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**UNDAF Fund**

**ANNUAL programme[[1]](#footnote-1) NARRATIVE progress report**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 january – 31 December 2014**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Programme Title & Project Number | |  | Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results[[2]](#footnote-2) | |
| * Programme Title: **Enhancing Transparent, Participatory Governance and Human Rights** * Programme Number **Project #82895** * MPTF Office Project Reference Number:[[3]](#footnote-3)**P1-04** | | *Country/Region* **Nationwide** | |
| *Priority area/ strategic results*  Improved Governance, including the protection of human rights; The Iraqi State has more efficient, accountable and participatory governance at national and sub-national levels | |
| Participating Organization(s) | |  | Implementing Partners | |
| * UNDP | | High Commission of Human Rights; The Iraqi Commission of Integrity; Kurdistan Region Prime Minister’s Office; Kurdistan Board of Supreme Audit; Baghdad University; CSO partners | |
| Programme/Project Cost (US$) | |  | Programme Duration | |
| Total approved budget as per project document: 3,091,526  MPTF /JP Contribution[[4]](#footnote-4):   * *by Agency (if applicable)* | **3,091,526** |  | Overall Duration: | **24 months** |
| Agency Contribution   * *by Agency (if applicable)* |  |  | Start Date[[5]](#footnote-5) | **15th May 2012** |
| Government Contribution  *(if applicable)* |  |  | Original End Date*[[6]](#footnote-6)* | **June 2014** |
| Other Contributions (donors)  *(if applicable)* |  |  | Current End date[[7]](#footnote-7) | **June 2015** |
| TOTAL: | 3,091,526 |  |  |  |
| Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval. | |  | Report Submitted By | |
| Assessment/Review - if applicable *please attach*  Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*  Mid-Term Evaluation Report *– if applicable please attach*  Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy* | | * Name: **Nahid Hussein** * Title: **Project Manager** * Participating Organization (Lead): **UNDP** * Email address: nahid.hussein@undp.org | |

**LIST OF KEY ACRONYMS**

COR Council of Representatives (Parliament)

CPA Coalition Provisional Authority

CPAP Country Programme Action Plan

CSOs Civil Society Organisations

IBHR Independent Board of Human Rights (based in Kurdistan)

IHCHR Independent High Commission for Human Rights

KRBSA Kurdistan Region Board of Supreme Audit

KRCI Kurdistan Region Commission of Integrity

KRG Kurdistan Regional Government

NACS National Anti-Corruption Strategy

UNDAF United Nations Development Assistance Framework

UPR Universal Periodic Review (Human Rights monitoring tool)

# NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UNDP has continued, under this programme, to promote and institutionalize the promotion and protection of a Human Rights Culture in Iraq. The acknowledgement and the recognition of the National Elections in April 2014 resulted in the formation of a new Government and a new Parliament which provided a good opportunity to support the reform agenda through UNDP programmes and projects. During the year 2014, a strategic partnership was established with state and non-state actors to strengthen their contribution to public policy as well as their effective engagement to advance participatory and accountable Governance. The project, namely in the Human Rights component, moved beyond training activities towards a more institutionalized approach, ensuring sustainability of the results achieved and ensuring capacity development of partners to shoulder and continue with those activities in the future. This is best illustrated in the support to the establishment of the Human Rights Civil Society Advisory Board in Iraq. This Board works very closely with the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee. It reviewed the organizational structure of the Independent Board of Human Rights in KR-I through the technical advisory support to the revision of the Law 4/2010. Another major result of this project has paved the way to an additional two years support to the NGOs Directorate within ComSec, where support will be expanded to NGOs Directorate and Civil Society organizations to assist the CSOs involvement in the legislative and oversight process in the Parliament. With regard to the support to the oversight bodies under this project it worth mentioning that tangible progress related to enhancing the capacity of Supreme Board of Audit at both federal and regional level has been made. Similarly, support has been leveraged to the CSOs in connection with the work of the Integrity Commission.

Major challenges were faced during the reporting period. The recent attacks of ISIS and the deterioration of the security situation in Iraq impacted the timely delivery of all project activities. In June 2014 the UN and UN agencies have been requested to relocate to Erbil in Kurdistan. Government focus has shifted from development to meet the security requirements and had to take drastic security measures to face the ISIS aggression and attack on civilians. A major humanitarian crisis resulted which required a prompt response from the UN and particularly UN agencies to the needs of the IDPs and refugees in north, center and south Iraq.

In view of the above, in 2014, the work has focused on establishing the legal, policy and strategic frameworks for the beneficiary entities, whilst also providing direct operational support for their better functioning.

# Purpose

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| UNDAF: Priority 1  Improved Governance, including the protection of human rights.  Priority Outcome 1.4  The Iraqi State has more efficient, accountable and participatory governance at national and sub-national levels.  UNDP CPAP: Outcome 3  Strengthened regulatory frameworks, institutions and processes in place for accountable, transparent and participatory governance at national and local levels. |
| Output 1: The Iraq Human Rights Commission has enhanced capacity to execute its mandate.  Output 2: Iraq has a national platform for an expanded human rights dialogue.  Output 3: The Iraqi state is able to promote and undertake governance process in an accountable and transparent manner.  Output 4: Civil society organisations have enhanced capacity to engage with parliament and relevant parliamentary committees on policy issues.  Planned activities against Outputs in **Annex 1** |

# Results

## Narrative Results

Human rights in Iraq have been protected through an institutionalized National Human Rights Institution (IHCHR) notably in areas of advisory services, violations investigation and violations documentation. UNDP achieved the target where technical advisory support provided to select 14 Human Rights Commissioners at Federal level. UNDP assisted the Council of Representatives to develop transparent and inclusive selection framework in line with Iraqi Constitution and Paris Principles, based on this framework COR will appoint the new Board of Commissioners for the second tenure, which anticipated to take place on the end of year 2015.

