

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project #: F8-09
Date and Quarter Updated: 1st Quarter, Jan-Mar 2010

Participating UN Organisation: UNOPS – **Sector:** Protection
UNAMI HRO, OHCHR

Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry: Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR)

Title	Support to Iraq's Preparation for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)				
Geographic Location	Baghdad and communities served by 25 selected CSOs from different governorates (Kirkuk, Muthanna, Missan, Ninewa, Erbil, Anbar, Wassit, Kerbala, Babil, Basrah, Diyala and Salah Al-Din).				
Project Cost	US\$ 1,700,000				
Duration	18 months - from May 2009 to November 2010.				
Approval Date (SC)	27 May 2009	Starting Date	27 May 2009	Completion Date	27 November 2010
Project Description	<p>In its Resolution 60/251, the United Nations General Assembly requests the new Human Rights Council (HRC) to, inter alia, undertake a Universal Periodic Review (UPR), based on objective and reliable information, of the fulfilment of each State of its human rights obligations and commitments in a manner which ensures universality of coverage and equal treatment with respect to all States. Iraq is scheduled to be examined by the UPR Working Group of the HRC in February 2010.</p> <p>This project will focus on developing the capacity of the Government of Iraq to meet its obligations, as well as the capacity of Civil Society to fulfil the role assigned to them within the context of the UPR. These two elements will be addressed through a capacity building program including training, workshops and technical advice and assistance designed to enable both the Government of Iraq and the civil society organizations to meet their reporting requirements. A final conference gathering Iraqi stakeholders will facilitate discussions on the recommendations of the Human Rights Council and possible way forward.</p>				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

The project contributes to the following development goals in the relevant development strategies for Iraq:

Iraqi National Development Strategy (NDS):

8.3 Human Rights

Goal: Uphold and protect human rights, establish the rule of law, and overcome the legacy of the recent and distant past

8.3.1 Establish a comprehensive human rights regime country wide

International Compact with Iraq (ICI): Although there is not a specific benchmark, the project supports section 3.3 regarding Human Rights:

Goal: Uphold and protect human rights, establish the rule of law, and overcome the legacy of the recent and distant past.

- 3.3.1 Establish a comprehensive human rights regime country wide
 - The Government's capacity to report on its international human rights treaty obligations will be strengthened...;
 - The role of civil society will be strengthened

Protection Sector Team Outcome(s):

1. Improved protection of civilians throughout Iraq and creation of an environment which contributes to the observance of human rights for all Iraqis and mitigates the effects of forced displacement

Joint Programme Outcome:

1. Transparent and accountable institutional mechanisms in place to report and respond to human rights situation in Iraq.

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement	
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOHR and CSOs have the capacity to report on the HR situation in Iraq based on UPR mechanism. • Improved dialogue between government and civil society on human rights issues.
Activities	<p><u>Activities for the MoHR will include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support/Assistance to the working group in drafting the reports through provision of an international consultant to be based in Iraq • Information campaign through media and publications on the UPR process, including publication of documentation and final recommendations. • Capacity building of the MoHR working group through a training in OHCHR Office in Geneva (including 2 days to observe a UPR Working Group session and 2 days of additional briefings to be organized by OHCHR). The working group will then participate in the discussion of the reporting in front of the UPR working group • Study tour to Iraq of representatives from neighboring countries which have already taken part in the UPR process. The tour would enable sharing of experiences, lessons and dialogue on best practices in the region which the GoI can then apply as relevant to its own participation in the UPR process. Consultations are underway to identify appropriate and available participants. <p><u>Activities to support Human Rights Civil Society Organizations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of a cadre of at least 25 non-governmental human rights entities that would benefit from increased capacity in monitoring and reporting on human rights and who would participate in the production of the information report. The selection process will be conducted through a competitive process organized by UNOPS aimed at identifying CSOs already involved in monitoring and reporting activities and with links to grass root networks and access to relevant information on the human rights situation in Iraq. UNOPS will use its experience in creating the network of judicial CSOs in this process. • Two workshops/trainings in Iraq focused on dissemination of the General Guidelines to CSOs which would include intensive capacity building training on methodologies of monitoring and reporting for the selected network members. • One training on reporting draft skills specifically targeting the UPR reporting. • Provision of 10 Grants to CSOs to undertake complementary awareness campaigns at the community level, to promote civil engagement on human rights monitoring and reporting. • The creation of a network specifically among those CSOs involved in the process will also look at other future reporting obligations and will monitor progress on the issues identified in the UPR process. This will build on the successes of previous projects undertaken by the UN, leveraging existing networks where appropriate and supporting membership of new entities identified in the course of the programme. • Support/Assistance in drafting the report through provision of an international consultant. Coaching and mentoring on report drafting will also be provided. <p>The majority of the activities including the selection of CSOs with some ability in report writing will take place in the first six months of the project as the calendar for the UPR reporting mechanism has already been established. The selection of the CSOs will also take into consideration geographical balance and will include organizations from the KRG. Moreover, the selection will take into account existing structures and previous experience</p>

