**United Nations Development Group UNDAF Trust Fund**

**Project #68138: P1-04**

**Date and Quarter: 1 October to 31 December 2014**

**4th Quarter 2014**

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| Participating UN Organisation: UNDP | Sector: Governance and Human Rights |
| Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: The Iraqi Commission of Integrity | |

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| **Title** | Enhancing Transparent Participatory Governance and Human Rights | | | | |
| **Geographic Location** | Nationwide | | | | |
| **Project Cost** | USD 3,091,526[[1]](#footnote-1) received in two tranches. | | | | |
| **Duration** | 30 months | | | | |
| **Approval Date (SC)** | 5 April 2012 | **Starting Date** | 15 May 2012 | **Completion Date** | 30 June 2015 |
| **Project Description** | UNDP, in close consultation with national counterparts will undertake a series of interlinked and complementary interventions within a programmatic framework that aims to promote transparent participatory governance and strengthen human rights in Iraq. The framework has four outputs focusing on strengthening human rights and transparency through participatory governance mechanisms. First, to support the mandate and organizational structure of the Human Rights Commission, including the establishment of sub-national commissions. Second, to provide long term institutional development of the Human Rights Commission and its outreach capabilities through participatory governance mechanisms. Third, combat corruption through the promotion of accountability, integrity and transparency at all levels of government and civil society. This involves support to the roll-out of the Government of Iraq’s National Anti-Corruption Strategy, to strengthen the capacities of key parliamentary committees, to address corruption issues, to enhance engagement of civil society organisations and media in addressing corruption and to provide technical support for the establishment of a new KRG Commission of Integrity and KRG Board of Supreme Audit. Fourth, to utilise civil society organisations to promote participatory and transparent governance which includes financial and technical support to civil society organisations to enhance their engagement with parliament. | | | | |

**Development Goal and Immediate Objectives**

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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. |

**Outputs, Key Activities and Procurement**

***Note: Activities are in relation to section 4 page 10 of the project document***

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| **Output 1** | **1. The Iraq Human Rights Commission has enhanced capacity to execute its mandate.** |
| Activities | * 1. The Iraq High Commission for Human Rights has the organisational structure to function effectively.   2. The Iraq High Commission for Human Rights has technically competent staff.   3. Subnational Iraq High Commission for Human Rights entities established. |
| **Output 2** | ***2.* Iraq has a national platform for an expanded human rights dialogue.** |
| Activities | 2.6 A national dialogue on human rights supported.  2.7 Awareness raised on human rights issues and ways to protect these rights  2.8 The Iraq High Commission for Human Rights capacity to reach out and clarify work and mandate enhanced. |
| **Output 3** | **3. The Iraqi state is able to promote and undertake governance process in an accountable and transparent manner.** |
| Activities | 3.1 The CoR capacity in undertaking accountability oversight functions increased.  3.2 The KRG plans for a Commission of Integrity in place.  3.3 The KRG’s Board of Supreme Audit capacity enhanced.  3.4 An investigative journalism curriculum developed and in place. |
| **Output 4** | **4. Civil society organisations have enhanced capacity to engage with parliament and relevant parliamentary committees on policy issues.** |
| Activities | 4.1 Iraqi CSOs and independent media capacity to hold the government to account in the areas of human rights, corruption and service delivery strengthened.  4.2 Interface between relevant parliamentary committees and CSOs on issues of human rights, corruption and service delivery enhanced.  4.3a Advocacy and awareness-raising on corruption issues enhanced.  4.3b Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy through partnership with CSOs and independent media implemented.  4.4 Donor coordination on civil society issues in Iraq enhanced. |
| **Procurement**  **(major items)** |  |

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| **Funds Committed** | **TOTAL $2,706,968.12: USD**  Human Rights: $770,357.15  00083653 Anti-corruption: 1,575,692.00  CSO: 360,918.97 | **% of total funds from both 1st tranche and 2nd tranche (USD)**  **3,091,526** | 88% |
| **Funds Disbursed** | **TOTAL $2,040,162.31: USD**  Human Rights: $864,569.22  Anti-corruption: 867,385.20  CSO: 308,207.89 | **% of funds from both 1st tranche and second tranche (USD)**  **3,091,526** | 66 % |
| **Forecast final date** | 30 June 2015 | **Delay (months)** | 12 |

