**MoP/KRG Contribution fund**

**Project #:N047**

**Participating UN Agencies**: UN-Habitat and UNDP

**Lead Agency**: UN-Habitat

**Responsible line ministry:**Ministry of Planning/ KRG

Reporting period: 1 January – end of 2014

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| **Title** | Implementation of Improving the Housing Delivery System in Erbil Phase II |
| **Contribution amount** | $842,800 + $243,924 |
| **Duration** | 10 Months |
| **Starting Date / date of funds receipt** | 30 May 2012 |
| **Completion Date**  | 29 March 2013 |
| **First extension**  | Till end of September 2013 |
| **Second extension** | Till end of December 2013 |
| **Third extension** | Till end of December 2014 |
| **Fourth Extension** | Till end of June 2015 (to be submitted) |
| **Project Description** | UN-Habitat was granted funding to extend the on-going project *Improving the Housing Delivery System in Erbil* funded by the Iraq Trust Fund (ITF), which was implemented jointly with UNDP. The project established slum-upgrading master plans in 2 pilot slum-like neighbourhoods in Erbil Governorate, (Kurani-Ainkawa and Saidawa); of which the first is being implemented. The upgraded neighbourhood master plan of Kurani-Ainkawa is now being implemented under phase II of the project which builds on previous experiences and lessons learned through utilizing site teams that were established earlier to work within the community on different technical and social aspects of data collection, documentation and community engagement. **In Kurani-Ainkawa, implementation under the current project includes:*** Continue to work with the established Housing Facilitation Unit (HFU) with local architects and the Local Facilitation Unit (LFU) with women from the neighbourhoods, who conducted various surveys;
* Facilitating formalisation of tenure arrangements on private land previously occupied illegally;
* Relocation with adequate compensation, which includes serviced plots and housing construction loans of households previously occupying government land illegally;
* Infrastructure development with funding both from the UN ITF project, the Erbil Governorate and the current funding from MoP.

The UN project was designed to execute activities to demonstrate some of the key actions in formalising and improving informal settlements. The pilot project aims to implement activities that serve the entire community, leaving a very visual example of successfully upgrading urban settlement through an integrated approach, which engages and empowers the community. In line with the draft KRG Development Strategy, UN-Habitat and UNDP intend to build on its current work in housing and urban planning, urban policy, urban spatial planning, transport and environmental planning and the KRG Housing Strategy, supporting its implementation in the three governorates. The success of this pilot project as a component of a wider KRG Urbanisation and Housing Programme is essential, in order to develop norms for addressing the issues of informal settlements as well as self-help housing improvements to be applied in all three Governorates. |

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| **Immediate Objectives** |
| * To demonstrate key actions in formalising informal settlements,
* To implementsettlement upgrading to serve the entire Kurani Ainkawa settlement.
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| **Outputs** |
| **Output 1:** Existing pilot neighbourhood upgrading project in Kurani Ainkawa establishes the Community Facilities Corridor accessible for pedestrians and vehicles.  |
| **Output 2:** Multi-Purpose Hall with a focus on women and youth in Kurani-Ainkawa constructed, demonstrating environmentally friendly design features, operated by trained community residents. |
| **Output 3:** Communication material on this project developed and distributed. |