UNDP continued to enhance the capacity of the national and regional institutions where total of 91 commissioners and core staff, out of which are 62 male and 29 female staff, have been trained on documentation of human rights violations, report writing, strategic planning and investigations, the training has been conducted in partnership with Jordan National Human Rights Center in Amman. In addition to this number more than 47 core staff from the two institutions have been trained on UPR. As result IHCHR and IBHR have substantively contributed to the UPR (shadow report) 2014.

Participation in Iraqi national human rights debate and discussion was enhanced decisively through the establishment and organization of the Human Rights Civil Society Advisory Board. As stated above UNDP was actively working with NGOS to ensure their meaningful and effective participation on the monitoring of the Human Rights situation in the country. During the year 2014 UNDP supported total of 25 NOGs through training and small grants to implement different activities promoting Human Rights. The NGOs conducted training and advocacy activities where more than 1500 persons benefited from. As a result of this initiative CSOs Human Rights Advisory Board, with membership of 21 representatives from CSOs nationwide was established to support the work of the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee and the work of the IHCHR. This is considered to be the first of its nature in Iraq, where the CSOs will effectively engage on the legislative and oversight process on the issues related to Human Rights.

**Transparency, Accountability and Anti-Corruption,** the outcome is to combat corruption through the promotion of accountability, integrity and transparency at all levels of government including developing curriculums in investigative journalism and providing the technical support to the Parliament in Federal and KRG.

* 1. Developing curriculum on investigative journalism specific to the college of media – University of Baghdad
  2. Developing technical curriculum to be used for existing reporters wanting to specialize in investigative journalism.

Draft curriculum on both “a” and “b” above were completed, consultations with the University of Baghdad on the contents took place, feedback received from the university, discussed and final version will be finalized in quarter 1, 2015.

Initial meeting took place between the head of the (Federal and KRG) integrity Parliamentarian committee and the legal committee with the specialized consultant on the Parliamentarian issues for the UNDP.

## Narrative Project Outcomes

The project has directly contributed to the UNDAF priority Outcome “Improved Governance, including the protection of human rights”. The direct priority Outcome is “The Iraqi State has more efficient, accountable and participatory governance at national and sub-national levels”.

The establishment of the Independent Human Rights Commission, the first of its nature in Iraq, is in itself considered as remarkable progress towards the protection of the Human Rights in Iraq. The Iraqi State represented by the Council of Representatives has met its constitutional obligation and formed the National Institution for Human Rights. The Law 64/2008 is considered to be in line with Paris Principles, the Iraqi constitution with the international standards; it stipulates inclusive representations, a broad mandate and independent financial resources for the commission. In April 2014, 14 Human Rights Commissioners were voted for by the Iraqi Parliament; the first commissioners in the entire Middle East and the Arab Region ever to be appointed and voted for by a legislative body. In general, and as a direct result of UNDP’s support, Iraq has an elected national human rights institution with an organizational structure and mandate that is in line with international standards.

Whether the IHCHR or the national human rights mechanism is completely independent, properly functioning and has had a substantive contribution to the human rights public policy in Iraq, is arguable at this early stage. The impact of the IHCHR cannot be assessed in isolation of the highly politicized environment in Iraq and the very tense security situation taking into account the ISIS threat not only to Iraqi stability but to the region and the world. National priorities have been shifting towards establishing a peaceful and stable country and prevention of activities that might lead to the collapse of the Iraq state. Therefore, so far too little political attention has been paid, by the GOI, to strengthen the capacity of the IHCHR.

The IHCHR is currently functioning against all administrative, political, human resources challenges. Despite all difficulties, the IHCHR managed to issue its annual reports, receive complaints and take positions with regards to human violations in Iraq, as well as contributing to the UPR. Yet a major challenge remains: until the IHCHR is provided adequate leadership and has an interactive engagement with all relevant human rights actors in the country, it the IHCHR cannot provide adequate protection of the Human Rights. The recent election and formation of the new Council of Representatives offers a good opportunity for more support and meaningful engagement of the Iraqi Parliament with the IHCHR.

That said, the support provided by UNDP under this project to the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee and to the Human Rights Civil Society Organizations Advisory Board is achieving positive results and is contributing directly and indirectly to the improvement of the human rights situation in Iraq. Under this component a broad human rights national dialogue is established, mechanism for effective engagement between the legislative institution and CSOs have been put in place and CSOs are empowered and capacitated to promote a human rights culture.

**Transparency, Accountability and Anti-Corruption Component:**

Mechanisms for engagement within the Transparency and Anti-Corruption component require different partnership and counterparts in Iraq. The Transparency, Accountability and Anti-Corruption component of the project is working with the Commission of Integrity in Baghdad and KRG, Iraqi Universities and the Parliament in the federal and KRG.The partners for Investigative Journalism defined and curriculums development initiating, There will be two curriculums (Academic & Technical) for the Academic and technical purposes for all of the Iraqi universities and Institutes

A specialised consultant was recruited to conduct a need assessment on the federal and Kurdistan council of representatives – the integrity committee and the legal committee.

## Narrative Project Outputs

***Output 1: The Iraq Human Rights Commission has enhanced capacity to execute its mandate.***

In 2013 UNDP, through this project supported the development of the **organizational structure** of the IHCHR, the adoption of the strategic action plan, and capacity building of the human rights commissioners and core staff on the contribution to the UPR shadow report. In 2014 most of the activities related to the Independent High Commission for Human Rights (IHCHR) have been successfully carried out including the strengthening of the organizational structure of the Human Rights Commission, provision of training to the Commission core staff and enhancing their **capacity on investigations**, report writing and documentation of human rights violations. In doing so, UNDP, in October 2014, organized a training course in Amman in coordination with the Jordanian National Human Rights Center. The training resulted in the establishment of a network between the National Human Rights Center in Amman, Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights and the Independent Board for Human Rights in Kurdistan. This training contributed to the **institutionalization of the complaints and report writing mechanism** within the IHCHR. It also improved the core staff skills on investigations of human rights violations.