of both organizations (UNAMI HRO and UNOPS) in working with Human Rights CSOs. The project will hire a dedicated consultant to conduct a timely selection of suitable organizations through a competitive process.

Activities to Support the UPR process:

- After the GoI and CSO reports are submitted to the Human Rights Council, and once the Council's Recommendations are received, a National Conference chaired by the Ministry of Human Rights and involving all stakeholders will be organized. The conference will review the recommendations of the Human Rights Council and discuss how the recommendations may be implemented.
- Additionally, an information Campaign on the UPR Mechanism will be developed and conducted in coordination with MoHR and the CSO network. The campaign will aim to raise awareness among Iraqi families and communities about the Government's commitment to Human Rights and how it is addressing the issue. It also will aim to raise the awareness of the community on channels available to deal with human rights abuses. The campaign will be conducted through print, television and radio messages, and scheduled both before the submission of the reports to the UPR and after the issuance of the recommendations by the Human Rights Council.

After the UPR Reporting:

Once the UPR reporting requirement is completed and presented to the UPR Secretariat in the UN Human Rights Council Geneva, the programme will organize two specific trainings for members of the newly created civil society network and the GoI regarding Treaty Body and Reporting Mechanisms to ensure that both -CSOs and GoI- participate on reporting on human rights treaty obligations. The training will build on the experience and achievements of the training sessions related to the UPR and will include specific training on the preparation of parallel reports from the network to Treaty Body reporting mechanisms. This will allow for input from civil society to the different treaty bodies when Iraq reports to be examined by these bodies. The intention is to have a joint training that will advocate for partnership between the MoHR and the Iraqi population.

Activities as per workplan	1.1 Trainings on international human rights obligations 1.2 Study Tour to Iraq 1.3 Support to report writing 1.4 Participation to UPR working group session and OHCHR briefings 1.5 Information campaigns on UPR Mechanism 1.6 Selection of CSOs 1.7 Trainings for CSOs on UPR and reporting mechanisms 2.1 Support to report writing 2.2 CSOs grants 2.3 Creation of CSOs network 2.4 Steering Committee meetings 2.5 Final Conference
Procurement (major items)	Selection of implementing partner/service provider to carry out trainings for the selected CSOs

Funds Committed	\$ 503,586	29.62% of approved	
Funds Disbursed	\$ 455,211	27.78% of approved	
Forecast final date	November 2010	Delay (months)	None

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men		
Women		
Children		

IDPs		
Others	Government of Iraq GOI and 25 selected CSOs	
Indirect beneficiaries	Iraqi population	
Employment generation (men/women)		