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| **Progress on Outputs and Activities:** |
| **Output 1:** Existing pilot neighbourhood upgrading project in Kurani-Ainkawa establishes the Community Facilities Corridor accessible for pedestrians and vehicles. |
| **Activities** | **Level of achievement**  | **Remarks** |
| **UN-Habitat** |
| 1.1: Prepare a revised master plan that removes the requirement for setbacks, minimises relocation and provides access roads and pedestrian links.  | 100% | The Master Plan is not approved yet by Erbil Municipality. |
| 1.2: Construct road and pedestrian links that demonstrate good environmental design; facilitate access and improves vehicular and pedestrian circulation within Community Facilities Corridor.  | 100% |  |
| **Output 2:** Multi-Purpose Hall with a focus on women and youth in Kurani Ainkawa constructed, demonstrating environmentally friendly design features, operated by trained community residents. |
| **Activities** | **Level of achievement** | **Remarks** |
| **UNDP** |
| 2.1: Construct the Multi-purpose Hall  | 20% | The contractor (Dalo Group Companies) completed excavations, cast foundation concrete, built under DPC, cast DPC, built 50% of the parameter fence, and built the generator room.  |
| 2.2: Landscape the site of the Multi-purpose Hall  | 90% (The activities conducted by UNDP were completed. The remaining activities should be completed by Erbil Governorate)  | The landscape design was completed by UNDP in May. Due to funding shortage, it has been agreed with the Erbil Governorate Office that the landscaping works will be implemented by the Governorate with the design provided by UNDP. |
| 2.3: Undertake a participatory process to determine the use and management of the Multi-purpose Hall | 80%  | Based on the baseline needs assessment survey and consultation with community members, the priority needs for activities to be conducted in the Multi-purpose Hall were identified. While the Multi-purpose Hall will be constructed, Kurani Ainkawa Multi-Purpose Centre (KAMPC) has already started conducting various community activities as highlighted below, based on the needs addressed by the community members. These activities have helped to build the community’s trust in the project and support to build team spirit in the community. This will increase the community’s participation in constructing the Multi-Purpose Hall, which will build community ownership. * KAMPC has received the fund for running the centre activities (literacy and language courses in addition to weekly social and health awareness sessions.) for 6 months (June-Dec. 2013) by applying for Call for Grants from the Directorate of NGOs.
* KAMPC has been organizing sewing and literacy courses in addition to monthly social and health awareness sessions with financial support from Ministry of Culture and Youth and UNDP through a NGO (WEO) since June 2013. To date, 45 women completed sewing courses and acquired the certificate. The third round course is on-going and 22 women are expected to graduate in January. For Literacy Course, a total of 22 women completed the course and obtain the certificate.
* 2-month English courses have been on-going with grant from Directorate of NGOs grant to KAMPC. 2 courses have already completed with first 25 female students graduated and second 22 female. Currently the course for 22 boys is in progress and expected to finish at the end of January 2014.
* People in Need organization (PIN) have provided capacity development support to KAMPC board members through conducting several trainings/workshops with main focuses on participatory approaches, project management and proposal writing.
* KAMPC has developed their strategy plan of 2014, through community consultation techniques (used questioner method and distributed among 280 individuals), which part of it will be conducted in the temporary venue (current KAMPC office) and the rest will be continue in the Multi-Purpose Hall after completion of the building construction.
* On 21st of September KAMPC signed a new agreement with UNDP to implement new project in KA (Promotion of Social Cohesion with local and displaced populations in Kurani Ainkawa) targeting IDPs and Syrian refuges in addition to the KA community in joint activities and events to strengthen the social cohesion.
* UNDP agreed with SHADO organization that the rat-trap technic training to be resume during January 2015, under the supervision of both UNDP and UN-HABITAT for labors in KA and Dalo company (the contractor of the MPH building) jointly, to use the rat-trap technic for the masonry work of the MPH building.
* December 2014 KAMPC agreed with Terre des Hommes TdH, Italian organization to implement a new project in KA which is targeting IDPs, Syrian refugees and KA children. The project duration is one year.
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| 2.4: Organize the management structure to operate the Multi-purpose Hall | 80% | The community-based organization, named “Kurani Ainkawa Multi-Purpose Centre (KAMPC)” was established to manage the Multi-purpose Hall and registered as a legal entity by the directorate of NGO. in March 2013.The first election for the boarded members was held in Oct 2013 and KAMPC members elected 6 board members in addition to tow reserves.The functional capacity of KAMPC has been strengthened through support from UNDP and the KRG Ministry of Culture and Youth, as summarized below:* UNDP consultant conduct monthly capacity development trainings for the board members for issues related to (Management, Communication, Need Assessment Surveys and Advocacy)
* KAMPC built a strong networking with local and International NGOs in addition to UN agencies in Erbil through UNDP’s support. They are invited to and participated in many events.
* UNDP in coordination with UNV conducted several trainings and workshops for KAMPC members and staff on community dialogue and facilitation skills topics. This is according to the urgent needs for developing the social cohesion condition among KA, IDPs and Syrian refugees families.
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| **Output 3:** Communication material on this project developed and distributed |
| **Activities** | **Level of achievement** | **Remarks** |
| Activity 3.1 Prepare a brochure on the project (Kurdish) | 100% |  |
| Activity 3.2 Prepare a billboard on the site (Kurdish) | 0 | The design is not decided |

