



## Fighting Corruption Through Civil Society

Helping build local capacity to advance transparent and accountable governance

Since 2004, the Iraq Civil Society and Independent Media Program (ICSP) has worked with civil society groups throughout Iraq, building local capacity to combat corruption and promote transparent and responsive local governance. Emphasizing transparency in public institutions, ICSP has provided training, technical assistance, and grants to civil society organizations (CSOs) as they conduct nationwide awareness campaigns and advocacy efforts. As a result of these activities, anti-corruption program activities have broken new ground in Iraq.

ICSP and local anti-corruption efforts have received national attention. After government officials attended an ICSP-funded workshop conducted by *Iraqi Center for Administrative Anti-Corruption* at the Petroleum Culture Center, Iraqi Prime Minister Dr. Ibrahim Al-Jafari praised the efforts of ICSP. Iraqi President Jalal Talabani pledged support to the efforts of a local, USAID-supported group, including the translation of anti-corruption materials into Kurdish.

### INCREASED LOCAL CAPACITY

A special emphasis is placed on giving Iraqi CSOs the necessary skills to independently conduct effective awareness raising campaigns, effective tools in the fight against corruption.

- More than **700 CSOs have increased their knowledge and capacity** to undertake anti-corruption work as a result of **128 training workshops and 773 technical assistance sessions**
- ICSP also supported **nine forums involving 350 participants from the civil society sector** to network and plan joint activities.
- ICSP and partner CSOs have provided **training to 6,000 government officials** at the national, regional, and local levels, and provided cutting-edge mentoring and technical assistance in transparency and accountability.

### NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

The ICSP **Anti-Corruption Awareness Raising Campaign**—comprising print media (posters, banners, signs, pamphlets, brochures, booklets, and billboards) and the work of Iraqi artists (mobile theaters, art exhibitions, and cartoon displays)—has **reached an estimated 1 million Iraqis to date**. Weekly anti-corruption TV and radio programs were highly visible and effective CSO initiatives to expose corruption and waste, and hold government accountable to the Iraqi people.

### IRAQI WATCHDOG GROUPS

ICSP has nurtured the **establishment and effective operation of more than 40 Iraqi watchdog organizations** across the country. These groups have conducted anti-corruption surveys, monitored and reported on corruption, trained government officials in transparency and accountability techniques.

### WANT TO KNOW MORE?

The USAID Iraq Civil Society and Independent Media Program (ICSP) has been active in Iraq since September 2004. USAID's implementing partners include America's Development Foundation (ADF) and, focusing on independent media, the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX).

The civil society component focuses on establishing civil society resource centers and building the capacity of Iraqi civil society organizations to be effective public actors. Special targeted assistance supports work in civic education, women's advocacy, anticorruption, and human rights.

**USAID: Civil Society and Media Development**  
<http://www.usaid.gov/iraq/accomplishments/civsoc.html>

**USAID: Fighting Corruption**  
[http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/democracy\\_and\\_governance/technical\\_areas/anti-corruption/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/democracy_and_governance/technical_areas/anti-corruption/)

**USAID/Iraq**  
<http://www.usaid.gov/iraq/>



## SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

### Civil Society Resource Centers

- Conducted 1,144 training workshops followed by technical assistance to develop CSO core capacities
- Led 275 Forums and 30 National and Regional Conferences, bringing CSOs together
- 3,000 CSOs have received training and technical assistance
- 43,000 CSO participants have increased their knowledge, skills and operations
- 6,000 government officials have been trained and/or participated in workshops, forums, and conferences.

