

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project Number 66973: G11-20
Date and Quarter Updated: 01 July – 30 September 2012
3rd Quarter 2012

Participating UN Organisation: UNDP **Priority Area : Governance and Human Rights**
 (formerly Governance sector)
Government of Iraq – 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 December 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: 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	None				

Funds Committed	USD 5,430,888	% of approved	99.1 %
Funds Disbursed	USD 5,100,484	% of approved	93.0 %
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	1,300	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.	<p>During the reporting period, the project continued to provide technical advice and operational support to the IHEC in the preparation for the Governorate Council elections for 15 provinces in Iraq. These are expected to take place in April 2013.</p> <p>To strengthen IHEC's internal procurement capacity, UNDP Procurement Advisor continued to provide regular procurement advisory services on technical specifications for procurement of goods and services and preparation of bidding documents, as part of the capacity building programme.</p> <p>To enhance IHEC's electoral public outreach functions, UNDP Media Advisor provided regular advisory services to the IHEC's Public Outreach Department in the areas of website development and formulation of a draft public outreach strategy, apart from monitoring implementation of some UNDP sponsored public outreach activities.</p>	95%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results
<p>Following the agreement between UNDP and IHEC on the need to have international experts, the following international experts were deployed during the quarter:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Procurement Advisor who commenced his duties on 04 June 2012. 2. Media Advisor who started work on 01 July 2012. <p>To strengthen the IHEC's technical capacity in the area of Voter Registration, the project is in the process of hiring a Software Development Consultant to support the IHEC in this area. The consultant will provide technical support and guidance to the IHEC in the development of voter registration and results tabulation software and systems. This consultant is expected to commence work in the fourth quarter.</p>

Main Implementation Constraints and Challenges
<p>The security factor remains the main obstacle to the deployment of additional staff in Iraq. However, the staff ceiling has been raised to accommodate additional UN personnel to support the electoral process. For the same reason it is a challenge to recruit international electoral experts (who are limited in number) to take positions in Iraq; nevertheless, UNDP continues to seek qualified personnel and identify them for recruitment.</p> <p>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 this regard, the UN Team had increased its hourly presence in the IHEC offices from 4 to 6 hours per day from September.</p>