On 6 June 2014, UNDP fielded a Human Rights Expert to support the development of an **outreach strategy** as well as strengthen the investigation and the reporting capacity of the IHCHR commissioners and core staff. As a result training on investigation of Human Rights Violations, report writing and the development of an outreach strategy took place from 11 to 16 October 2014 in Amman with support of the Human Rights Centre in Jordan. It is anticipated that as result of this training an outreach strategy will be developed and adopted as well as an outreach office established within the IHCHR and IBHR.

UNDP continued to provide direct support to the IHCHR through trainings. On 12 to 16 October 2014, UNDP provided training, a study tour, and workshops to the 19 human rights commissioners and core staff at federal level and to the human rights board at the regional level. This was the first ever training for the staff of the IHCHR and IBHR. As the staff of both institutions are beginning to **monitor human rights violations,** receive cases of violation, and report on those, it is critical to enhance their capacity and skills for better understanding of the international standards and best practices in the region.

19 participants attended the training out of which 9 are core staff from IHCHR representing the different sections such as monitoring, complaints, media, information and technology, reporting, financial and administration. Also there were 10 core staff from the IBHR; including the heads of the sub-offices in different places in the Kurdistan Region. The prime objectives of the workshop were:

1. Raise the awareness on the international conventions and treaties on human rights.
2. Build the network with government, non-government and the international actors of human rights.
3. Strengthen the skills of the core staff to contribute to the human rights annual report, the UPR and the shadow reports that Iraq will submit on the Human Rights situation in the country.
4. Improve the skills of the core staff skills regards monitoring and receiving the human rights violations at federal and regional levels.
5. Create skills on communication and outreach with other actors, namely, local communities, media outlets, CSOs, human rights activists, lawyers.
6. Broaden the understanding on the work of the Human Rights National Institution. The training highlighted the Paris principles and the functions of the IHCHR and IBHR related to the monitoring and the documentation the violations of human rights violations.

The training also provided substantive knowledge of the specific human rights of minorities, vulnerable groups such as children, women, disabled people, and the elderly. Focus was given to criminal justice and monitoring the prisons and detention centres. The results of the training can be summarized as follows:

* The participants from both institutions have better understanding for the work of the national human rights institutions for the topics that covered in the training.
* The participants have improved their knowledge about the importance of the communication and the outreach approach to build their relationships with Iraqi citizens and the key human rights actors.

During the first quarter of 2015 UNDP will develop a regulatory framework to link the IHCHR and IBHR to ensure strong coordination and cooperation between the two institutions in Iraq. UNDP will as well provide the technical advisory support to the development of outreach strategies. It is anticipated that the communication and outreach strategy will be finalized and adopted by the two institutions by the second quarter of the 2015.

UNDP continued to support the timely and efficient response to the IDP and refugees **humanitarian crisis** in KRG. UNDP supported the recruitment of two additional staff embedded within the structure of the IBHR to monitor the IDP and the refugees’ situation in KRG. The findings of this monitoring will be shared with the relevant Regional and Federal Government institution to support immediate humanitarian assistance of the targeted populations.

UNDP, as part of its support to promote Human Rights at Regional level, is recruiting a Human Rights expert to assist with the revision of the **organizational structure of the regional IBHR** in line with Paris Principles. A strategy to create linkages with the National Human Rights Institution will be developed by the same expert. It is expected that a new organizational structure will be proposed to the senior management for endorsement and adoption.

Establishing two human rights institutions in Iraq, at federal and regional levels created a lack of clarity with regards the role of each commission as well as the contribution and representations of Human Rights institutions in the UPR and the Human Rights Council in Geneva. At federal and regional level, as mentioned previously, training was provided to members from two Human Rights Commissions and agreement was reached to establish a regulatory framework to link the work of the two institutions. A meeting was planned to take place in September 2014 to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions but due to the security and political situation this step is rolled forward to the year 2015. UNDP will provide the necessary technical and advisory support to the drafting of the Memorandum of Understanding which will constitute the **regulatory framework that will guide joint reporting and joint collaboration** without compromising the national mandate of the IHCHR and the regional mandate of the IBHR.

***Output 2: Iraq has a national platform for an expanded human rights dialogue.***

With regard to the engagement of CSOs into the IHCHR work, UNDP recruited a human rights and civil society expert to **facilitate the establishment** of the Human Rights Advisory Board. Representatives of the IHCHR actively participated as observers, in the nomination and selection mechanism. UNDP facilitated a series of meetings between human rights actors such as Human Rights CSOs, Parliamentary committees of the Human Rights and Civil Society Organizations, IHCHR, NGOs Directorate and representatives from the Council of Minorities in Iraq. The meetings resulted in the development of the selection criteria for the membership of the Human Rights Advisory Board.

UNDP has continued to provide **technical advisory support** to the establishment of the Human Rights Advisory Board. Through recruitment of a CSOs expert, UNDP supported the establishment of the Human Rights Civil Society Board. 19 members representing CSOs have been voted for by 88 NGOs in addition to 2 representatives of minorities group have formed the first Human Rights Advisory Board to support the work of the Human Rights Parliamentary committee. It is anticipated that the Board will be officially launched during the first quarter of the year 2015. The establishment of this Board will assist CSOs and minorities to effectively and actively engage in the legislative process and support the oversight function of the Committee. The Board will bring the CSOs and communities prospective to the legislative institution and strengthen the consultations and partnership between the Civil Society and the COR.

