

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project Number 66973: G11-20
Date and Quarter Updated: 01 April – 30 June 2012
2nd Quarter 2012

Participating UN Organisation: UNDP **Sector: Governance**

GoI– Responsible Line Ministry: Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq (IHEC)

Title	Technical Assistance to IHEC, Phase II				
Geo. Location	Primarily in Baghdad with impact and possible activities elsewhere.				
Project Cost	USD 5,479,950 Initial budget was USD 3,674,736. An additional USD 1,805,214 was approved by the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund Steering Committee on 21 March 2010.				
Duration	24 months + 24 months extension				
SC Approval Date	04.12.2008	Starting Date	08.12.2008	Completion Date	08.12.2010 extended to 31.12.2012
Project Description	The programme aims to provide the Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq (IHEC) with essential and urgent technical assistance through securing the required number of international electoral experts and advisers for the 2009/2010 electoral events. The UN was mandated under SCR 1770 to provide assistance to the IHEC. The assistance is divided into 2 categories: long-term institutional development and immediate electoral operational support.				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

NDS: Strengthening good governance and improve security.

ICI: Section 3.1.2: Implementation of political/legislative timetable.

Article 4.2: Strengthen institutions to improve governance.

UNDAF: IHEC has a permanent voter registry with safeguards to prevent fraud and mechanisms for inclusion of all Iraqis in elections.

UNDP Country Programme: *1. Government of Iraq and civil society have strengthened participatory mechanisms in place for electoral processes, national dialogue and reconciliation.*

Strengthened institutional framework, organizational and human resource capacity of the IHEC to effectively conduct any electoral processes as Iraq's permanent electoral institution, established under the constitution.

Sector Team Outcome: 1. Strengthened electoral processes in Iraq.

Integrated Program Outcome: 1. Strengthened electoral operations in Iraq, ensuring free and fair elections.

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement	
Output 1	Increased institutional capacity of IHEC to independently carry out elections.
Activities	1.1 Identify and select international electoral experts to be recruited by UNDP. 1.2 Obtain security clearance for staff. 1.3 Ensure that all necessary staff security and protection measures arrangements are in place. 1.4 Secure the necessary office space and the logistical arrangements. 1.5 Ensure that each staff develops and implements a work plan in line with the IHEC needs. 1.6 The Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) monitors staff performance and plans implementation. 1.7 Issue 300 Series (ALD) and/or SSA contracts to staff members selected by UNEAD. 1.8 Arrange for staff travel (Home country – Amman – Home country). 1.9 Administer staff human resources (HR) and administrative issues.
Procurement (major items)	None

Funds Committed	USD 5,288,617	% of approved	96.5 %
Funds Disbursed	USD 4,946,830	% of approved	90.3 %
Forecast final date	31 December 2012	Delay (months)	24

Note: Initial budget was USD 3,674,736. An additional USD 1,805,214 was approved by the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund Steering Committee on 21 March 2010. A no cost extension until 31 December 2011 was approved on 26 August 2010. A further no cost extension was approved on 20 December 2011, stretching the project duration to 31 December 2012.

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men	1300	100 %
Women	400	100 %
Children	N/A	
IDPs	N/A	
Others	N/A	
Indirect beneficiaries	Entire Iraqi population of registered voters	
Employment generation (men/women)	n/a	

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results		
Output 1: Increased institutional capacity of IHEC to independently carry out elections.	During the reporting period, the UNDP Procurement Advisor provided ongoing procurement advisory services to the IHEC. Interviews were conducted for three international electoral experts to provide technical support to the IHEC in the planning and implementation of forthcoming electoral operations and other electoral activities.	93%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

During the reporting period, the UNDP Electoral Procurement Advisor finalized all deliverables for the consultancy contract in early April. This included development of a recommended 12 month work plan for UN electoral assistance to the IHEC on procurement.

Following agreement between UNDP, UNAMI and IHEC on priorities for support in terms of election technical expertise and the initiation of recruitment processes during the last quarter, recruitment processes continued and interviews were conducted for the following international experts:

1. Electoral Procurement Specialist
2. Electoral Media Specialist
3. Electoral Public Outreach Specialist

Suitable candidates were identified and selected for all three positions. The Procurement Specialist commenced duties on 3 June. The Media and Public Outreach Specialists are anticipated to take up their positions in the third quarter.

Additionally, discussions were held with the IHEC and UNAMI on specific requirements for the planned recruitment of a Database Development Advisor, to support software development for voter registration and results tabulation processes. This will be initiated in the next quarter. Through this project, UNDP continues to focus on the provision of technical advice to the IHEC in its preparation for Governorate Council elections for Iraq and Kurdistan Regional Governorate Council elections, which are expected to take place in 2013.

Main Implementation Constraints and Challenges

The security factor remains the main obstacle to the deployment of additional staff in Iraq. For this reason, some international electoral experts (who are limited in number) are reluctant to take positions in Iraq; nevertheless, UNDP continues to seek qualified personnel and identify them for recruitment.

Uncertainty relating to the scheduling of electoral events, including the postponement of the Kurdistan Region Governorate Council elections, presents challenges in the timing of recruitment of staff to support election operations. The IHEC, however, continues to engage in election preparations to the greatest extent possible, and electoral advisors provide on-going support to the IHEC in this planning phase.

An important aspect of the UN's electoral support is the close relationship with the IHEC and daily presence in Baghdad, working directly with IHEC counterparts. In early 2012, there was limited access to the IHEC National Office, reducing face-to face time with IHEC counterparts. However, this has since improved and regular access of UN personnel to the IHEC National Office was facilitated during the reporting period.