

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund

Project #:G11-21

Date and Quarter Updated: April-June 2010; 2nd Quarter 2010

Participating UN Organisation: UNOPS and UNAMI		Sector: Governance			
Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry:		Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq (IHEC)			
Title	Support to National Electoral Observer Groups for the Electoral Events of Iraq 2009 - 2010				
Geographic Location	All Governorates of Iraq				
Project Cost	USD 8,000,000				
Duration	12,5 months				
Approval Date (SC)	16 July 2009	Starting Date	17 July 2009	Completion Date	30 June 2010 Extended until 30 September 2010
Project Description	<p>IHEC requested the UN to support national electoral observer networks during the Electoral Events of Iraq 2009 - 2010.</p> <p>During the project period three major electoral events are scheduled. The first were the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections in the Kurdistan Region which took place on the 25th July 2009. The second event was the Voter Registration Update (VRU) in August/September 2009 in all governorates of Iraq as a preparation for the third electoral event, the Iraq Council of Representatives (CoR) Elections in March 2010.</p> <p>In order to prevent the perception of a conflict of interest between the UN's assistance to the IHEC and the independent observer groups, all support for the electoral observers is implemented through international partner organisations (FES, ACHRS) who coordinate/d, jointly with their local NGO network partners, the training sessions and mobilisation of 7,000 Observers for the Kurdistan Elections, the mobilisation of 4,900 Observers for the VRU and the training and deployment of 29,200 Observers for the Iraq CoR Elections.</p> <p>UNAMI Electoral Assistance Team is responsible for technical supervision and monitoring (trainings and observer reports). UNOPS is in charge of financial management (incl. procurement, legal, monitoring).</p>				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives
<p>Development Goal:</p> <p>To contribute to an enhanced implementation of electoral processes in Iraq in line with the Governance Sector Outcome 1: <i>Strengthened electoral processes in Iraq</i> through the provision of electoral observation training and refresher courses and support to Electoral Observers during the three above mentioned electoral events of Iraq 2009-2010.</p> <p>The Project's Immediate Objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened capacity of electoral observer networks in Iraq • Successful observation of electoral events in Iraq in 2009/2010

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement	
Outputs	<p><u>Output 1.1</u> Enhanced capacities of electoral observers to manage the Kurdistan Elections, the Voter Registration Update and the Iraq Parliamentary Elections in a transparent manner.</p> <p><u>Output 2.1</u> Civil society mobilised to fully participate in Kurdistan Elections, the Voter Registration Update and the Iraq Parliamentary Elections in a transparent manner</p>
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total of 5,000 electoral observers trained and 2,000 updated on electoral law prior to the Kurdistan Elections • 28,000 electoral observers updated on electoral law prior to the Iraq Parliamentary Elections

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7,000 Observers mobilised for the Kurdistan Elections • 4,900 Observers mobilised for the Voter Registration Update • 29,200 Observers to be mobilised for the the Iraq Parliamentary Elections
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Procurement	N/A
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Funds Committed	7,871,229	% of approved	98.4 %
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Funds Disbursed	7,836,828	% of approved	98.0 %
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Forecast final date	30 September 2010	Delay (months)	Extended by 3 months
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Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men (estimate total 32,880)	30,912	94 %
Women (estimate total 8,220)	10,188	124 %
Children	n/a	n/a
IDPs	n/a	n/a
Others	n/a	n/a
Indirect beneficiaries	By contributing to a transparent democratic election process, the mobilisation of electoral observers benefits the population of Iraq and by extension also the populations of the neighbouring countries when observers trained in and for Iraq were used outside of Iraq.	n/a
Employment generation (men/women)	n/a	n/a

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results

Output 1.1 Enhanced capacities of electoral observers to manage the Kurdistan Elections, the Voter Registration Update and the Iraq Parliamentary Elections in a transparent manner.		% of planned	100 %
1.1.1	Total of 5,000 electoral observers to be trained and 2,000 to be updated on electoral law prior to the Kurdistan Elections	% of planned	100 %
1.1.2	28,000 electoral observers to be updated on electoral law prior to the Iraq Parliamentary Elections	% of planned	100 %

Output 2.1 Civil society mobilised to fully participate in Kurdistan Elections, the Voter Registration Update and the Iraq Parliamentary Elections in a transparent manner		% of planned	100 %
2.1.1	7,000 Observers to be mobilised for the Kurdistan Elections	% of planned	100 %
2.1.2	4,900 Observers to be mobilised for the Voter Registration Update	% of planned	100 %
2.1.3	29,200 Observers to be mobilised for the the Iraq Parliamentary Elections	% of planned	100 %

Qualitative achievements against objectives and results in this reporting period

Final Observer Reports
Friederich Ebert Stiftung and Amman Center for Human Rights Studies together with their respective NGO networks submitted their final reports. The reports were reviewed together with the UNAMI electoral team and the outcome will be discussed at the upcoming lessons learned exercises for the IHEC.

