

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #66992:C10-8
Date and Quarter Updated: 1 October-31 December 2011
4th Quarter 2011
Operationally Closed

Participating UN Organisation: UNESCO (Lead) and UNDP.	Sector: Economic Reform and Diversification
Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry:	Iraqi Prime Minister’s Office.

Title	Restoration of Al Askari Shrine in Samarra City and Rehabilitation of Other Damaged Religious Sites Throughout Iraq				
Geographic Location	Salah El Din Governorate, Samarra District ,Samarra City and Baghdad Governorate, Resafa District, Baghdad				
Project Cost	US\$8,000,000 ITF + USD 3,000,000 GOI				
Duration	Original 24 months increased to 37 months due to security and sectarian violence. Extension required till end of June 2011 for UNESCO and end of October 2011 for UNDP				
Approval Date (SC)	22 Feb. 2007	Starting Date	Feb. 2007	Completion Date	UNESCO: 30/06 2011 UNDP: 31/10/2011
Project Description	Promotion of national reconciliation through community-level initiatives, with restoration of Al-Askari Shrine, restoration/reconstruction of religious sites and Rehabilitation of priority infrastructure related to Al-Askari in Samara city.				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

Promotion of national reconciliation through community-level initiatives, with restoration/reconstruction of religious sites as the entry point.

1. To ensure the safety and preservation of the Al Askari Shrine site in order to prepare for its restoration as a symbol of peace and reconciliation in Iraq, while enhancing the national capacity to perform similar tasks on other damaged cultural/religious sites.
2. To initiate the process of rehabilitation of other damaged religious sites throughout Iraq as part of the reconciliation process.
3. To provide employment opportunities and ensure citizens’ involvement in the rebuilding of their communities through sub-projects focused on rehabilitation related to the Samarra Shrine.

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement

Outputs	<p>Output 1.1: Urgent intervention works on Al-Askari Shrine in Samarra completed: Site protected and cleaned, materials classified, and structure reinforced (UNESCO).</p> <p>Output 1.2: Prepare works for the restoration project of the Al-Askari Shrine in Samarra completed. (UNESCO).</p> <p>Output 1.3: Personnel of State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) in technical areas related to restoration and preservation trained.</p> <p>Output 2.1: Highest priority damaged religious sites rehabilitated (UNDP).</p> <p>Output 2.2: Contribute towards reconciliation, restoration of stability and security, consensus and peace building.</p> <p>Output 3.1: Implement sub-projects related to the Samarra Shrine completed (UNDP).</p> <p>Output 3.2: Community ownership through involvement in sub-project identification and implementation promoted.</p> <p>Output 3.3: Generation of temporary short and medium term employment opportunities.</p>
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Activities	
	<p>1.1.1 Establishment of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) comprising United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation (MOPDC), Shiite and Sunni Awqaf, United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Samarra community representative.</p> <p>1.1.2 Under the guidance of UNESCO restoration experts and the supervision of trained SBAH specialists, a selected international company will undertake urgent and preventive works to preserve the site.</p> <p>1.2.1 Under the guidance of UNESCO restoration experts and the supervision of trained SBAH specialists, a selected international company will undertake works preparing the final restoration project of the Al Askari Shrine in Samarra.</p> <p>1.2.2 UNESCO will prepare the project document and the budget estimate for the restoration phase (Phase II).</p> <p>1.3.1 Arranging and delivering a special training programme for the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) improving their technical capacity to conduct the works supervision of the Al Askari Shrine in Samarra.</p> <p>2.1.1 Identifying, as endorsed by PSC, other priority religious sites to be considered for rehabilitation, which will ultimately include two mosques (one Shiite and one Sunni) and one church.</p> <p>2.1.2 Undertake comprehensive site assessment, perform all required structural stability studies and analyses assessment and define the nature of required interventions.</p> <p>2.1.3 Performing networks analyses and studies assessing all water supply, wastewater, electrical power supply facility conditions and define the nature of required interventions as deemed applicable for implementation.</p> <p>2.1.4 Preparing of detailed construction drawings, specifications, bills of quantities, scope of works.</p> <p>2.1.5 Rehabilitation activities, relying on local implementing partners wherever possible.</p> <p>2.1.6 Preparing budget estimates for rehabilitating other priority religious sites and buildings.</p> <p>2.1.7 UNDP and UNESCO Directors and Project Managers will evaluate the works completed and will report to the PSC that will decide on the following action plan for the other religious sites to be rehabilitated during the Phase II.</p> <p>2.2.1 Establishment of a PSC including Shiite and Sunni Awqaf and religious dignitaries of both religious communities, relevant government authorities, will promote the intercultural inter-sectarian dialogue and lay the ground for a region specific peace building and reconciliation process that will contribute to the broader nationwide processes (UNESCO and UNDP).</p> <p>2.2.2 Development of media material illustrating the situation before and after the attacks on the Samarra Shrine and other religious sites as part of an integrated campaign targeting reconciliation and peace building (UNESCO).</p> <p>2.2.3 Support the existing Iraqi-led Baghdad peace initiative in direct collaboration with the government, UNAMI and all involved local authorities (UNESCO).</p> <p>2.2.4 Initial activities towards building consensus leading to increase tolerance among the local religious communities through joint participation in all projects activities (micro context) (UNESCO and UNDP).</p> <p>3.1.1 Identify with participation from religious dignitaries of both religious communities and the Awqaf, a recovery agenda of priority activities that will provide tangible and highly visible benefits. It will be done through the rehabilitation of priority infrastructure aimed at benefiting both communities, as formulated in the recovery agenda. It is expected that the agenda will include several of the following project categories and other small scale projects focusing on supporting the local community. Some of the component activities will be implemented through an IREP like community labour intensive modality.</p> <p>3.2.1 Community awareness campaign in local media and through other public outreach mechanisms (Friday prayer, posters, leaflets) (UNESCO).</p> <p>3.2.2 Dedicated engagement of community members and entities within all projects</p>