### Anticorruption

- Supported CSOs lobbying for the addition of 13 anticorruption provisions to the Iraqi Constitution
- 6,000 government officials—at the national, regional, and local levels—received training and technical assistance in transparency and accountability
- Reached 1 million Iraqis through a national awareness raising campaign featuring innovative programs by Iraqi organizations

### Women's Advocacy

- Supported women's rights CSOs lobbying for the adoption of 12 constitutional provisions benefiting women
- Over 600 CSOs have received training and assistance, increasing their capacity to advocate for the advancement of women;
- Led events and conferences, bringing women's CSOs together to network, organize coalitions, and develop advocacy campaigns

### Human Rights

- Over 4,000 CSO and government employees received training and technical assistance on human rights
- Many CSOs have improved their abilities to monitor and report on human rights abuses, including poor conditions of detention centers and unlawful detention
- CSOs have developed partnerships with police departments, human rights departments and other government agencies to support the protection of human rights

### Civic Education

- Assisted CSOs who mobilized citizens to participate in Iraq's constitutional referendum and the electoral processes
- Hundreds of CSOs have participated in regional and national conferences to advocate for civil society legislation
- Supported Iraqi-driven campaigns to reform inadequate laws affecting women

### Independent Media

- Helped establish and continues to help build the capacity of the first independent news agency and the first independent Public Broadcasting Service in the Arab world
- Increased the knowledge and skills of over 1,000 journalists and media professionals
- Established an Iraqi media watchdog group

## ADVOCACY FOR ENHANCED ANTI-CORRUPTION

Nearly **80 CSOs successfully advocated for the adoption of 13 anti-corruption provisions** in the Iraqi Constitution. Leading up to the *National Conference on Incorporating Transparency and Accountability in the Iraqi Constitution* in July 2005, the ICSP held a number of Anti-Corruption activities, including preparatory workshops and the regional conferences on transparency and accountability in the Iraqi constitution. The regional conferences enjoyed local, national, and international media coverage. The conference was the driving force behind the inclusion of key anti corruption principles in the Iraqi constitution.

ICSP and CSOs are conducting **important advocacy on anti-corruption issues**, coordinating with Iraq's major public integrity agency, the Commission for Public Integrity (CPI), and working for legislative reform on access to information legislation, establishment of a public integrity agency, and whistleblower protection legislation.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

ICSP Partner CSOs have improved mechanisms to secure transparency and accountability in the public sector through constitutional work, legal reform efforts, and establishment of CSO-public partnerships providing training and advocacy to a wide array of government agencies, including the Commission for Public Integrity (CPI), government ministries, parliament, provincial councils, ministry directorates, local governments, hospitals, schools, and universities.

**Iraqis have presented anti-corruption workshops in a variety of government agencies** including city halls, ministry directorates of Health and Education in several governorates, government employees from health, education, culture, finance, housing, and social affairs ministries, communications officials in one governorate and health workers in another, government media workers, and workers at the national ministries of Industry and Municipalities. CSOs continue to cultivate **CSO-public partnerships** that facilitate training in government agencies and advocacy work



CSOs have conducted **public opinion and satisfaction polls** as part of documentation of corruption in ports, hospitals, schools, the food basket program and other public programs and institutions. These polls provide the basis for **anti-corruption campaigns**. For example, a partner CSO has conducted customer surveys documenting corruption in the food basket program of the Ministry of Trade. Follow up advocacy to improve delivery of services is leading to increased public awareness and participation, administrative reform, and reduction of corruption and waste.

ICSP supports a popular **anti-corruption TV program**, in which cases of administrative corruption are exposed. Iraqi viewers and even government officials praise the program. Other ICSP programs have led to corrupt or unresponsive officials being removed from office and in subsequent improvement in management and public

service delivery. Iraqi viewers and even government officials praise the program.

Several CSOs have used **artistic models as part of an integrated plan to battle corruption**, including dramas that deal with administrative corruption in government offices and “The Opera House Injuries”, mobile caricature galleries and an exhibition of cartoon strips in newspapers and other venues. The cartoons were designed as part of a simple study conducted by the CSO that described the types of corruption and waste occurring in government agencies.

Upon learning of some of these ICSP-funded anti-corruption projects one central Iraqi governor pledged his support for the local groups and the Anti-Corruption campaign in an official letter. Governors and public officials are frequent participants in ICSP programs.