**Quantitative achievements against objectives and results**

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| Output 1  The Iraq Human Rights Commission has enhanced capacity to execute its mandate. | * Continued support to the enhancing the capacity of the IHCHR on investigation of human rights violations, report writing and development of the institutional outreach strategy. * Consultations and preparation for Training on different field related to Human Rights. | **% of planned** | 95% |
| Output 2  Iraq has a national platform for an expanded human rights dialogue. | - Strengthening the SURGE capacity of the IBHR in KRG to respond to the Humanitarian Crisis in KRG in a timely and effective manner.  - Finalizing the support to the Human Rights Civil Society Advisory Board.  - Establishment of Gender Coordination working group to support the work of the IHCHR. | **% of planned** | 95% |
| Output 3  The Iraqi state is able to promote and undertake governance process in an accountable and transparent manner. | - The CoR capacity in undertaking accountability oversight functions has increased.  - The Kurdistan Region plans for a Commission of Integrity are in place.  - The Kurdistan Region Board of Supreme Audit capacity has been enhanced.  - An investigative journalism curriculum has been developed and is in place. | **% of planned** | 90% |
| Output 4  Civil society organisations have enhanced capacity to engage with parliament and relevant parliamentary committees on policy issues. | - Continued support to the establishment of the Human Rights Advisory Board.  - A workshop on Anti-corruption targeting 14 CSOs has been conducted. | **% of planned** | 95% |

**Qualitative achievements against objectives and results**

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| **Output 1: The Iraq Human Rights Commission has enhanced capacity to execute its mandate**.  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 considered the first training for the staff of the IHCHR and IBHR. As the staff of both institutions begin to monitor the human rights violations, receive cases of the violation, and reporting, 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 which represent the heads of the sections such as monitoring, complaints, media, information and technology, reporting, financial and administration sections and commissioners, as well as 10 core staff form the IBHR who are the heads of the sub-offices in different places in 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 human rights of minorities, vulnerable groups such as children, women, disabled people, and the elderly. More focus has been 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 the 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.    **Output 2: Iraq has a national platform for an expanded human rights dialogue.**  UNDP supported the establishment of the Human Rights Civil Society Board, 18 members representing CSOs have been voted for by 88 NGOs in addition to 3 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 launch 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 Kurdistan Region plans in place for its forthcoming Commission of Integrity***   * Continued support was provided through technical advice from UNDP to the Kurdistan Region Commission of Integrity during the quarter.   ***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***   * Continued support was provided through technical advice from UNDP to the Kurdistan Region Board of Supreme Audit.   ***The partners for Investigative Journalism defined and curriculum development initiating***   * The emphasis during this quarter was to finalize the development of the curriculum as a final draft on two levels:-   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 the final version will be finalized in quarter 1, 2015.   * 1. A workshop has been conducted to review and approve the draft curriculum in coordination with Baghdad University, College of Media and partners from other Iraqi Universities. The workshop was attended by participants from Commission of integrity (the Federal and KRG). The main output of the workshop represented in an agreement to print out the Technical and the Academic curriculum developed by UNDP.   ***Support MP’s and staff from targeted committees for effective follow up on cases of administrative and financial corruption.***   * 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 focused 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 needs assessment draft on each of the committees will be finalized next quarter and will be presented to the committees after further discussions and review of the results.   * A request has been submitted to the procurement unit to conduct 68 workshops in 15 governorates inside Iraq. These workshops will be attended by Iraqis parliament especially from the legal and Integrity Committees, NGOs, civil Society organization and media. These workshops will focus on anti –corruption, accountability and assets recovery. Upon the finalization of the procurement procedures, it is anticipated that theses workshops will start by mid of January.     ***Output 4: Civil society organizations have enhanced capacity to engage with parliament and relevant parliamentary committees on policy issues****.*  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.  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 practises. |
| *Challenges and Constraints* |
| The eruption of conflict in North, Centre and South Iraq which resulted in major Humanitarian Crisis, coupled with the formation of the newly elected Government of Iraq, have impacted the implementation of the four outputs of the project. The nomination of the new cabinet and the Council of Representatives hindered regular interaction between Counterparts with UNDP project staff and implementing partners. Now with formation of the Iraqi Government and the establishment of the COR committees it is expected that the project components will be timely and efficiently implemented. |
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1. Funding for the project will be through two tranche. The total amount committed to this project by the UNDAF Trust Fund is USD 3,091,526.

   The first tranche has been released in the amount of USD 1,574,585 which is reflecting in the table above until the remaining second tranche is received by UNDP. The second tranche request is under preparation.

   At the time of receipt of the second tranche for the amount of USD 1,516,941 this section will be adapted to reflect full project funds. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)