

United Nations Development Group UNDAF Trust Fund
Project #82895: P1-04
Date and Quarter: 31 March to 30 June 2013
2nd Quarter 2013

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

Title	Enhancing Transparent Participatory Governance and Human Rights				
Geographic Location	Nationwide				
Project Cost	USD 3,091,526 ¹ in two tranche. Project presently received tranche one for USD 1,574,585				
Duration	24 months				
Approval Date (SC)	5 April 2012	Starting Date	15 May 2012	Completion Date	Anticipated June 2014
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.				

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 below until the remaining second tranche is received by UNDP.

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.

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

<p>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.</p> <p>UNDP CPAP: Outcome 3 Strengthened regulatory frameworks, institutions and processes in place for accountable, transparent and participatory governance at national and local levels.</p>
<p>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.</p>

Outputs, Key Activities and Procurement

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

Output 1	1. The Iraq Human Rights Commission has enhanced capacity to execute its mandate.
Activities	<p>1.1 The Iraq High Commission for Human Rights has the organisational structure to function effectively. 1.2 The Iraq High Commission for Human Rights has technically competent staff. 1.3 Subnational Iraq High Commission for Human Rights entities established.</p>
Output 2	2. Iraq has a national platform for an expanded human rights dialogue.
Activities	<p>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.</p>
Output 3	3. The Iraqi state is able to promote and undertake governance process in an accountable and transparent manner.
Activities	<p>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.</p>
Output 4	4. Civil society organisations have enhanced capacity to engage with parliament and relevant parliamentary committees on policy issues.
Activities	<p>4.6 Iraqi CSOs and independent media capacity to hold the government to account in the areas of human rights, corruption and service delivery strengthened. 4.7 Interface between relevant parliamentary committees and CSOs on issues of human rights, corruption and service delivery enhanced. 4.8a Advocacy and awareness-raising on corruption issues enhanced. 4.8b Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy through partnership</p>

	with CSOs and independent media implemented. 4.9 Donor coordination on civil society issues in Iraq enhanced.
Procurement (major items)	

Funds Committed in the 1st Tranche	USD 1,060,672.60 USD 689,967.65 + CSO: 104,596 USD TAAC: 266,109)	% of received 1st tranche funds (USD 1,574,585)	67.36%
Funds Disbursed in the 1st Tranche	USD 593,388.20 USD 320,748.20 + CSO: 50,580 USD TAAC: 222,060	% of received 1st tranche funds (USD 1,574,585)	37.68%
Forecast final date	June 2014	Delay (months)	0

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results

Output 1 The Iraq Human Rights Commission has enhanced capacity to execute its mandate.	Recruitment of Human Rights and IT Experts to support the development of ToRs of different offices within the Human Rights Commission. In addition the Human Rights Expert will support the development of the communication and outreach strategy for the Human Rights commission.	% of planned	60%
Output 2 Iraq has a national platform for an expanded human rights dialogue.	-Continued support to the establishment of the Civil Society Human Rights Advisory Board. - Development of clear guidelines for the CSO small grant schemes and launch of call for proposals - Support to the participation Iraqi youth in the HuriLab in Armenia, as result Iraq proposal on	% of planned	50%

	promoting good representation of female population has been selected as best project of 8 UNDP country offices proposals		
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 KRG has plans for a Commission of Integrity in place. The KRG's Board of Supreme Audit capacity has been enhanced. An investigative journalism curriculum has been developed and is in place.	% of planned	50%
Output 4 Civil society organisations have enhanced capacity to engage with parliament and relevant parliamentary committees on policy issues.	4.6 Iraqi CSOs and independent media capacity to hold the government to account in the areas of human rights, corruption and service delivery have been strengthened. 4.7 Interface between relevant parliamentary committees and CSOs on issues of human rights, corruption and service delivery has been enhanced. 4.8a Advocacy and awareness-raising on corruption issues enhanced. 4.8b Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy through partnership with CSOs and independent media implemented. 4.9 Donor coordination on civil society issues in Iraq has been enhanced.	% of planned	30% 30% 70% 30%