***Output 3: The Iraqi state is able to promote and undertake governance process in an accountable and transparent manner***

The progress of the planned outputs in 2014 are as follow:

***The partners for Investigative Journalism defined and curriculum development initiating.***

As the consultant agency award for the investigative journalism curriculum went at risk during 4th Quarter 2013 since the Consultant Agency Board decided that their staff cannot provide training in Baghdad due to the deterioration in the security situation, and accordingly this activity could not move ahead until the security situation improves, this issue could not be resolved and resulted in re-advertisement in the 1st Quarter 2014. Following the advertisement placed by the project, a specialised consultancy firm in investigative journalism (CLIC consultants) was appointed through a normal procurement process. The CLIC consultants started by researching the needs of the Iraqi’s universities on academic level relevant to investigative journalism; similarly they assessed the professional requirement on the topic. It developed outlines on investigative journalism at academic level and professional level. These outlines were discussed with the universities and the Anti-Corruption Academy to insure that it fulfilled the requirements. Based on the agreed outlines, CLIC started developing two curricula:

1. Investigative journalism specific to the college of media – University of Baghdad
2. Technical curriculum to be used for existing reporters wanting to specialize in investigative journalism.

Draft curriculum on both “a” and “b” above were completed, consultations with the university of Baghdad on the contents took place, feedback received from the university, discussed and final version will be finalized in Quarter 1, 2015.

***Support MP’s and staff from targeted committees for effective follow up on cases of administrative and financial corruption.***

In 2014, procurement procedures have started and finalized. A specialised consultant was recruited to conduct a need assessment on the federal and Kurdistan council of representatives – the integrity committee and the legal committee. during this year, and in line with the United Nation convention against corruption, the Asset recovery was discussed with CSOs and NGOs as a mean to raise awareness amongst the general public through a series of meeting with 16 different CSOs and NGOs from 14 different governorates a plan is getting developed to conduct awareness sessions to advocate and promote the role of CSOs and Asset recovery to minimize its impact on society. Also an initial meeting took place between the head of the (Federal and KRG) integrity Parliamentarian committee and the legal committee with the specialized consultant on the Parliamentarian issues for the UNDP. These meetings facilitated acquiring information on each of these committees pertaining to their mandate, legal frame work and operational procedures, additionally, in depth discussions on the challenges these committees are facing and the ways of improving their performance.

Analysis of all the information took place and a draft assessment of the current situation on each of these committees is underway. A final need assessment draft on each of the committees will be finalized in the 1st quarter of 2015 and will be presented to the committees after further discussions and review of the results.

***The Kurdistan Region plans in place for its forthcoming Commission of Integrity.***

UNDP continued technical support was provided during this year to compliment the initial work done through this project. Support included cross boarder financial investigations, asset recovery and proposal on improving the legislative contents of the Kurdistan Commission of Integrity.

***The capacity of the KRG’s Board of Supreme Audit enhanced with the Needs Assessment completed and a Medium to Long Term Strategy for development presented.***

A needs assessment was conducted on the Kurdistan Board of Supreme Audit (KBSA) and following this a medium to long term strategy was developed and discussed with the KBSA resulting in the development of a comprehensive capacity building program in consultation with the KBSA. During this reporting period a president to the KBSA was appointed after the position was vacant for almost two years. This gives an indication that the strategy developed for the Board was accepted by the Kurdistan Region Government and provided indication of the KRG interest in implementing the proposed.

**The implementation of a workshop and sessions with the Iraq partners for Investigative Journalism curriculums.**



***Output 4: Civil society organizations have enhanced capacity to engage with parliament and relevant parliamentary committees on policy issues.***

The civil society dimension of this project cuts across human rights and the accountability, transparency and anti-corruption: Outputs 1, 2 and 3. Engagement with NGOs has therefore happened directly through the human rights pillar of the project and through Output 4. **Small grants are disbursed** to enable 6 NGO’s to promote and raise awareness on Human Rights protection in different communities in Iraq.

Linked to this activity, six consultations took place around Iraq with interested NGOs in order to develop the most **appropriate strategy** for establishing a Human Rights Advisory Board for the IHCHR. To this end, representatives of the Human Rights Commission, the Human Rights Parliamentary Committee and the CSO Parliamentary Committee attended most of the events. The outcome of the consultations was the development of the selection criteria for 19 representatives from CSOs and an additional 2 representatives of minorities to form the first Human Rights CSOs Advisory Board. This is consider to be a significant milestone for Iraq.

On the Anti-corruption support, UNDP has conducted Anti-corruption workshop from 12 to 14 Oct. 2014 in Baghdad. During the workshop, the NGOs previewed the goals, achievements, and the challenges of their projects; the workshop helped in sharing the lesson learned between the participating NGOs and best practices.

An extensive consultation process led to the development of a set of ***CSO Grant Guidelines*** that integrate UNDP best practices as well as practical local context aspects. The innovative, participatory and open approach to the development of these guidelines has been appreciated both by the parliamentary CSO Committee and the CSO community. These guidelines are being tested through the UNDP project “Empowering CSOs in Iraq” that is being implemented in parallel to the project reported on herein and will set the ground for upcoming CSOs small grants for human rights and oversight mechanisms.

The progress of the planned outputs in 2014 are as follow:

**CSOs addressing Human Rights issues**

The implementation of 6 NGO projects has been successfully completed on 15 March 2014 after 6 months of implementation. NGOs had received USD15,000 grants for Human Rights projects with the support of UNDP and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNAMI).