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| **Funds spent to date** | **% of total** |
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| **Main Implementation challenges and constraints during the reporting period:** |
| 1. Delays were experienced due to unavailability of building permission for the assigned plot to build the MPH on. This is due to the fact that the land was inside the old informal area that has no plot number till date, as the new master plan for KA is endorsed yet by Erbil Municipality.
2. Delays were experienced in determining the borders of the blocks/plots and street levels by the municipality.
3. The additional fund requested from MOP (October 2013) was necessary to complete the construction of the MPH which was released thankfully recently (November 2014), which led to a shortage of available fund for UNDP for construction of MPH, which delayed the bidding process.
4. The first assigned plot to build the MPH on explored to be a previous damp site. In consultation and approval with Erbil Governorate, a new plot was identified adjacent to the original location in line with the master plan. Delay occurred till changing the plot location and getting exceptional permissions from the Governorate office to start building.
5. The unavailability of solid clay bricks in the region led to change the design of bearing walls using available hollow bricks instead. This needed new set of drawings and getting new approval from Municipality.
6. Removing some obstacles from the site by municipal departments needed extra time to remove it, such as two old electricity poles and old sewerage pipes crossed the plot.
7. The contractor company (Dalo) faced some challenges in regards to the community outreach at the beginning of the construction process. However, this has been managed through resuming the monthly coordination meetings arranged by UNDP with involvement of all the project partners, and the main focus was on KA community participation, represented by KAMPC board members and the community leaders.
8. Technical challenges during site preparation process in regards to the generators electricity lines, and water pipes. Thus, it has been solved in cooperation with KAMPC board members and support of UNDP project team.
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| **Way Forward**  |
| 1. KAMPC has established solid functional structures with the elected board members. Sustained support to KAMPC for strengthening their capacity in promoting community participation and managing community events is essential for ensuring sustainability of the Multi-purpose Centre after completion of the building.
2. More and more community members in Kurani Akinkawa, particularly women, have started to participate in the community training and events and their motivation to support MPC is heightened. To maintain this momentum, community trainings should continue, which will play an important role in mobilizing the community for participation in MPC construction and transfer of the Rat-Trap techniques to the community.
3. The contracts for a company and NGOs for MPC construction and community mobilization are about to be concluded. Construction work should begin as soon as possible. Furthermore, the current construction contract only covers the main building and women’s wing. Immediate release of the outstanding contribution from the MoP/KRG is indispensable to initiate the contraction of the remaining male wing in a timely manner.
4. Construction of the park adjacent to the MPC and the landscape in the Center will be conducted by Erbil Governorate Office. Close collaboration with the Governorate Office is required to complete the construction of these facilities.
5. KA centre extended its services for the IDPs and Syrian refuges in KA, a new platform has been established since October 2014 of eight members form IDPs and Syrian refuges representatives in KA, they work closely with KAMPC board members to address their needs, challenges and issues through different community events. Currently there are 160 families (45 Syrian refugees and 115 IDPs) that get relevant services form KA centre.
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