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results

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

- UNDP recruited Human Rights Expert to support to support the development of ToRs of different offices within the Human Rights Commission. In addition the Human Rights Expert will support

the development of the communication and outreach strategy for the Human Rights commission. This recruitment is identified by the previous needs assessment mission as an immediate capacity building and institutional development support to be taken by the UN. The scope of work of the Expert is to provide the support to the work of the commissioners based on their thematic areas. The expert will as well assist the institutionalization of the daily work of the commission. The achievement of the expert during this reporting period of time are as follows:

- 1- Institutionalized information sharing within the members of the Board of Commission.
- 2- Reviewed Terms of References of the current staff of the commission, based on the support needed.
- 3- Direct support provided to the drafting of the commission annual report.

By the end of the 90 days assignment of the expert, UNDP is expected, and as a result of this direct support, to have functional departments with the Human Rights Commission, Functional outreach office and endorsed communication strategy and well trained core staff.

- UNDP, UNAMI HRO shared draft MoU with the Human Rights Commission, the MoU stipulates and outlines the support to the work of the commission, in addition the MoU provides for cost-sharing modality where the commission will financially contribute, under their direct management, to the implementation of this project. It is expected that a final decision will be reached during the Quarter3.

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

- Grant guidelines have been designed to fund 6 month project with a maximum of 15,000 USD in three thematic areas: Awareness raising on Human Rights (women, persons with disabilities and freedom of expression); awareness raising on the role of the Human Rights Commission; and documentation of Human Rights violations. Grants will be disbursed through a call for proposal that will be managed directly by UNDP with the collaboration of the UNAMI Human Rights Office.
- UNDP recruited IT expert to support the finalization of the Human Rights Commission web-site. It is expected that the communication and the engagement of the commission with different actors will be enhanced as a result of web-site.
- UNDP and through this project participated in the HuriLab initiated by UNDP regional Office in Bratislava and hosted by UNDP Country Office in Armenia during the period from 27 June to 1 July 2013. HuriLab is an international social innovation initiative that is devoted to promoting human rights and access to justice. For this event UNDP Iraq invited young Iraqis to submit their proposal on the use of the digital tools to build web-based solutions to social and human rights related problems. 42 proposals received from youth in Iraq, one selected idea shared with 7 UNDP Country Offices. Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro and Ukraine. UNDP selected one out of 42 ideas and supported the participation of three Iraqi youth in the HuriLab in Armenia. As result of this support Iraq has won the competition and the young Iraqi as a best proposal. The proposed project is focused on creating a platform that monitors and flags comments that misrepresent women in the local media, the project, named Amedia Watch will report any news articles or stories published in the Kurdish and Arabic press that may be deemed offensive to the female population. This participation will encourage youth organizations to involve in prompting human rights culture. UNDP and as follow up support will establish youth forum to engage with the Human Rights Commission and the Independent Board for Human Rights in Kurdistan bringing youth perspective to the work of the two institutions in Iraq.

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

- UNDP has made significant gains in establishing key integrity institutions in the autonomous region of Kurdistan and made in-roads with the Parliamentary Committees responsible for oversight and accountability. Further, civil society engagement on anti-corruption issues has been promoted.

The Kurdistan Region plans going into place for its forthcoming Commission of Integrity

- A comparative analytical study identifying gaps in laws and in the legal and operational framework of the Kurdistan Region Commission of Integrity (KR-COI) was produced 1st Quarter 2013.
- The study assisted in the drafting of amendments to address gaps in the current law, develop a draft by-law on the establishment of the KR-COI, including roles and responsibilities and organogram and provide instructions on the work related to illicit enrichment and regulation of investigative work during 2nd Quarter.
- The findings of the study facilitated the Kurdistan Parliament to appoint the new Kurdistan Commissioner of Integrity mid-May 2013.
- In June UNDP facilitated a meeting of key officials in the Kurdistan Region, including the new Commissioner of Integrity to review the proposed amendments to the present law related to organizational independence, and instructions on prevention and investigation work. The workshop addressed additional areas such as: rights, access, work structure and framework for investigators.
- At the end of the quarter an agreement on the structure, legal and operational framework of the KR-COI had been reached and endorsed by the Commissioner 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

