed at holding the government to account in the areas of human rights, corruption and service delivery since May 2013. The 8 projects were successfully completed at the end of April 2014. Final reports from the CSOs are received and the achievements of the projects will be reported on in detail in the next quarterly report once there has been time to analyse them. The implementation of the eight projects has been accompanied by technical support for capacity development to the CSOs. Projects cover most Governorates of Iraq and relate mostly to enhancing accountability on local services, through citizen participation and networking between CSOs and local authorities. Other projects include, raising awareness on human rights, particularly minority rights and promoting better governance through enhanced women participation in the public sphere (see annexed project summaries for more details). Overall, implementation has gone well with CSOs being able to catch up with delays that had been incurred during the year of implementation. Fortunately the CSO Consortia finalized the implementation of their projects prior to the security crisis that initiated in June 2014 and the CSO projects have therefore not been affected directly.

##### **CSO Capacity Development**

• A final training for CSOs had been planned for April on financial management and accounting. Unfortunately, after secreting an initial trainer that later cancelled his availability it has not been possible, despite several attempts to identify an adequate local trainer. Most trainers found had either no NGO background or no financial background and were not deemed suitable for this activity. Considering the effort CSOs have to go through for local travel, the project management decided to cancel the training as quality

could not be ensured.

### ***Monitoring CSO Projects***

- The final month of monitoring was implemented successfully in April 2014 with the support from the Consultants from Stars Orbit. Support to review the draft final reports has taken from late May until the end of June and considerable improvements in the reporting quality can be observed. This report will be shared with donor by July 2014.

### ***Final project conference***

- A final conference was planned for 18-19 June 2014 in Baghdad. The conference had to be cancelled due to force majeure related to the security crisis that is affecting Iraq. The event was planned for 100 participants, approximately half of which would be CSO and the other half government officials. The objective of the event was not only to show case the results of the project but also to launch a discussion for further progress in the enabling environment in which CSOs operate in Iraq.
- The two consultancies engaged in the project are also preparing a technical report each that was due to be presented at the conference. The reports will focus on the capacity development experience of the CSO consortia and on the results achieved by the CSOs. These reports will be finalized by July 2014 and shared with the donor.

### **Main implementation constraints & challenges**

- At the time of reporting the crisis is too recent to anticipate if it will be realistic to reschedule the final conference within the next couple of months. At the time we are considering 3 scenarios:
  - The security situation by August or September allows conducting the event as planned (with slight adjustments to the addenda and participant's list) either in Baghdad or Erbil.
  - The security situation by August or September allows for a reduced version of the event to take place with mostly CSO invitees only. The event agenda will be adjusted to accommodate content and exchange mostly by the CSOs themselves as a peer knowledge exchange event.
  - The security situation by September-October does not allow for an event to take place. In this case the part of the event budget will be used to disseminate the 2 technical reports produced by the project. This will include their translation to Arabic, printed copies, press releases and distribution to key governmental and CSO counterparts.

Beyond October the project might lose momentum and it might not be relevant at that point to push for the final conference to take place beyond that point.

The project counts with about 40,000 USD that were planned for a consultancy support to the NGO Directorate to transfer lessons learned from this project about grant management in view of the strong interest of the NGO Directorate in this regard. The content of this consultancy will have to be revised in discussion with the NGO Directorate to ensure that the needs are still relevant and to respond if needed to emerging needs.

It has also been challenging in the past months for the project to maintain its close relation with the parliamentary committee on CSOs. Following the recent elections, the Iraqi Parliament has been focusing on political negotiations of the different blocks and meetings with UNDP on this CSO project have not been given priority by the MPs of the CSO committee. Because the new parliament will take time to be formed it is anticipated that this project will continue working closely to the NGO Directorate as a local counterpart in its final stages.

**ANNEXES**

**Annex 1: List of 8 CSO consortia (31 CSOs) selected for project grants and capacity development**

<b>CSO Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>CSO Code</b>	<b>Governorate</b>
Insan Iraqi Society for Relief and Development	Lead	CSO1	Kirkuk
National Institute for Human Rights	Member	CSO1.1	Kirkuk
Humanitarian Relief Association for Iraqi Turkmen Women	Member	CSO1.2	Kirkuk
Iraqi Institute for Development (IID)	Lead	CSO2	Mosul
Organization of Iraqi Family	Member	CSO2.1	Tikreet
Harraa Humanitarian Organization	Member	CSO2.2	Diyala
Kurdistan Reconstruction and Development Organization (KURDO)	Lead	CSO3	Sulaymaniyah
Youth Activity Organization (YAO)	Member	CSO3.1	Sulaymaniyah
Kurdistan Economic Development Organization (KEDO)	Member	CSO3.2	Sulaymaniyah
Al Khair Organization	Lead	CSO4	Missan
Al Ahrar Organization	Member	CSO4.1	Missan
Iraqi women Foundation	Member	CSO4.2	Missan
Al Amel Association	Member	CSO4.3	Missan
Journalists Youth Organization	Member	CSO4.4	Missan
Al Rafidain Women Organization	Lead	CSO5	Muthanna
Al Huda Institution for Strategic Studies	Member	CSO5.1	Missan
Al-Ekha'a Organization for Democracy and Peace	Member	CSO5.2	Basra
Iraq Flower for Democratic Organization	Member	CSO5.3	Thi Qar

Salam Al Rafidain Organization	Lead	CSO6	Baghdad
Al Mahaba Forum	Member	CSO6.2	Anbar
Association for Woman And Children	Member	CSO6.1	Baghdad
Bunyan Foundation	Member	CSO6.3	Mosul
Ajjal Association for Intelligence and Creation Development	Lead	CSO8	Diyala
Taawn Association for Consumer Protection	Member	CSO8.1	Diyala
Hawaa Organization for Relief and Development	Member	CSO8.2	Diyala
Youth Forum for Peace	Member	CSO8.3	Diyala
Al Noor Universal Foundation (NUF)	Lead	CSO9	Diyala
Shaoob for Democracy Support	Member	CSO9.1	Baghdad
Hamurabi Organization	Member	CSO9.2	Tikreet
Iraqi Civic Action Network	Member	CSO9.3	Babil
Iraqi Social Education Team	Member	CSO9.4	Baghdad

\*CSO 7: As explained above, this consortium was excluded from the grant process during the grant contract negotiations.

