

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



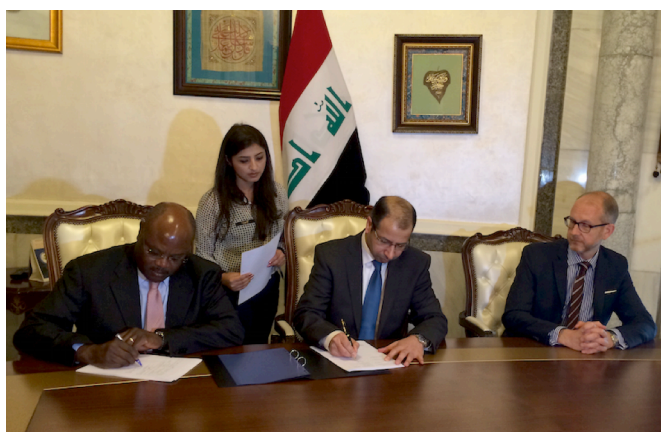
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UNDP Iraq

Strengthening Participatory and Accountable Governance Project

As the situation in Iraq started deteriorating in June 2014, inclusive participation and social cohesion emerged as key to mitigate the impact of the crisis on the country's diverse ethnic population. Against this background, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) initiated Strengthening Participatory and Accountable Governance Project, as part of its Parliament, Civil Society and Human Rights Programme.

Aiming to strengthen the operational, outreach, legislative and oversight capabilities of Iraq's Council of Representatives (CoR) and selected Provincial Councils, the Project focuses on three thematic areas: Decentralization, national and community reconciliation, and inclusive participation in public policies. With its national geographic scope reaching the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I), the Project supports institutionalized capacity building to improve the effectiveness of CSOs, ethnic minorities and vulnerable groups, and participation in the legislative process.



Speaker of the CoR, UNDP Country Director, and Ambassador of Sweden to Iraq signing the Programme Document in Baghdad.
Photo: UNDP Iraq/2014

Target Beneficiaries

- **Council of Representatives:** UNDP has been supporting the enhancement of the legislative and oversight capacity of Iraq's Council of Representatives through provision of expertise to the Presidency of Council, Secretariat, selected Parliamentary

MATTERS OF FACT

- **150** officials and representatives of CSOs received training in different areas

- **31** CSOs have been capacitated to advocate for protection of human rights and against corruption

- **21** CSOs established Human Rights Advisory Board to be the first institutionalized mechanism for engagement with the Council of Representatives

Committees (PCs), and core staff. A proposal for the establishment of a Budget Office has been developed and approved, in addition to capacity training for the Research Directorate to provide adequate support to members of the Parliament and Committees. The first strategic action plan and Standards of Procedure (SOP) for the Parliamentary CS Committee has been also drafted and adopted. Further to this, the project has facilitated the establishment of a network with Arab Regional Parliaments to promote the role of the CoR in advocating for decentralization.

- **Civil Society Organizations:** Working with CSOs, UNDP has helped to assess the Strategic Plan the NGO Directorate had developed in 2013. With the objective of extracting a concrete vision and work plan for the Capacity Development Unit, the assessment allowed for a clear understanding of internal capacities. A pool of master trainers will be established, combining the Directorate staff and NGO representatives. As a result, the Directorate will be able to expand its reach to the grassroots at no cost.

- **Ethnic Minorities, Religious and Vulnerable Groups:** Engagement between NGOs, CoR, and Provincial and District Councils has been fairly limited particularly on issues related to minorities, who have been gravely affected by the crisis. UNDP programming has been targeting ethnic minorities, religious groups, and vulnerable groups including women and youth, to enable effective participation in the legislative and democratic processes.