- In March 2013 UNDP in collaboration with the KRG Board of Supreme Audit initiated a Needs Assessment to determine the capacity and institutional development needs. The Needs Assessment utilized the founding principles, prerequisites and fundamental principles of public sector audit set by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) as the baseline.
- The Needs Assessment was completed in the six areas of : a) legal framework and independence; b) governance structure and organisation; c) human resources; d) physical resources; e) audit methods; and f) external relations. The recommendations and needs assessment available in both English and Arabic.
- Based on the findings of the Needs Assessment a medium to long term strategy for the development of the KRG Board of Supreme Audit was developed in 2nd Quarter. This strategy is a roadmap to transform into a modern effective state audit institution that ensures public sector transparency and accountability.
- The Board of Supreme Audit Needs Assessment and the Strategy were formally presented to the Kurdistan Regional Government Prime Minister's Office, Kurdistan Regional Government Parliament and Kurdistan Regional Ministry of Finance in June 2013.
- At the end of the quarter UNDP is working closely with the KRG Board of Supreme Audit to develop a programme for institutional and capacity development.

The partners for Investigative Journalism defined and curriculum initiating

- The Baghdad University-Media College and the Iraq Anti-Corruption Academy have expressed great interest and have requested assistance and expertise to develop investigative journalism.
- UNDP held a consultative meeting to identify immediate needs in improving skills of journalists in investigating and reporting corruption. This meeting resulted in a decision on the next steps for developing a technical and academic curriculum and that additional universities may become involved.
- The result is to develop investigative journalism curriculum and offer targeted training to journalist and students.

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

Final CSO Consortia grant selection and networking with Council of Representatives

- The final selection of 8 grantee CSO Consortia (comprised of 31 CSOs) was completed with the observer role of the CSO Parliamentary Committee and a neutral CSO that had been selected for this purpose. This provided high levels of accountability and transparency to the selection process. As an integral part of the capacity development process, UNDP provided a final round of support to review the proposals and to coach the CSOs in finalizing the contractual process. This experience under the project “Empowering CSOs in Iraq” has served to build a model for the implementation of the small Human Rights grants under the “Participatory Governance” project.
- A signing ceremony was organized on 28 April 2013 gathering all successful CSOs to launch the CSO projects’ implementation and brief CSOs on basic requirements from UNDP side. The event was hosted by the Council of Representatives with the attendance of the Chairman of CSO parliamentary Committee and other members of parliament. This contributed to reinforcing networking and linkages between CSOs and the Parliament. CSOs expressed their satisfaction for having successfully passed the thorough selection process UNDP had set up and appreciated the learning process this has meant for them. Similar parliamentary linkages will also be promoted under the small Human Rights grants of this project.
- CSO Consortia project implementation (under the project “Empowering CSOs in Iraq”) was initiated on 1 May 2014 for a period of 12 months for most projects. Projects cover most Governorates of Iraq and relate mostly to enhancing accountability on local services through citizen participation and networking between CSOs and local authorities; raising awareness on human rights and particularly minority rights; and promoting better governance through enhanced women participation in the public sphere.

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

- UNDP launched a call for proposals for small grants to CSOs on Human Rights projects in June 2013. Grant guidelines have been designed to fund 6-month projects with a maximum of 15,000 USD in three thematic areas: Awareness raising on Human Rights (women, persons with disabilities and freedom of expression); awareness raising on the role of the Human Rights Commission and the Human Rights parliamentary Committee; and documentation of Human Rights violations. Grants

will be disbursed through a call for proposal that will be managed directly by UNDP with the collaboration of the UNAMI Human Rights Office. About 60 CSO applications have been received so far.