## **Annex 2: Summary of 8 CSO consortia funded projects**

### **1. Promoting adequate services in Kirkuk Province**

CSOs: Insan Iraqi Society for Relief and Development, National Institute for Human Rights, and Humanitarian Relief Association for Iraqi Turkmen Women

Governorate: Kirkuk

Summary: Will increase the capacities of key community members, enhance community cohesion, and create an environment propitious to long-term development. Project activities include training facilitators and volunteers in participatory rural appraisal (PRA) methods, conducting PRA in communities, and building capacities of community leaders in advocacy and development of a community response plan

### **2. Ensuring a better environment for our children**

CSOs: Iraqi Institute for Development, Organization of Iraqi Family, and Haraa Humanitarian Organization

Governorates: Salah ad Din, Ninewa and Diyala

Summary: This project will raise awareness on the risks of solid waste and will advise local authorities on how to appropriately deal with solid waste. Project activities include identifying solid waste problems through questionnaires, conducting awareness-raising lectures, and producing brochures and radio episodes on solid waste.

### **3. Empower civil society organizations in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq**

CSOs: KURDO (Kurdistan Reconstruction and Development Organization), YAO (Youth Activity Organization), and KEDO (Kurdistan Economic Development Organization)

Governorates: Sulaymaniyah, Erbil and Dahuk

Summary: This project will create a harmonized, transparent and constructive relationship between civil society organizations and local government and promote networking opportunities among civil society organizations. Project activities include training civil society members and local government officials on accountability, transparency and cooperation between civil society and local authorities, and forming a joint civil society-local government steering committee to formulate action plans.

### **4. Defending human rights in Missan**

CSOs: Al Khair Organization, Al-Ahrar Organization for Human Rights, Iraqi Women Foundation, Al Amel Association and Journalists Youth Organization

Governorates: Missan

Summary: This project will build the capacities of member organizations and promote the principles of transparency, accountability and human rights and raise the awareness of citizens in selecting effective policies for the governorate. Project activities include delivering training courses and public educational lectures on human rights, producing TV and radio programs on human rights, and holding round table sessions attended by the government and the public

### **5. Partnering for development**

CSOs: Al Rafidain Women Organization, Al Huda Institution for Strategic Studies, Al Ekha'a Organization for Democracy and Peace, and Iraq Flower for Democratic Organization

Governorates: Muthanna, Missan, Thi-Qar and Basra

Summary: This project will increase women's participation in public affairs and encourage new partnerships amongst civil society organizations. Project activities include forming 32 community development committees consisting of 256 women in 32 districts in the four governorates, training the committee members on the subject of humanitarian situation assessment, needs identification and monitoring, and delivering training for 32 local council officers on the subject of good governance and citizen's participation.

### **6. Enhancing rights of minorities in Iraq**

CSOs: Salam Al Rafidain Organization, Association for Women and Children, Al Mahaba Forum, and Bunyan Foundation

Governorates: Baghdad, Salah Al-Din, Anbar, Dahuk and Ninewa

Summary: The project will enhance the role of academics in disseminating the concept of diversity and citizenship to promote minority rights in universities, raise awareness on minority rights among 6,000 university students, and publish a "Proposal of Basic Principles Paper of Minority Rights Protection Law in Iraq". Project activities include holding workshops targeting academics on the concept of minority rights, conducting lectures for students at universities, producing a "Proposal of Basic Principles Paper of Minority Rights Protection Law in Iraq".

### **7. Strengthening women's role in the society and reducing violations against them**

CSOs: Ajjal Association for Intelligence and Creation Development, Taawn Association for Consumer Protection, Hawaa Organization for Relief and Development, and Youth Forum for Peace

Governorate: Diyala

This project will raise awareness about the importance of women and their role in society. It also aims to expand women's participation in the process of development, and enhance the legal and social awareness of women who suffer from violence. Project activities include holding stakeholder meetings, organizing discussion seminars, holding training sessions for women on promoting civic values, conducting PRAs in communities, producing radio programs and conducting a legal awareness campaign for vulnerable women in marginalized communities.

#### **8. Promoting good governance to improve essential services**

CSOs: Al-Noor Universal Foundation, Shaoub for Democracy Culture Foundation, Hammurabi organization for Human Rights and Democracy Monitoring, Iraqi Civic Action Network, and the Iraqi Social Education Team

Governorates: All, except the Kurdistan Region

This project will strengthen the abilities of CSOs to determine priorities, expand local government's acceptance of good governance, improve citizen's participation in determining their priorities and undertake consultations with CSOs and community leaders. Project activities include holding workshops for CSO leaders on participation, accountability, priority setting and monitoring, publishing an analytical study on service and community participation, holding 30 forums to discuss the results of the study and to identify the means of advocacy, and forming pressure groups in each Governorate to call for good governance or enhanced public services.