Signing Agreement between UM Al Yateem Foundation (HR6) and Human Rights Commission

Establishing Complains Box in the Department of health in Baghdad (HR6)

Below is a brief account of the achievements by the 6 grantees:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref.** | **Name** | **Project Title** | **achievements** | **Geographic Coverage** |
| **HR1** | Bustan Association | Combating women's self-immolation in KRG | Bustan Association for Child Protection and Education managed to target youth, men and stakeholders from 16 rural areas (30 Communities) in Sulymaniyah and Erbil to address the issue of women’s self-immolation in KRG. The organization used different tools such as focus groups, workshops and TV spots to generate debate about this important issue. In addition, to introduce different mechanisms to help women when they face social problem or women rights violation. The project helped the organization to establish good relationship with local communities, local authorities and other NGOs working on similar topics. | Sulaymaniyah & Erbil |
| **HR2** | Baghdad Women Association (BWA) | Raising awareness of violence against women in Sadr City, Baghdad | Baghdad Women Association managed to highlight and generate community debate about violence against women in Al- Sader city, especially among men, tribal leaders and religious men. Addressing issues like early marriages, contract marriages outside the courts, Depriving girls of education…etc. About 160 male leaders have participated in the activities of this project to enhance their understanding of women rights. A set of recommendations has been developed with the participation of stakeholders. The organization managed to get the municipal council and other institutions involved in implementing the activities of the project, establishing promising partnership that would lead to further cooperation. | Baghdad |
| **HR3** | Nujeen Association | Promoting the rights of disabled persons | The project aims to raise awareness about the rights of people with special needs in Dhuk and Zakhow. The organization used different tools to outreach more than 400 people (Special Needs, their families and service providers). The project highlighted the role of media in addressing such issue, and led to establish good relation and starting cooperation with the Journalists Association and most of the media channels in Dhuk and Zakhow. | Dohuk |
| **HR4** | Public Aid Organization (PAO) | Monitoring human rights in Iraq's prison system | Through the activities of this project, the organization managed to collect information about 18 prisons located in 13 different governorates, and comparing this information to international standards. The organization established very good relationship with the Ministry of Justice in KRG among other governmental institutions to facilitate and guarantee access to prisons. On the other hand, the organization established relations with other organizations to conduct field visits to prisons in the rest of Iraq, which highlighted the importance of the topic and increased interest in carrying out such monitoring activities. A report with a set of observations and recommendations about prisons in Iraq has been prepared and published to provide a reference for future advocacy, awareness or monitoring projects and activities. | Whole of Iraq |
| **HR5** | Sawa Organization | Building a network of human rights defenders | This is project is the first of its kind in Al-Mothana governorate, which aims to establish a foundation for a Human Rights defenders network. About 60 participants (NGOs, media, activists, academics and college students) have been involved in a set of training workshops to enhance their knowledge and skills in Human Rights monitoring. The project highlighted the importance of Human Rights monitoring mechanisms among the target group and their communities. A report has been published about Human Rights situation in the governorate, based on the monitoring activities of the members of the network. Direct contact and cooperation with government institutions has been established such as the Ministry of Human Rights, the Human Rights High Commission and the Iraqi Parliament. | Muthanna |
| **HR6** | Um Al-Yateem Foundation | Road to the Human Rights Commission | The project aims to introduce practical mechanisms to report Human Rights violations to the Human Right High Commission. The organization managed to sign an MOU with the commission to allow direct contact and cooperation with the committee that is responsible for collecting the Human Rights complains and Human Rights violations. Boxes to collect HR complains have been placed in three government institutions including the Baghdad Governorate Council. This project contained different activities and tools to introduce and to raise awareness about the role of Human Right High Commission in Iraq in governmental and non-governmental institutions in Baghdad, Babil, Najaf and Dyala governorates. | Baghdad, Babil, Diyala, Najaf |

**Reinforcing linkages between CSOs, the Human Rights Commission and the Human Rights Parliamentary Committee.**

UNDP continued to provide support to the establishment of the Human Rights Advisory Board. UNDP has conducted many meetings with the Head of the Human rights parliament committee and the Parliament Speaker’s consultant on the Human Rights affairs; all related parties agreed to launch the Advisory Board at 21st January 2015 through a press conference at the Parliament premises.

**Enhancing CSO Anti-corruption intervention capacities**

The implementation of 11 NGO projects has been successfully completed on August 2014 after 5 months of implementation. 11 NGOs had received micro-grants (USD 5,000) to start their anti-corruption initiatives on 1 April 2014.



Field visit of the AC10 team to one of the under construction residential cities

Map shows the services institutions in the neighborhoods (AC9)

The table below summarizes the micro-grants initiatives:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref.** | **Name** | **Project Title** | **Geographic Coverage** |
|
| **AC1** | ALManahil Association for Women Development | The role of technology in improving governance and anti corruption education and awareness promotion | Basra |
| **AC2** | Al-Tadhamun Iraqi League for Youth | Civil Observatory to monitor and evaluate the government's performance and to address administrative corruption in Anbar | Anbar |
| **AC3** | Child Rights and Family Protection Association | promote integrity, transparency and accountability | Mosul |
| **AC4** | Children and Woman Affairs Organization | To promote and strengthen measures to combat corruption in government institutions in Diwaniyah | Qadisiya |
| **AC5** | Hannah Youth Organization | Corruption food scourge of society and everyone is responsible to detect fight and eliminate it | Baghdad |
| **AC6** | Iraqi Civic Action Network | The role of the marginalized groups in fighting corruption | Babil |
| **AC7** | Iraqi Civil Awareness Team | yes we can | Baghdad |
| **AC8** | Negotiation & Strategic Studies Organization | Identify the sources and forms of corruption in real estate loans and how to address them | Erbil |
| **AC9** | Shaaub for Democracy Culture Foundation | Promote community participation in the monitoring of local service sectors | Baghdad |
| **AC10** | Um Al Yateem Foundation | CSOs alliance for accountability | Baghdad |
| **AC11** | Wand Alkhair Human Organization | Promote proper behavior in public office and empowering civil society | Diyala |

* **Describe delays in implementation, challenges, lessons learned & best practices:**

The project has encountered several types of challenges that have led to implementation delay, hence the recent request to the UNDAF Trust Fund Board for a no cost project extension till the June of 2015.