- A national consultant has been identified to facilitate the establishment of a Civil Society Human Rights advisory board. This activity is based on a first consultation UNDP organized in December 2012 on Human Rights in Iraq with the participation of 22 national CSOs that were engaged in discussion with the Human Rights Committee and the Human Rights Commission. The roundtable resulted in a set of recommendations on how CSOs can be supported to effectively interact with the Human Rights parliamentary Committee and the Human Rights Commission, upon its establishment, towards human rights promotion and protection in Iraq.
- The Civil Society Human Rights Advisory Board will ideally include civil society organizations, academics and human rights activists to support the work of the Iraq High Commission for Human Rights. The Advisory Board will meet with the Human Rights Commission and the Human Rights parliamentary Committee to discuss Human Rights related affairs and bring a civil society perspective to enrich the human rights discussion in Iraq.

Advocacy and awareness-raising on corruption issues through the

National Anti-Corruption Campaign

- UNDP launched a National Anti-Corruption Campaign on 16 February 2013 in order to engage local citizens and civil society organisations in efforts against corruption. This Campaign is within 15 governorates, outside of the Kurdistan Region.
- At the end of the 2nd quarter the campaign had conducted 93 workshops which is above the initial result target with additional workshops to take place in quarter 3 and 4.
- At the end of this quarter Master Trainers had conducted interactive workshops introducing different types of corruption, and means and ways to report suspected corruption to 3,166 attendees (957 female / 2,209 male).
- These interactive workshops have enabled participants to come forward with recommendations to intensify the anti-corruption campaign and build coalitions and networks.
- The National Anti-Corruption Campaign will continue till November 2013 within the 15 governorates, outside of the Kurdistan Region.

Enhancing CSO Anti-corruption intervention capacities

UNDP through its anti-corruption projects in the last five years has worked with CSOs to enhance their abilities to become credible and effective partners in the fight against corruption. Indeed, 26 CSOs even formed a platform called 'the Alliance for Integrity'. However, as the issue is complex and the magnitude of the problem so significant it is clear that more specialized support is required for CSOs in Iraq to assist them in measuring up to the task at hand. To this end, UNDP has designed an intervention to reinforce local CSO capacities on this technical matter, promote the networking of local CSOs active in the field and encourage their linkages to the Commission of Integrity and the Integrity Committee of the Council of Representatives.

- Observing the particular lack of specialization by local CSOs in anti-corruption initiatives, UNDP has designed an intervention to reinforce local CSO capacities on this technical matter, promote networking of local CSOs active in this field and link them with the Commission of Integrity and Integrity Committee of the Council of Representatives.
- A competitive expression of interest has been launched in June whereby UNDP will select a maximum of 25 local CSOs to participate in this activity. Selected CSOs will be invited to attend a 4-day start-up workshop on anti-corruption and will then be given the opportunity to present a small anti-corruption initiative proposal to compete for a micro-grant (5,000 USD) to be implemented within 3 months. About 10 CSOs will receive micro-grant funding from UNDP. The anti-corruption initiatives will be selected based on their innovation and practice of new ideas and methodologies gained during the start-up workshop. Online expert coaching will be provided to the CSOs during their micro-grant implementation phase. Finally a 3-day wrap-up workshop will be organized to consolidate the learning and share experiences related to CSO anti-corruption initiatives. Iraqi institutions such as the Commission of Integrity and the Integrity Committee of the Council of Representatives will be invited to attend the workshops to foster engagement between CSOs and such authorities.
- To support this process and facilitate the anti-corruption workshops for CSOs, two consultant positions, one international team leader and a national team member have been advertised.

Coordination

- A second coordination meeting of implementing partners working on civil society empowerment in Iraq took place on 1 July at UNDP's initiative. Attendees to the meeting were USAID, Access to Justice Programme, NDI, UNOPS and UNDP. This coordination mechanism has been set as an informal exchange to take place on a quarterly base. In addition to each agency's portfolio update, the main coordination issues discussed relate to various on-going interventions to support the NGO Directorates at both Federal and Kurdistan level. This mechanism adds an implementation perspective to the already established Advisory Committee for Nordic donors that will meet again in the second half of 2013.