National and Community Reconciliation

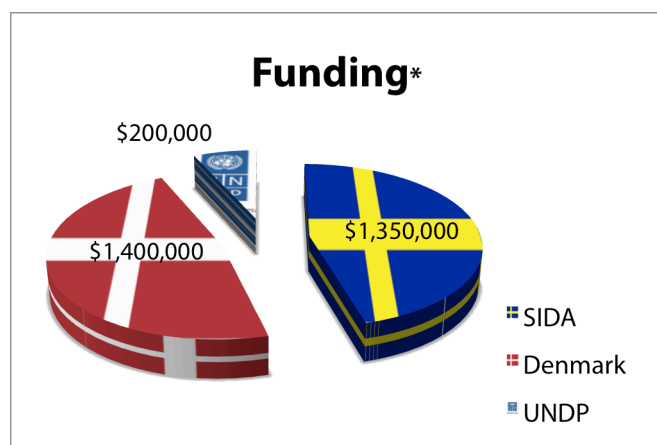
As part of UNDP's commitment to support Iraq's transition towards reconciliation, a Strategic Framework for National and Community Reconciliation has been

developed. The document outlines the role of the Parliament and CSOs in social cohesion and peacebuilding. It champions national ownership through a leading role for elected representatives of the people of Iraq and support by civil society. Further assistance includes preparations for reconciliation initiatives and resulting developmental processes as a potential reconciliation dividend. With the understanding that reconciliation is unavoidable for its paramount importance to social cohesion and development prospects in Iraq, the local, provincial and national levels are envisioned to engage and work closely with civil society and various constituencies.

Key Results

Generous contributions from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and Denmark, as shown in the below figure, have enabled a broader impact of UNDP's Parliament, Civil Society and Human Rights Programme. The following are key results in 2015:

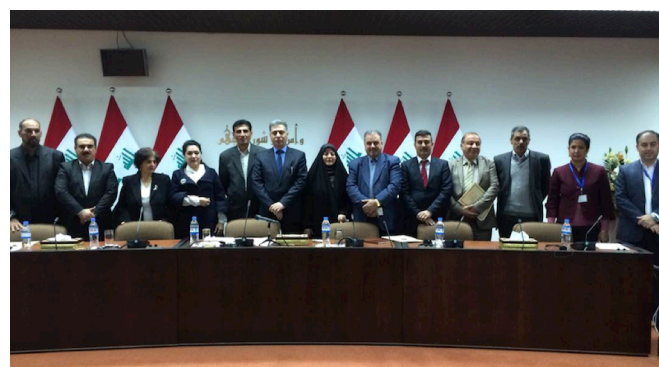
- Training of 150 officials and representatives of CSOs in areas such as protection of human rights and strategic planning;
- Establishment of CSOs Human Rights Advisory Board with the membership of 21 CSO representatives from various Governorates, including representative of minorities. Recognized by the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee, the Board is the first institutionalized mechanism for engagement between CSOs and the Council of Representatives;
- Capacitating 31 CSOs to advocate for protection of human rights and against corruption;
- Development of Strategic Framework for National and Community Reconciliation;
- Establishment of a network with Arab Regional Parliaments to advocate for decentralization; and
- Establishment of the first Budget Office within the Office of the Speaker of the Council of Representatives with technical advisory support from UNDP.



* Figures as of December 2015

About UNDP Iraq

Present in Iraq since 1976, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is committed to supporting the Government and people of Iraq during their transition towards reconciliation, reform and stability. UNDP's support ranges from promoting emergency livelihoods and community dialogue in districts impacted by the crisis, to prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) amongst Syrian refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs), to helping stabilize newly liberated areas through its Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization (FFIS). Further support includes inclusive area-based planning, governance reforms, decentralization, rule of law, and environment and climate change.



Launching of the CSOs Human Rights Advisory Board, with members of the Human Rights Committee. Photo: UNDP Iraq/2015

UNDP is a major partner contributing to democratic process and good governance in Iraq. UNDP has provided technical assistance in support of the 2010 national Parliamentary elections and 2013 provincial elections. Its support to the Government, at both Federal and Regional levels, has been instrumental in prioritizing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and safeguarding development gains achieved. UNDP is further committed to help the country to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Well positioned with a track record in different areas, UNDP stands ready to move towards a cutting-edge resilience agenda with a gender-dimension and a specific focus on economy, social cohesion and national reconciliation, in order to help the people of Iraq recover and build a brighter future.

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