

**Project C9-04**  
**Part One: Summary**

<b>Participating UN Organisation:</b> UNIFEM	<b>Cluster:</b> C – Governance and Civil Society
<b>Govt of Iraq Line Ministry Responsible:</b> Ministry of Municipality and Public Works and, to a limited extent, Ministry of Culture	

**Programme/Project Number: C9-04**

<b>Title</b>	Women Solidarity Towards Active Participation in Elections (IRAQIA)				
<b>Location</b>	Iraq – Twelve Governorates including Baghdad				
<b>Project Cost</b>	US\$1,905,000				
<b>Duration</b>	November 2004-December 2005				
<b>Approval Date (SC)</b>	07/10/2004	<b>Starting Date</b>	November 2004	<b>Completion Date</b>	31/4/2007
<b>Project Description</b>	This project aims to encourage, strengthen and support Iraqi women at all levels to exercise their rights to equality and dignity through ensuring their successful participation and understanding of their role in the elections process.				

**Development Goal and Immediate Objectives**

**Development Goal**

IRAQIA project aims to encourage, strengthen, and support Iraqi women at all levels to exercise their rights to enjoy their equality and dignity and to define their future effectively and transparently through ensuring their successful participation and understanding of their viable role in the elections process at multi-dimensional levels.

**Immediate key objectives**

- 1) To build the capacity of the Ministry of Municipalities & Public Works (MMPW) to mobilize women for the upcoming elections through ensuring their effective participation and understanding of their viable role in the elections process.
- 2) To build a practical and comprehensive knowledge (data) base on Iraqi women from participating line ministries, women NGOs, and the civil society institutions wishing to participate in the electoral process used by line ministries and civil society participants to support the elections' coordinators and managers to prepare these women for 2005-2006 elections campaigns.
- 3) To empower civil society institutions to actively take part in the elections process through their role as 'elections process accountability monitors' and through their support of Iraqi female candidates and voters.
- 4) To advocate for women's legitimate rights vis-à-vis their role and participation in the electoral process through media.

**Outputs, Key activities and Procurement**

<b>Outputs and Activities</b>	<p>A Core of well trained 'master trainers' in the MMPW who are specialized in women's rights and women's role in the electoral process are formed through special training workshops and activities.</p> <p>Three women's civic education training centres to promote women's political participation in Iraq in the three major Iraqi cities are established.</p> <p>A steering committee from the participating line ministries, to oversee the project's implementation is formed.</p>
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	<p>A data base of Iraqi women (from ministries and civil society) who wishes to participate in the electoral process exists and is overseen by State Ministry of Women Affairs and UNIFEM and shared with line ministries and civil society.</p> <p>Civil society organizations' capacity in, leadership, management, strategic planning, monitoring communication, advocacy, and budgeting are built within the content of elections.</p> <p>A large number of women have access to information regarding their rights and civic responsibilities through media.</p> <p>Adequate training materials, documentaries, posters, and brochures that advocates for women's rights and their vital role in the elections are generated and distributed in Iraq.</p>
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**Part Two: Situation as of 31 March 2007**

<b>Funds Committed</b>	US\$ 1,904,616	<b>% of approved</b>	100%
<b>Funds Disbursed</b>	US\$ 1,799,282	<b>% of approved</b>	94%
<b>Forecast final date</b>	30 April 2007	<b>Delay (months)</b>	4 months

**Quantitative achievements against objectives and results**

A core of well-trained 'master trainers' in the MMPW who are specialized in women's rights and women's roles in the electoral process are formed.	500 well- trained master trainers.	<b>% of planned</b>	100
Three women's civic education training centres to promote women's political participation in Iraq in three major Iraqi cities are established.	616 beneficiaries from 3 education centres	<b>% of planned</b>	100
A steering committee from the participating line ministries, to oversee the project's implementation is formed.	One active steering committee	<b>% of planned</b>	100
A database of Iraqi women (from ministries and civil society) who wish to participate in the electoral process exists.	Profile of more than 1000 Iraqi women was prepared, final report is still being prepared	<b>% of planned</b>	85
Civil society organizations' capacities on, leadership, management, strategic planning, monitoring communication, advocacy, and budgeting are built within the content of elections.	7 workshops	<b>% of planned</b>	100
A large number of women have access to information regarding their rights and civic responsibilities.	11 radio stations broadcasted for large number of audience.	<b>% of planned</b>	80
Adequate training materials,	Two	<b>% of planned</b>	100

documentaries, posters, and brochures that advocates for women's rights and their vital role in the elections are generated and distributed in Iraq.	publications were produced		
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### **Qualitative achievements against objectives and results**

Throughout the project activities attention has been given to not only the importance of women rights but also participation in public affairs. The awareness raising campaigns on women's rights and gender equality has enabled civil society to reach out and lobby for protecting women rights. The demonstrations in August of 2005 – against law 137 – marked the power of women to bring down laws that jeopardise their rights. This also marked the launch of the Iraqi women network to lobby for gender equality in Iraq.

The data base collected on the ministries has provided a wealth of information on conditions for women in the civil service and indeed combined with the gender focal point network established under the umbrella of the Higher Commission for Women (led by State Ministry of Women Affairs) the ground work for initiating work on gender mainstreaming within the ministries is well on the way.

Throughout the trainings and awareness campaigns much awareness has been raised about gender equality. UNIFEM's partners within the project have been able to mobilise support within their respective agencies to discuss issues relating to women's rights and gender issues. More importantly, women' issues and concerns within the political process have been addressed through media, particularly radio stations and through the civil centres established.

The quality and standards of work for civil society have improved during the course of the project and as a result of the continuous coaching provided by UNIFEM. In fact, there has been much more interaction among civil society organisations on issues of interest to all of them and through the two women national conferences held, in Basra and Erbil, the grounds for dialogue have been well established.