Friederich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Submitted their final report on the observation of the CoR election together with Iraq Democratic Future Network (IDFN); the total number of observers were 11,192 male and 3,408 female.

Amman Center for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS) submitted their final report on the observation of the CoR election together with the Elections Integrity Monitoring Team (EIMT); the total number of observers were 11,242 male and 3,358 female.

The reports are detailed and mention minor irregularities throughout the country, the irregularities mainly fall into the categories: Campaign irregularities (i.e. campaign posters close to the polling centres, campaigning during silence period

etc.), voter list problems (especially for IDPs and Special Voting), proxy voting and collective voting. The overall evaluation of the CoR election by the observers is summarised by the following quotes from the reports:

FES final report:

"We can say that the overall evaluation of the process qualifies it as good when compared to previous similar exercises. Despite the fact that we spotted and monitored some violations that were often repeated in previous electoral processes, they remain of a far smaller size than before – a sign of the development of the democratic process in the country."

ACHRS final report

"The overall electoral process was conducted professionally by IHEC HQ and efforts were clearly made to avoid fraud and to improve/handle the issues learnt from previous operations. IHEC has proven to be an independent body with no question. The fact that there were problems and mistakes as isolated in several locations cannot be used as an excuse by any party to suspect the credibility of the elections.."

It should also be noted that the observer reports note that IHEC staff was well trained and aware of IHEC procedures.

Recount

On 19 April, the Electoral Judicial Panel (EJP), concluded its consideration of two appeals submitted by the State of Law coalition (SoL). In its decision, the EJP stated that the IHEC should comply with the request of the appellant to recount the ballots at certain polling stations in Baghdad governorate that had been challenged by the appellant. The EJP also instructed the IHEC to *"re-sort and recount manually the results of all polling stations at polling centers in Baghdad for general voting, special voting and other voting, for all lists, political entities and candidates [...] and to announce the results of this count"*.

During the recount UNOPS and UNAMI received updates from the domestic observers present at the recount centre. Although this project supported the training of the observers, no funds were disbursed for mobilisation. The ability of national observer networks to mobilise without international funds demonstrates an increase in participation of the democratic process and potentially a move away from international funding and towards self-reliance – it may be an indication that networks may be motivated to maintain their observation efforts without funding.

IDFN was represented by the Tammuz Organization for Social Development at the recount centre. Tammuz observed the whole process starting from the stage of transferring the boxes from the warehouses in Karkh and Rusafa to the observation of the recount centre. They concluded that IHEC was ready and ensured all the technical, logistical and security needs were met. They also appreciated the coordination meetings held between IHEC employees and Tammuz. Their observers did not register any severe violations in the process of transferring the boxes to the recount centre or in the recount process. Tammuz issued daily reports mentioning discrepancies they noted between forms and actual ballots, and when necessary raised their concerns with the IHEC staff. At the end of the process, Tammuz stated that they believe that the recount process shows that no type of organized fraud affected the results of the elections.

General

The project was originally designed to support three electoral events, the last being the CoR election planned for January 2010. The election date was postponed by the delay in approval of the election law and took place in March. The time duration of the project was originally estimated allowing three months after the CoR election to probably monitor and evaluate the observer reports before disbursing the funds. Given the delay of the elections, the project was therefore granted a no cost extension by the SCSO and will now end in 30 September 2010.

Before closing the project in September, it is intended that a meeting will take place in Baghdad between UNOPS, UNAMI and NGO representatives to discuss challenges throughout the observation period as well as how the NGOs are planning to continue their work.

Main implementation constrains & challenges (2-3 sentences)

No major challenges were encountered in this reporting period. The NGOs submitted their reports on time and these were in turn revised timely by UNOPS and UNAMI.