	activities including identification, planning, provision of in-kind donations and the implementation supervision (UNESCO and UNDP). 3.3.1 Following all necessary assessments, verifications, study, design, implementation of some project activities through the labour intensive implementation modality and through employment of local community members (UNESCO and UNDP).
Procurement (major items)	All procurement activities included in this project were implemented according to the UN procurement standard rules

Funds Committed	UNESCO: UNDG- USD 5,387,470.39 GOI - USD 1,971,595.85 UNDP: USD 2,530,549.54	% of approved	99.77% 65.72% 97.33%
Funds Disbursed	UNESCO: UNDG- USD 5,311,163.60 GOI - USD 1,971,595.85 UNDP: 2,084,284.54	% of approved	98.35% 65.72 % 80.16%
Forecast final date	UNESCO: 30/06 2011 UNDP: 31/10/2011	Delay (months)	27 31

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men	Three hundred fifty (350) worshippers per day or a total of 91,250 worshippers per year. Men from all over the country and internationally who attend or are pilgrims to the Shrine. Men who are Christian in Baghdad.	100% UNDP-UNESCO
Women	Women who practice the Muslim faith or require surgery in Samarra. Women from all over the country and internationally who attend or are pilgrims to the Shrine. Women who are Christian in Baghdad.	98% UNDP-UNESCO
Children	Two thousand one hundred thirteen (2,113) school children per academic year or four thousand two hundred twenty six (4,226) students over the last two (2) academic years and those in future who will utilize the two schools and the unknown additional children who will use the playground. Indirectly, eighty three (83) educational staff at the two schools.	98% UNDP
IDPs	n/a	
Others	n/a	
Indirect beneficiaries	n/a	
Employment generation (men/women)	600 workers UNESCO 1,200 vulnerable families benefitted from employment through UNDP supported projects. The water treatment plant will employ additional community workers.	100% UNESCO 92% UNDP

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results			
UNESCO Project Component Complete			
Mobilization activity (building site installations)	Completed	% of planned	100
Removing any outside elements that may lead to further collapses.	Completed	% of planned	100