In general, the project is progressing well towards the expected results considering the constraints of the implementation context in Iraq. However, delays in implementation have taken place due to the complex combination of security, political and social challenges that Iraq is facing. This has created delays in securing certain project resources locally (particularly technical expertise), obtaining decisions or participation of local counterparts, logistical arrangements for meetings, activities and events. In addition, the delays of the formation of the government have created a disruption both in terms of security, availability of national counterparts and their decision making. These facts have led to a suspension of most of the activities in quarter 2 and 3. A no-cost extension is therefore requested and approved to allow the completion of the project and the fulfilment of all planned results.

In detail and regarding the Human Rights component this project, the highly politicized environment and the very tense security situation in Iraq constituted a major challenge that has direct impacted on the election of the leadership of the IHCHR. The absence of the necessary leadership within the Board of the Human Rights Commission has negatively impacted the decision making process. All Commissioners have different perspectives mainly influenced by the political blocs which has prevented the IHCHR from adopting a unified approach to human rights situation in the country. This created significant delay in the IHCHR in directly contributing to Iraqi human rights public policy and to some extend affected public confidence in the institution. The positive side of the work of the commission is the fact that, based on the IHCHR report on ISIS human rights violations, the Security Council has agreed to field a fact finding mission to investigate human rights violations committed by ISIS against the people of Iraq.

The formation of new government and the election of new Parliament Members in the Council of Representatives provides a good opportunity for true constitutional and political reform which will directly contribute to the political pressure applied on the IHCHR. The new leadership in the Iraqi Parliament is committed to human rights, peace and stability, therefore it is expected that more support will be provided to the IHCHR, especially with the selection of the new Board which supposed to take place in February 2016.

At the Kurdistan regional level the challenge has been to review the Law 4/2010 and ensure that the mandate and the structure of the IBHR is in line with the international standards. Creating linkages with the IHCHR is crucial and a legal framework organizing the relationship between the two institutions will assist the provision of a unified country report as well as clarify the geographical jurisdiction of each institution. In that regard UNDP is providing technical advisory support through the recruitment of a Human Rights expert who reports directly to the Head of the IBHR and provide daily sounds advice based on global best practices. The legal framework will assist in ensuring that the two institutions are linked and work in harmony to promote human rights in all Iraq while preserving the constitutional regional autonomy.

The humanitarian crisis and the influx of IDPs and refugees in the KR-I region and some parts of Iraq remains a huge challenge. Donors, Government institutions and some of UN agencies are redirecting there resources to respond the IDPs and refugees needs. Thus, at policy level the priority of the Government is now on peace and stability in Iraq. To mitigate this challenge, UNDP continues to advocate to the new Government to meet its commitment towards the international development agenda, to promote social cohesion and ensure protection of human rights as a key for stopping the ISIS aggression on ground.

Concerning ***transparency, accountability and anti-corruption***, one of the key lessons learned is that an integrated approach is fundamental to tackling this sector. Public transparency and accountability are corner stones of good governance. Strengthening these aspects requires not only building the capacity of state institutions to promote rule of law but also ensuring greater engagement of non-state actors such as civil society and media in holding state institutions to account. Towards this end and given the different incentives of various stakeholders, different context specific, yet integrated, approaches need to be adopted.

Also required is flexible but consistent programming support. The security and political context in Iraq makes is difficult for prioritizing activities and setting timeframes for delivery of results. Therefore, all programme support has to be flexible but at the same time, programme support should be consistent and sustained to ensure sustainability of results. As soon as any momentum drops off, it becomes a challenge to reactivate the necessary traction. This aside, local ownership is critical and initiatives should be tailored to the local context and should be locally led and driven. This ensures not only credibility but also sustainability of the initiative. Finally, building partnerships are essential and the delivery of results depends on strong collaboration with local and international partners. Clear communication is crucial in building confidence of partners and other stakeholders.

* **Qualitative Assessment**

To provide a qualitative assessment on what this project has achieved in 2014, there is a need to take into account the tangible achievements against the constraints the project faced in implementing the resources available.

During the reporting period UNDP was able to develop the capacities of the IHCHR, the IBHR (KR), the Human Rights Committee of the Parliament, the Kurdistan Region Parliament, the Kurdistan Region Board of Supreme Audit, the Kurdistan Region Commission of Integrity plus all the relevant CSO and media-based partners involved in the relevant processes that these institutions undertook.. In each case, the work of these institutions had to be built up on what had been achieved during the year 2013. This meant that for each entity, UNDP had to:

* support the provision of adequate legal and policy frameworks governing the work of these institutions;
* provide guidance on the structure and functioning of these institutions;
* provide the sufficient level of training to core staff and experts working inside the institutions;
* in some cases, provide direct operating support;
* provide guidance to these institutions on which other entities (state or non-state) they should be interlinking with and then provide communication support for outreach.

One of the most notable activities that were undertaken during the reporting period was the establishment of the CSOs Human Rights Advisory Board. The Board is conceived to assist the parliament's Human Rights Committee to effectively engage with the civil society and promote human rights through all legislative bodies. UNDP played an instrumental role in creating this platform, the first of its kind in Iraq and the region. The main function of the board is to substantively contribute to the legislative process, particularly in relation to the development of human rights policies. The board, together with the Human Rights Committee and other relevant institutions, is also expected to strengthen the civil society oversight of government’s performance. In 2012, UNDP facilitated the first meeting between civil society organizations and the parliament. Consultations took place in different parts of the country. Civil society organizations nominated 19 representatives as members of the board with additional three members to speak for Iraqi minorities.

**ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:**

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document** **/ AWP** - provide an update on the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why, as well as plans on how and when this data will be collected.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Achieved Indicator Targets** | **Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)** | **Source of Verification** |
| **Outcome 1[[8]](#footnote-8)** The Iraqi state has more efficient, accountable and participatory governance at national and sub national levels  **Indicator:**  **Baseline:**  **Planned Target:** |  |  |  |
| **Output 1.1** The Iraq Human Rights Commission has enhanced capacity to execute its mandate  **Indicator 1.1.1** Regulatory framework of the Commission in place;  **Baseline:** No regulatory framework in place  **Planned Target:** Functioning Commission in place  **Indicator 1.1.2** Sub-national IHCHR Offices established at governorate level  **Baseline:** 0 sub-national offices  **Planned Target:** 4 sub-national offices  **Indicator 1.1.3** Number of Human Rights commissioners disaggregated by federal/KRG levels.  **Baseline:** 0 (zero) in Baghdad, 0 (zero) in KRG  **Planned Target:** 25 HR commissioners (central (14) and KRG (11))  **Indicator 1.1.4** Number of core staff trained to execute their services effectively.  **Baseline:** 0 staff  **Planned Target:** 20 staff  **Indicator 1.1.5** %of those trained fully satisfied with the relevance, quality and usefulness of the training provided.  **Baseline:** 0 %  **Planned Target:** 80% | Draft Regulatory framework is developed and adopted by the Board of Commission | The IHCHR has an organizational structure, regulatory framework and strategic action plan. | Official endorsement letter from Council of Representatives’ |
| 1 office established in Baghdad as Main IHCHR Office.  Office has been established in Baghdad |  | Field visits, IHCHR reports, UNDP monitoring reports |
| Target met | 5 roundtables have been organized in Basra, Amara, Najaf, Erbil and Baghdad to formalize the dialogue process through the establishment of the Human Rights Civil Society Advisory Board | IHCHR reports, UNDP monitoring reports |
| Target met. Total of 37 Human Rights commissioners, core staff, out of which are 10 technical staff from IBHR in KRG have been trained in different specialized areas  100% of trained staff are satisfied with the training |  | UNDP training reports |
| **Output 1.2** Iraq has a national platform for an expanded human rights dialogue  **Indicator 1.2.1** IHCHR outreach strategy is drafted  **Baseline:** no draft  **Planned Target:** document draft  **Indicator 1.2.2** Number of IHCHR public information campaigns undertaken and disaggregated by federal/KRG level  **Baseline:**  **Planned Target:** 3 (three) public information campaigns at central level; 3 (three) at KRG level.  **Indicator 1.2.3** Number of Human Rights CSOs engaged in a formal national dialogue on human rights  **Baseline:** 18  **Planned Target:** 43  **Indicator 1.2.4** Number of staff of the COR Human Rights Committee trained on Human Rights  **Baseline: 0**  **Planned Target:** 18  **Indicator 1.2.5** COR Human Rights strategic framework and  action plan developed  **Baseline:** No  **Planned Target:** Yes  **Indicator 1.2.6** Percentage of CSOs engaged in the national  dialogue process satisfied with the level and quality of engagement with regards to human rights  **Baseline:** 0  **Planned Target:** 80% | In progress,  Draft outreached strategy is shared with Board of Commission for discussion. Civil Society Expert is recruited to develop ToRs for engagement with CSOs |  | IHCHR strategy document |
| Not yet initiated. This will be achieved upon the development of the outreach strategy. 5 workshops organized in different Governorates to promote the work of the IHCHR |  | NDP quarterly fiches and IHCHR reports |
| Target met. CSOs Human Rights Advisory Board established with membership of 19 members in addition to 3 representing Iraqi Minorities. |  | National dialogue minutes from  UNDP |
| 24 members of the COR HRC trained on Human Rights Strategic Planning |  | Trainings report |
| Strategic action plan developed and adopted. This target indicator has been achieved |  | Strategic framework and action plan documents |
| Target met. |  | National dialogue evaluation forms |
| **Output 1.3** The Iraqi state is able to promote and undertake governance processes in an accountable and transparent manner  **Indicator 1.3.1** Number of trainers deployed in the CoR  Committees and in the Governorates  **Baseline:** 0  **Planned Target:** 8  **Indicator 1.3.2** Consultations to establish framework on KR  Commission of Integrity  **Baseline:** None  **Planned Target:** Framework for establishment approved  **Indicator 1.3.3** Investigate journalism curriculum developed  **Baseline:** No curriculum  **Planned Target:** Curriculum developed | Sixteen trainers deployed | Surpassed target of eight | Training records and those who conducted the 96 workshops. |
| Target surpassed.  Five high level consultations took place in 2012 regarding the framework on the KR Commission of Integrity;  The Kurdistan Parliament appointed a Kurdistan Commissioner of Integrity in May 2013; Reached agreement on the structure, legal and operational framework of the Cof I; | Surpassed schedule and may require variance as UNDP has received a letter from the Kurdistan Commission of Integrity requesting support | Consultation meeting minutes |
| Immediate needs identified in March 2013 in improving skills of journalists in investigating and reporting corruption.  Conducted needs assessments.  Developed medium to long-term capacity development strategy.  A consultant agency award initiated but collapsed due to increase of insecurity in Iraq | Ahead of schedule at beginning of the year but delayed due to the consultant agency board decision that their staff cannot provide training in Baghdad due to the deterioration of the security situation. Variance action taken and new consultant agency trying to be identified. | Curriculum document |
| **Output 1.4** CSOs have enhanced capacity to engage with parliament and relevant parliamentary committees on policy  **Indicator 1.4.1** Number of informal citizens’ oversight mechanisms at governorate level reflecting diverse CSO stakeholder influence and participation**.**  **Baseline:** 4  **Planned Target:** 10  **Indicator 1.4.2** Percentage of CSOs trained fully satisfied with quality of training provided in terms of relevance and usefulness  an quality of training provided**.**  **Baseline:** 0  **Planned Target:** 80% | 25 NGOs trained in the UPR process  6 NGOs given grants and training on specific human rights based campaigns  11NGOs given grants and training on specific Anti-corruption initiatives |  | Workshop reports |
| 100% |  | UNDP training evaluation forms |