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results			
1. MOHR and CSOs have the capacity to report on the HR situation in Iraq based on UPR mechanism.		82.14 % of planned	
1.1 Trainings on international human rights obligations	See last quarterly report.	100%	
1.2 Study Tour to Iraq	See last quarterly report.	100%	
1.3 Support to report writing	In this quarter the GoI completed their reporting requirements to the UPR by participating in the UPR review process in Geneva where their national report was discussed and a UPR outcome report for Iraq was adopted.	100%	
1.4 Participation to UPR working group session and OHCHR briefings	Members of the GoI UPR delegation attended meetings with OHCHR in Geneva prior to the review session for Iraq in February. In addition, the remaining delegation members were given an additional briefing in Amman to prepare for the review in Geneva (see below for details).	75%	
1.5 Information campaigns on UPR Mechanism		0%	
1.6 Selection of CSOs	See last quarterly report.	100%	
1.7 Trainings for CSOs on UPR and reporting mechanisms	See last quarterly report.	100%	
2. Improved dialogue between government and civil society on human rights issues.		25% of planned	
2.1 Support to report writing	See last quarterly report.	20%	
2.2 CSOs grants		0%	
2.3 Creation of CSOs network	See last quarterly report.	50%	
2.4 Steering Committee meetings		0%	
2.5 Final Conference		0%	

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results
1. MOHR and CSOs have the capacity to report on the HR situation in Iraq based on UPR mechanism.

On 16th February 2010, Iraq was examined under the UPR mechanism at the 7th session of the UPR working group. A delegation headed by the Minister of Human Rights presented the report to the Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva. The review represented the successful culmination of work carried out by the GoI to prepare Iraq's submission to the UPR.

Following the review, the outcome report drafted by the UPR working group (containing details of the review and recommendations for Iraq's follow up of its human rights obligations) was adopted on 19th February.

At the adoption the Iraqi government accepted 77% of the 176 recommendations proposed by the Member States in the country report, including the following:

- (i) to strengthen efforts to bring domestic human rights legislation into line with international human rights law, including constitutional legislation;
- (ii) to issue a standing invitation to all human rights special procedures;
- (iii) to improve cooperation with United Nations Treaty Bodies by submitting overdue reports;
- (iv) to promptly establish the Independent Higher Commission for Human Rights;
- (v) to advance the promotion of gender equality and equity including enacting legislation to combat domestic violence and sexual violence and ban female genital mutilation;
- (vi) to adopt measures to criminalize the recruitment of child soldiers;
- (vii) to consider enacting a specific law to combat trafficking of persons.

Among the recommendations not supported by the Iraqi government at the time of the adoption were the moratorium and abolition of the death penalty, the decriminalization of homosexuality and the increase of penal responsibility to the age of 18.

The final outcome of the UPR session will be formally adopted by the plenary of the HRC expected to take place in June 2010. Until then discussions on the list of recommendations and the possible acceptance of additional commitments will continue.

Under the project, the review process was supported through a briefing for the delegation held in Amman from 8th to 9th February 2010, prior to their departure to Geneva. The briefing was requested by the GoI in order to assist the delegation to prepare for the review.

The briefing gave an overview of the review procedures and logistics and allowed the delegation to discuss their preparation of responses to potential review questions. The briefing was delivered by specialist consultants and included presentations from a representative of the government of Jordan who told the delegation about Jordan's UPR experience as well as a presentation on key issues that might be raised on the report, given by the consultant who provided technical assistance to the MoHR drafting committee for the UPR report under this project (see previous fiche report). Members of the official delegation for Iraq attended the briefing. .

The project also provided support to two representatives from two Iraqi CSOs to attend the UPR review session in Geneva as observers.. Their attendance of the review in Geneva allowed them to consolidate their knowledge of the UPR process and understand civil society's role in the follow up process that will now take place. In addition, CSOs attending the review and government representatives had the opportunity to meet on 19th February following the adoption session. During their meeting the recommendations and the way forward in terms of UPR follow up were discussed between the two groups.

2. Improved dialogue between government and civil society on human rights issues.

No major activities under output 2 were carried out in this quarter. However, a request for proposals was launched under UNOPS procurement rules in order to select a consultancy to deliver training to CSOs on shadow reporting to treaty bodies that is expected to begin in the next quarter.

The first project steering committee was planned to take place in February, however the event had to be cancelled because of the security situation in Baghdad in the run up to the CoR elections, affecting the number of slots available for UN staff in Baghdad where the meeting was to be held. It was decided to postpone the meeting until after the election period.

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Main implementation constraints & challenges

The main constraint faced by the project this quarter was the postponement of the SC meeting caused by the security situation in Baghdad in the run up to the elections which constrained the availability of slots for UN staff to be present in Baghdad to attend such meetings.
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