Cleaning the site and within the Shrine building	Completed	% of planned	100
Classifying, originating and storing the discovered architectural elements and the materials scattered on the site in a temporary warehouse;	Completed	% of planned	100
Urgent preventive works	Completed	% of planned	100
Historical Documentation	Completed	% of planned	100
Architectural Documentation	Completed	% of planned	100
Soil and Foundation Studies; Building Materials and Fine Art Studies & Structure Stability Studies	Completed	% of planned	100
Final Project and Tender Submission Documentation	Completed	% of planned	100
UNDP 4th Quarter			
Rehabilitation of Al Riyadh Primary School for Boys	A major school in Samarra, its rehabilitation attracted the attention of the community on the need for improved basic services in the city.	% of planned	100
Rehabilitation of Mixed Secondary School	The school was occupied by local security forces for some time and its rehabilitation and use as an educational facility serves a noble purpose including girl child education.	% of planned	100
Rehabilitation of Al Shaheed Mosque	It was one of the damaged mosques. Works at the site were very risky at times.	% of planned	100
Rehabilitation of Hassan Pasha Mosque	The works were suspended on several occasions as a result of the deterioration in security.	% of planned	100
Preparation of Samarra Recovery Agenda	A comprehensive development plan for Samarra is available in English and Arabic with endorsement and consensus from the Governorate, City, Qada' and the Municipality and their technical departments.	% of planned	100
Rehabilitation of Al Lateen Church in Baghdad	The works completed during 2nd Quarter 2009.	% of planned	100
Rehabilitation and Extension of Surgical Department of Samarra General Hospital	The rehabilitation works completed. Final completion reported received with photos provided. Substantial Completion signed by Qaim Maqam Samarra, Major and Department of Health. The hospital surgical department officially opened during 2 nd Quarter 2010.	% of planned	100
Construction of a new Playground in Al Muatasim suburb area in Samarra	Land has been cleared with legal papers provided during 1 st Quarter 2010. Project is under competitive tender process. Tendering has not happened, therefore, it is anticipated a change of scope will be necessary and this activity cancelled to complete in time.	% of planned	Deprioritized
Provision and installation of a Water Treatment Plant in Samarra	The contract was awarded and signed on 23 rd January 2011, and implementation works are ongoing.	% of planned	100%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

UNESCO achievements, Samarra Al-Askari Shrine Project:

In October 2008 signed a new contract with the Iraqi Technical Committee for the restoration of Al-Askari Shrine. The Committee has been appointed directly by the Office of the Prime Minister.

The Samarra Shrine restoration project was completed June 2011.

UNESCO completed to date the following activities:

- Signature of the contract with an international contractor for the implementation of Phase I of the first restoration of Al- Askari Shrine;
- Selection of an international experts to supervision the works;
- Training of Iraqi architects/engineers to monitor the project;
- Securing and cleaning the site under the supervision of experts undertaking six (6) missions in Samarra;
- Comforting the structure of the building and demolishing damaged walls and parts of the structure which may represent a danger;
- The Samarra Shrine project has contributed to employment creation and income generation for families in Samara City. Approximately six-hundred (600) workers from Samarra have been employed since February 2008. In addition to these works this component is to ensure the capacity building among Iraqis to perform similar restoration work tasks on other damaged cultural/religious sites.
- UNESCO purchased technical equipments in July 2009 and trained Iraqi engineers/architects on the use of equipments.
- UNESCO and the Iraqi Technical Committee signed a contract for the activities under Phase I on 9 October 2008 for a nine (09) months period. Due the prevailing the security the studies are scheduled to be completed by end of April 2011.
- UNESCO has purchased equipments and trained Iraqi engineers/architects on the use of equipments and the studies related to the Soil and Foundation, Fine Art and Structure Stability.
A team of experts undertook two missions to Samarra in October, December 2009 and August 2010, related to the implementation of the “Completion of the Final Restoration Project of Al-Askari Shrine in Samarra – Iraq” activity. Following studies have been completed in May 2010;
 - Building materials and fine arts
 - Completion of structural studies
 - Architectural studies and final project
 - Historical documentation
- The last activity of the project “preparation of restoration project –execution drawings” initiated in June 2010 and completed June 2011.

UNESCO signed two contracts for:

1. External evaluation of the project
2. Production of a documentary about the Samara Project

UNESCO is now moving to operational closure.

UNDP Achievements

Phase I Completed which included;

- The building of capacity within the Mayor’s Office and Local Government to develop a community participation model and hybrid NEX;
- The completion of the rehabilitation of the Al-Shaheed Mosque in Samarra City;
- The completion of the rehabilitation of the Hassan Pasha Mosque in Samarra City;
- The completion of the rehabilitation of the Al Riyadh Primary School in Samarra City;
- The completion of the rehabilitation of the Mixed Secondary School in Samarra City;
- The use of the participatory model to identify the projects in Samarra City with consensus reached by the communities for Phase II.

