

**World Bank Iraq Trust Fund
Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building for the Education Sector Technical
Assistance (TF095659 – P114523)
October 2011**

Project Summary Sheet

Title	Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building for the Education Sector				
Implementing Agency	World Bank				
Location	N/A				
Sector code (OECD DAC)	11110 Education Policy and Administrative Management				
Compact Priority	<p>4.4.1.1 Design and carry out specific policy reforms and investments towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals</p> <p>4.4.1.2.1 Undertake specific measures to promote continuous education for competitive skills and equal opportunities in the labor market</p> <p>4.4.1.3.1 Achieve universal access to basic education</p> <p>4.4.1.3.2 Carry out specific activities to promote adult literacy and skills training, early childhood development and life skills training</p>				
Project Cost	US\$2.7 million				
Duration	32 months				
Approval Date	December 2009	Effective Date	January 2010	Closing Date	September 2012
Project Description	<p>Education reform efforts in Iraq are hampered by the lack of a sectoral strategy and the weak institutional capacity. The GOI needs one comprehensive National Education Strategy that would constitute the framework for system reform and guide resource allocation and international assistance to the sector. There is also recognition of the need to develop the human and institutional resources in order to allow line ministries to plan strategically, and to design and implement system reforms. Almost all sector assessments underlined the need to build internal capacity within the education and higher education sectors to support the transition. <i>The TA consists of two main pillars:</i> (i) Support to the National Education Strategy for Iraq (NESI); and (ii) Capacity building in strategic planning and policy design.</p>				
Beneficiaries	<p>The Technical Assistance will benefit the GOI including but not limited to: (i) GOI officials from 4 ministries in both Baghdad and KRG (Ministry of Education-Baghdad and KRG; and Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research-Baghdad and KRG); (ii) high-level officials from the Prime Minister Office, key related ministries and members of Parliament; (iii) selected officials from the Directorates of Education; and (iv) selected officials from universities/academia across all 18 governorates.</p>				
Near Term Employment Creation	N/A				

Strategic Context and Donor Coordination

This Technical Assistance (TA) is a response to the GOI's request for international support for institutional strengthening and capacity building, for the education sector, and is also part of the World Bank's assistance strategy under the third Interim Strategy Note (FY09-FY11). The GOI has engaged in the preparation of a National Education Strategy for Iraq, and requested support from the World Bank, UNICEF and UNESCO. At the request of the GOI, the TA is executed by the World Bank, and Pillar 1 is implemented in collaboration with UNESCO and UNICEF.

Project Development Objective

The main objective of the TA is to support the GOI's effort to develop a sector strategy for education and higher education in Iraq. This will be achieved through: (i) specific support to the work of the Iraq Technical Committee, the Draft Committee, the group of experts and the ministerial technical committees in charge of the preparation of a strategy document; and (ii) strengthening the capacity of the line ministries and other stakeholders in order to ensure an active and effective contribution to the preparation of the national; education strategies.

Outputs, Key Activities and Procurement

Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situation Analysis of the Iraq education system is completed and served as an analytical foundation for the Strategy • National Education Strategy document endorsed by the High Committee. • Regional and National consultations on the education sector strategy organized; and a Quality Enhancement and Consultation Review of the Draft Strategy is completed with World Bank experts. • More than 45 GOI officials will be trained in tools for institutional development and analysis of reforms in general and vocational education, and be able to discuss strategic choices for Iraq's education reform and formulate recommendations for input into Iraq National Education Strategy. • A Study Tour and Seminar on Knowledge Economy to Korea and Malaysia is carried out and a report reflecting experience and lessons learned is produced. The report will serve as one of the main inputs to the Iraq National Education Strategy. • A Study Tour and Seminar on General Education is carried out for high level officials and technical staff in the basic and secondary education sectors; with a report reflecting lessons learned produced. This will benefit the implementation of the National Strategy, • Several professionals from each line ministry of education and higher education will receive specialized and certified training in educational planning and management. They will apply the new knowledge to their work. • 4-5 officials and technical staff will receive fellowships in a selected topic in Higher Education of relevance to the implementation of the National Strategy • The implementation plan for the Iraq National Education Strategy will be prepared.
Activities	<p>I. Pillar I: Support to the National Education Strategy for Iraq (NESI)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. A series of training workshops for the technical committees to assist with the preparation of a draft strategy document B. Technical training to assist in the development of a simulation model for the country C. Reviewing and commenting on the draft Situation Analysis and Strategy document D. Support to consultation workshops with stakeholders E. Quality Enhancement and Consultation Review Visit to Washington, DC <p>II. Pillar II: Capacity Building in Strategic Planning and Policy Design</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Training course on Strategic Choices for Educational Reform (SCER) B. Study tour and seminar on Education Reform for the Knowledge Economy C. Study tour and seminar on General education for high level officials and technical staff in the basic and secondary education sectors D. Four to five officials and technical staff receive fellowships in a selected topic in Higher Education E. Training course on educational policy analysis, management and planning
Procurement	<p>Consultants' Services and Training: US\$ 2.55 million</p> <p>Unallocated: US\$ 0.15 million</p>

Financial Data

Funds Committed	US\$1.3 million	% approved	48
Funds Disbursed	US\$1.1 million	% approved	41
Forecast Closing Date	September 2012	Delay (months)	