**III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)**

*n/a*

**IV. Programmatic Revisions**

n/a

**V. Resources**

**No resources have been mobilized during the reporting period of time**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Budget Component** | | **Approved Budget** |  | **Committed to date** |  | **Remaining Balance** |  | **Requested Revised Budget** |
|  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| STAFF AND OTHER PERSONNEL COSTS | | 759,504 |  | 547,062 |  | 212,441.94 |  | 1,180,981 |
| SUPPLIES, COMMODITIES, MATERIALS | | 170,200 |  | 51,914 |  | 118,286 |  | 83,127 |
| EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES AND FURNITURE | | 0 |  | 0 |  | 0 |  | 0 |
| CONTRACTUAL SERVICES | | 1,462,000 |  | 604,866 |  | 857,134 |  | 931,489 |
| TRAVEL | | 59,988 |  | 341,394 |  | 281,406 |  | 432,363 |
| TRANSFERS AND GRANTS COUNTERPARTS | | 300,000 |  | 81,675 |  | 218,325 |  | 131,675 |
| GENERAL OPERATING AND OTHER DIRECT COSTS | | 137,585 |  | 97,653 |  | 84,077 |  | 129,644 |
| **TOTAL PROGRAMME COSTS** |  | **2,889,277** |  | **1,724,563** |  | **1,164,714** |  | **2,889,277** |
| 8 | INDIRECT SUPPORT COSTS | 202,249 |  | 202,249 |  | 0 |  | 202,249 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0 |
|  | ***TOTAL*** | ***3,091,526*** |  | ***1,926,813*** |  | ***1,164,713*** |  | ***3,091,526*** |

**Annex 1: Planned activities per Output**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Output 1** | **1. The Iraq Human Rights Commission has enhanced capacity to execute its mandate.** |
| Activities | * 1. Technical support to develop the IHCHR mandate and the organisational structure.   2. Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of capacities of the Commissioners and support staff based on the individual and thematic responsibilities.   3. Design a capacity building to address identified needs. This may include trainings on knowledge of human rights issues, strategic planning, project management and implementation, coordination, report writing, documentation of human rights, public awareness raising campaigns and public human rights education strategy etc.   4. Basic support for the establishment of offices in four governorates: Kirkuk, Ninewah, Sulaymaniyah, Diyala.   5. Capacity building programme to the core staff of the Commission in different areas of work such as enhancing their managerial skills, documentation, public relations, gender and human rights trainings.   6. Support the establishment of sub-national commission in KRG under the overall regulatory framework of the HCHR at federal level.   7. Implementation of the capacity building programme in accordance with the needs assessment and programme plans agreed with the IHCHR.   8. Technical advisory and capacity building support to the CoR Human Rights Committee.   9. Technical support to institutionalize and harmonize the work between IHCHR, COR, MOJ and Ministry of Human Rights. |
| **Output 2** | ***2.* Iraq has a national platform for an expanded human rights dialogue.** |
| Activities | 2.1 Provide technical advice to the Commission to develop a comprehensive communication and public human rights education strategy and public information office.  2.2 Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of the Commission’s outreach abilities and institute a capacity building programme to develop the role of the media in the promotion and protection of human rights as well as on the role of the Commission.  2.3 Advisory support to strengthen the role of the media in protecting human rights.  2.4 Technical operational support in conducting and initial information campaign on the role of ICHCR.  2.5 Conduct trainings targeting COR Human Rights Committee staff.  2.6 Advisory support to COR Human Rights Committee to develop strategic framework and action-plan. |
| **Output 3** | **3. The Iraqi state is able to promote and undertake governance process in an accountable and transparent manner.** |
| Activities | 3.1 Support MPs and staff from targeted committees (i.e. the Integrity and Finance Committees) for effective follow up on cases of administrative and financial corruption.  3.2 Support the consultations and establishment of the KRG Commission of Integrity.  3.3 Provide a need assessment, capacity building recommendations to the KRG BSA.  3.4 Support the development of a curriculum on investigative journalism.  3.5 Plan and organise a workshop to approve training curriculum investigative journalism when review completed. |
| **Output 4** | **4. Civil society organisations have enhanced capacity to engage with parliament and relevant parliamentary committees on policy issues.** |
| Activities | 4.1 Monitoring and reporting capacity building support to human rights CSOs  4.2 Promote consultation between IHCHR and civil society, government institutions, academic institutions and other constituents on the human rights situation through the set up of regular coordination mechanisms.  4.3 Provision of grants to CSOs to conduct human rights awareness campaigns and on the IHCHR.  4.4 Organisation of meetings and workshops promoting effective engagement between, IHCHR, CSOs, academic institutes, religious, tribal leaders and other relevant groups.  4.5 Selection of teams and identification of partners for continued NACS campaigns.  4.6 Identify relevant materials to conduct training and awareness campaigns on NACS.  4.7 Support to CSOs and the COR through introduction of effective engagement methodologies |

1. The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document; [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org/) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be **as outlined in the Project Document** so that you report on your **actual achievements against planned targets**. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)