Phase II ongoing which includes;

- The priorities of the communities resulted in meetings at UNDP in Amman with the Samarra Qaim Maqam and the UNDP consultant 23-27 March 2008. The Inception Report for Phase II was presented, discussed and approved during the meetings. Planned activities include: 1) Rehabilitation and extension of Surgical Department of Samarra General Hospital; 2) Construction of Playground in Al-Mutasim suburb area in Samarra City; 3) Rehabilitation of Water Treatment Plant 4) Rehabilitation of Al-Lateen Church in Baghdad.
- A follow-up meeting was held with the Samarra Qaim Maqam in Amman on 22 April 2008. Phase II was discussed in detail and an action plan was drawn up.
- Technical meetings took place in Amman between UNDP and the head of Samarra PRT 13-15 July and 22-23 July 2008. Discussions included the workshop on Samarra Recovery Planning in Istanbul, the cooperation between UNDP and the PRT, and the future trend of UNDP activities in Samarra.
- Two (2) new projects; rehabilitation and extension of Surgical Department of Samarra General Hospital and construction of a new playground in Al-Muatasim suburb were signed and launched September 2008.
- LoA Agreement with Samarra Qaim Maqamiyat signed for second phase works September 2008.
- Al Latten Church Rehabilitation contract was signed 4 November and works initiated on 13 November 2008 with completion in April 2009.
- Further building of capacity in the NEX modality for the Surgical Unit at the General Hospital.
- A kick-off meeting for the Samarra Hospital and Playground was held in Amman on 17-18 November 2008 with the Samarra Qaim Maqam initiating the bidding, preparation of Bill of Quantities and tech designs.
- *The Samarra Development Agenda* evolved from a Workshop in July 2008 and participants went back to their representative groups to further define and mature the issues from the Workshop. After two months of additional work consensus was reached. This work was realized in *The Samarra Development Agenda* which identifies the priorities and the sequence of priorities within the major sectors of development including: health, education, water and sanitation, agriculture, tourism, communications and infrastructure. *The Samarra Development Agenda* is presently available in both English and Arabic with a Conference planned to roll out the Agenda post elections and formation of the Government during 2010.
- The major construction works the surgical/operating theaters at the Samarra Hospital is complete with the final completion reported received and photos provided. Substantial Completion has been signed by Qaim Maqam Samarra, Mayor and Department of Health and the facility is open to receive members in the community. The hospital surgical department officially opened during 2nd Quarter 2010.
- The Mayor of Samarra accompanied by a Senior USAID and PRT person visited UNDP Iraq at the Amman Office 17-18 March. These two key persons met with UNDP staff and the Senior USAID Official, Michael Craft, clearly stated that the work in Samarra has been innovative and serves as a model which he shared in Washington with State Officials.
- The Contract for Samarra Water Treatment Plant was awarded and signed on 23rd January 2011, and implementation of works completed.
- A kick-off meeting was held at UNDP Amman Office on 23-24 January 2011, where the Samarra Water Treatment Plant contract was discussed among the UNDP, the Samarra local authorities, the UNDP Consultant and the Contractor.
- A joint UNESCO/UNDP external evaluation was planned for August 2011. The Consultant recruited by UNESCO could not be employed by UNDP for reasons of contractual implications and liabilities to the organization.
- The UNDP component of this project was included in an Outcome Evaluation which found the UNDP activities very important and a model that could be replicated in other Iraqi Governorates. The full Outcome Evaluation report is anticipated 2nd Quarter 2012.
- The final UNDP component of the water treatment plant has been tested, commissioned and operationalized thus signaling completion.

Main Implementation Constraints and Challenges

The delay in project implementation was mainly due to the security issues in Samarra and the need to develop capacity and consensus.

At present, Samarra is particularly vulnerable with the withdrawal of the American Troops. It must be noted that the sectarian violence during 2006 and 2007 initiated in Samarra.

Protocols in the Government system have been changing and key actions such as tax exemption have significantly affected timeline.