Progress against Indicators:

Pillar I [NESI formulation]: 1-Draft Situation Analysis is prepared	Situation Analysis report and a synopsis have been prepared and completed. Comments from World Bank, UNESCO and UNICEF have been consolidated and submitted back to the GOI	% of planned	100
2- Draft strategy framework is formulated	Structure of the strategy framework agreed upon during technical meeting in Erbil, Iraq (March 2011). Thereafter, the GOI prepared a draft of Chapter 3 (Strategic Directions) of the strategy document. The consolidated comments from the World Bank, UNESCO and UNICEF were submitted back to GOI. Following a Simulation Model Workshop and a Technical Workshop in July 2011, the GOI revised the 4 draft chapters of the Strategy document and submitted to the World Bank, UNESCO, and UNICEF for comments in mid-August. The GOI further revised the draft Strategy document after the WB/UNESCO/UNICEF submitted comments. The draft Strategy document was shared with the High Committee in October 2011.		100
3- Quality Enhancement and Consultation Review Visit for the Draft Strategy Document to Washington, DC	Planned for December 2011/January 2012		50
Pillar II [Capacity Building]: 1- SCER Course	Held in Amman Jordan for 42 GOI members. Participants explored the various strategic choices for education reform in the context of Iraq and were able to delve into specific priority issues for the country. A report based on the discussion was produced and it served as one of the major input to the Strategy document.		100
2- Study Tour for the Knowledge Economy undertaken to allow 30 GOI participants to explore options and formulate strategic choices for Iraq's HE	Held in June 2011 in Malaysia and South Korea for 30 GOI participants. A report on the Study Tour was prepared by the Iraqi delegation, which will serve as a main input to the Strategy document.		100

sector in the context of reform			
3- Study tour and seminar on General education for high level officials and technical staff in the basic and secondary education sectors	To be prepared.		1
4- Four to five fellowships in a selected topic in Higher Education for officials and technical staff	To be prepared.		1
5- Course undertaken in educational policy analysis, management, and planning	To be prepared (planned for February 2012)		20

Qualitative Assessment of Project Performance

Under Pillar I:

- Following the TA launch workshop in February 2010, the World Bank team contributed to the workshop on the preparation of the NESI, which brought together 40 Iraqi officials, and was organized by UNICEF and facilitated by IIEP. During both these workshops, the status of the NESI formulation was assessed and coordination arrangements were discussed with the partners UNICEF and UNESCO.
- A supervision mission took place from June 12-13, 2010 to provide feedback on the draft of the Situation Analysis under Pillar I of the TA and to discuss the details of the capacity building activities under Pillar II.
- The Iraqi delegation presented three chapters of the Situation Analysis and agreed to send the remainder of the report to the World Bank, UNICEF and UNESCO by July 22, 2010. Shortly after, the GOI sent three draft chapters of the Situation Analysis report covering General Education, Higher Education and Technical and Vocational Education to the partner organizations and the three organizations submitted consolidated comments back to the GOI. In December 2010, the GOI sent the remaining three draft chapters of the Situation Analysis covering Quality, Finance and Expenditure, and Scientific Research and Development. The World Bank and partners submitted consolidated comments to the GOI in January 2011.
- A technical workshop for the NESI took place from October 15-21, 2010 in Beirut, Lebanon. The GOI team consisted of 28 members who worked together with the 12 World Bank experts and members of UNESCO and UNICEF on subject areas relevant to the development of the strategy and its associated simulation model.
- A team of 2 experts was selected to work together with the GOI draft strategy formulation team for one week in March 2011 to support the development of the framework for the strategy document. The technical meeting was held in Erbil, Iraq and the structure of the Strategy document was agreed upon as: 4 chapters comprising (i) Context; (ii) Current Status of the Education Sector; (iii) Strategic Directions and (iv) Programs. The next technical meeting of the Drafting Committee was held in late July 2011 to draft Chapter 4 of the strategy document.
- The GOI completed and submitted the first version of the Draft Strategy document to the WB/UNESCO/UNICEF and revised again after comments were given by the three organizations. The GOI plans on holding consultations and a quality review of the draft document.

Under Pillar II:

- (i) the training course on Strategic Choices for Educational Reform (SCER), tailored for Iraq and delivered by the World Bank Institute (WBI) was held in Beirut, January 6-17, 2011. Participants included 42 members of the GOI delegation and representatives from UNICEF, UNESCO, and British Council;
- (ii) the Study tour and seminar on Education Reform for the Knowledge Economy was held in June 2011 in Malaysia and South Korea (30 GOI participants);
- (iii) A Study tour and seminar on General education for high level officials and technical staff in the basic and secondary education sectors is planned for mid-2012;
- (iv) Four to five fellowships in a selected topic in Higher Education for officials and technical staff are planned;
- (v) A training course in educational policy analysis, management, and planning, tailored for Iraq is planned for February 2012.

The GOI selected two focal points for Pillar II activities of the TA to ensure a timely and effective implementation.

Major Implementation Obstacles

The GOI requested an extension of the closing date of the TA by one year in order to allow for sufficient time to implement the activities. The request for extension has been approved and the new closing date is September 30, 2012.